

Post Office Dept.
27 Jan'y 1826.

J Lane

Randolph Co. W.

Y^r mail failed at Salisbury on the 3^d inst.
& a fine of \$40 is entered against you.

J.M.L

J. Armistead Pk.

28 Jan'y.

Rough Creek Church Va.

The alteration proposed in y^r letter of the
14th Inst. in removing a small inconvenience would probably create
a large one. At any rate as the Southern routes are to undergo
in the course of the ensuing summer, a thorough & comprehensive
revision, it is thought best to defer any measures of change
or attempted improvement until that time, when it
may be incorporated advantageously with the general sys-
tem.

J.M.L

J. Frazer P.M.

28 Jan'y.

Augusta Ga.

Annexed to the Contract of Mr. Johnson for the
transportation of the mail from Augusta to Millersville, is his
unwritten order in favor of Mr. Butt, dated the 29th Decr. 1824
& affixing to Mr. Butt's the entire compensation from that
date allowed for that service by the contract. Under this
order Mr. Butt has hitherto & will hereafter receive pay. His
caution & complaisance are both groundless, & y^r assurance to him of
the 1st Inst. supererogatory, tho' proper.

J.M.L

J. S. Sinton

28 Jan'y.

St. Charles Mo.

It is represented that y^r mail failed
at Jefferson on the 22^d Decr. last, & a fine of \$20 is
entered against [redacted]

J.M.L

Post Office Dept.
28 Jan'y 1826.

J. Winn P.M.

Charlottesville Va.

The carrier alluded to in y^r letter of the 9th inst.
must be paid by you a reasonable Comp't, the Amt. of which
must be charged in the accts. of the Contiguous agencies of
y^r office.

J.M.L

W. Stevens Pk.

Winchell Va.

28 Jan'y.

Letters intended to effect an imposition in the
way of postage, can not be charged with postage. You will there-
fore treat the packet mentioned in y^r letter of the 31st Decr. as
if it was free.

J.M.L

J. Davis P.M.

Shelbyville Ky.

28 Jan'y.

The difficulty described in y^r letter of the 24th ulto.
can be removed by the Nashville Pk. riding one hour earlier
than he now does, in the morning. It deserves & will receive
no other remedy.

J.M.L

G. D. Bond

Harpers Ferry Va.

28 Jan'y.

The Pk. at Winchester reports that you have altered
y^r times of arrival & departure so Winchester & destroyed thirty
y^r connection with Mt. Bawcut. This derangement is extremely
reprehensible & must be instantly corrected.

J.M.L

J. Roberts P.M.

Winchester Va.

28 Jan'y.

Mt. Bond is ordered to correct instantly
the derangement mentioned in y^r letter of the 9th.

J.M.L

Post Office Dept.
28 Jan'y 1826.

J. Davis

Fayetteville N.C.

Yr. mail failed at Jonesboro on the 31st ult^r. & a fine of £30 is entered against you.

J. Clemens P.M.

Monticello N.C.

It is decided that where a letter weighs an oz or more, whether it be composed of 1, 2, or 3 sheets of paper, it is to be charged with postage by weight. You were right therefore in the case submitted by yr. letter of the 6th inst.

J. M. Cahan

Huntingdon P.

You are requested to show this letter to the P.M. at Huntingdon & to convince him that it is intended as a direction that he should remit the postage on the pieces of cloth mentioned in yr. letter of the 20th Inst.

R. Lamberton P.M.

Carlisle P.

A society of Students of Dickenson College represent that they have lately rec'd. from Phil'a. a packet of Diplomas, which were inadvertently transmitted by the mail; & that the postage consequently accruing exceed the value of the articles. You are directed to reduce the charge so as to require single letter postage for each Diploma.

A. L. Waugh

Carlisle P.

Instructions are given to the P.M. at Carlisle to reduce the postage in the case ref'd. to yr. letter of the 11th Inst.

M.L

M.L

28 Jan'y.

M.L

28 Jan'y.

M.L

28 Jan'y.

M.L

Post Office Dept.
28 Jan'y 1826.

Asst. Post Master

Charleston S.C.

Information is rec'd. which renders it probable that you have persisted in neglecting the order of the Dept. of the 20th Sept^r. last, although it was modified on the 8th Oct^r. so as to suit yr. convenience, & to require only the supply of a weekly cross mail from some convenient point on yr. main route to Matthews Bluff. This order, so often repeated, with an assurance that longer neglect on yr. part will not be tolerated, & that the harshest measures of redress may be expected to follow continued disobedience.

M.L

J. R. Cannon P.M.

King Creek N.C.

28 Jan'y.

On the 29th Oct^r. last, you were informed that repeated orders had been issued for the supply of a mail to yr. office, & since that time no information has been rec'd. from you. The satisfactory impression was therefore indulged that after those orders were modified on the 2^d of Nov^r, due to the exigencies of the Contd. the supply of one weekly mail only to yr. office, the duty had been performed, & the community interested in yr. office accommodated & satisfied. From a course rec'd. to day however, thro' the Hon. W. Hamilton, a different & less agreeable impression is produced, & it is apprehended that yr. office is not yet furnished with a regular mail. If this conjecture becomes correct, it was yr. duty to have renewed yr. notices of the fact to the Dept. as you must have inferred that after you were informed that the proper orders had been given on the subject, yr. silence would be taken as the sign of yr. own satisfaction & the contractors' obedience. You are requested without delay to report distinctly whether yr. office is supplied with a weekly mail & if so when the performance of that service commenced & whether it is conducted with regularity & to advantage.

M.L

Post Office Dept.
28 Jan'y 1826.

J. Dorman P.M.
Green Briar Ch. Va

Information has been rec'd. that the
P.M. lately app'td at the mouth of Gauley is dead, & that
for that or some other reason, Mr. Knobell, the Capt. from
Nicholas Ch. to the former place, has failed to transport the
mail. If from that or any other cause, the Capt. has failed
to perform his duty, you are hereby authoriz'd & directed
to provide immediately & at the expense of the Dept.
in the most reasonable terms you can, for the supply
of a weekly mail from y^r office to Nicholas Ch.
Since the above was written intelligence is rec'd. that
the P.M. at Gauley's is still living; but that fact does
not dispense with the expediency of this order

M.E.

D. H. Buckle P.M.

28 Jan'y.

Marietta O.

The surplus pages of each N^o. of a periodical
work are to be charged as an add. sheet & any parcel
of periodical works are to be charged separately & not in the
aggregate. The exterior pages or covers are ^{not} to be charged,
but the blank pages they include within them are to be counted &
charged, as if they were crowded with matter.

M.E.

A. Ward
Phil'a. P.

28 Jan'y.

The paper communicated in y^r letter of the 9th inst.
has none of the technical properties of a pamphlet & must
be subject'd, if sent by mail, to letter postage. Your previous
enquiry was answered in a former letter, & the answer was
inscribed in the manner you requested.

M.E.

Post Office Dept.
28 Jan'y 1826.

J. Parsons P.M.
Holmes Hole W.

By referring to the 12th Art. of the 17th Inst. you
will find it to be y^r duty where newspapers are sent to persons
who neglect to take them out of y^r office, to notify the Editors
of the papers of the fact, & if within y^r knowledge the reason. And
you will perceive that if the papers are sent for 3 months after the
notice they can be sold for their postage & the proceeds incorpo-
rated with the receipts of the office. After giving the notice above
required, if any papers remain 3 months in y^r office, even
if they should cease to be sent, they may be disposed of
in the same way.

M.E.

Gallant & Polk

28 Jan'y.

W. L. Hall M.

Information is rec'd. that y^r horses & stages
are so indifferent, that public dissatisfaction exists in a
high degree at the slow & clumsy & inadequate manner in which
your duty is performed. The contrast between the power &
expedition of Mr. Morris's equipments, & the feeble & insuffi-
cient state of y^r preparations is said to be strikingly unfa-
vorable to you, & disrespectful to the service committed to your
charge. You are exhorted to exert y^r selves with proper spirit
& liberality to render satisfaction to the public & justice to
the Dept.

M.E.

M. Adams P.M.

28 Jan'y.

Ripley N.Y.

The letters mentioned in y^r of the 11th for Mr. Rappole the
P.M. at Quincy N.Y. should be marked free & forwarded to the office of
Mr. Rappole.

M.E.

J Blodget P.M.
Randolph Vt.

28 Jan'y.

The enclosed publication ref'd. in y^r letter of the 8th Inst.
last, is a periodical pamphlet & as such must be charged

M.E.

Post Office Dept.
28 Jan'y. 1826.

J. H. Davis
Fayetteville N.C.

The subject of running of Stage by Elizabethtown has been made the subject of consultation with Messrs. Williams & Blair of the H. of Reps. & the conclusion is that you are required to send the Stage by Elizabethtown whenever the roads of the Dan are practicable & safe, & all other times are to be allowed to avoid them, upon condition near the left that in all such cases you send a horse mail to Elizabethtown, in such time & manner as to deliver & receive the correspondence of that place. I am induced to hope from information received from Mr. Blair that the Citizens in the neighbourhood of Elizabethtown are engaged in improving the road to that place, & that in a short time you will find no difficulty in running of Stages regularly through it when that desirable state of things shall be produced, the discretionary power herein assigned to you must be understood to be revoked, & you will be expected to take Elizabethtown regularly & invariably in your route. Respecting the manner in which you have hitherto performed yr. Cont. other complaints have been rec'd. So as alleged that so late as the 18th. inst. yr. mail had but once been conveyed in stages; on all other occasions it is said it has been transported uncovered on horse back. This information is rec'd. with much incredulity & more surprise. No answer is requested.

J. A. Black P.M.
Charleston S.C.

28 Jan'y.

Mrs.

It not being requisite to note W. papers on the way-bills, there is not left by the Printers for that purpose on the blankts. The gross amt. of W. paper postage is all that is necessary to be recorded.

Mrs.

Post Office Dept. 175
28 Jan'y. 1826.

C. H. Jordan
Jackson S.

The Capt. ref. in yr. letter of the 30. ult. has been affixed to Mr. Crofts, the Secy. of the late Capt. - a circumstance which gave him, both on principles of equity & practice a favorable claim on the Dept.

Mrs.

A. M. Lear P.M.
Archdale N.C.

28 Jan'y.

In relation to the fine Ref'd. to in yr. letter of the 9. ult. it is certainly possible that the failure for which it was imposed proceeded from the neglect of a P.M. - but it is also possible that it arose from the negligence of the carrier. Until the contrary is proved the presumption is against the carrier. And that presumption or at least the Doubt, will in this instance prevent the remission of the fine, until evidence be offered showing that a P.M. & not the carrier was in fault.

Mrs.

M. Randall
Jackson S.

28 Jan'y.

Yr. mail failed at Golconda on the Tuesday preceding the 19th. Dec. last, & a fine of \$20 is entered against you.

Mrs.

G. W. Davis P.M.
Jackson S.

28 Jan'y.

The entire proceeds of the office at St. Michaels & Jackson S. which are composed of contributions from various contrabands in addition to the one directly between them, do not exceed \$250 per ann. The whole of this sum would be required to meet the position contained in yr. letter of the 16th Dec. last.

It must at once strike you that such an excess of expenditure over receipt, is inexpedient & could not be indulged without a total disregard of the dictates of prudence & the obligations of duty.

Mrs.

J. R. Moxley P.M.
Portland Me.

Post Office Dept.
28 Jan'y 1826.

By an editorial statement in the Eastern Argus
of the 20th Inst. - the public are informed that the circulation of
that paper, & the course of useful information are obstructed by
the remiss & accommodating practice of yr. office. I refer you to
the paper for the particulars of the allegation, & request that
you will report without delay yr. answer & explanations respecting
them. Without intending to prejudge the case, I will take
this opportunity to observe that the P.O. Dept. in all its branches
was intended to be an instrument of publick account. That
any Agent who defeats that intention, violates his duty &
frustrates the object of his app't. That the mail should not
be closed even against the admission of letters longer than
1/2 an hour before the time of its departure & that as to N.
papers, the practice in all the important & well regulated
Offices, is to admit them into the mail up to the moment of
its departure. From this statement you will perceive
distinctly that you are expected to receive the Argus & other
papers into the mail provided they are delivered in proper
order at yr. office, at any time previous to its actual departure,
and that in all occasions you are to render the utmost
possible account to the publick.

M.Y.

J. P. Preston P.M.

Richmond Va.

28, a.m.y.

The P.M. at Halifax Ch. having recently complained that
his Richmond mails instead of being forwarded directly on the Southern Route
for Raines, were frequently permitted by the Post at that place to deviate
from their proper direction as far as Lynchburg; Mr. Raines was written to
on the subject, & the inference drawn from his answer is that this erroneous
direction has sometimes been given to those mails at yr. office. The
subject is mentioned to you not censoriously, but from a Con-
viction that if the remedy lies within the sphere of yr.
official action, it will be promptly & effectually applied

M.Y.

Post Office Dept. 111
28 Jan'y 1826.

Hon. G. Moore
H. of Rep's.

The interest of the publick & that of the Cont'l. will both
be consulted by deferring any arrangement for stages on the route from
Nashville to Huntsville until the ensuing summer, when advertise-
ments will be issued by the Dept. for new Contracts on all the South-
ern Routes. It is then contemplated to invite proposals for
conveying the mail in stages either from Nashville or Natchez
to Huntsville, & then it is not improbable that acceptable
propositions may be offered. At present a Cont'l. could realize
a profit only by the most exorbitant demand, as his term of ser-
vice would necessarily expire at the end of the present year,
& his investment in teams & stages, even supposing the utmost di-
ligence would not be operative or productive more than 6 months
of that time, under any Contract that could now be formed. The
Cont'l. for the horse mail from Huntsville to Natchez, like all
other contracts in the Southern & Western directions of the Union
will terminate on the 31st Dec. next. To meet which event, the ad-
vertisement above alluded to, will be issued by the Dept. in the ap-
proaching summer. These branches of service will then be open
to the widest competition.

M.Y.

J. Elder P.M.

Clarksville T.

28 Jan'y.

From the enclosed blank letter of app't. you will perceive
that the P.M. mentioned in yr. letter of the 10th inst. are furnished with
authority to require the Cont'l. or carrier as the case may be to supply
their offices with mail, & that the same authority recognizes the
principle that increase of distance will require increase of
comp'. It is the business of the Cont'l. to prove the fact & amount
of increase of distance by the certificates of P.M. on the routes,
& these are expected to be exact & scrupulous in the state-
ments & estimates to which they certify.

M.Y.

J. Monroe P.M.
Washington D.C.

Post Office Dept.
28 Jan'y 1826.

In future you will prepare & despatch daily mail for Harrison's Store D. - & in all cases where P.O. are situated on lines accommodated with daily mail transportation, a similar arrangement must be observed. Indeed it is expected that the frequency with which any given office is visited by the mail is to determine invariably & precisely, the number of mails w/which you supply it.

Wm A. R. Govan
A. of Reps.

28 Jan'y.

M.L.

The error in respect to the transmission of y^r letter to Harrison's store, is found to have arisen from an absurd arrangement in the P.O. of this City, by which a weekly instead of daily mail, was forwarded to that office. The error is now corrected, & y^r correspondence will proceed hereafter with proper expedition.

Wm J. McKee
A. of Reps.

30 Jan'y

M.L.

To obviate the inconvenience complained of in the enclosed letter of the 4th inst. respecting the devious progress of the Mobile mail toward the N.E. Eastern parts of Alab, the order of the 3^d of June last modifying the duty of the Const. on the route from Cahawba to Centreville so as to permit him to proceed no further than Greensboro, has been revoked. He is now instructed after uniting the Mobile & Cahawba mails at Greensboro, to convey them immediately to Centreville, whence they will be transported directly on routes 315 & 14 by Monticello, Ashville, &c up to Huntsville. The route recd. by y^r correspondent, judging from the Map &c the topographical notices relating to the subject, in the possession of the Dept, would be in a great measure superfluous - & its expense renders it therefore inexpedient.

M.L.

Post Office Dept. 119
30 Jan'y 1826.

Wm. S. D. Jephcott
Cyrus C. of P.O. M.R. & Co. Jr.

I have the honor to submit to you, for the consideration of the Committee the enclosed letter from the Editor of a N^e paper in York Upper Canada. The object of the proposition appears calculated to promote public convenience & national concord, & I cannot refrain from expressing a hope that it may be rec'd. with favorable sentiments by the Committee.

M.L.

Wm L. McKenzie
Officer of Colonial Advocate, York, U. Canada.

30 Jan'y.

Upon receiving y^r letter of the 10th. Inst. I lost no time in recommending its object to the proper authorities of the H. of Reps. of the U. S. & I promise myself the gratification of being able to inform you, that a measure so conducive to the convenience of our respective Countrymen, & so consistent with the concord of the two nations, has rec'd. the favorable & efficacious consideration of Congress.

M.L.

J. Christian
Huntsville Stephensonburg D.

30 Jan'y.

The motions made of y^r Committee of the (post master) 2^d Inst. are highly commendable. Errors & failures in the multiplicity & extent of the P.O. establishment must occasionally occur, they cannot be corrected, nor their recurrence prevented unless they are made known. Where as in the cases mentioned by you, the Agent of the Dept. is so remiss or unfaithful as not to report the irregularity, the private interest or the public spirit of individuals are relied on. It is only by the vigilant & persevering correction of defect, that any thing like perfection can be arrived at. The P. M. on the route have been required to account for the delays you complain of, in a manner, which even if it fail to detect the cause of the errors, will probably prevent their recurrence.

M.L.

Post Office Dept.

30 Jan'y. 1820.

J. Concoran P.M.
Geo Town D.C.

A. W. Chairman of Newtown Stephensburg Va.
has deposited a complaint to the Dept. founded on the imputed
delay & uncertainty of his correspondence with Geo Town. He
alleges that an officer of one of the Geo Town Banks, deposited
on the 28th Dec'r. last in yr. office, a letter of pecuniary impor-
tance, addressed to him at Newtown Stephensburg Va. the stamp
on which was dated the 31st Dec'r. but which did not arrive at
the Newtown P.O. until the 17th Jan'y. - a delay which he affirms
was inconvenient, & which appears to be unaccountable.
With a view of correcting this pernicious irregularity, it is
desirable to ascertain, by what route you forward letters,
addressed to Newtown Stephensburg Va., so that the cause
of the delay being discovered, its recurrence may be pre-
vented.

M.R.

R. Stanley
Roanoke I.

30 Jan'y.

It is represented that passengers are subjected to much
inconvenience on yr. route for the want of transportation, & that you
abuse the indulgence by which you were allowed to substitute Carts
in time of bad roads, for stages - using the former when the travel-
ling is perfectly good. The precise force or justice of these
complaints it is not in the power of the Dept. to ascertain, but
my earnest wish is that Comt^{tee} would assert themselves to give
the utmost possible account to the public. The interest of the
Comt^{tee} would seem to coincide with the wishes & convenience of
passengers - as where a demand for steady transportation exists,
it is to be supposed its supply would be liberally rewarded.

M.R.

J. Easley P.M.
Hartford Ct. Va.

30 Jan'y.

Measures have been taken to correct the incon-
venience represented in yr. letter of the 6th Jan'y.

M.R.

Post Office Dept.

30 Jan'y. 1820.

J. Beckham P.M.
Harpers Ferry Va.

It is represented that great injurious delay
frequently occurs in the transmission of letters from Geo Town D.C.
to Newtown Stephensburg Va. A recent case of similar pro-
crastination is related, as having happened between y^r. Off'th this
same Newtown. It is alleged that a letter properly directed to "Newtown
Stephensburg Va." was deposited in yr. office on the 17th Dec'r. last
& did not reach its destination - a distance of 40 miles. until the
14th Jan'y. If this statement be true it encouages an inference that
the irregularity of the Geo Town mail, is caused by some error at
yr. office & you are requested to offer such explanations on
the subject, as may enable the Dept. to prevent the continuance
of the inconvenience. It is probable that as there are two other
Newtowns in Va. these letters may have been negligently missent,
altho' they appear to have been both, at Geo Town O.f.y. & directed
to Newtown Stephensburg Va. for the purpose of preventing their
deviation from the proper route.

M.R.

B. Brewer P.M.
Elizabethtown I.

30 Jan'y.

Much consideration has been given to the controversial subject
suggested by the desire of the people of Elizabethtown, that the Comt^{tee} should be
compelled to run his stages thro' their Village, & the difficulty of complying
with that desire, as represented by the Comt^{tee}. The Hon Mr. Blair & the Hon
Mr. Williams have been consulted on the occasion, & their advice has led
to the conclusion, that Mr. Davis should be allowed to exercise his discretion,
should be at liberty to find a horse mule, or run a mail stage to Elizabethtown
according to the state of the waters of the Dan. But that he should be com-
pelled at any rate at all times to supply yr. O. regularly with mails.
It is understood from Mr. Blair, that the route by Elizabethtown is undergoing
improvement & will soon be rendered at all times practicable for stages. When this
comes to pass, the discretionary authority given to Mr. Davis is to cease, & his
stages are to transport yr. mail uniformly. Orders conforming to this
view of the subject are issued to Mr. Davis.

M.R.

Post Office Dept.
30 Jan'y 1820.

The Editor of the Eastern Argus
Portland etc.

From the nature of the service confided to the management of this Deptt, which is an endless & extensive series of experiments, it will readily occur to yr mind, that occasional miscarriages & incidental arrangements, are to be inexpressibly apprehended, & that upon such cases as cannot be reached by the preventive power of the Deptt, its remedial energies are to be exerted. This obvious course of reflection will also cause you to perceive, that the correction cannot be applied, until the existence, locality, & nature of the disorder are discovered. The police of the service is necessarily committed to the P.M., & if any of these prove remiss or unfaithful, the Deptt can obtain information only through the private interest or public spirit of individual Mds. & the operation of these circumstances is an invariable rule of practice, to attend to every complaint & all information respecting the Agents of the P.O. establishment, that may be communicated, to investigate thoroughly every imputation, & to eradicate every disorder that may be made or discovered. It is therefore more acceptable & useful both to the Deptt & to the public that information of improprieties or delinquencies should be communicated by those acquainted with them, to the P.M. Govt, than that abuses should be complained of, before the officer charged with their correction, is notified of their existence, & the inutility of which arises from the inertness of those to whom they constitute a grievance. The paragraph respecting P.O. abuses, in yr paper of the 2d inst. in its two first sections, has reference to irregularities that would have been sooner corrected had they been sooner known. Its vagueness as to the mails, of which the transportation is alleged to be irregular, & as to the name of the town with which yr correspondence is stated to be uncertain, is regretted, as a circumstance necessarily relating the progress of correction, which the Deptt. is desirous to institute without delay. You are therefore requested to mention distinctly the mails in which these gratuitous & culpable failures have occurred & the name of the Town near Penobscot, with which the correspondence of Portland is so defective

& uncertain. For the same reason, yr section, is insufficient, & you are respectfully invited to supply its deficiency by stating in answer to this letter, the particular P.O. at which the abuse is described occurred. Of the grievance recapitulated in the 3d last section as arising from the practice of the Portland P.O. notice will be immediately taken, & the P.M. will be instructed to afford for the circulation of yr. N paper, the utmost possible accommodation.

M.L

D. Hynd
Knoxville T.

30 Jan'y. 1820

To insure the regular & expeditious transportation of the mails on the route ref. to in yr letter of the 2d Inst. it was found necessary to allow the Contr^{r's} discretionary authority to substitute carts for stages, in the winter season, when the roads are usually deep & the day short. In the exercise of this discretion which is necessary to effect the real object of the P.O. Deptt. it is probable you have been beyond by the Contractors to the inconvenience of which you complain. As you will perceive from the above that the Contr^r will not be directed to recur to the use of stages at this moment, it may be proper to remind you that this Deptt. was created for the purpose of transporting the mails, & not the people, of the U.S., & that the convenience of passengers or travellers, in so far as the P.O. establishment is concerned, is merely incidental to the principal design of conveying the mails. This account is to be derived like all other purchasable conveniences, or luxuries, from the interest of Contr^r or any other individuals who may find it to their interest, to employ their labor & invest their capital, in supplying whatever demand may exist for the comfort of easy & expeditious travelling. In the hope of rendering you some aid, in the circumstances in which you are placed, the Contr^r. has been advised of the demand which is made, for the employment of stages, is cautioned against abusing the indulgence allowed in respect to carts, & is urged to render to the public all the account that may be desired - as a step conducive to his own interest & conforming to the wishes of the Deptt.

M.L

Post Office Dept.
30th Jan^r. 1826.

J. Lang
New York.

The letter alluded to in yr. favor of the 24th was regularly rec'd & duly attended to. It was found to relate to a subject in relation to which other circumstances had reached the Dept. & with them was preserved for the purpose of assisting in an investigation which is intended to be radical but is not yet completed. Considering that not one letter in a thousand fails between N^o York & Washington, & that all that are rec'd by the Dept. are instantly attended to, it is proper that where the nature of a Comm^r. does not necessarily require an acknowledgment of its receipt, silence will be interpreted into neglect, or ascribed to the nonarrival of a letter. So many letters of a similar character to yr^r, come to hand that if all were answered little else would be done - & where the subject to which they relate, is, like the present, complex & protracted, an immediate reply would not be a satisfactory one. Any further Comm^r. you may have to make respecting this or any other subject, connected with the public service, will be rec'd with prompt & proper attention.

Yours
H. W. Dwight
A^t of R.

31st Jan^r.

M.L.

Upon comparing the present with the preceding rates of pamphlet postage, & balancing the value of the several differences existing between them, the increase effected by the law now in force is found to be very inconsiderable. The policy which dictated this increase was derived from views entirely favorable to the circulation of this useful class of publications, & was sedulously applied to the important object of preserving consistency between the operations of the Dept. & the interest of Editors. The law you will observe, does not contemplate encumbering the mail, with an insupportable mass of Magazines, & therefore vests in the P. M. C. the power of restraining or limiting their admission into the mail. From the great N^o of such publications, which the reading demand of our growing & intelligent population, has brought into existence, it is obvious that to prevent their

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circulation by mail entirely, it would only be necessary to remove all direct & indirect restraint upon their admission ~~to the mail~~; as in that case they would overload it & stop its transportation. The direct preventative of this inconvenience, is lodged in the hands of the P. M. C. & from its arbitrary nature, is of odious exercise. The indirect preventative consists in the imposition of such a rate of postage, as would moderate in a salutary & unoffensive manner, the harrassing exaction of this sort of intelligence; & by restraining within manageable dimensions the quantity offered for transportation, avoid the necessity of imposing the harsh & despotic remedy above alluded to. It is an agreeable inference attending this policy, that while the gentle restraint thus exerted, decreases the bulk of this species of information, it has the effect of refining its quality, & exalting its value. In reference to the particulars enquiring contained in yr^r last letter, & without intending to insist on the expediency of the existing regulation of postage. I have to observe that no authority is given to the P. M. C. to alter or diminish the legal rates; & that any measure to that effect must receive the sanction of Congress.

M.L.

Hon. W. Chapman
A^t of R.

31st Jan^r. 1826

Notwithstanding the force of yr observations & the propriety of yr statement, I am unable to arrive at any other conclusion on the subject of yr letter of the 21st Inst. than that the public convenience w^t not be promoted by removing the office of distribution, from Albany to Troy. The mail routes concentrate at Albany, both in consequence of its metropolitan rank, & its superior commerce & population. In reference to the position created by these important considerations, the situation of Troy is eccentric & unsuitable. The difficulty of passing the river at Albany, even allowing that it exist in a much greater degree than at Troy, amounts to an insuperable obstacle, according to the experience of the Dept. but rarely, & presents but an inconsiderable offset against the strong & permanent advantages of Albany. Among these are the following, of paramount weight & eminent prominence. Albany is the Capital of the State, & the centre of all its political circulation. Its commercial, population, literature, & business generally, far exceed in consequence & activity the same interests in Troy. The Cana-

of Ocean navigations met at Albany, & to it the correspondence arising from these sources, of important transactions, is directed. Its P.O. revenue is then the amt. of Post of Troy, & to these ^{Mining} claims, many secondary ones might be added. In order to comply as far as practicable with yr. suggestions, & to avoid the delay complained of, a separate mail for Troy shall be made up in future at N York, with which city or other which office, the principal correspondence of the Citizens of Troy is probably maintained. It is hoped that you will perceive in the views here presented, a total absence of prejudice or partiality on the part of the Dept. - & that you will believe me when I say with the queen of Carthage. "Tros, Tyriusque, niki, nullo discrimine habetur". M.L

J. F. C. Triplette P.M.
Matthew Bridge N.Y.

31st Jan'y. 1826

To effect the purpose of yr. last Comm't. it will be necessary for you, according to the rule of practice in such Cases, to require the Postm. to fix an hour for the arrival of his mails at yr. Office - say 8 A.M. in going down, & 12th coming up. If he declines or refuses to do this, upon yr. notifying the fact to the Dept. - an hour for his arrival will be designated & he will be compelled to conform to it.

M.L

O. Rainey P.M.

Bogdonia N.Y.

31 Jan'y.

The Capt. Tunnicliff, is directed to dismiss his mail carrier & to employ immediately a suitable one. If he fail or delays to obey this order, you will report him to the Dept. & if determined to remove him from service on the first failure.

M.L

J. Van Rensselaer P.M.

Albany N.Y.

31st Jan'y.

A regulation has been adopted which will render it unnecessary for the Troy mails from N York, to be distributed at yr. Office.

M.L

Post Office Dept.

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31st Jan'y. 1826.

Hon. T. Johnson

At of Rep'

(The app't recommended in the paper enclosed in yr. letter of the 9th & ref'd to in the of the 25th inst. of a P.M. at Brownsville, the seat of Justice of Edmandson C^o. K. will be immediately made to transmitted to the P.M. at Bowling Green. As the circumstances of this case will require the formation of a contract with all the preliminary legal formalities, you will perceive that at least 4 months will elapse before the arrangement can be consummated. In the mean time the P.M. will be authorized to provide for the supply of his office weekly or once in two weeks, as he may find it practicable, by placing it on the footing of a private office, & appropriating its proceed to the expense of its transportation.

M.L

E. Hayden P.M. Brownsville Edmandson C^o. K. 31st Jan'y.
via Bowling Green N.Y.

In the instance of the Hon. M. T. Johnson, of the H. of Rep's, & by the recom'd. in writing of various persons, you have been app'd. P.M. at Brownsville, the seat of justice of Edmandson C^o. K., & the letter of app't forwarded to the P.M. at Bowling Green. Proposals for forming a Com^t for supplying yr. O. regularly with mails, will be immediately advertised & will continue so far at least 3 months. During that interval yr. O. will be considered a private office, & you are requested to provide for its supply by appropriating the proceed of its postage to pay for the conveyance of the mail to it once a week, or once in two weeks, as you may find most practicable.

M.L

J. Low P.M.

Concord N.H.

31st Jan'y.

Every P.M. is a standing Agent of the Dept. & it is the duty of each & all of these Agents to correct & bring to punishment every offender against the P.O. Law. A new key & 2 new locks will be sent to you. If you know of any abuses you are expected to redress them if you can, & to report them.

M.L