

J. H. ^{General Agent}
Georgetown, S. C.

Post Office Dept.
1st Sept 1827

I am mortified at the failures that have become a matter of cause on the route from Fayetteville to Charleston. You need not expect the escape censure, if you run to the hours fixed for your arrival and departure. You must show a disposition to sustain the character of the Dept., by extraordinary exertions, on extraordinary occasions. The connection of the mail must not be broken. Any Contractors on the line who fails to make the necessary efforts to secure this object, will not be continued in the service of the Dept. - Mop's & Mallett have informed me that a bridge has been carried away and other obstructions have been created on their route, which has thrown them behind the hour of their arrival at the P. O. - They shall not escape the penalties they have incurred. But, you should wait the arrival of the mail at G. Town, and endeavor, by increased efforts, to make up, the lost time, on the route. - Toujours I trust this will be done. To encourage you in these exertions, fines will be imposed, if either Mallett or Mr. Dogier shall loose time on their routes, and the fines shall be paid to you, as a compensation for your increased exertions. To carry this into complete effect, it will be necessary for the P. M. at G. Town to report whenever your mail is rec'd. by you out of time.

J. T. Jett, Esq
Diamond Grove, N.C.

Augt 31st

J. McL

Your letter of the 19th has been rec'd. - I have, agreeably to your request, directed a search for such letters, as you had supposed, might have been rec'd. at this Dept. in relation to the subject mentioned. There does not appear to be any such on record. It would have afforded pleasure in complying with your requisition, had there been any data on which to act.

Mr. John M. Lean,
Columbia, S. C.

31st

J. McL

The P.M. at Augusta under date of the 15th advised me, that you had not adopted my instructions of the 26th ult. and that your mails continue to arrive out of time, from one, to two hours. My requisitions in future, I trust will not be disregarded.

J. McL

Mr. Elihu Coley,
Utica, N.Y.

Post Office Dept.
31 Augt 1827

It appears, that your driver has for sometime past visited the office at M. Lean only once a week, with a mail - after having been attached to your route in lieu of Virge. It was regularly supplied with three mails a week for about three months, since which two trips have been omitted. Will you please to inform me, why this course has been adopted. An early reply is desired.

J. McL

Hon. John Reed,
Yarmouth, Me.

31st

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th Inst. and observe, that Mr. Bangs' Contract having been assigned to Mr. Winslow, by consent of the parties, payment for the services will be sent to that gentleman as you desire. I have so informed Mr. Bangs.

J. McL

Mr. Barnabas Bangs,
Yarmouth, Me.

31st

Your letter of the 14th has been rec'd. I observe, that the agent on the part of this Dept. to receive Mr. Winslow as your substitute, was a sufficient reason release against any claim on you for the future, under that Contract. All contracts are deposited in the Treasury Dept. and the abrogated are not returned. The pay will be sent to Mr. Winslow accordingly.

J. McL

Mr. Chen Clark,
Washington, Vt.

31st

I have been advised, that you detain the mail at your own house on each course of your travel, and that on return from Bradford you detain the mail until the next week. In future you will observe the schedule of your Contract, or you will be fined for each omission.

Leave Royalton, on Wednesday, 6. A.M.
Arrive at Bradford same day, 6. P.M.
Leave same, Thursday, 6. A.M.
Arrive at Royalton, same day, 6. P.M.

Post Office Dept.

31st Augt 1827.

Mr. B. Edington, Esq.,
Frankfort Ky.

In reply to yours of the 19th Inst. you can make your bids separately for a horse mail, or to convey the mail in stages. It is not usual now for the Dept. to make advances of money. No particular form is necessary for making your bids, other than to state the M^t & Route, and price at which you will carry the mail, sign & send them under seal to the Dept., enclosed in a letter - endorsed "proposals".

Theodore Cooke, P.M.
Corinth, Vt.

31st

J.M.L

Your letter of the 16th has been recd. - I have written to the Contractor respecting the improper detention of the mail at his residence and apprehend the procedure will be corrected.

J. Cavender, P.M.
Salisbury Village, N.H.

31st

J.M.L

Your letter of the 13th has been recd. - I had previously written to Mr. Monroe on the subject of your communication, and hope the cause of complaint has been corrected.

Jas. Frazer, P.M.
Augusta, Ga.

31st

J.M.L

Your letter of the 15th has been recd. - I have written to the Contractor, requiring him to adopt, forthwith my instructions of the 26 ult: - viz. to make Augusta his last on Sunday - and to be prompt in his time of arrival - If delays again occur, advise me thereof, and fines will be levied, in each case -

Jos. Darling, P.M.
Reading, C^t.

31st

J.M.L

Your letter of the 16th has been recd. - You can continue, as heretofore, to supply your office with a mail from the Town Master, and apply the proceeds (of your office) as a compensation for the service.

J.M.L

Post Office Dept.

31st Augt 1827.

Samuel Noyes, P.M.
McLean, N.Y.

Your letter of the 18th ult: has been recd: - I have written to the Contractor on the subject of your mail - Your office is now within his route, and profit will be made him, for the service. The delay in answer, arises from your having sent your letter with your off. Letters on business, should not be so sent - If the stage fails to visit your office thrice a week, report the same -

J.M.L

Jacob Hoffman, P.M.
Oneida, N.Y.

31st

Orangeburg, N.Y.

Your letter of the 20th has been recd: - It appears, that you must have in some degree, misconceived the import of the letter of 30 June, addressed to your predecessor, viz. "In consequence of your office being a private one, and not established by law, no contract other than a private one, can be made for supplying it with a mail - You can enter into an engagement with Mr. Smith for the service, as you have stated, and pay him out of the net proceeds of your office," &c. The sum stated in your contract, is too great, and two mails a week, appears unnecessary - if your office fails to produce \$65 a year, you will become responsible for the balance, as this Dept. cannot become accountable - Your engagement should have specified "the net proceeds"; or so much thereof as the relative service might stand to the amt: but as we have no returns from the office, no specific advice can be given - you will however derive sufficient information from these remarks, to enable you to consider the error into which you have fallen - "once a week," will probably comport more with the circumstances and demand - When this matter shall have been satisfactorily adjusted, please to advise me thereof -

J.M.L

Jacob Wolf, Esq.
Miller Norton & others, Bethlehem, Pa.

1 Sept^r 1827.

In reply to the your communication of Augt 1st signed by Mr. Miller Norton & 29 others, in relation to post routes from Phil^s to Bethlehem, Nazareth, Allentown & Lehigh, Penn. - The proposed arrangements will be sanctioned by this Dept: if a disadvantageous offer shall be made for the conveyance of the mail - I invite you to make the bids, and they shall be duly considered -

J.M.L

Post Office Dpt^r

1 Sep^r. 1827.

Hon. W. L. Young,
Elizabeth Town, Ky.

I had the honor to receive your application, in relation to the transportation of the mail in stages on routes No. 462 and 460, of 15th Aug^t Inst. which has been duly Considered. On examination it appears there is now paid for the Conveyance of the mail on these routes \$1823 28/100, and that only \$957 46/100 are received on them for Postage. Therefore it would seem to be injudicious to incur the additional expense that would be necessary to establish a line of stages -

J. Mc.

Thomas P. Green, P.M.

1st

Milledgeville, Ga.

On the 19th of March last a letter enclosing \$410, addressed to Holt & Ware, Augusta, Ga. was put into the mail at Eatonton by Wm Vance, but never rec'd at Augusta. On the 4th June last Charles P. Gordon enclosed \$120 in a letter directed to Smith & Wright, Augusta, Ga. & put into the P.O. at Eatonton, but it never arrived at Augusta. On the same day (June 4th) Wm. Hill of Eatonton enclosed the left-hand halves of two \$100 bills in separate letters, one addressed to Gibson J. Hill, College Hill, D. C. the other to Philip H. Eckels, College Hill, D. C. & put them both into the P.O. at Eatonton, Ga. but neither was ever rec'd at the city of Washington, nor was any mail for that day rec'd for distribution at Augusta from Eatonton. The half notes can be described by Mr. Hill, who is a gentleman of worthy character in Eatonton. The first of these letters should have left Eatonton on Monday the 19th of March & the others on Monday the 4th of June, and all should have gone through Coopers Bridge, New Hope, Mount Zion to Powelton, and thence with the stage line from Milledgeville to Augusta. The Eatonton accounts for the 1st quarter of the present year have not been rec'd; but for the second quarter they have come to hand, from which it appears that a mail was made up at Eatonton on the 4th June for Augusta, and another Northward for that distribution. From the Augusta accounts, it does not appear that either was ever rec'd there. From the Augusta ap^r it also appears that the mail sent from Eatonton of the 19 March was rec'd at Augusta on the 21st letters agreeing with the post bill. It then follows, that the letter of the 19 March could not have been handled by a rider, but must have taken place either at Eatonton or at Augusta. It also follows, that these letters of the 4th of June must have been taken before the arrival of the mail at Augusta, that there was scarcely an opportunity at any intermediate office, unless it was at Powelton, that being the only place where the delay was

sufficient for examining different packets. The probability is, that botanically, the times of making up the mail at Eatonton on Monday evening, & its departure early on Tuesday M^rg for Powelton, the letters were taken out. It is further stated, that the P.M. at Eatonton is in the habit of leaving the business of his office to the care of a boy, who might be more subject to temptation than a person of matured thought. If there is fault in that place, it is due to the public to detect it: if not, it is due to the office to have it removed. I wish you therefore to undertake the business of testing the integrity of the office at Eatonton. Let a letter be written in a hand that will not be recognized, and with a fictitious signature, dated at or near Eatonton. Let it purport to be written by a stranger travelling through the Country, a hawker or a gambler, and directed to a travelling stranger with a fictitious name, who will be supposed to be passing through a Northern town, to which town the letter must be addressed. Let this letter enclose a sum of money, say \$50 in notes of a small denomination, say \$5 each. Take an exact description of each note thus enclosed, and also make a single dot with the pen on a certain part of each note as a private mark, so that you can identify each note under oath. Go to Eatonton with this letter, & cause it to be put into the P.O. at Eatonton by a stranger whom no one at the office will know. Do not let it be known at the P.O. that you are in Eatonton, but you must be able to prove that the identical letter is put into the P.O. on a Monday before noon, so that it will be certain, if properly sent, to ^{first} the route through New Hope to Powelton. You will then be careful to be present at the P.O. on this side Eatonton, which I believe is New Hope, at the time of the arrival of the mail there, & on its arrival examine closely every packet from Eatonton, for that letter. If it is not there, you will conclude that it is purloined at Eatonton. Let a note of, say \$20 be presented to the person having charge of the Eatonton office for change, and it is probable some of the smaller stolen notes may be given in exchange, which will furnish legal evidence of the fact: but in any case, if the letter shall not be found in the mail, you will cause the person having charge of the office at Eatonton to be immediately arrested, and the closest & most effectual search to be made for the notes, in which it is possible that the \$2 notes of Mr. Hill's may be found. The greatest possible secrecy, discretion & energy are necessary, & in any event, no part of the plan or procedure must ever be disclosed either before or after the result is known, unless it shall be necessary in giving testimony before a court for the purpose of conviction. You will take great care in choosing a suitable person if it shall be found necessary to make a confidant in the business -

(The enclosed certificate will be of your authority in case the P.M. at New Hope, or such other place as shall be necessary, should hesitate to give you access to the

mail. You will not advise him of your object in opening it. Be sure that in enclosing the money, it will be obvious to the person in the office that the letter contains money -

J. Gale, P.M.
Troy, N.Y.

1st Sept.

J.M.C.

The package from England rec'd by the Mopps Vails was evidently not designed for the mail, & it is one of those cases coming under the 10th article of Instruction XVI. - Letter postage ought not, in this case, to be required on the whole package; yet it increased the burden of the letter mail little less than a pound; and the letters which accompanied the package could not legally have been delivered to an agent in New York without postage. It appears to me therefore reasonable that quadruple postage be paid on the letter, and no regard had to the weight of the letter package. On their paying quadruple letter postage then you will relinquish the further charge on account of weight -

J. Baggs, P.M.
Pendleton Co. W. Va.

1st

J.M.C.

The franking privilege of Members of Congress ceases at the end of sixty days after the close of the session, whether public documents or otherwise; but if a package is put into a post office by or for a Member of Congress before the expiration of ^{it is true, though the} sixty days, may have expired long before it arrives at its place of destination -

✓ Mr. Sant Rogers.
Mobile, Ala.

3^d

J.M.C.

I am surprised at the reception of your letter informing me that on the 1st Inst., you would suspend the running of the steam boat for 18 days. This information should have been given before this time, as the suspension will now create the most serious embarrassment. The N. Orleans mail from the North is now sent by the way of Mobile. I trust therefore, that you, as the P.M. have made arrangements to send on the mail at least twice weekly. This should be done, by the Contractor, to save his Contract. Had I been informed of the suspension, a month before it was to take place, or three weeks, I should have directed the New Orleans mail, from the East, to be sent on the Tennessee route. Inform me, at what time the boat will resume her trips -

J.M.C.

✓ Thomas Monroe, P.M.
Washington D. C.

Post Office Dept
3 Sept. 1827.

Until otherwise instructed, I wish you to send the New Orleans mail by the way of Staunton and Huntsville, J.M.C.

✓ Mr. David A. Lippencott,
Cincinnati, Ohio,

3^d

A bid on a mail line, which covers two or more routes will be preferred, if lower than a combination of the lowest responsible bids, for the different routes -

The bid on any route may propose to convey the mail, as now transported, and also the same person may vary his ~~bid~~ proposition, as he may conceive, the public convenience requires. All such propositions are duly considered before the Contract is decided -

Every successful bidder on a stage route must purchase the Stage property on the route, as the Conditions published.

I am not now prepared to say what changes may be made on the route from Cincinnati, by the way of Williamsburg to Bainbridge -

✓ J. L. Skinner, P.M.
Baltimore, Md.

3^d

I fear a search was rendered useless, by the publicity given to the late lops. Police officers, I believe, have never been of the least service to this Dept. I do not recollect a single instance in which they have made any valuable discovery. The business is new to them & is very different from that in which they are ordinarily engaged. In such cases, I always wish to keep clear of them. Give me a cool sagacious man, who understands the action of men, and is no stranger to human nature. A letter carrier is not merely a private agent, he is employed by the Dept as an agent. He is responsible for his conduct, as much so, as that of any mail carrier. An individual has a right to constitute a private agent, to call for his letters, but in such case the authority must be special. A letter carrier is appointed, under the sanction of the Post M. Secy, and his compensation is regulated by law. In making the appointment, the individuals composing any community are not consulted, necessarily, their letters are forwarded by the carrier, and if any one doubts his integrity or wishes to avoid the increased expense, he must give written notice to the P. O. This is a ~~universal~~ control which every person may exercise over his own correspondence. He may direct that his letters

shall be sent to and delivered at any P.O. he may deem proper.

As the letter carrier is appointed by the Dept., and receives a compensation fixed by law - he is an officer of the Dept. as much so, as a post master, and consequently there is a direct responsibility on the department for his good conduct. His responsibility rests principally on the officers under whose direction the carrier acts, & from whom his appointment is in fact recd.

I feel great anxiety that you should find the lost letters. They are traced it seems to your office; and you cannot, even trace them into the hands of the carrier. You are aware I know as fully as I am, that it is of great importance to your young men, that the letter should be found.

J. A. Hale, Esq.

3^d Sept.

Gayetterville, N. H.

Your letter of the 13th ult. has been recd-

I have instructed the P.M. at Gayetterville, to adopt the change you
you have desired, in the Narrington Mail -

J. M. G.

✓ Mr. Daniel Brooks,

3^d

Walpole, N. H.

The P.M. at Brattleboro, reports a failure of
your mail on the 20th for which you have been fined ten dollars -

J. M. G.

✓ Messrs Brewster & Sargent

3^d

Springfield, Mass.

The P.M. at Brattleboro, reports a failure of
your mail on the 20th for which I have directed that you be fined \$10.

J. M. G.

✓ Mr. Saml. Ingram.

3^d

Springfield, Washington, Ky.

I have been advised by my brother, in
Ohio, that you were desirous of offering proposals for routes 430 & 431, and
wished to know the amount now paid for the service which is submitted
for your information.

Louisville to Lebanon, \$100 a year

Retention from Springfield 150 " "

Increased expedition fee 300 ..

\$1.450.

325

Post Office Dept.

3 Sept. 1827.

J. Y. Freeman, P.M.

Monticello, Ohio,

Your letter of the 13th ult. has been recd.

Monticello being a private office, no engagements can be entered into by this Dept. for supplying it with a mail, beyond the amt. recd. by postage. A letter was addressed to you in Apr. last, requesting information, to which, we have no answer. You will please to transmit a diagram, embracing Monticello, and those offices with which you communicate; noting the distance between each, & together with the name of the contractor. Correct information on these points, we recd., before measures can be taken for your better accommodation.

J. M. G.

John Dill, P.M.

3^d

✓ Fort Gaines, Ga.

If Mr. Holliday does not perform his contract faithfully, I shall be compelled to forfeit it. No consideration aside from his performance will have the least influence in inducing me to take this step. The acts under a great mistake as to the Contract of Macon, both as to the amt. paid, & the circumstances under which it was made.

By an oversight in the Appt. P.M. Govt., the route from Pendleton to Tallahasse was advertised, when in fact, the Contract of Macon, did not expire until the close of the year 1827. It was therefore out of my power to accept of any bid, though it was lower than his, in the fall of the year 1826. He claimed the right to Convey the mail under his existing Contract, which was made at a time, when the service of no other officient person could be procured at the same price. He however consented to lessen the amt. of his compensation to \$1440 by extending his Contract for the same term of others in the same section of Country. This was considered the lowest reasonable bid, & under the circumstances, I was bound to accept it. Mr. Holliday was not known to the Dept., nor was he recommended, & this being an important route, a recommendation was necessary, by the rules of the office. On a less important route Mr. Hollidays bid was accepted, and, I hope, hereafter, I may have no cause to regret having done so. If he will faithfully perform his engagements, nothing further will be required of him. His pay has been sent. I regret that any delay in its transmission occurred. It was delayed on account of his Contract, not being executed & returned. If the Contract was not sent to him, as he alleges, the neglect was in this office, and his pay was wrongfully withheld. He shall receive it punctually, hereafter.

J. M. G.

I. M. G.

Post Office Dept.

3 Sept. 1827.

N. H. Hunt, P.M.
Pensacola, Fla. Ter.

Yours of the 10th ulto. is recd. The amt of
the Sheriff's bill, \$ 42.70 you will charge in your P.O. ac/c under the items
of Contingent expenses & forward his receipt bill for a voucher -

You will please communicate all the facts to the United States Dis^t Atty^g
for that Territory, ^{request} his particular attention in the case -

Amos Russell, P.M.

3^d

Hallowell, Me.

J. McE

Yours of the 24th ulto. is recd. You acted correctly
under the circumstances of the case, in opening the letters written by Geo. Needham.
You are now requested to communicate in detail all the facts going to fix on
Needham the crime of robbing the mail, to the U. S. Dis^t Atty^g for that
state, Ether Shiple, Esq^r of Saco, whose duty it is to attend to the case. Let
your statement to him be as circumstantial as possible, & I presume he will
take hold of the case, properly, & manage it correctly -

John Becknell, P.M.

3^d

Bristol, C^a,

J. McE

Newspaper postage should never be entered in the
post bills, nor in the accts of Mails sent, or of Mails recd. - At the com-
mencement of each quarter you should charge yourself in a little Memorandum
book to be kept for that purpose, with the whole quarters postage in advance
upon all newspapers recd at your office for regular subscribers - Papers
recd occasionally for persons who are not regular subscribers, should be charged
in the same Memorandum book from time to time as they are recd. At
the close of the quarter the whole should be entered from this book into your
account Current -

Ira Davis, Esq^r, P.M.

3^d

Palmerside, N.Y.

J. McE

Your letter of the 10th Ult^o has been recd.
I have sent on a Contract ^{for} execution by Mr. Haughton, & so soon as it
is returned his pay shall be transmitted -

J. McE

Post Office Dept.

3 Sept. 1827.

James McGirk P.M.

Philipsburg,

Centre Co., Pa.

In answer to the several queries contained in
your letter of the 25 Ult^o.

1st A P.M. may, without impertinence, enquire whether a letter is double; but
the writer is not bound to inform him. The P.M. is in duty bound to rate a
letter according to what appears to him to be its proper character. He is not
bound even to give a receipt, but to mark it paid in presence of the person who
pays the postage if he so wishes -

2^d The law inflicts no penalty for attempting to post a double for a single
letter; but it is the duty of a P.M. to use all vigilance to detect such im-
positions, & in all cases to charge the full amt^e of what he believes to be the legal
postage -

3^d No regard is to be had to the weight of a letter unless it weighs a full
ounce -

4^d A letter composed of a single sheet is to be charged with no more
than single postage unless it weighs an ounce; but if it weighs an ounce, it
must be rated by weight -

5^d The printed sheet of proposals enclosed in your letter is chargeable with
letter postage -

6^d Printed circulars containing lottery advertisements addressed to P.M.s must
be returned agreeably to Instruction

XXX. and in no case can a P.M. act in any way as a lottery agent. Proposals
for new publications, being works of utility, a P.M. may receive & exhibit if he
thinks proper; but all such circulars, when sent thro' the mail, are to be considered as
lett^gs -

As soon as a receipt is requested the P.M. should readily give it -

J. McE

J. McRae, P.M.

3^d

Fayetteville, N.C.

As no inconvenience can result from the change, as
regards time, for the performance of the trip, or connection of the mails, it is
desirable that the time of departure for the Northern mail, should be fixed at noon,
on Thursdays - This regulation will enable the printers of news-papers, published
on that day, to forward them to subscribers on that route without delay -

J. McE

Post Office Dept
3 Sept. 1827.

A. Hamlin, P.M.
Tolley, N.Y.

I have rec'd. a letter from Mr. Taggart. It does not suit his convenience to adopt stages on his route - you will consequently deliver the mail to Mr. Jones, & report the time they commence, & the number of trips they run weekly, so that a contract may be sent for execution -

A. Stidger, P.M.
Bolivar, Ohio.

3^d

In answer to your letter of July 3^d. I observe that provision has been made in the proposals 312 & 367 for supplying your office with a mail - I send you the list -

It appears, you have not transmitted any statement of the accounts of your office, altho' private, you should transmit an ac/c together with a bill and receipt for supplying it -

J.M.C.

Doctor Sawyer
President, Jr.

4^d Sept 1827

I accept the proposition made by you to convey the mails on routes no: 133, 134, 135, 137, & 176, as regulated by the contracts lately made with Mr. Sanford, with the exception that on the route from Edenton to Summerton there is to be but one trip weekly, and on those routes where said Sanford contracted to run stages you may if you prefer carry it in fullways, for \$3000 per annum. A Contract covering these routes shall shortly be forwarded to you. —

Amh

W. E. Seay, P.M.

3^d

Office Tavern, Amelia Co., Va.

Your letter of the 19th has been rec'd. — The P.M. at Richmond, has provided for the delinquency of Rogers - the high water in the creeks prevented a trip - the mail will, I apprehend, be regular in future - I observe, in regard to your remarks on the conduct of the late carrier, that no excuses of those intrusted with the mail, should prevent your reporting delinquencies - any thing in extenuation, can, at the same time be submitted -

J.M.C.

Post Office Dept
3 Sept. 1827.

Ara Green, P.M.
Brattleboro, Vt.

Your letter of the 21st has been rec'd. I have fined the Contractors on routes 226 & 263 for the delays in delivering of Mails, reported. Time for 226- 10 P.M. 263- 9 P.M.

3^d

D. H. Kerr, P.M.
Buckhead, Ga.

J.M.C.

Your letter of 17th July has been rec'd. The delay in answer, is in consequence of having been transmitted with an ac/c which has been but recently inspected - Letters on business should be sent separate - I have directed a list of proposals to be sent you, in which you will find the route in question, is to be provided for -

3^d

O. D. Green, P.M.
Milledgeville, Ga.

J.M.C.

Your letter of the 8th ulto has been rec'd. You are authorized to make the change in the time of departure of the Athens mail let it be Friday, instead of Tuesday, as heretofore - Please to let the P.M.s on the route know of the change -

3^d

A. Beaumont, P.M.
Wilkesbarre, Pa.

J.M.C.

Your letter of the 14th has been rec'd. You can as desired adopt the bags for intermediate offices - they should be labelled with the name of the office for which they are destined, so as to prevent error - Please to provide them & charge the amt in your ac/c -

3^d

G. L. Burton, P.M.
Lousia, Ky.

J.M.C.

Your letter of the 6th has been rec'd. I observe, in regard to your remarks on the publication of Post routes, that those for 1827 had been published in the principal news-papers, but on my return, having decided to extend the time to 4 years, have required a general publication throughout the state but for your certain information, I send you a list -

You can provide a desk, or case, for the protection of letters & charge the amt in your ac/c with which transact the bill & receipts -

J.M.C.

Post Office Dept.

1st Sept. 1827.

P. Barry, P.M.
York C. N.Y. 2nd.

The packets directed to Judge Smith should be delivered without the pay^t of postage. They are, no doubt, public documents and as such, are not, when franked, chargeable with postage -

The P.O. here ought to have required a separation of the packets, so that each did not exceed in weight, three pounds, which is the limit fixed by the P. Office law -

J.M.C.

L. H. Redfield, 6th A.M.
Onondaga Hollow N.Y.

Your letter of the 30th ulto has been rec'd., and I will thank you to publish in your paper, such of the mail routes as are within the limits of its circulation -

J.M.C.

Wm. Thompson Esq
President

5th Augt 1827

The route from Tarboro to Newbern was given jointly to Mr. Bell of the latter place & Mr. Sanford jointly. They do not agree on dividing the route as I understand, and eventually each one undertook to run a trip weekly on the whole route. \$1700 are given for the entire route and divide with great pleasure except of your proportion at the same rate having it with you & Mr. Bell to make a just division of the route. From Tarboro to Washington it is 58 miles, from thence to Newbern 25 miles. A proper division of the compensation, if you take the route from Tarboro to Washington will amount to about the sum you propose. Wish you to take immediate possession of the route & put it in operation. Mr. Bell shall be advised on the subject, and also, that it will be proper for him to limit his services to the route between Newbern & Washington. —

Hon. Thomas Davenport,
Meadville, Bradford Co., Pa.

4th

I will thank you to inform me, in the profoundest confidence, what is the general & established character of Robert Stevens, the P.M. at New London in Campbell Co.

J.M.C.

Post Office Dept.

4th Sept. 1827.

✓ Mr. Thomas Booth,
Oxford, N.C.

Please inform me by return of mail, whether it is true that you lately sent the mail to Danville by the same boy who was sometime since charged with robbing the mail on one of the lower routes. A direct answer is expected -

J.M.C.

✓ Alfred Wheeler, P.M.
Greenville, Wayne Co., N.C.

4th

It is stated that the bags for conveying the mail on the route from your office to Roxboro, are too small to be conveniently on a horse - also, that they are sometimes insecure. At one occasion the bag was so torn that packages might have been taken out by the carriers. This should never be. You will please give attention to this matter, & see that all bags are sufficiently capacious for both safety & convenience; and never on any occasion use a bag which is not perfectly secure.

J.M.C.

✓ Silas Marshall, P.M.

4th

Hillsborough, N.C.

All mails directed Hillsborough are to be opened at your office. If they are found to contain letters directed to Hillsboro's Bridge, or to any other place, you are to forward them to their proper destination by the first mail; but if they are called for at your office before the departure of such mail, you will deliver them -

J.M.C.

✓ Sam'l LeCompte, P.M.
Cambridge, Md.

4th

In answer to your letter of the 28th ulto, I will only state at this time, that measures are in operation to effect the object of your wishes. Let the matter rest without one word being said upon the subject till you hear from me again -

J.M.C.

N. G. Williamson, P.M.
Wilmington, D. C.

Post Office Dept.
4th Sept. 1827.

Your letter of the 25th came duly to hand. It appears also that losses have occurred from Cambridge to Phila, which took place before their arrival at Wilmington, - no doubt at the same point with the loss and detentions spoken of in your letter. The depredation is probably committed where the mail rests during the night. This I believe is at Church Hill, but am not certain. I wish you to ascertain this fact - also whether the mail is kept in the office during the night, or delivered into the custody of the driver. It is uncertain whether the mischief is done in an office, or by the person having charge of its transportation. Keep the whole matter a profound secret, and when you make the above enquiries let it be done in such a way as not to excite suspicion. Rogues are always on the alert, & can never be detected but by surprise. Every effort shall be made to bring the whole matter to light.)

Philip H. Mattox, P.M.

Easton, Pa.,

5th

J. M. L.

I highly approve of the vigilant manner in which your official duties are performed. The plan adopted by Mr. Little to obtain subscriptions for his magazines & other works published, is ingenious, and no doubt designed, to lessen the postage that would be charged on hand bills. As denominates the publication a newspaper, and in the one enclosed, some notice is taken of the political occurrences of the day. If this paper be published periodically, with a view of disseminating similar information to the above, it would perhaps be best to charge newspaper postage. Letter postage would, no doubt, prevent the circulating of the paper, and as the bulk is not so great as a common newspaper, it would be to the advantage of the Dptt, to give it circulation in its present form, as a newspaper. It is connected with the cause of literature and is highly beneficial to the community. This consideration, it is true, cannot authorize the exercise of a discretion to change its proper denomination, with a view to avoid the postage, but it may be considered, when the paper itself, may be somewhat doubtful, as to its denomination -

In all doubtful questions, I am disposed to incline to the liberal side, especially when the public interest may be most advanced by a such a construction -

J. M. L.

J. T. Bailey, P.M.
New York.

Post Office Dept.
5th Sept. 1827.

I observe in the new "New York Gazette & Commercial Advertiser" of the 3rd Inst^t, complaint is made, by an anonymous writer, that illegal postage is charged on letters conveyed by water, between New Orleans & N. York. You will observe that 12½ cents on each letter is the legal charge, on this route from New Orleans to the Bayou, a distance of about 100 miles, is the only part of the entire distance, which is established as a mail route, on which inland postage can be charged.

All letters which relate to the cargo, bills of lading & custom house certificates should be delivered free of postage. I will thank you to inform me whether improper charges have been made, or such as are not authorized under the above instructions. In all cases of doubt, it is better to incline to a liberal construction; but, where the law & the instructions of the Dptt. are clear, they should never be disregarded -

A. Dupuy, P.M.
New Orleans, La.

5th

J. M. L.

I enclose you a clip taken from the "New York Gazette & Commercial Advertiser," complaining of the postage charged at your office. You will please to inform me, whether the complaint does not rest upon supposed facts, which have no existence. The regular charge of postage on a letter from New York to New Orleans, you will observe, conveyed by water, is only 12½ cents. And that bills of lading, letters which relate to the cargo, & custom house certificates, are exempt, from any charge of postage, agreeably to my instructions in Amt. last. Whilst, I highly approve of the vigilance you have shown, in the discharge of your duties, I would suggest, that great caution should be observed, not to transgress the legal limits, in charging postage -

The route from the Bayou to New Orleans is the only mail route, on which a vessel passes, in sailing from N. York to N. Orleans. For this distance, only, should postage be charged, between the two places -

J. M. L.

Post Office Dept.

5th Sept. 1827.

John
Dact. Dozier
China Grove, S.C.

The connection of the mail must be kept up - it will be necessary for you to wait to receive Mallett's mail, though he shall be fined for every moment he falls behind his time. Jeanneret has been required to wait for the arrival of your mail -

If you will make up the time lost by Mallett, by increased expedition on your route, you shall receive as a compensation, for the increased effort, the fine that may be imposed on Mallett. It will be proper to obtain the certificate of the P.M. at Godfrey's, when you receive the mail out of time, & transmit it to the Dpt., with a certificate from the P.M. at Godfrey's showing the time of its delivery there. This will enable me to determine the time you have gained by increased efforts -

I think this arrangement will bring forth the utmost efforts of the Contractor on the line. It will be a mortifying consideration, that a fine should be incurred, by want of proper exertion, but it will add greatly to the mortification, that the fine thus imposed, is to be given to another for a greater display of energy -

J. W. Jeanneret, Esq.
Charleston, S.C.

5th

J. M. L.

The connection of the mail must be kept up throughout. You will wait for Mr. Dozier's mail whenever it shall fall behind; and in all cases he shall be fined for every moment tardiness - If you will make up the time lost by him, by an increased expedition on your route which you are required to do if possible - you shall receive as a compensation for the same the fine that may be imposed on him. It will be proper to obtain the certificates of the times of arrival from the P.M.s of Georgetown & at Charleston, & transmit them, so that I may be able to ascertain the time you will have gained by increased effort -

I have written to Mr. Mallett & Mr. Dozier to the same effect; so that the Contractor wanting for proper energy shall always be fined, & that the fine so imposed shall pass to the credit of the person whose greater display of energy shall repair the injury - Our books will then exhibit a proper comparative view of the merits of the different contractors on the line -

J. M. L.

Post Office Dept.

5th Sept. 1827.

Messrs. Co. & R. Mallett,
Mayettville, N.C.

The connection of the mail must be kept up throughout. I have written to Mr. Jeanneret to wait for Mr. Dozier's mail if it ever falls behind, and to Mr. Dozier in like manner to wait for yours. The P.M. at the end of each route will certify in every case the exact time of the arrival of the mail, and for every minute behind the fine will always be imposed; and the Contractor who next receives the mail shall receive the fine exacted by the delinquent, provided he shall, by increased expedition make up the time lost by the other. This seems to me the best method of securing the performance of the whole line for the amt. stipulated - Though it will be mortifying to a contractor to incur a fine by want of proper exertion, and still more so to see the fine so imposed pass to the credit of another contractor for a greater display of energy, yet this measure is just & necessary, and will cause our books to exhibit a fair comparative view of the merits of different Contractors -

J. M. L.

J. Messrs Lang Turner & Co.
(Editors, N.Y. City.)

5th

I observe a communication in your paper of the 3^d Inst. complaining of the amt. of postage charged on letters conveyed in packet boats & other vessels, between N. Orleans & N. York -

The writer of the communication must be mistaken as to the above charges, unless the instructions of the Dpt. have been disregarded - The amt. of postage on a letter, conveyed by water, from N. Orleans to N.Y., is only 12½ cents - All letters which relate to the cargo on board the vessel, bills of lading & custom house certificates, are considered as exempt, from any charge of postage - Instructions to this effect were given in Capt. last to the P.M. at New Orleans.

I have written to the P.M.s at N. York & N. Orleans on the subject, and shall correct any charges, if made, which are not warranted by the law and the instructions of the Dpt.

J. M. L.