

Southern & Eastern had both arrived out of due time & bound,  
& injured by the weather, in consequence of which 50 packages were  
compelled to be detained. He reaffirms the existence of great  
irregularity in the transportation, & of striking deficiency in the  
means employed by the Const. On the 16<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup>. a wet mail &  
consequent loss of a trip, were reported from Ft. Mitchell. On the  
27<sup>th</sup>, 3 successive failures were reported from the same place.  
On the 10<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>r</sup> 1825 a failure was reported from Line Creek,  
which was ascribed, as the P.M. alleges, by the carrier to the unpropitious  
condition of the road, a circumstance which he adds was sur-  
prising, since travellers passing in various directions & in  
different vehicles, appeared to proceed without obstruction.  
On the 18<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>r</sup> the P.M. at Mobile wrote that he should have  
sent on at an earlier period his preceding return of postage  
but for the failure of the Eastern mail - there having been 5  
entire failures the latter part of Dec<sup>r</sup>, on some part of Mr. Beddo's  
line east of Claiborne. On the 19<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>r</sup> a Committee of the Citi-  
zens of Mobile addressed a letter to the Dept. in which they confirm  
by a strong complaint the reports of the P.M., & intimate an  
apprehension that an improper lenity towards the Const. had  
been induced by misrepresentations to the Dept. & express a  
belief that their memorial of the preceding Feb<sup>r</sup> had been  
tempered by a mistaken forbearance. The import of this  
address appears to amount to a solicitation that the most  
vigorous measure should no longer be declined.

On these reports of failures & others which have not been  
preserved, Mr. B.<sup>r</sup>'s Contracts were forfeited on the 5 Feb 1825.  
This measure was adopted with great reluctance, from  
an unwillingness to inflict so serious an injury on the Const.  
however just & a few that an increase of Comptn w<sup>r</sup> b required  
under a new Contract. The influence arising from these  
considerations was limited only by the public interest,  
& so repeated were the complaints from one end of the route  
to the other, that a forfeiture seemed to be the only alternative.  
In addition to the public inconvenience arising from these  
failures, the Dept. sustained some loss of character.  
It was observed with deep mortification, that a publication in  
one of the Alabama papers, "that a wagon loaded with cotton  
had passed on this route whilst there was a failure

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of the mail", was republished in almost all the papers in the  
Union. To diminish as far as practicable the injurious consequences of  
this necessary measure, the successor of Mr. Beddo was requested to purchase  
at a fair price the horses & other means of transportation which he  
might have on the line; but in answer to this request, under date of the  
27<sup>th</sup> Feb. Mr. Johnston observes "in fact Mr. Beddo has had no horses this  
some time, than I should like to depend on?" In extenuation of  
these manifold irregularities, & serious public inconvenience & dis-  
satisfaction Mr. Beddo furnished some palliative representations  
from time to time before the forfeiture of his Const., but the failures  
appearing to happen more frequently than evidence in explanation  
of them could be collected, he has since the forfeiture pro-  
cured & exhibited more. In the course of last summer re-  
lying upon this, he called the attention of the Dept. to his case,  
& made application to it for indemnity. An attentive examination  
was given to the evidence he presented, but it was found, that  
the utmost relief that could be afforded by the Dept. was the re-  
mission of the fines he had incurred to which effect, a letter was  
addressed to him on the 25<sup>th</sup> of June last. Many of the excuses  
are considered vague, general & inapposite, containing the statements  
of interested persons, & assertions dictated by the operation of im-  
portunity or benevolence, sometimes proving too much, & some-  
times nothing. They either allege that there were no failures within  
a certain period of time, to which reports of failures were sup-  
posed to have ref<sup>d</sup>, or else that during such a period, the waters  
were so high as to render the progress of the riders dangerous  
& impracticable. Of the first species an instance is found in the  
affidavit of Wm. Bonner one of the mail carriers, dated the  
12<sup>th</sup> Mar. 1825, in which he affirms there had been no failures  
of the mail on the route from Greenville to Montgomery,  
& from Greenville to Wright, from the 7<sup>th</sup> Sep<sup>r</sup> 1824 to the 1<sup>st</sup> Nov.  
of the same year during which period he carried the mail on  
them, & got the P.M. at Montgomery on the 7<sup>th</sup> Nov. in reply to a  
letter from the Dept. of the 16<sup>th</sup> Oct. informing him that in Con-  
sequence of the numerous failures of Mr. Beddo it would  
be necessary to supersede him, observes "as to Mr. Beddo's  
failures, he has used every thing in his power to prevent  
but his enemies it appears to me influenced his ad-  
visors to do as bad as they can to kill his horsey & who

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in their power to make the trip, they do not care whether or not." He then adds that he has advised him to resign the service from Ft. Mitchell to Battle Ch., which comprehends the section ref. to by the mail carrier Bonner, to different Sub-Courts, & that Beddo had accordingly put it in the hands of three different sub. Courts, who up to that time - the date of his letter - had performed it without a failure. This letter, as all from the same person respecting Beddo were, will be found to be written in an apologetical tone, & yet distinctly admits the previous failures & contradicts the affidavit of the mail carrier, & attributes the failures not to Beddo but to his Agents. In a letter of the 4<sup>th</sup> Jan'y 1825 to the Dept. Mr. Beddo says - "From the N<sup>o</sup>. of failures to this place & to Burnt Corn, & above that place, which includes a part of my Coat, from a wish to give satisfaction bc I have divided that part of my route through the Nation to Greenville in 3 divisions" - intimating plainly that the obstructions were to be removed by the efficiency of better arrangements; & implying a contradiction in the expressions underscored of the mail carrier Bonner. Most of the other evidences of Mr. Beddo appear to be of the second description - they go to induce a belief that the waters were at all times ref. to by the reports of failures so high as to prevent the passage of the mail. Upon the face of them they are so vague & sweeping as to be of little value; & if they were all admitted to be true they would falsify the vouchers closed under the former description. They prove such an unceasant swell of water that there must of necessity have been frequent failures; whereas the other branch of evidence reduces the failures to a small number, & the Memorial seems calculated to make the same impression. Waters may rise & be high, without being so high as to stop travelling. Indeed it will be found that the Memorial of the Merchants of Mobile & the P.M. at Line Creek - near the two extremities of the most important routes of Mr. Beddo, testify distinctly, that while Mr. Beddo's mails were interrupted, ordinary travellers proceeded, & conveyed intelligence in advance of the mail. It is further to be observed that the statements of mail carriers should be rec'd with caution. They are accountable to the

Court, & in justifying him they excuse themselves. They will be easily persuaded to think that the weather is too bad for them to proceed, & having caused a failure, will be disposed to assert that the state of the weather rendered it unavoidable. It is hardly worth while to look with severe scrutiny at this evidence. It does that in regard to distant transactions after the lapse of some time, facility of temper, carelessness of habit, or connections of interest, offer means out of which any quantity of this palliating testimony can be procured. Among Mr. Beddo's vouchers are to be found however documents of a different & most respectable kind. They relate either to particular facts that have no available application to the case, or recommend Mr. Beddo to the liberality of the Govt. from an apprehension that the failure for which he was removed from service, had been unavoidable. The record of a suit brought by Mr. Beddo against one of his sub. Courts is not considered as furnishing any evidence in his favor. It was a proceeding under his contract, & no fact were proved, but what he thought proper to adduce. Knowing that Mr. Beddo rec'd a very small compensation for the difficult & arduous services required by his contract, a disposition was at all times felt, to remit the penalties he incurred by his failures. He was sometimes addressed in the language of encouragement, to stimulate him to greater exertions. Fines were remitted up to the close of his service, more from a notion of kindness to him & a sincere desire that he should perform his contract, than from the palliating evidence he produced. And after the forfeiture of the contract, to alleviate his misfortunes, all fines were remitted. It was not expected that this act of the Dept. would be seized upon as evidence to prove, that the forfeiture was unjust. In forfeiting the Contract, the object was to remedy the injury which the public had sustained through the misconduct of the Contractor, & to restore to the mail which he managed the large share of confidence which it had lost. This injury & distrust were felt principally at Mobile & therefore it was necessary to remove Mr. Beddo from service, on the whole line of transportation from Ft. Mitchell to Blakely - or against Mobile. This line comprehends more than one contract, & includes one from Claiborne to Blakely, which Mr. Beddo alleges no failure is proved. Whilst the public

inconvenience resulting from repeated failures, was manifest, & was sometimes difficult, if not impossible, for the Dept. to determine the places at which they occurred, as they were not designated in some of the reports. As it is not the object of this Representation, to divert from the Court the liberality of Congress, the fact is admitted, that a letter from the Post at Blakely dated 25<sup>th</sup> March 1825 states that no failure between that place & Claiborne had occurred for the last six months, though one was reported in 1824, said to have been occasioned by high water. But, this section was so connected with the balance of Mr. Beddo's route, that had no failure occurred on it, it seemed to be improper to disconnect it in the forfeiture. It would have availed little to ~~detangle~~ the Court from Ft. Mitchell to Claiborne, & to have continued him from Claiborne to Blakely, in restoring the mail to the confidence of the large & active commercial interest at Mobile. Mr. Beddo's contracts though separately formed, related to a continuous piece of service, in its nature inseparable. It may not be improper to remark that all that part of the line which lies between Claiborne & Ft. Mitchell, was placed in the hand of sub-Court, which affords a presumption, that Mr. Beddo's interest in that route extended no further than the difference of the compensation rec'd under the Court & the sum paid to those who performed the service. There is no evidence of the payment of the service between Claiborne & Blakely which only formed but little more than one tenth of the entire line. It may also be suggested, that Mr. Beddo complains in his communications, that the Post on whom he relied for information of irregularities in his carriers, instead of informing him, reported them to the Dept. - It appears to be the object of Mr. Beddo by his memorial, to produce an impression that altho' he might have rendered himself liable, in strict justice, to the forfeiture, yet that justice was enforced against him with peculiar severity, & that equal misconduct had been exhibited by his successor, with comparative impunity. This is an incorrect statement. During the crisis of the late Cotton Speculations considerable & extraordinary excitement was occasioned at Mobile by the delay & irregularity of the mails at that period, & the merchant under the influence of this excitement & by the sanction

of the Dept. sent on the route from City to Augusta & a Committee of investigation. On their arrival there it was understood that they coincided with the report of the Post of the vouchers in explanation, which the Court had furnished in relieving him from all blame.

M.L

Hon. T.P. Moore  
14. of R.

9<sup>th</sup> January 1826.

Upon examining the memorials of the Citizens of Greenville & Harrodsburg respecting an improvement in the mode of transporting the mail from Lexington to those places, it is found to designate no specific amount, as the quantum of assistance proposed to be drawn from this Dept. The memorialists admit that but a small sum will be required, & the Dept. concur that a small sum will be granted. Their respective views approach without ~~difference~~, & is all that in the imperfect condition of their proposal can be expected. I therefore repeat that a moderate addition to the amount at present paid for the horse transportation will be allowed by the Dept. to carry into effect the object of the memorials. Owing to the sickness & absence of Mr. Lee, a suspension of some days has taken place in the despatch of that branch of the business of the Dept. to which this subject belongs.

M.Y

Wm. Thompson  
Norfolk Va.

3. Jan'y.

A failure of y<sup>r</sup>. mail is reported to have occurred at Tarboro N.C., on the 14<sup>th</sup> ult<sup>r</sup>. by a delay in the main Eastern mail of 24 hours &c, the origin entirely of the way mail which conveys the correspondence of Tarboro. This previous failure appears to have proceeded from y<sup>r</sup>. waiting for the S. Boats in Norfolk so long as to render it impossible to get to Tarboro in time for the Fayetteville stop - without traveling night & day, which is represented you declined to do on acc<sup>t</sup> of y<sup>r</sup>. passengers. The object of this letter is to calculate the propriety of y<sup>r</sup>. avoiding in future to wait so long for the arrival of the Norfolk S. Boat, as to compel you to lose any of y<sup>r</sup>. important connections further South. It is always proper to delay no Norfolk for the arrival of the S. Boat, but not so long as to endanger the connection of the mail Southward.

M.L

Post Office Dept.  
3 Jan'y. 1825.

J. A. Beddoe  
Washington D.C.

It is considered that, as the route from Claiborne to Pensacola was in operation at the time the Court from the former place to Mobile was entered into, the Court had a right to calculate on the advantage of connecting the Mobile mail one trip each week, with the Pensacola route at Road fort, which is about 40 miles from Claiborne, & almost so much nearer to Mobile than Claiborne. As the order to pay by Watsons & Tesson's deprived the Court of this advantage, it is nothing but just that a fair Compt. should be allowed for the necessity thus imposed on him of performing add. services. The claim embraced in yr. Act of the 29<sup>th</sup> June 1825, is therefore in principle admitted, & it remains to be enquired whether its extent is proper. As by the Court you rec'd. a Compt. for mail, for both trips, nearly equaling the average allowance paid for similar services in that part of the Country, altho' less than had before been p'd. on the same route, it would not be just in reference to the public interest, to estimate the equivalent for this add. service as equal to a full Compt. for one trip from Claiborne to Road Fort. Under all the circumstances of the case, I am of opinion that more than \$200 for the claim ought not in justice to be allowed. That sum will be paid you on application.

J.M.L

Hon. Wm. Smith  
H. of Reps.

3<sup>rd</sup> Jan.

I have the honor to inform you that the fine against Mr. Hanning ref'd to in my letter of the 17<sup>th</sup> Decr. last has been remitted; in conformity with the views which that letter presents.

J.M.L

J. N. Carter  
Shepherdstown Va.

3<sup>rd</sup> Jan.

The subject of ref'd to in my letter of the 18<sup>th</sup> ult<sup>r</sup> shall receive immediate attention.

J.M.L

Post Office Dept.  
3 Jan'y. 1826.

J. C. Calhoun  
Vice Pres't. U.S.

The plan suggested in the enclosed letter has been often considered & always been found, objectionable. Standing Agents have been dispensed with from an expense & conviction that they encumber rather than facilitate the operations of the Dept. - occasion much expense & produce no facility. Special Agents are seldom employed, & when they are, they generally answer a good purpose. Every P.M. is a standing agent ~~with~~ with ample powers & bound by a strong responsibility. Their agency is seldom found inadequate, & when it is, strangers properly qualified are found preferable to resident Agents.

J.M.L

J. B. Duncan P.M.  
Winchester Va.

3<sup>rd</sup> Jan'y.

It is represented that on the 8<sup>th</sup> Inst. last, a Mr. John Martin of Winchester Va. enclosed in yr. presence \$22  $\frac{5}{10}$  to a Mr. Isaac N. Carter of Shepherdstown Va. The money it is said consists of one \$10 note of the U.S. M<sup>t</sup>. - one 2c. M<sup>t</sup>. & \$2.50 also in N.Y. notes. The letter came to hand, but according to the testimony of the Dep't. P.M. at Shepherdstown & Isaac N. Carter, it contained only the 50 cent & bore marks of having been opened. You are requested to state all you know about this remittance & to report the route by which the letter which is alleged to have been robbed of it, was forwarded to its destination from yr. office.

J.M.L

J. Finley  
Wilmington N.C.

3<sup>rd</sup> Jan.

Yr. mail passed at Salisbury on Tuesday previous to the 6<sup>th</sup> Decr. last, to a fine of \$30 is entered against you. The affidavit of the rider is rec'd. & is insufficient.

J.M.L

J. Hanning  
Lynchburg Va.

3<sup>rd</sup> Jan.

The fine ref'd to in my letter of the 21<sup>st</sup> Inst. last has been remitted in consequence of explanations presented to the Dep't. by the Hon. Wm. Smith.

J.M.L

J. C. Daniel  
Lodgment M.

Post Office Dept.  
5 Jan'y 1826.

Reference being had to yr. Acc't. Current, the credit applied for in yr. letter of the 8<sup>th</sup> Decr. last, is admitted, with the exception of the charge of \$5. for collecting the Am't. of a draft from a P.O. not on yr. route. The draft should have been rem'd. that the error might be corrected. The collection was at yr. own option & at yr. own expense.

J. J. Pitts P.M.  
Wirtm's Ch. Va.

3<sup>rd</sup> Jan

M.L.

In reference to the instructions contained in my letter of the 22<sup>d</sup> Nov. no deviation from their import will be permitted. Written applications from individuals to deliver their letters while they come to Court, take their cases out of the operation of the instructions & may be complied with, without violating them. But the request of one individual, is not to constitute a rule of practice in regard to the letters of others. Letters from Balt' to yr. office & vice versa, are to be charged only 12*½*¢ as the distance is as clearly under 150 miles as if it were but half as great as it is.

E. Little  
Phil'a. P.

3<sup>rd</sup> Jan.

M.L.

The arrangement proposed in yr. letter of the 19<sup>th</sup> ult. would be approved by all the Editors & Readers of N<sup>o</sup> papers, & of course by a majority of the Citizens of the U. S.

J. Caldwell  
Warrenton Va.

3<sup>rd</sup> Jan.

M.L.

Yr. mail failed at Fairfax Ch. on the Tuesday preceding the 31<sup>st</sup> Decr. last. A fine of \$10 is the consequence.

M.L.

Hon. J. Blair  
H.R.

Post Office Dept.  
3 Jan'y 1826.

In order to proceed efficiently on the subject of yr. letter of the 21<sup>st</sup> Decr., letters of enquiry have been addressed to the P.M. & Com'tee. at present connected with the route from Jonesboro to Blountsville, calculated to ascertain the am't. of compensation that will be required for establishing a stage transportation betw. those two places.

A. Butler P.M.  
Washington D.

3<sup>rd</sup> Jan'y.

M.L.

In cases where you have doubts as to the contents of a packet ostensibly containing nothing but N<sup>o</sup> papers, the proper manner to solve those doubts is to require as the condition of the delivery of the packet, that the person for whom it is intended open it in the office, & prove by ocular demonstration its contents.

J. Boyd  
Charlotte N.C.

3<sup>rd</sup> Jan'y.

M.L.

It is represented that yr. rider is now in the habit of leaving the Wachaw mail at Lancaster Ch. H.P. & then proceed to Bell Air P.O. without calling at Wachaw. It is further alleged that there is no circumstance in the condition or practicability of the route by Wachaw, to estimate this palpable failure & gross neglect. A fine of \$30 is entered against you & you are required to correct the departure from duty on which this letter treats.

R. W. Gile P.M.  
Lancaster M.

3<sup>rd</sup> Jan'y.

M.L.

It is alleged that you detain at yr. office the mails destined for the Wachaw office, & that by this means the post rider undertakes to omit calling at the latter place. The Com'tee. is fined for this neglect of duty & you are requested to explain whether the charge of participating in it, is justly urged against you.

M.L.

J. Henderson P.M.  
Indianapolis Ind.

Post Office Dept  
3<sup>rd</sup> Jan'y 1826

Before the recpt. of yr. letter of the 9<sup>th</sup> ulto. measure  
had been taken to correct the irregularities of which it complains  
all publications whose period of re-appearance occurs within an  
interval not exceeding a year, are considered by the Dept. as  
periodical. Those beyond that interval are irregular. This rule  
you can apply to the particular subjects noticed in yr. letter of  
the 9<sup>th</sup> ulto.

M.Z

Clark & Wall  
Madison Ga

3<sup>rd</sup> Jan.

In order to distribute in the most satisfactory  
manner the mail accou'd. entrusted to yr. care, on the route  
from Danville to Cameronsville, you will in future go by the way  
of McGeaties & return by the way of Madison Springs. M.Z

J. Marshall P.M.  
Shawneetown Ill.

3 Jan

The state of transportation exhibited by yr.  
letter of the 2<sup>nd</sup> ulto. is thought to supersede the necessity of a  
cr. or route from Harmony to Camri. M.Z

J. Stewart P.M.  
Alachua Fla

3<sup>rd</sup> Jan.

The Com't. of the P.M. at Lancaster Ch have been  
instructed on the subject of yr. letter of the 12<sup>th</sup> ulto. M.Z

J. Frazer P.M.  
Augusta Ga

4 Jan.

The Drivir ref'd. in yr. letter of the 25<sup>th</sup> ulto.  
must be dismissed, & you are requested to see that it is  
done. M.Z

J. W. Johnston  
Montgomery Ala

Post Office Dept  
4<sup>th</sup> Jan'y 1826

The failure ref'd. to in yr. letter of the 12<sup>th</sup> ulto.  
was reported from the P.O. at Mobile, & upon reference to the  
report it is found to fix it on yr. part of the route. Under these  
circumstances no reason is found that will justify its rem-  
ission.

M.Z

J. W. Williams P.M.  
Clarksburg Va

4 Jan

Further communications having been rec'd.  
explanatory of the controversy between Messrs. Van Bibber & Morris,  
it is considered proper to direct you to deliver the letter &  
contents to the former.

M.Z

Hon J. Noble  
Senate

4 Jan

The accommodation to Mr. M'Gill, suggested as just & con-  
venient in yr. letter of the 30<sup>th</sup> ulto. had been conceded to him before  
the recpt. of yr. letter. I am gratified to find that the interview  
you manifest on the subject terminates in a satisfactory issue.  
M.Z

H. P. Van Bibber  
North End Va

4 Jan.

To give you a full view of the measures adop'd.  
in relation to the Controv'red letter at Clarksbg. Va. a copy of  
the instructions first given to the P.M. is herewith sent you. He is  
now directed, upon the stat'mt. of facts contained in yr. letter  
of the 24<sup>th</sup> ulto. to return yr. letter. M.Z

J. Bailey P.M.  
New York

4 Jan

You will please answer the inquiries contained in the enclosed  
letter from the P.M. at Lexington & forward yr. letter under cover & open to me.  
The subject is important & requires strict & accurate investigation  
M.Z

Post Office Dept.  
4 Jan'y. 1826.

J. B. Eason  
Jonesboro' Ga.

It is with pleasure I assure that I never entertained the smallest apprehension that your claiming the reman'd, customary on such occasions, for the apprehension of Fickle, <sup>was in the light of his</sup> & it is not without uneasiness I find that my duty does not permit a departure from the position laid down in my letter of the 17<sup>th</sup> Nov. last. At that time I was under the impression that the \$150 sent to the P.M. at Jonesboro had been rec'd by Preston from Fickle as a partnership transaction & out of their common fund. It is now represented however that this was not the case - that the pay't was made in the course of an independent transaction between Preston & Fickle as distinct & unconnected individuals. In the former case there could have been no doubt as to yr. right to it; in the latter there may exist a strong doubt, in a legal point of view. Mr. Preston however it is presumed, will not avail himself of such an odious ground of opposition to yr. plain & honest claim to the money.

M.L.

Hon. T. Johnson  
At Rep't.

4 Jan.

In consequence of the representations contained in yr. letter of the 16<sup>th</sup> ult. the idea of establishing a P.O. at Shaketown is abandoned. It is found however that the mail between Rappahannock & Greenburg is transported 74 miles in a day & a half. The transportation will be left in the condition in which it now stands.

M.L.

A. R. Smith

4 Jan.

Laurenceville Ga.

No greater allowance than an increase of pay proportioned by the scale of yr. Comt. to the increase of service, can be made you for calling at the Standing Peach Tree P.O. And this increase of service must be ascertained both as to degree & fact by the certificates of P. M. on the route.

M.L.

Post Office Dept.  
4 Jan'y. 1826.

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

It would be improper to withhold the expression of the entire gratification which I have rec'd from the manner in which the duties of yr. Office have been discharged, both by yrself & yr. Apts. It evidences great efficiency, vigilance & despatch, & seems to be animated by the energy of a military spirit. It is perhaps in this acc't. that it may wear the appearance of less vigorous than accurate; & perhaps more satisfaction might be produced by less effort. A mild & flexible manner of attending to individual wants, or even caprices without neglecting the public interest, would probably elevate still higher in the public esteem the character of yr. Office, & convince every one that complaints in regard to it were what they doubtless often are, the ebullitions of pragmatrical & captious tempers. It is needless to admonish you that during the session of the Legislature unusual attention to general accuracy ought to be given even if it draw somewhat heavily on the convenience of the Clerks.

M.L.

A. Boulder  
Elkton Md.

5 Jan'y.

I sincerely regret the accident related in yr. letter of the 2<sup>d</sup> inst. & hasten to inform you that all the means in the power of the Dept. shall be exerted to recover the money, & to detect the cause of its misfortune.

M.L.

R. Cummins  
Marion Ga.

5 Jan.

Yr. two letters, alluded to in yr. last, came regularly to hand, but before the first was rec'd Mr. Whately had been app'd as the successor of Mr. Williams.

M.L.

Post Office Dept.  
5 Jan'y 1826.

J. H. Jefferson  
Monticello Va.

The subject of yr. letter of the 30. ult. interests  
in itself, becomes doubly so to me from the importance you  
attach to it. Measures have been taken to carry it into  
effect, but in a way somewhat different from that you  
propose. Frequent applications of a similar kind  
have been rec'd. from Seminaries of learning in various  
parts of the Union, but from the pernicious effect of one  
experiment which was made by my predecessor, it  
has been found necessary to refuse them. Under the rule  
established by those cases it would be difficult to re-  
concile the creation of a P.O. at the University of Va.  
with that even handed justice which is the duty & the  
desire of the Dept. to administer. The P.M. at Charlottesville  
is therefore instructed to provide for the supply of a separate  
Subsidary mail at the university, & is directed to apply  
Mr. Arthur Brockenshaw as his Agent.

It will be truly gratifying to me, if in the discharge of my  
public duty I can give even a faint manifestation of  
my profound respect for yr. character, & of the lively in-  
terest I take in the object to which the evening of yr. well  
spent life is so gloriously consecrated. And I pray  
you accept as entirely sincere the assurance of my  
best wishes & warm esteem.

J. M. Y

Hon R. Boon  
Hof Po.

5 Jan.

For a circumstantial answer to yr. letter of  
the 4<sup>th</sup>. inst allow me to refer you to a letter of the 2<sup>nd</sup> inst  
which I addressed to yr. colleague, the Hon Mr.  
Jennings.

J. M. Y

Post Office Dept.  
5 Jan'y 1826.

Hon J. N. Hobbs  
Senate

Application has been made for the object mentioned in yr. letter  
of the 2<sup>nd</sup>. & it was found necessary to object to it for the following reasons:  
The offices on the route including Indianapolis - which divides its revenue  
from other routes - & including Washington, don't yield a sum exceeding  
\$165. annually, while the expense incurred by the Dept. for hire for  
post transportation, amounts to \$520., a sum exceeding 3 times the amt. of its  
production. Under these circumstances it will doubtless appear to  
yourself & Genl. Hardwick, as it does to me, that it is imprudent  
to increase at present, the public expenditure on this route.

J. Winn P.M.  
Charlottesville Va.

5 Jan.

It is desirable in every point of view, connected with  
the prosperity of the University, that as few causes of attraction should  
exist at Charlottesville as possible, calculated to draw the students  
from the University to that place; & it has therefore been proposed to  
establish a P.O. at the former place. This is to be avoided if the object  
above indicated can be accomplished without it; & you are therefore  
requested to report whether you cannot provide an off'c, a place  
of deposit, suitable for the receipt & despatch of letters at the  
University. Mr. Jefferson adds to the intrinsic importance of  
this object the weight of his own interest; & the Dept. entertain  
an animated hope that you will attend to it without delay, &  
with efficiency. Mr. Arthur Brockenshaw is considered an  
proper person to be app'td. yr. off'c & you will employ of course a  
suitable carrier. If this arrangement should not be effected, it will  
probably be necessary to establish a separate office at the  
University.

J. M. Y

## Post Office Dept.

5 Jan'y. 1826.

Hon R. Sanders  
14 of Reps.

The application contained in the letter of Mr. Blum to yourself of the 26<sup>th</sup> Dec'r. last, is not rendered feasible by the proportion with which he supports it. The route from Huntsville to Rockford has been recently extended to Scull-Camp, but that measure is not calculated to dispense with a direct course thru' Scull Camp from Salem & Raleigh on one hand & Wythe Ch. on the great Eastern & Western route, on the other. Scull Camp was on the original schedule of Mr. Blum & the addition of Cranberry Plain, or Mt. Books Office, does not extend his distances more than 8 miles, nor make the aggregate of his travelling on an average ant. to 40 miles a day. That the Country is mountainous can be no objection now, as it was equally so when he undertook the service, & is in itself a difficulty of small magnitude in regard to the progress of a horse mail. These considerations, taken in connection with the previous effect of the example, appear to render it inexpedient either to modify the orders already given to Mr. Blum, or to remit the fine, which his want of activity incurred. In order however to satisfy you of the disposition of the Dept. to carry its indulgence to the farthest limit of propriety, Mr. Blum will be authorized to add 2 hours each trip to the time now allowed him. Let me add too that if he shall furnish the Dept. with any substantial & admissible plea for the remission of the fine, such as high water or other unavoidable difficulty, it will have due weight. But the mere complaining assertion that he cannot travel 8 miles farther than 230 miles in 6 days, forms no excuse whatever & presents a disposition to abstain from exertion which this Dept. cannot encourage.

N.B.

As the letter from Mr. Blum to yourself suggested a reference to Mr. L Williams, this letter has been submitted to him. He objects positively to the omission of the Scull Camp P.O. & requires satisfaction at the course adopted by the Dept. which it is hoped may meet yr. approbation.

M.L

## Post Office Dept

5 Jan'y. 1826.

C. Dudley P.O.  
Wilmington N.C.

It is probably unnecessary to remind you, that care should be taken not to close yr. mails too soon after their arrival, or too long before their departure. A half an hour is the longest interval that ought to be permitted to intervene between the closing & despatch of mails. Attention to this regulation it is believed would produce, not only in convenience to the public, but loss to the Dept. as letters which would under other circumstances be committed to the mail, in this case would be likely to be sent by the Driver, or by other private conveyance

M.L

J Mackay P.O.

Fayetteville N.C. 3 same.

Rev. Jared Sparks  
Boston Mass.6<sup>th</sup> Jan'y.

The 50<sup>th</sup> Number of the N. E. Review contains, according to the calculation prescribed by the 13<sup>th</sup> Sec: of the P.O. law, 17 Mts, the charge upon which by the 30<sup>th</sup> Sec: of the same law, is one & half Cents a sheet for any distance not exceeding 100 miles, & 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  ¢ for any greater distance. Each Number is to be rated with postage according to its particular number of pages, & of course the charge here ascribed for the 50<sup>th</sup> Number may exceed or fall short of that required for any succeeding one.

M.L

M Edmondson P.M.  
McMinnville T.6<sup>th</sup> Jan'y.

You may close yr. mail at 9 P.M. The P.M. at Abingdon will be instructed to effect the other object of yr. letter of the 20<sup>th</sup> ult.

M.L

J Randolph  
Charleston S.C.

6 Jan'y.

The object of yr. letter of the 22<sup>nd</sup> ult. is complied with.

M.L

J. G. Blum  
Salmon N.Y.

Post Office Dept.  
6 Jan'y 1826

Y<sup>r</sup> application for the remission of a fine for  
abatement of y<sup>r</sup> duty, has been presented by the Hon<sup>r</sup> Mr<sup>r</sup> Sanderson.  
It is not considered proper to remit y<sup>r</sup> fine, nor is it expedient to  
authorize you to omit calling both at Peck's Camp & Cranberry  
Plain regularly. You are allowed however in the spirit of in-  
dulgence two hours of add<sup>t</sup> time on each trip. Increase of duty  
gives you increase of pay.

A. Dury P.M.  
Abingdon Va

R. Jacky

J.M.C.

In order to simplify & facilitate the subsequent dis-  
tribution of y<sup>r</sup> Western mail, you are requested in future to place  
all the mail for N<sup>r</sup>, Ga & Ala. (except Florence) in a separate bag  
or envelope, labelled Huntsville. The Florence mail must  
be sent by Nashville as usual.

J. Randolph

6<sup>t</sup> Jan'y

J.M.C.

Great & intolerable irregularities are reported  
as prevailing in y<sup>r</sup> route from Augusta to Charleston. A  
failure is reported to have occurred at Parsons shortly previous  
to the 23<sup>rd</sup> ult<sup>r</sup>. for which a fine of \$40 is entered against you. A  
confirmation of this act & a continuance of this state of things  
will produce a forfeiture of y<sup>r</sup> Comt.

J.and J. Houston  
Fredericktown N.Y.

6 Jan

J.M.C.

The mail from Fredericktown N.Y. due at  
Winchester on the 31<sup>st</sup> ult<sup>r</sup>. failed to arrive, and a fine  
of \$20 is entered against you.

J.M.C.

J. Adamson P.M.  
Rockville N.Y.

Post Office Dept.  
6<sup>t</sup> Jan'y 1826.

The Rockville mail is stated to have arrived at  
Leesburg on the 30<sup>th</sup> ult<sup>r</sup>. without a lock. You are requested to state  
the cause of this accident & to prevent its recurrence.

J.M.C.

M. B. Winchester P.M.  
Memphis T.

6 Jan'y

J.M.C.

The failures reported in y<sup>r</sup> letter of the 13<sup>th</sup> ult<sup>r</sup>.  
are probably occasioned by the recent death of Mr. Taylor the Comt.  
Under that impression no fine will be imposed. Arrangements  
have been made for preventing any further irregularities.  
Blanks will be sent you.

J.M.C.

J. M. Moreau P.M.  
St. Genevieve Mo.

6 Jan.

J.M.C.

It is proposed before a very long time to revise  
& reform the mail arrangements in Mo., when it is probable the  
object of y<sup>r</sup> letter of the 30<sup>th</sup> Nov. will be provided for.

J.M.C.

Wm. Field  
Louisville K.

6 Jan.

J.M.C.

It is inexpedient to increase the expenditure at  
present appropriated to the line of transportation alluded to  
in y<sup>r</sup> letter of the 19<sup>th</sup> ult<sup>r</sup>.

J.M.C.

Morton & Relay  
Hudson N.Y.

6 Jan

J.M.C.

The charge alluded to in y<sup>r</sup> letter of the  
29<sup>th</sup> ult<sup>r</sup>. - the schemes being conveyed from N York to  
Hudson, is correct. They are chargeable with letter  
postage.

J.M.C.