

Hon. A. R. Alexander

Post Office Dept.
10th Decr. 1825.

H. of Reps.

Since the date of my letter of the 3^d Inst. information has reached the Dept. of the death of Mr. Taylor, upon the knowledge of which & the presumption of its notoriety the proposal of Dr. Butler was probably made. The object therefore is before the Dept. & is open for competition, & consequently altho' the bid of Dr. Butler may not be accepted it is entertained. Other propositions have been rec'd. & one from Mr. John B. for a sumtry of Mr. Taylor which is seconded peculiarly by the fact of that obligation, & by the substantial one of its being lower. A decision will however be suspended for some days, in order to give time to the heirs or execs. of Mr. Taylor to avail themselves of the customary privilege of carrying on the cont. under it capias.

M.L

Hon. C. Lincoln

10th Decr.

H. of R.

I have rec'd. & examined the lock invented by Mr. Dillingham & find it of very ingenious construction. It may perhaps be too complicated & require too many motions & operations for the rapidity desirable in mail operations. But however this may be a recent & extensive supply of serviceable locks having been procured by the Dept. a further expenditure in the same article is not now admissible. The sample which you have been so good as to submit to me, in behalf of Mr. D. shall be preserved, & on a future occasion will have the advantage of a fair comparison with such others as may be exhibited.

M.L

J. Dillingham
Turner M.C.

10th Decr.

A padlock of ingenious contrivance has been rec'd. from you, thro' the Hon. Mr. Lincoln of the H. of Reps.; but as a large supply of good & useful locks had just been previously procured, there is no opportunity at present of contracting for others.

M.L

Hon. A. J. Garrett

H. of Reps.

The P.M. G. has the honor to submit to the Consideration of Mr. Garrett, the accompanying paper, in support of conflicting apprehensions respecting the locality of a P.O. in W. S. district, & will be happy to receive from Mr. G. such observations in relation to the subject as may present themselves to his mind.

M.L

Mr. Dillard

10th Decr.

Raleigh N.C.

Pay will be allowed you for all the items stated in your letter of the 1st Inst. & recapitulated in that of the 8th Nov. from the Post. Off. at Tarboro, with the exception of the charges incident to the employment of another mail carrier, which is deemed unnecessary.

M.L

H. W. Johnson P.S.

10th Decr.

Somersville, Fayette Co. T.

The Comt. who should supply yr office, having recently died, it is probable still greater inconvenience than that detailed in your letter of the 21st Oct. will be experienced w/o yr office. The P.S. as per son, is instructed however to require of his representatives to supply you with mails, until a new contract can be entered into.

M.L

Hon. J. H. Bryan

10th Decr.

H. of R.

The suggestions contained in yr letter of the 9th Inst. determine to the mildest course the measures which are contemplated in the case of Mr. Washington. A short & simple statement of the fact & manner of the accident of the loss of the recovery of the pocket, with an emphatic attestation of the good character & conduct of Mr. W. is the work that will, & the least that can be done.

M.L

Willard Hall

10th Decr.

Wilmington Del.

The volume ref'd. to in yr letter of the 8th inst. appears upon exⁿ. never to have rec'd. at the P.O. office. It may be presumed that by mistake it was never sent from the Dept. of State.

M.L

Post Office Dept.

10th Decr. 1825.R. Washington P. M.
Waynesboro N.C.

The explanation contained in yr. letter of the
3^d Inst. absolves you from all liability to reprobation, as the
ultimate safety of the packet which remained so long in yr.
possession is a better proof of yr. honor than it seems
but immediate transmission thro' yr. office would have afforded.
As an officer however some statement from you seems to be
due to the public, & to exact it in the mildest mode, is the ob-
ject of a publication which will be permitted to appear in the
Journal of this City, reciting simply & succinctly the facts of the
long disappearance & the mode of the recent recovery of the
packet without specifying the name of the office. It will be
accompanied by attestations of yr. official good conduct, &
of the favorable sentiments entertained respecting you by
distinguished gentlemen of yr. State.

J.M.L.

Hon J. T. Tuck

10th Decr.

H. of Rep's.

Before the enclosed letter was submitted to the Dept.
a similar application for the same object, had been rec'd. thro'
the Hon. Mr. Noble. Some objections were found to the measure
& proposed, which made it necessary to communicate with the P.
M. at Hanover, D. & Brookville &c. whose answers may probably
enable the Dept. to grant the desired extension of time.

J.M.L.

Hon W. P. Maugham

10th Decr.

H. of Rep's.

It appears from an ex. of the schedule attached to the
proposals, which have been accepted by Mr. Wm. Shaw, that the times
of arrival & departure for the Raleigh & Roxburgh mail, have been ar-
ranged so as to correspond exactly with the suggestions in relation
to it, which you made to the Dept.

J.M.L.

Post Office Dept.

10th Decr. 1825.W. Taylor Post. (in his off.)
Jackson S.

In consequence of the death of W. Taylor, you are requested
to notify his legal esp. his widow or his children if there be such, that
the Contr. for carrying the mail from Jackson to Memphis, is open to
their acceptance on the same terms upon which Mr. Taylor
engaged it, & that in the mean time, or until an engagement is
made by the Dept. they are expected to provide for its regular
transportation. It is particularly required of you to see that
this important service is provided for, either by the esp. of Mr.
Taylor or by other persons, until a permanent arrangement can be
made & sanctioned by the Dept. The expense will be borne by the
Gal. P.O. of this temporary arrangement. The P.O. at Louisville must
be supplied.

J.M.L.

Spencer Harris

10th Decr.

Ky.

A proposal to contract for the mail route from Frankfort
to Springfield was rejected because it proposed to undertake that
service for pt. less of Compt. than any other person might agree to per-
form it for. This contingency according to a rule of the Dept. invalidates
any proposal, as it is repugnant to the principle of fair competition.
Should Mr. Ringe, who has obtained the Contr. fail or decline to per-
form it, you will be allowed it on the same terms at which he has
engaged.

J.M.L.

S. Henderson P. M.

12th Decr.

Indianapolis Ind.

In future it is necessary that the Corydon mail be delivered
to the carrier at 6 A.M. instead of 8 A.M. in order that he may have full time to
exchange with the Bedford & Lexington mails at Harrison.

J.M.L.

T. L. & A. Dauphinis
Plaquemine La.12th Decr.

The fine ref'd to in yr. letter of the 19th ult. is remitted

J.M.L.

Post Office Dept.

12th Decr 1825.

J. H. Dufour P.M.
Neway L.

Important public documents & notifications of fact,
the promulgation of which may be important to the Criminal
justice of the Country, when transmitted to P.M. or P.O. in the manner
of the hand bill inclosed in yr letter of the 23rd Nov. need not be sent
back under the 19th Art. of instructions. Under this rule Considering the
peculiar condition of Society in the S. States, the hand bill in yr.
of the 23rd, may be brought & therefore you are not required to send it back.
Every pamphlet whose period of re-appearance does not exceed
a year, is considered periodical, & that of the Freemason Lodge
of L. advertized to by you, seems to be of this description.

J.M.L.

Major J. H. Hook.

12th Decr.

U.S.A. Comt. of Post office.

No abatement of postage can be allowed in the
case presented by yr note of the 9th Inst. The letter of the ^{new} 1st is obviously
against it, & altho' some doubt might be entertained respecting
the spirit, from the phraseology of the clause more particularly
applicable to this case, yet when it is considered that the intention
of the whole enactment is to encourage the writing of letters, &
that such memorandums as the one in question, are designed to
avoid the trouble as well as the postage of letters, the doubt is
removed. From the number of similar applications that have
been rec'd. & rejected, a principle of consistency arises adverse
to the abatement, which taken in connection with other objections
appears to be conclusive.

J.M.L.

J. Hawter

12th Decr.

Vernon L.

The order solicited in yr letter of the 25th ult. is thought reasonable &
is given.

J.M.L.

J. T. Smiley

12th Decr.

29 Church Alley. Phila:

Yr application of the 8th is complied with

J.M.L.

Post Office Dept.

12th Decr. 1825.

J. Tracy P.M.

Oxford N.Y.

The same rules of prudence which regulate the transaction
of private business, are to be observed in the discharge of that connected
with the P.O. Dept. You were of course right in refusing payt. of a
draft, upon which no receipt was given. Otherwise you might
be subjected to injurious consequences.

J.M.L.

R. Becker P.M.

Philad.

12th Decr.

W. H. J. Smiley of 29 Church Alley Phila has applied for an
abatement of postage on a book now rated in yr office at \$6.50
& has stated circumstances which produce an impression that his
application is reasonable. You will rate the book at pamphlet
postage, and deliver it upon the payt. of this reduced charge.

J.M.L.

J. Roberts.

Jefferson Co.

13th Decr.

You will not fail to deliver the mail regularly at Harmony Grove - if in any
so you can avoid addl. day to the Dept. by avoiding any increase of expense or labor to yourself, it is
expected you will do so. In preferring any claim for addl. costs, for supplying Harmony Grove, it will be
necessary that you show by the certificate of P.M. on the route, that yr labor & expense have been
unavoidably increased by calling at Harmony Grove.

J.M.L.

Wallace & Roy Jr.

Fredricksburg Va.

13th Decr.

The object of my letter of the 5th Inst. was to lighten the duty of Mr. Porter, which by reason
of bad roads & the intervention of the Mountain was represented to be unusually severe. He has time
enough, but in the winter, not light enough. This view of the subject will satisfy you that
a general equalization of the time on the whole route is not desirable, as it does one that
it would not be entirely just.

With a hope that yr full known power of transportation, I give in the service,
will remove all obstacles, & that yr arrival in Charlottesville will not be
later than Mr. Porter's, I remain &c.

J.M.L.

Post Office Dept.
13th Decr. 1835.

E. Littell
Phil. P.

A variety of facts are opposed to the views presented by yr. letter of the 9th Inst. Among them are - 1^o. that on many routes the mail now weighs 1500 lbs. - a weight which if the transportation of books were authorized would be so far increased as to retard the progress & defeat the principal object of the service. 2^o. bound books, would destroy letters & newspapers, & even each other. They would bring about a real "battle of the books" - 3^o. so rapid is the augmentation of weight, even under the present restrictions, that it will probably not be long before pamphlets, which are now admitted with difficulty, be excluded on those routes, where the public interest requires great expedition. 4^o. no surplus fund will exist in this Dept. Since July last at least \$50,000 add't. expenditure has been authorized, & urgent claims for mail account, to the amt. of \$100,000 more remain unsatisfied. This proportion will continue for years to come - & throughout w^{ch} probable economy will be chiefly desirable.

J.M.L

Hon. L. Williams

14th Decr.

H. of Reps.

I have the satisfaction to inform you that the P.M. at Wilkesboro N.C. has provided for the weekly transportation of a mail from that place to Jonesville via Bear Creek, & that as early as the 3rd Inst. one trip had been performed. The Contt. is Sam'l F. Patterson

J.M.L

J.W. Hawkins P.M.

14th Decr.

Frankfort K.

The intention of the Dept. is, that the mail from Frankfort to Springfield by way of Grafton, should, when it gets in operation, leave yr. office every Thursday morning.

J.M.L

Post Office Dept.
14th Decr. 1835.

Hon. J.H. Eaton & A.R. Alexander
H. of Reps.

Intelligence of the event ref^t to in yr. letter of the 12th Inst. reached this Dept. on the 9th of the next day a letter was addressed to the acting P.M. at Jackson instructing him to notify the Rep^r of the late Mr. Taylor, that the Con^t. he enjoyed was open to their acceptance, & would be held so for a reasonable time. They were invited to provide for the immediate temporary transportation of the mail between Jackson & Murphy; & in case of their refusal or delay, the acting P.M. is directed to see that service promptly & regularly performed at the expense of the Dept. until a final provision can be made for it. Several proposals have been rec'd in reference to it. Among them, one from a Mr. Groff, who was a surety of Mr. Taylor, & as such is entitled to a secondary preference. His bid is likewise lower than that of Dr. Butler.

J.M.L

J.P. Lake P.M.

14th Decr.

River Road Livingston Co. N.Y.

The letters ref^t to in yr. of the 9th Inst. send you by yr. brother are to be entered as free & treated in every respect as if they had been marked free. All letters that you find directed to persons not entitled to the privilege of franking, if not franked must be charged & entered as letters unpaid. All papers that you receive over the extent of yr. privilege must be charged with postage & so entered, & if you receive up to the full amt. of yr. privilege to enter, if not enter the precise number. All free letters must be entered as well & regularly as those that are not free, & if such come to yr. office without wrapper to give them a proper wrapper &c. It is the duty of every P.M. not only to perform his own duty, but to supply the omission of duty tho' any other P.M. may allow to escape him.

J.M.L

Post Office Dept.

14th Decr. 1825.

Hon. J. Davis
H. of Reps.

The 14th Sec. of the P.O. law establishes the Compt^r. of P.M.^s, which it is not in the power of the Dept. to alter or increase. When particular circumstances exist, which are supposed calculated to render an exception in behalf of any P.M. it is brought before Congress in connection with those circumstances, it is provided for, as at the conclusion of that section in the case in respect to the P.O. at New Orleans & this City. Efforts have been repeatedly made of a similar kind in favor of other offices - as Fred. M^s. in Vt. & have failed. A provision is found in the same section authorizing the Compt^r. of P.M. at whose office the mail arrives regularly after 9 P.M. & before 5 A.M. to answer the object of which a copy of the inclosed printed notice is attached to every form distributed to P.M. to state their acc^ts on against the Dept. If the circumstances of their office justify the advance it is calculated to admit, it is not to be presumed that they will decline to avail themselves of it. You will doubtless perceive by this recital, that no injustice has been done Mr. Wilson, & that however strong his claim may appear as a matter of personal feeling, it is regulated by provisions which it is not in the power of the P.M. Gov. either to enlarge or to modify.

M.L.

Hon. J. B. Tacks

14th Decr.

H. of Reps.

It is found that as soon as P.O. & P.M. are despatched on the route from Murfreesboro to Jasper, provision can be made by the Dept. for their supply. For this purpose you are respectfully requested to nominate persons & specify places, where the arrangement will be immediately completed.

M.L.

Hon. J. Johnson
H. of Reps.

14th Decr.

The Western mail shall be forwarded with the desired expedition from Cynthiana to Clayville - the more expedient of the two measures presented by the alteration suggested in yr^r letter of the 12th Inst.

M.L.

Post Office Dept.

14th Decr. 1825.

Aust^r. Bapte
Rocky Mount, Franklin Co. Va.

Immediately on the receipt of this letter you will so far alter yr^r route from Franklin to Henry Co. as to deliver the mail regularly at Union Hall, the mercantile stand of John Dickerson Esq^r. who is appt^d. P.M. at that place. For increase of distance you will be allowed in fair proportion, increase of compensation.

M.L.

P. G. Voorhees
Avondale, Ga.

14th Decr.

As the contracts of Mess^s. Cotton & Young do not expire until the 31st Decr. 1826, it is not at present practicable to add their routes to yr^r in one Cont^r. Add. expedition however is desirable, & yr^r suggestions in regard to it are willingly acted on. Mess^s. St Young are both written to & required to add to their expedition so as to enable you to complete the transportation of the mail from Woodville to Alexa^c in 70, instead of 96 hours, as from yr^r statement, it appears this can be done without add. labor, it is presumed it will occasion no increase of expense, & no doubt is entertained that what you clearly demonstrate to be reasonable, you will cheerfully co-operate to effect. (In making the new cont^r I shall include the above in one Cont^r)

M.L.

J. B. Young
Pinkneyville, Mi.

14th Decr.

It is represented that the passage of the mail from Woodville to Alexa^c but more particularly from Pinkneyville to the latter place, may be easily raised to greater celerity. It is said now to be 96 hours from one place to the other, & that it can be conveyed without difficulty in 70 hours. You are therefore requested to perform yr^r proportion of this add. expedition, & as it is said to be practicable without add. labor, it is hoped it will be done without increase of charge.

M.L.

Hon. J. Johnson
Senate.

Post Office Dept.
14th Decr. 1825.

Upon examining the proposition of Mr. Voorhees in relation to a combination of the 3 routes between Woodville Miss. & Ala. & L. S. it is found that the existing engagements of the Dept. render it at present impracticable. The Contracts of Mr. Gorton & Mr. Young, on either end of the line do not expire until the 31 Decr. 1826, & as yet there is no reason to apprehend the forfeiture of either. This obstacle to an immediate consignment of all the service to Mr. Voorhees, is no impediment to the establishment of add^d. expeditⁿ, & all the Comt^s shall be immediately directed to increase the speed of Commt. as far as practicable. It will be desirable to avoid any increase of expense, as at present that mail does not supply one sixth of its Cost, & it being in contemplation to add to the account between N. Orleans & Ala. by way of Opelousas & Blanchardville, it is presumed, the wants of the community interested will be fully supplied. For the accomplishment of this latter purpose, proposals were invited some months ago, & some bids have in consequence been rec'd. In making new Carts, I shall extend the route from Woodville to Ala. & place it in the hands of one person. M.L.

GEO. GORTON
Avoyelles La.

14th Decr.

Arrangements are made for enhancing the speed on of route, from 96 hours to 70, at the instance of Mr. Voorhees that Mr. Young have been directed to perform their portion of this increase. It can be accomplished, it is understood, without increase of expense either to the Comt^s or the Govt. You will do your part. M.L.

W. Hooker P.M.
Hacketton N.J.

15th Decr.

The com^t was sick when the order for the supply of P.M. mail reached him. He will now attend to it. M.L.

J. Whitehead P.M.
Claysville Pa.

Post Office Dept.
15th Decr. 1825.

Mr. Worthen is directed to bring up the Western mail from Cynthiana to y^r office every Sunday, to proceed on to Augusta & return on Monday. This order you will see executed. M.L.

J. Law P.M.
Hartford C^t.

15th Decr.

The book described in y^r letter of the 8th Inst. is neither a magazine nor pamphlet, periodical or irregular, & was improperly admitted in the mail. As individuals are not supposed to understand the duties of P.M. they are not to suffer by their mistakes, therefore the book may not be charged at letter postage, as in strictness it might be, but at irregular pamphlet postage. You can determine its character as Octavo or Duodecimo, & then apply the above direction. M.L.

J. Bailey P.M.
N York.

15th Decr.

The work alluded to in the enclosed letter, is described by the P.M. at Hartford C^t. to be a book stitched & bound in boards. It is of course not a pamphlet or a magazine, periodical or irregular - and of course was erroneously admitted into the mail. Reduced however, if it should be to the character of a pamphlet or magazine, it would still be irregular & not periodical. Attention should be paid to guarding the mails against the intrusion of such inadmissible articles. M.L.

J. Beckham P.M.
Harper's Ferry W ^{Va}.

15th Decr.

In order to obviate complaints similar to the one mentioned in y^r letter of the 12th Inst. you will in future close the mails that are to leave y^r office in the morning, at 9 A.M. the evening before. M.L.

Post Office Dept.
15th Decr. 1825.

E. Northern

Cynthiana K.

In order to prevent delay between Clayville & Cynthiana, you will hereafter leave Cynthiana on Sunday for Clayville, go on to Augusta & return on Monday. For the continuation of yr route, add. Compt' will be allowed you in proportion to distance.

J.M.L.

J. Bayliss P.M.

15th Decr.

Salem K.

The P.M. at Shawneetown K. complains that the mail from Salem to Cape Girardeau, leaves yr office before that from his office arrives. If this be the case, the Shawneetown Co. should be reported by you for failures. You will either expedite Mr. Murray's arrival or defer Mr. Givens departure, or do both, so as to maintain the connection of the two routes.

J.M.L.

H. M. Haw

15th Decr.

Stagville N.C.

The views contained in yr letter of the 9th will not produce any variation in those originally entertained by the Dept. You will be required to go to Roxbury & return to Raleigh without delay. Yr stopping at Stagville will detain the letters from Mr. Tregale & Red Mountain.

J.M.L.

Hon. W. P. Mangum

15th Decr.

H. of Rep.

The views contained in yr letter of the 14th. Inst. are adopted, & will be enforced by this Dept.

J.M.L.

Wm. G. Witzell

St Louis Mo.

16th Decr.

Yr mail failed at Jefferson on the 11th ult. & a fine of \$30, is entered against you.

J.M.L.

Post Office Dept.
16th Decr. 1825.

Hon. J. Blair

H. of Rep.

The route on which the office at Paetolus is situated being under the operation of a cont. which will not expire until the 31st Decr. next, would give no fiscal advantage by its discontinuance, before that time. Then if the route should be discontinued, the voluntary services of Mr. Embree may be acceptable.

J.M.L.

Wm. Jennecliffe

Percivals Va.

16th Decr.

Information is rec'd. from Boydton of the 9th that the mail due the evening before did not arrive until 7 o'clock in the morning, & then on the back of the rider instead of the horse, the quadruped being unable to transport it. Yr bid was for conveying the mail on horseback, & that is the understanding of the Cont. In future you must arrive at Boydton in good time or you will be fined, & you are again requested to provide such horses as will obviate further delay & complaints.

J.M.L.

M. Fisk P.M.

Hillham T.

16th Decr.

The paper enclosed in yr letter of the 28th ult. is a news paper & entitled to all the facilities provided by law for a paper. There is no doubt yr intentions were fair & conscientious in signing it, but you misapprehended yr duty & must of course correct the proceeding.

J.M.L.

J. Brown P.M.

Jackson Mi.

16th Decr.

You will detain the mail carrier of Mr. Stovall at yr office on Wednesday until the mails arrive, & report to the Dept. the hour you fix for his departure.

J.M.L.

Hon J.C. Mitchell

H. of Reps.

Post Office Dept
10th Decr. 1825.

The transportation of the mail from Athens to Morgan Ch. T., has been contracted for with Milton Carter of Kingston, at \$180 per m. The contingent bid mentioned in your letter of the 10th Inst. cannot therefore be entertained. From Athens to Washington in the same state, the transportation is contracted for by J. McPherson also of Kingston, at \$95 per m. It may be as well to observe that Contingencies like that attached to the bid of Mr. McKamy, are considered as vitiating a bid, in consequence of being repugnant to the principle of fair competition.

J.M.L

Hon G. Johnson

16th Decr.

H. of Reps.

The Comt's. have been directed to call on their return at the P.O. at Martinsville, in conformity with yr suggestion of the 13th Inst.

J.M.L

Wm. H. McHanahan

16th Decr.

Danville K.

You are requested to call at Martinsville in future, in going to Bowling Green, as well as in returning to Glasgow. It is said it will not increase yr. distance more than one mile.

J.M.L

W. G. Parish

10th Decr.

Murfreesboro' T.

It is particularly desirable that you should call with the mail regularly at Fishing Ford P.O. in Bedford Co.; & that this instruction should be attended to without delay.

J.M.L

G. C. Pickett P.M.

Crawford Ch. Ar. Tenn.

Post Office Dept.
16th Decr. 1825.

The profits of the route ref'd. to in yr. letter of the 28th Oct. are as yet too far inferior to its cost, to justify any add^d. account. J.M.L

A. Silver P.M.

16th Decr.

Francisburg K.

Before the receipt of yr. letter of the 21st Ult. measures were in progress for correcting the want of correspondence between the Morganfield & W. Vernon mails; and instructions calculated to accomplish that object, were on the 11th Ult. addressed to the P.M. at W. Vernon. As soon as his reply is rec'd. the subject shall be finally acted on.

J.M.L

Hon J. P. Carson

16th Decr.

H. of Reps.

The period assigned for the reception of proposals for Comt's. for the transportation of the mails authorized by the last session of Congress, expired on the 15th Nov. last; & for the route Ashville N.C. to Pendleton S.C. three bids were rec'd. To the lowest of these the name of Mr. J. B. Walker near Haywood Ch. N.C. was attached, & to him the Comt. has been given. The subject is therefore legally concluded, & is now susceptible of no modification or review whatever.

J.M.L

G. Houston

17th Decr.

N York City.

The books ref'd. to in yr. letter of the 12th cannot be admitted into the mail, & therefore their character, as periodical or irregular publications does not come up for decision. If however they are open for circulation unbound - without boards, they will be considered periodical. From a Description given by the Hartford P.M. he was instructed to charge it as irregular. The sample furnished by you will induce that instruction to be corrected & the charge to be reduced to periodical postage.

J.M.L

Post Office Dept.
17th Decr. 1825.

J. P. Preston P.M.
Richmond Va.

The P.M. at Lexington Ga. it appears, did on the 24th of July last, forward a mail from his office addressed Northwardly, amount \$2.25 unpaid, 25th & 1 free letter. The free letter is said to have been written by the P.M. himself & is represented to have contained a small sum of money for the Editor of the Richd^r Enquirer. The letter it seems has not been rec'd. The P.M. at Augusta reports that by reference to the books of his office, it is found that the mail above described was regularly rec'd there on the 25th July; & that on the same evening a mail was forwarded by the way of Charleston, directed thus - Virginia St. as other mails for Richmond are forwarded from Augusta - the am^t. of which was \$2. unpaid & 1 free. The P.M. at Petersburg reports that no mail from Augusta dated 25th July was rec'd. at his office. By some accident it may have arrived irregularly & recently at yr. office. You will please examine & report.

J.M.L

Hon. J. Bartell

17th Decr.

H. of Reps.

The subject ref. to in yr. letter of the 16th Inst. if considered in relation to the actual metallic currency of the Country, would seem at present to be susceptible of no advantageous Change. Twelve & one half Cents have a dollar for their multiple in Calculation, & compose an aliquot part of it in Current Coin. When the federal coin shall have expell'd all others from our currency, it will doubtless be advantageous to adopt the decimal notation in public accounts, & to exclude fractions entirely from the rates of postage.

J.M.L

J. Law P.M.

17th Decr.

Hartford Ct.

Of th. book ref. to in my letter of th. 15th a sample has been furnished & altho. it is found to be inadmissible in the mail, yet as it has found its way there, it is to be charged only as a periodical work.

J.M.L

Post Office Dept.
19th Decr. 1825.

J. Powell P.M.
Tuscaloosa Al

To accomplish the object of yr. letter postmarked 23rd ult. you are authorized to direct the Comt^r to leave yr. Office, at 6 A.M. on Thursday 1st to arrive at Cotton Gin Port Sunday at noon; to leave the same, Monday at 2 P.M. & arrive at Tuscaloosa, by Wednesday at 6 P.M.

J.M.L

Mr. Norton Mc Lanahan
Danville K

19th Decr.

The add^d. accou^d. suggested in yr. letter of the 30th ult. is not at present expedient.

J.M.L

Hon R. M. Saunders

20th Decr.

H. of Reps.

Upon comparing the cost with the profit of the route to which you have called my attention, so large a balance appears on the side of the former, as to form an insurmountable objection to an immediate establishment of the add^d. accou^d. you desire. The am^t. of Compt^r now rec'd. by the Comt^r is \$7,200 per ann. the am^t. returned by the P.O. is \$5,314 - bringing the route in debt to the Dept^r annually \$2,186. That section of the route, to which you particularly allude, as defraying its expense, is in a far different condition: It costs annually \$2,200, & pays little more than \$1,200. These facts will no doubt satisfy you, that with every disposition on the part of the Dept^r to supply your demand for add^d. mail, in this instance, obvious views of public economy, & a just regard to the competing applications of other districts render it impracticable. In regard to increased expedition, the Comt^r shall be immediately written to on the subject, & as far as it can be effected without too great an increase of expense on this unprofitable route, greater celerity shall be given to the mail. It is to be observed however that the present season of the year is not favorable to this object.

(In order that the office may possess the necessary fact, I have written to the Comt^r on the route, to ascertain at what rate a D^r mail can be transported.

J.M.L

Post Office Dept.
20. Decr. 1825.

Hon. Mark Alexander
A. of Reps.

Upon examination it is found that no total failure has been reported against Mr. Turniff since the 15th of March last & that then the Dept. was satisfied with enforcing the secondary penalty of a fine. Upon the ^{first} recurrence of such a case, his services as Comt. will be discontinued, & to provide against that conjecture you are requested to nominate to the Dept. a suitable person for the performance of the important duty which Mr. Turniff so generally misconducts.

J.M.C.

Hon. R. Taylor
A. of Reps.

20. Decr.

Upon examination it is found that there is no P. M. of the name of Timberlake in Caroline Co. N.C.

J.M.C.

Pock & Welford
Frederick Va.

21. Decr.

A disposition is made to increase the account on the route from Frederick Va. to Powelton Co. if, as is represented by many individuals to whom it is interesting, it will be of as much advantage to the Comt. that they will require but a small addition of pay from the Dept. You are therefore requested to say, what is the lowest amt. of Compt. you will require for transporting a 2^d. weekly mail in stages from Frederick to Halifax Ch. Va.

J.M.C.

Gallant & C.
Whitehall N.Y. Savin.

J. Moring
Raleigh N.C. Savin.

Gales & Scaton
Washington D.C.

The first volume of "the Congressional Register" being found to consist of ~~35~~³⁵ sheets, & appearing to be an annual & therefore periodical publication, is chargeable with 54 cents postage, for any distance not exceeding 100 miles; & with 90 cents postage, for any greater distance.

It will be necessary however, in order to admit them to mail transportation to cover them with nothing stronger than the ordinary paper covers of Review, &c.; as books in boards or leather, are found to be destructive to the more important contents of the mails.

J.M.C.

Hon. R. M. Johnson
Senate.

23rd Decr. 1825.

The letter of the 15th Decr. having occasioned a minute & extended examination of the case of Jas. Beado, to which it refers, I have the honor to reply that his contracts were forfeited in consequence of repeated failures in the transportation of the mail, by the operation of a discretionary power specially reserved to the P.M. in the terms of the contract, after public confidence had been withdrawn from his route, & the greatest allowable tolerance had been exercised & exhausted. On the 23rd Feb. 1824 a memorial signed by upwards of 100 of the Merchants & traders of the City of Mobile was addressed to the Dept. representing the great inconvenience to which they were subjected by the irregularity of Mr. Beado's mail - allying those from 2 to 4 mails, were frequently due, & that a regular arrival of the mail had become a matter of surprise. They go on to declare that they had submitted in silence to this serious injury in hopes that the P. M. on the route would report the failures as their duty required, & that the grievance would be redressed; & they intimated that these agents had been remiss, from negligence, from favouritism, or from interest. It is probable that the least culpable of these causes operated to produce this impunity. The Dept. however applied the usual preliminary remedies of fines & threats, & no failures were again reported until the 9th of May - when they succeeded, or were reported under circumstances more or less aggravated, in the following order, 3rd June at F. Mitchell, from the misconduct of the carrier, 10th July, at Pine Creek, both eastward & westward, from the failure of a horse; 23rd Aug. at Lin Creek from the death of a horse, 2^d Sept. at F. Mitchell, under which date the P. M. at F. Mitchell affirms that failures had become so frequent that they ceased to create surprise - that the only matter of astonishment was that they did not occur more frequently in consequence of the insufficient number of horses, & the bad arrangements of the Comt. On the 26th Sept. it was reported by the P. M. at Lin Creek, that the