

Post Office Dept.
4th Oct. 1827.

Mr. Stevens P.M.
Stamford C^O.

I find on examination, that the distribution, now made at yr. O. can be as well made at the City of N.Y., & without any add^t. expense to the Dept. It w^d seem therefore, to be clearly my duty to change the distribution to that office, as by doing so, there will be a saving to the Dept. of the full amt. now paid for the distribution at Stamford, & it will also enable the Couriers to deliver the mail an hour earlier than it is at present delivered, at all offices East of New York. As this change will materially affect the amt. of yr. income, from yr. O., I deem it proper thus to apprise you of it, & to say that it will not be carried into effect before the commencement of the ensuing quarter. The change is not induced by any other consideration, than the reduction of expenditure & saving of time, as above stated.

McLean

✓ Mr. Dupuy P.M. 5th Oct.

New Orleans La

I enclose you a copy of my answer to the Memorial lately rec'd. from the Merchants & others, Citizens of New Orleans, & have to request yr. particular attention to delays complained of in sending the mail in the S. Boat from the Belize. It is alleged, that the lettersbags of Vessels are sometimes not delivered at the P.O. in N. Orleans, until some time after the arrival of the Vessels from which they were taken. I request yr. attention also, to the enclosed letter recently written to the P.M. at New York, which ~~states~~ the amt. of postage to be charged on letters from New Orleans. At the time this letter was written, the fact of the route to the Belize, having been expressly established by law, had escaped my recollection, tho' under the law of 1823, it is fully established, & the charge of inland postage consequently authorized. You will observe, that double letters &c. are to be charged, the same as on a land route, for the same distance.

If the Masters of Packet Vessels will enter into

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contracts with the Dept., the discontinuance of the Agency at the Belize & of the Steam Boat Contract, w^d lessen the expense of the Dept. \$1000, without causing any diminution of the receipts at the office. The plan proposed, of sending letters in mail bags, under the Cock, will prevent frauds & delays in the delivery of communications, by the Couriers. But, if the Masters of such Vessels, shall refuse to enter into the proposed arrangement, the present plan must be continued. I enclose you some blank contracts which you can use, if occasion requires, & you will please to advise me of yr. proceeding.

Yr. letter of the 11th Sept. on the subject of the above Memorial, has been re^dread with attention, & it is viewed as an add^t. evidence, to the many which you had before given, of yr. zeal in the public service.

As the expenditures incurred by the Dept. for the account of the City of New Orleans, have been based upon the present & increasing receipts at that office, any considerable diminution of them, w^d unquestionably lead to a reduction of the expense by lessening the amount of accommodation.

A. Hall Esq^r-
Editor of the Post Folio,
Phil^a. Pa.

6th

McLean

Your letter rec'd. yesterday reminds me that you had not received an answer to yours of the 19th Apt. last, respecting certain omissons complained of against the P.M. at Leesburg. In turning to your letter & the letter of Mr. Saunders, I find that I had nearly completed an answer, & through the press of business or under a conviction that it was unnecessary, it was not finished. I can have no hesitation in saying, that Mr. Saunders has not been guilty of such an omission of duty, as would justify his removal or would subject him, legally, to the pay^t. of Mr. Quintal's subscription. No legal liability could attach unless by a failure to give notice, that Mr. Dunbar had failed to take the "Post Folio" out of the office, you had lost your recourse against him. So long as the subscriber is able to pay, pay^t cannot be demanded of the P.M. - But, it is not my province to consider & decide on the legal responsibility of P. Masters. This must be done by a judicial tribunal. I am not willing to test the conduct of a post Master by this rule, for in many cases

a removal might be proper, although the office had not become highly responsible, by an omission of duty - Greater vigilance is required than would be necessary to escape a legal liability -

In the case under consideration Mr. Saunders does not seem to have intentionally or negligently failed in his duty, so as to forfeit the confidence of the Deptt. or of the public -

There are but three numbers of the Post Office in his office. When the first was rec'd. Mr. Quinlan requested him to retain it in his office a short time, as the P.M. supposed he was not prepared to pay the postage. On the receipt of the second number, it and the first, were offered, and Mr. Quinlan stated that he had paid your agent and the paper was to be discontinued. He admits that Mr. Saunders would have done well to have written to you at this time, but the circumstances were such as to excuse him for not writing. When the third number was rec'd. you was notified -

A notice to an agent who is authorized to receive the subscription money is such a notice as ought to excuse the P.M. - Even in judicial proceedings a notice to an agent, in many cases, is considered a notice to the principal. And he holds P. Masters, to a greater degree of strictness, than is observed in Courts of justice, would be to attempt to enforce a rule incompatible with sound policy, because it would be found impracticable -

The only remedy which the P.M. shall can apply in cases of negligence, is to censure or remove the P.M. - Mr. Saunders has been admonished, that a strict performance of his duty, in giving notice to the publishers of papers, where they do not take out of his office by subscribers is indispensable in future -

More than this does not seem to be required in the above case - The P.M. has been written to respecting your late complaint, and you shall be informed of the result -

J.M.C.

John B. Taylor, P.M.
Richmond, Va.

6th Oct.

When letters are sent to New York to go to Europe by a packet, the postage must of course be paid at the office where such letters are mailed & entered paid the same as other letters sent to N. York for distribution -

J.M.C.

Post Office Dftt.
6th Oct. 1827.

Lewis Medlock, P.M.,
Fredericktown, Md.

You state that a pamphlet is rec'd. at your office, & that agreeably to the existing law, it is subject to letter postage. I have not seen the pamphlet in question, & can therefore say nothing concerning its peculiarity of character; but I am at a loss to understand how it is that a pamphlet is by law subject to letter postage -

J.M.C.

W. Atwood, P.M.

6th

Huntsville, Ala.

Your letter of the 16th Sept. is received -

Sometimes since Seth Ward was in Texas. Whether he has come into the United States is uncertain; but it is most probable that he has, an arrangement by which his letters is to be taken from the P.O. at Natchitoches & forwarded to him - If he is at Natchitoches, the P.M. there will probably, on receiving your letter, cause him to be apprehended -

J.M.C.

A. Reynolds, P.M.

6th

at Rochester,

Albany, N.Y.

Your letter of the 1st inst. is received -

The P.M. at Canandaigua has not advised the Dftt. respecting the two mails alluded to - The subject therefore is left to your discretion -

There is no objection to the removal of your office as you suggest, provided the public convenience shall be properly consulted in it -

J.M.C.

Sam'l R. Smith, Esqr.

6th

Gettysburg, Pa.

Your letter of the 3rd Inst. is rec'd. -

While I sincerely sympathize with you in your misfortune, I am sorry to state that it is not in my power to afford the desired relief - The whole number of clerks which the law allows is now employed in this office, besides two or three who have been occasionally engaged without an appropriation to compensate them, and who have therefore some claim for consideration in case vacancies should occur, an event however which does not very frequently happen -

J.M.C.

Post Office Dept.

6th Oct. 1827.

Rev. Austin Dickinson,
Editor of the "National Preacher"

No. 144 Tapan Street,
New York City).

Complaint has been made that 28 copies of the "National Preacher" were forwarded to the Revd. Smt. Gilbert, of Farmington, Conn., under the cover of which was concealed a written receipt for \$20., by which, according to law, the whole package is subject to letter postage, at the rate of one dollar per ounce, and the person who enclosed it to a penalty of \$5.- Now I am certain you would not have suffered this to be done, if you had known it to be a violation of the law. I regard it as a mere oversight on the part of yourself or your agent, and will thank you to prevent the repetition of it.

J.M.C.

6th

Spencer Cakin. P.M.

Farmington

Bedford Co. Conn.

Your letter of the 14th ult^o is received -

The forfeit is incurred by the person who violates the law by enclosing a letter in a package of pamphlets or papers, & not by the person to whom they are addressed. You have done correctly in reporting the case. It shall be attended to. One thing however is worthy of consideration in this case; the law authorizing editors of news-papers to attach their accounts to the margin of their papers, has been mistaken by several publishers of pamphlets as applicable also to them, & without any intention of violating the law, they have sent in pamphlets their accounts & receipts. Such appears, from the best testimony of the character of Mr. Dickinson, to have been his impression; & the law was designed to punish wilful offenders, it has been deemed proper to exercise lenity where the offence appears not to have been wilful. Such being the case in question, I should approve of your delivering the numbers of the National Preacher to the Revd. Mr. Gilbert on his paying letter postage for the receipt and pamphlet postage for the numbers. Mr. Dickinson will not repeat the act - If he does, it will be greatly to his own prejudice -

J.M.C.

Post Office Dept.

8th Oct. 1827.

A. Jordan, Esq't
Hudson, N.Y.

In the 3rd Sec. of an "act to discontinue certain post roads and to establish others, approved 3 March 1823 it is enacted, "that all waters on which steam boats regularly pass from port to port, shall be considered and established as post roads, subject to the provisions contained in the several acts regulating the post office establishment." Under this law the Hudson river, from New York to Albany, is established as a mail route -

J.M.C.

Hon. R. Rush
Secy of the Treasury

9 Oct. 1827

I have the honor to enclose you a letter from the Post master of the city of New York, and also one from Captain Boyd, from which it appears, that the collector at that port, has expressed a determination to break open the Mail Bag, now used on board the Packets which ply between this country and France, to convey letters, newspapers, and pamphlets in pursuance of a reciprocal arrangement made between this country and the Post office of France. —

By the 34 section of the Post office law of 1825, the Post master genl. has full power to enter into the above arrangement, and it is expected that the collector will present no obstructions. — If he should break the lock of the Mail and open it, I should certainly feel it incumbent on me to direct a prosecution against him. — This officer, has heretofore evinced but little attention to the law, which requires the delivery of letters into the ^{Post} office, before a vessel was permitted to "make entry or break bulk". — Important communications have been found, in the custom house, weeks after the arrival of vessels in which they were conveyed, and in such cases, the censure for the delay, has generally fallen upon the Post office. —

The Post master of the city of New York has been instructed to exercise "great care that nothing but letters, newspapers, and pamphlets should be placed in the Mail Bags for a foreign country, and that any article which they may contain, when received from a foreign country, other than letters, newspapers, and pamphlets, be immediately sent to the Custom House" —

I have addressed an official letter to the Collector informing him of the arrangements. Any instructions that may be necessary, can only be given by the Treasury Department, and

accordingly submit the case for your consideration.
With great respect I have the
honor to be your Objt:
JWL

J. Bailey Esq
Pn. N. York City

9th Oct

I am much astonished that your Collector
should intimate an intention of violating the mail from
France, by breaking the lock of the mail bag, to exam-
ine its contents. In doing so, he would commit a flagrant
offence against the laws of the United States, and he should,
most assuredly, be prosecuted.

On this subject the law gives the Postmaster Genl complete
control. In the 3^d Sec. of the PO Act it is provided
"that it shall be lawful for the P.M., to make provision
where it may be necessary, for the receipt of all letters
and packets intended to be conveyed by any ship or
vessel beyond sea, or from any port in the U.S." &
to "make arrangements with the Postmasters in any
foreign country for the reciprocal receipt and delivery
of letters and packets through the Post Office."

It will be necessary that great care should be
exercised in the Post Office, that nothing but letters,
newspapers, and pamphlets should be placed in the
mail bags for a foreign country, and that any article
which they may contain, when received from a
foreign country, other than letters, newspapers and
pamphlets, be immediately sent to the custom house.

J. W.L.

9 Oct.

J. Thompson Esq
Collector of the Cust. New York

It may be necessary to inform you, that an
arrangement has been made between this Deptl and the Post office of France,
"for the reciprocal receipt & delivery of letters & packets," and that
they will be placed in a mail bag, and secured by the mail
lock of the U.S., to be opened only at the Post Office

J. W.L.

Hon. James Stevenson
Mayor of the City of Albany N.Y.

Post Office Department
Oct 9. 1867

In answer to your favour of the 3^d
inst. I have the honor to state, that Mr Barnum has not yet made a report
to the Department, of his survey of the mail route between New York
and Albany. If the distance should be over one hundred and
fifty miles, the rate of postage will be higher than has been
charged for some years past. In order that time may be
given for any objections which may be made to the measure
of Mr Barnum, or the route he surveyed, no attention
in the charge of postage will be directed, until after the
commencement of the ensuing session of Congress

J. W.L.

Mr Evan Evans

near West Chester Pa

Oct 9.

Your letter of the 4th covering a
petition for a change in the mail route from
Reading to Morgantown H^C is rec'd; and in making
the new contracts shall be duly considered

J. W.L.

J. R. Bachelder
P.M.
Phila. Pa.

Oct. 9th

I enclose you a copy of my letter to the P.M. of New York,
referred to in yours of the 7th Inst. You will observe that the instruction respecting
the charge of postage on letters "which relate to the cargo" has no reference to
vessels from a foreign port, but to those which ply upon a water established as
a mail route.

J. W.L.

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

Oct 10th

In order to prevent delays in the transmission of letters
from the Belize to New Orleans, by the steam boats, it is necessary that the letters
should be sent by all the boats engaged in toting vessels. This may be done, I presume,
without any increase of expense.

J. W.L.

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✓ Cha! J. Ingersol, Esq.
Dist Atty, Phila, Pa.
or

J. L. Bonard Esq.
U. S. Marshal,

You will be pleased to discharge, from further imprisonment, the body of Mr. R. Melroy, now in goal on the judgment in favor of this Dept^t, it having been satisfactorily ascertained that his property has been given up, so that no benefit will accrue from his further confinement.

✓ Hon Wm Ramsey,
Carlisle, Pa.

11th

I.M.C.

On your application I have this day directed the Marshal to release Wm Melroy from imprisonment.

J. Bailey, P.M.

11th

N. York City,

As an inducement to the masters of packet ships that fly between New York & New Orleans to enter into contracts for the delivery of letters etc you may agree to pay three cents for each letter or packet, delivered by them into your office.

J. Bailey, P.M.
N. York.

12th

The New Orleans mail should be sent by the way of Washington city. For sometime past, it has been sent by the way of Mobile.

James Shannon, P.M.

12th

Salem, N.J.

Complaint is made that your office is closed at too early an hour, which sometimes prevents answers from being sent by the earliest mail. As the establishment is designed for public accommodations, it is expected that you will effectually remove all cause for such complaints.

Dyer Gandy, P.M.
Farmersville, N.Y.

The enclosed paper should be rated with postage as a newspaper.

Post Office Dept^t
11th Oct. 1827.

✓ Joseph Oliver, Esq.
Vandalia,
Shelby Co., Ill.

Post Office Dept^t
12. Oct. 1827.

Your letter of the 20th ult. is received. Directions are given to advertise for proposals to carry the mail from Vandalia to Shelby. A mail route cannot be established except by law of Congress, unless the seat of justice for a county shall be located off from a mail route, in which case a route may be established to it. It was not certified to the Dept^t that Shelby was organized as a County in time for the insertion in the general list of proposals. It will now appear in the Vandalia paper, and the route established accordingly.

✓ Lewis Mestart, P.M.
Fredericktown, Md.

12th

The accompanying publication, entitled the "Philadelphia Fashions" by A. Ward, is a perfect anomaly. In some respects it has the character of a pamphlet, & in other respects it is doubtful. On the whole, considering it designed for the benefit of an industrious class of citizens, towards whom the construction of the law ought to lean in doubtful cases, my decision is that it be called a pamphlet, and rated accordingly. It appears to be issued periodically. The four sheets should therefore be at 6 cents for a distance not exceeding 100 miles, & for a greater distance than 100 miles, ten cents.

Garrison Party, P.M.
Rockville, Md.

12th

The Member of Congress elect is legally a Member from the 4th March last, provided the election was made before that day. His privilege of franking commences thirty days before the commencement of the session. The session will commence on the 3^d day of Dec^r next; his franking privilege therefore commenced with the 4th of this month.

✓ Connor Kimball, P.M.
Kimberton, Chester Co., P.^t.

12th

The writer of the letter inserted in the newspaper addressed to John Edwards is subject to the penalty of \$5, but Mr. Edwards is not implicated except that he is bound to pay triple letter postage for the packet before it can be delivered to him. On his paying the postage at that rate, you will deliver it to him.

I.M.C.

Post Office Dept.

12 Oct. 1827.

Peter Grinnell, P.M.
Monticello, Ga.

The packet of letters forwarded to your office from Macon, might have been carried by the mail carrier out of the mail, and would not in that case have been chargeable with postage; for it does not consist of letters, news-papers, or pamphlets, & might therefore be carried as innocently as a piece of dry goods. But if was put in the mail for the purpose of conveyance in that way, it is subject to letter postage. If however there is reason to believe that it was put in the mail by accident or mistake, you will in that case relinquish the charge -

J.M.L.

Wm Drey, P.M.
Somerville, Pa.

13th

On the subject of your letter of the 4th inst I have given special direction to the P.M. at Baltimore, should the irregularity be continued. Please advise me -

J.M.L.

W.W. J. C. Lasher,
Lockport, N.Y.

13th

Blank sheets of paper sent in the mail are chargeable with the same postage as if they were written on - If they were mere blanks, they might have been sent out of the mail the same as any other articles of merchandise provided the drivers would have chosen to take charge of them; but if sent in the mail they are subject to letter postage - Printed sheets are all subject to the same postage as written sheets when sent in the mail, unless they are news-papers or pamphlets -

J.M.L.

John Sample, P.M.
Coopersville, Linc.

13th

Printers may send their papers to what places they please, & in any way most convenient to themselves, without paying postage, provided they do not send them in the mail nor by the mail carrier; but when they are conveyed by the mail carrier, whether in or out of the mail, postage must be paid on them -

In some cases where subscribers reside at an inconvenient distance from any P.O., carriers of the mail have been permitted to deliver news-papers, conveyed out of the mail -

J.M.L.

Post Office Dept.

13th Oct. 1827.

✓ John S. Skinner, P.M.
Baltimore, Md.

Complaint is made by the merchants of Somerville, Pa. that these letters are sent by way of Chambersburg from Baltimore instead of the way of Hagerstown. If sent by Chambersburg, they are eleven days in going; by Hagerstown they go in three days. It is also stated that the P.M. at Somerville has advised you of this error. I hope you will effectually remove the cause of this complaint -

J.M.L.

✓ D. W. Patterson, Esq.
Hannibal, N.Y.

13th

Your letter of the 10th inst has been rec'd, & it would afford me great pleasure, if I had the power, to comply with your wishes - But the law, which prohibits P.M.'s from acting as agents for lotteries, or publishing lottery tickets &c, is positive in its provisions, & no discretionary power exists, with the P.M. to suspend any of them -

✓ Thomas, At Newlon, P.M.
Little Rock,
Ark. Ter.

13th

Your letter of the 11th ult^r inclosing the copy of a letter from the P.M. at Jackson of the 29th Augt has been rec'd. - The same complaint had before been made by the contractor. The fault lay entirely with the P.M. at Greenville, & he has been dismissed from office. On the 27th Ult^r an appt. was sent to George Robinson to the post office at Greenville, & it is confidently expected that the letters will be regularly forwarded in future -

J.M.L.

✓ William Murphy, P.M.
Maysville, Ky.

13th

The Lexington mail for Phila. of the 7th of Sept. was delayed somewhere for twenty days, & arrived in Phila. with that of the 27th. Can you tell me by what means it was delayed? -

J.M.L.

✓ Jacob Dechart, P.M.
Chambersburg, Pa.

13th

The Lexington mail for Phila. of the 7th Sept. was delayed somewhere for twenty days, & arrived in Phila. with that of the 27th. Can you tell me by what means it was delayed?

J.M.L.

Post Office Dept.
13th Sept 1827.

M. Houston, P.M.,
Natural Bridge, Va.

Your letter of the 9th inst^t is recd.

The method which you propose for ascertaining the amt of news-paper postage is plain & easy to be observed; but a method has been adopted which will more effectually secure the object by detecting such post Masters as may be remiss -

It is the duty of every P.M. to charge himself in advance at the commencement of each quarter, with the whole quarter postage of all news-papers coming to his office for regular subscribers, in a little memorandum book to be kept for that purpose; & for papers coming occasionally for persons who are not subscribers, to charge himself from time to time as they are recd., in the same memorandum book. At the close of the quarter he is to enter the whole amt in his account current. This supersedes the necessity of entering them in post bills or in accounts of Mails recd. - Each P.M. at towns or places where news-papers are published makes a quarterly return of all papers sent from his office during the quarter, specifying the number sent to each office. By means of these returns, it is ascertained at this Dpt^t whether each P.M. renders a correct account of papers recd. at his office. By this system more than \$40,000 of news-paper postage have been paid to the Dpt^t in one year -

I.M.C.

✓ Henry J. Cannon, Esq.
Harrill's Ford, N.C.

13th

Before the receipt of your letter of the 20th ult^t the P.M. at Salisbury had been written to on the subject of the irregularity of news-papers. I hope the evil is corrected -

I.M.C.

✓ John Beardsley, P.M.
Dorchester, N.C.

13th

It is always the duty of a P.M. whenever letters are recd. at his office which were evidently designed to be sent to another office, to forward them to that other office; or whenever a person to whom letters are directed shall request a P.M. to forward his letters to another office, it is the duty of such P.M. to forward them accordingly.

Complaint is made that you have been inattentive to that duty. It is stated that letters addressed to Enoch Baldwin, Milton P.O. have been sent to your office, & that you, instead of forwarding them to Milton have

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detained them in your office to the injury of the factory for which he is agent; it is also stated that he has requested you to forward his letters to Milton, & that you have neglected to do so. I hope the cause of these complaints has arisen from a mere oversight which will be guarded against in future, and not from an indisposition to accommodate. You will be best able to account for it.

I.M.C.

✓ Mr. William Walker

15 Oct. 1827.

Creek Agency, Ga.

Mr. Granks the Contractor for repairing the road through the Indian Country, is required, you will see by the contract, to bridge such streams, as have not substantial bridges over them. It would be well to refer to it, and see that its requirements are performed.

This Dpt^t has not control over the tolls exacted. If they are unreasonable, or if the bridges are not kept in repair, a remonstrance from you to the Agent, would be the most likely mode of obtaining redress.

I.M.C.

✓ Genl. John Coffey,

15th

Florence, Ala.

I have recd. a strong remonstrance against changing the stage from the route between Huntsville & Florence, so as to run to Tuscaloosa three trips weekly which was supposed, by the remonstrants, to be contemplated by the Dpt^t. Such a change was suggested, and some inquiry made on the subject but, I shall not, under present circumstances authorize it.

I.M.C.

✓ Rev. Dr. Thos L. Winn

16th

Georgetown, S.C.

Your complaint against the Geo. Town P.O. has been recd., & shall receive due attention. It has been represented to this Dpt^t, from a highly respectable source, that Mr. Godfrey the P.M. is a man of irregular habits, & much addicted to hard drink - that he is seldom sober in the evening, & that the boy who attends in the office, does not keep up the general confidence, & often neglects his duty. I will thank you to inform me fully on this subject, & if you prefer, your communication shall be considered confidential. The public interest requires that I should be informed respecting the facts, above referred to.

I.M.C.

Post-Office Dept.

16 Oct. 1827

Hughes, Sampson & Co.
South East, N.Y.

On the 1st of July last there was an even
pay^t made to your son of \$249 46/100 - His representation is now entitled
to a credit from the 1st of July to the close of his operations. This will be
determined when it shall be certified, by responsible Certificate, on what day
his successor commenced. It will probably leave a balance of about \$400. in his
favor. When the exact sum shall be ascertained it will be paid to his
legal representative & to no other person.

M.C.

16th

✓ Hon. James Strong,
Hudson, N.Y.

Your letter of the 8th inst. is rec'd. It is certainly the
duty of a P.M. where he finds the law under which he acts violated, to prosecute
the offenders, who are to protect the rights of the public, and being transgressors
of the law to justice, if they who act under its violations and are the instruments
of its power, remain passive spectators, of the violation of its provisions.
I therefore approve of the conduct of the P.M. in the case you refer to, if he
has acted judiciously, in first giving notice, and waited for the repetition
of the offence.

Respectability you are aware, do not place men above the law, or exonerate their
agents from its responsibilities - Where offences are wilful & repeated, examples
should be made.

If the law in this respect cannot be enforced, there is an end to the mail
establishment of the country; for, if on a water, established as a mail route,
letters may be carried with impunity against the prohibition of the law. the same
thing may be done on any land route.

I am sure that no respectable association of individuals, can willingly sanction
a violation of the law, by persons in their employ, in a part so vitally interesting
to the welfare of the community. There is no apology of convenience, for
an infraction of the law on the Hudson, as the P.M. at your City is auth-
orised to make contracts with any Masters of Vessels which ply upon that
river, for the conveyance of letters, and, for which, a compensation is paid.

All letters should be delivered into the P.O., and those that "relate to the cargo"
will not be charged with postage - There may be some difficulty in enforcing
this law, but it is believed, to be practicable to do so, and I do not consider myself
as possessing any dispensing power, in regard to any of its provisions.

I should, however very much, regret, that any P.M. or other agent of the Dept.

whose duty it may be to prosecute, in all cases, where the law is known to be violated,
should not take the mildest course, consistent with his public duties.

M.C.

✓ Mr. James Sperry,

Huntingdon,
Luzerne Co., Pa.

16th Oct. 1827.

Your letter of the 10th inst. is rec'd. - The latter
clause of the 22^d Section of the P.O. Law, passed March 3^d 1825, is as follows: "If
any person shall take any letter or packet, not containing any article of value, or
writings thereof, out of a post office, or shall open any letter, or packet, which shall
have been in a P.O., or in custody of a Mail Carrier, before it shall have been
delivered to the person to whom it is directed, with a design to obstruct the Correspondence,
to pay into another business, or secret; or shall secrete, embezzle, or destroy, any such
mail, letter or packet. Such offender, upon conviction, shall pay, for every such
offence, a sum not exceeding \$500, & be imprisoned, not exceeding 12 months." -
The 37th Section of the same law provides that State Courts may have jurisdiction
in cases of offence arising under it.

M.C.

✓ William Little, P.M.

Councilville, Pa.

16th

Your letter of the 11th inst. is rec'd. - When a new
mail bag is necessary for the security of the mail, it must be procured, and it is
your duty to see that it is dead, and that the mail never depart from your
office unsecured.

M.C.

✓ James Tiffey, P.M.
Newbern, N.C.

16th

The enclosed forms will show the proper method
of keeping accounts of mails sent and of making the transcripts.

It is not customary to furnish post bills with the name of the P.M. prin-
ted, except to offices of about three times the magnitude of that at Newbern.

M.C.

✓ J. J. Brinkley, P.M.
Brinkleyville, N.C.

16th

Newspapers cannot lawfully be sold for their postage unless they are
sent 3 months after notice has been given to the editors of the failure of the subscribers to take them out.
When they are liable to be sold they must not be advertised nor sold at public auction, because
the expense in that case would out be much more than the papers would fetch; but they
may be sold to any person who will pay for them a sum not less than their postage.

M.C.

Post Office Dept.

16th Oct. 1837.

✓ George Donley, P.M.
Kenia, Ohio

The engravings sent with the Phila. Album
are a part of the work & are to be rated with postage as such, and not
with letter postage -

I.M.C.

16th

✓ J. C. Andrews, P.M.

Cold Spring,
Putnam Co., N.Y.

Your letter of the 11th inst. is received.

In a legal instrument which requires a seal, no charge of postage
is to be made on account of the seal. It was not the intention of the
law to call a seal an additional letter.

I.M.C.

17th

✓ J. W. Deane & Co.

Charleston, S.C.

I am informed that you are still running
ducks, instead of 4 horse stages, as your contract requires. Your pay
is directed to be suspended, until your answer shall be rec'd, for this gross
violation of your engagement with the Deptt.

I.M.C.

17th

✓ Meek's J. & J. Smith

Leicester, N.H.

Your letter of the 13th inst. is rec'd. If the letter referred
to shall come to this office, it will be forwarded to you.

I.M.C.

17th

✓ W. Pickbaum, P.M.

Pittsburg,

Pa.

On the 2^d Decr I wrote both to you and
the P.M. at Warren Co. requesting you to test the integrity of the Post office
at Beaver, and pointing out the method of doing it. No communication
has been rec'd from either of you upon the subject. Please inform me
by return of mail, what has been done -

I.M.C.

Post Office Dept.

17th Oct. 1837.

✓ G. L. Houston, P.M.
Dayton, Ohio.

According to law a contractor must not
carry newspapers out of the mail except by special authority from the P.M.
Genl. This authority has been given in a few instances; and it has been
recently discovered that in some instances when it was practised in Ohio and Indiana
without the formality, as they consider it, of this authority, the sudden suspension
of the privilege would produce serious injury to several editors & to the community.
It has therefore been thought proper in such instances not to interpose an
entire prohibition immediately, where papers are to be delivered at an ~~inconvenient~~
distance from a post town -

The object of the daily mail is, not so much to increase the revenue
of the Deptt, as to accommodate the public.

I.M.C.

✓ Joseph Williamson, P.M.

17th

Belfast, Me.

When the mail from Bucksport arrived at
Waldoboro, on the evening of the 9th inst. it was discovered that the bag had
been cut open and all the packages gone except a bundle of news-papers
for Pensacola, and a small package of letters for Taco. On the discovery, all
the passengers in the stage proposed to be searched, which was done, but nothing
found. If this mischief had been done before the mail left your office, you
would of course have discovered it. The perpetrator must now be detected, if
persevering energy can effect the object. If it stopped at Union, as it ought to
have done, the P.M. there must have discovered the depredation if it had then been
committed. If the mail was carried upon the outside of the stage, the mischief
may have been done while the stage was moving; otherwise it must have been
done by some person in the stage, or at some place where it stopped. I wish
you to cooperate with the P.M. at Waldoboro, in such measures as will be likely
to lead to detection; and at all events, ascertain where & by whom it was done -

I.M.C.

Post Office Dept.

17th Oct. 1827.

Charles Samson, P.M.
Waldoboro, Me.

The P.M. at Portland has forwarded to me your letter to him of the 9th inst. - You do not say whether the mail was carried on the outside or inside of the stage; if on the outside, there could' have been no cause for searching the passengers; but if on the inside, then it must have been done either at the last office where it was taken out before it arrived at you, or by the driver, or some other person in the stage; or it may have been done at some stopping place on the way. Wherever it was done, the perpetrator must if possible, be detected. Did not the mail stop at Union? If so, the P.M. there must have discovered the depredation if done before it left his office. You will investigate the matter thoroughly and use every possible effort to detect the ^{ad}deprator. Exercise the greatest possible discretion with the greatest energy & perseverance. I have written to the P.M. at Belfast on the subject, and he will cooperate with you in any measured calculated to effect the object.

J.M.L.

17th

Robert Sibley, P.M.

Portland, Me.

Your letter of the 11th inst. is rec'd. enclosing that of the P.M. at Waldoboro, of the 9th. - The deprator must be detected if possible. No exertions must be omitted to effect this object. If any thing occurs to your mind by which you can probably aid in this matter, you will loose no time in doing so. I have written to the P.M. at Waldoboro, and at Belfast on the subject.

J.M.L.

17th

T. Perkins, P.M.

Warren, Ohio

On the 2^d Decr last, I wrote both to you and to the P.M. at Pittsburg, requesting you to test the integrity of the P.O. at Beaver, and pointing out the method of doing it. No communication has been rec'd. from either of you upon the subject. Please inform me by return of mail what has been done?

J.M.L.

17th Oct. 1827.

Post Office Dept.

18 Oct. 1827.

Samuel Swan, P.M.
Boardman, Ohio.

Your letter of the 10th inst. is rec'd. with the enclosed receipt. The law authorizing editors of newspapers to attach to their papers statements of their accounts has been mistaken by many editors of both papers and pamphlets as giving ^{a right} to send receipts like this; and indeed it is rather an informal statement of his account, showing it to be balanced at a certain period of the publication. It is evident that there was no design on the part of the publisher to violate the law. His character is a pledge for this; and he might, by varying the form, so as to have entered it by way of D. and C. & attaching it to the margin of the paper, have rendered it strictly within the letter as well as spirit of the law. For this violation of form, it might injure him without benefiting the Dept. to attempt to enforce the penalty. You will therefore deliver the proper person the receipt, on his paying newspaper postage for the same.

J.M.L.

18th.

Dan'l. P. Conrad, P.M.

Millwood, N.Y.

Your letter of the 1st inst. is rec'd. Any letter weighing an ounce is chargeable with quadruple postage, though it may contain but one piece of paper. See the 5th Sec of the act of March 2^d 1827. The letters of the Rev. William Meade were correctly charged; and if you refunded him the money you have done so in your own wrong. He will undoubtedly repay you; but in any event you will account to the Dept. for the whole, and originally charged.

J.M.L.

18th.

John M. Rae, P.M.

Fayetteville, N.C.

Wrapping paper has been forwarded for the use of your office. You will procure, twice upon the best terms you can.

J.M.L.

Jah. Stevens, P.M.

18.

Stamford, C't.

On the morning of the 18th inst. the eastern mail arrived at N. York without the large lock or any other lock, left entirely open, and without even having the chain passed through the staples. This carelessness must have occurred at your office, that being the last office at which it can be opened before its arrival at N. York, which ought not to be tolerated in a case of such importance.

J.M.L.