

**LAWS AND REGULATIONS**

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT**

**OF THE**

**POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,**

**WITH**

**AN APPENDIX.**

---

**PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE POSTMASTER GENERAL.**

---

**WASHINGTON:**

**PRINTED BY JOHN T. TOWERS.**

**1847.**

## GENERAL POST OFFICE.

---

CAVE JOHNSON,  
*Postmaster General.*

SELAH R. HOBBIE,  
*First Assistant Postmaster General—Mail Arrangements.*

WILLIAM J. BROWN,  
*Second Assistant Postmaster General—Appointments.*

JOHN MARRON,  
*Third Assistant Postmaster General—Finances.*

WILLIAM H. DUNDAS,  
*Chief Clerk—Inspection of Mail Service.*

PETER G. WASHINGTON,  
*Auditor of the Treasury for the Post Office Department—  
Settlement of Accounts.*

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,  
*April 25, 1847.* }

In pursuance of a provision in an act of Congress entitled "An act making appropriations for the service of the Post Office Department, for the year ending thirtieth of June, eighteen hundred and forty-seven," by which an appropriation is made for publishing eighteen thousand copies of the "Laws and Regulations for the government of the Post Office Department," I have caused to be carefully compiled all the laws now in force relating to this branch of the public service, and have made such alterations and additions to the existing rules and regulations as experience and the change of law require. Postmasters, contractors, and others connected with the service, will strictly observe these regulations. They are founded upon the Post Office laws, and their strict observance by all concerned will command the confidence of the public, and ensure the success and usefulness of this important Department of the Government.

C. JOHNSON.

## TO POSTMASTERS.

---

I am directed by the Postmaster General to call your special attention to the multiplied and increasing attempts to violate the law and defraud the revenue, by writing on the wrapper, margin, or other portions of newspapers, pamphlets, and magazines sent by mail. The cheap postage system has removed every reasonable excuse for violating or evading the law, and too much vigilance cannot be exercised by Postmasters to detect and punish the offenders; and public sentiment, when well informed, will not fail to sustain you in the faithful discharge of this duty, which is as imperative upon you as any other. That frauds of this kind may be detected and traced to their origin, you are particularly instructed to stamp, or mark in writing, every *transient* (by which is meant all not regularly sent to subscribers) newspaper, pamphlet, or magazine, with the name of the office, and the amount of postage. The wrappers of all such newspapers, pamphlets, or magazines, when they have reached their destination, should be carefully removed; and if, upon inspection, found to contain any manuscript or memorandum of any kind, either written or stamped, or by marks and signs made in any way, either upon any newspaper, printed circular, price current, pamphlet, or magazine, or the wrapper in which it is enclosed, by which information shall be asked for or communicated, except the name and address of the person to whom it is directed, such newspaper, printed circular, price current, pamphlet, or magazine, with the wrapper in which it is enclosed, should be charged with letter postage by weight, deducting any amount which may have been paid upon such paper when deposited in the office. If the person to whom the newspaper, printed circular, price current, pamphlet, or magazine is directed, refuses to pay such letter postage thereon, the Postmaster will immediately transmit the same to the office from whence it was forwarded, and request the Postmaster there to prosecute the sender for the penalty of five dollars, as prescribed by the 30th section of the act of 1825. Suits may be brought either in district courts, or before State magistrates having civil jurisdiction in actions of debt for this amount, under the respective State laws. One half of the penalty recovered for the use of the informer, and the other half for the United States. The name of the sender written or stamped either upon the newspaper, printed circular, price current, pamphlet, or magazine, or the wrapper in which it is enclosed, commu-

nicates such information as subjects it to letter postage, and the consequent penalties, if such postage is not paid at the place of its destination.

The diminution of the revenue of the Department under the cheap postage system, and the great and increasing demand for additional mail facilities throughout our country, whose territory now extends to the Pacific, render it absolutely necessary not only that every cent of lawful revenue be collected and accounted for, but that the utmost vigilance should be exercised for the prevention of fraud, and the sure and speedy infliction of the proper penalty upon the offender. This can only be accomplished by the strictest attention of Postmasters, who are the sworn agents of the Department, and are bound to see the laws faithfully administered.

W. J. BROWN,  
*2nd Assistant Postmaster General.*

## RATES OF POSTAGE.

---

On a letter not exceeding one half ounce in weight, sent any distance not exceeding three hundred miles, *five cents*.

On a letter not exceeding one half ounce in weight, sent any distance exceeding three hundred miles, *ten cents*.

On letters, for every additional weight of half an ounce, or any fractional excess of less than one-half ounce, there shall be charged additional postage at the rate of *five cents* for any distance not exceeding three hundred miles; and *ten cents* for any distance exceeding three hundred miles.

On letters dropped in the post office for delivery from the same office, *two cents*.

Letters addressed to different persons cannot be enclosed in the same envelope or package, under a penalty of ten dollars, unless addressed to foreign countries. This is not applicable to packets made up by Postmasters to be forwarded from one office to another.

On all letters advertised as remaining on hand there shall be an additional charge of *two cents*, besides the postage, (the price of advertising,) and if advertised in two papers, *four cents*.

(Postmasters are not permitted to advertise in more than one paper, unless authorised by the Postmaster General.)

On all handbills, circulars, advertisements or business cards, printed or lithographed, not exceeding one sheet in size, sent any distance, *three cents*, to be *pre-paid* upon delivery at the office and before they are put in the mails, and all such will be charged by postmasters as pre-paid matter in the post bills and upon their accounts of mails sent, and stamped or marked "paid," with the name of the office from which sent.

On all pamphlets, magazines, or other matter "of every kind" that is transmittable by mail, and has no written communication thereon, (other than the address,) weighing one ounce or less, or

for any newspaper exceeding nineteen hundred square inches of surface, *two and a half cents*, and for each additional ounce or fractional excess over half an ounce, *one cent*.

On all newspapers not exceeding nineteen hundred square inches of surface, sent from the office of publication to subscribers, for any distance not over one hundred miles, or any distance within the State in which they are mailed, *one cent* each. If carried over one hundred miles, and out of the State in which they are mailed, they are to be charged with *one and a half cents* each. This postage is chargeable by the *newspaper*, not by the sheet. Hence, if two or more newspapers be printed on a sheet, full postage is to be charged on each copy.

On "transient newspapers," (by which is meant all not regularly sent from the office of publication to subscribers,) *three cents* is to be *pre-paid* at the office before they are put in the mail; to be entered on the post bills, and upon the account of mails sent, and stamped or marked "paid," with the name of the post office from which sent.

#### WHAT MAY GO FREE IN THE MAILS.

All letters and packets to and from (when the same are duly franked) the following persons, to wit :

- The President of the United States,
- The Ex-Presidents of the United States.
- The Widows of the former Presidents, Madison and Harrison.

The Vice President, Members of Congress and Delegates from Territories may send and receive free, through the mails, from thirty days before the commencement of each Congress, until the meeting of the next Congress, letters and packets not exceeding two ounces in weight, and public documents not exceeding three pounds in weight. Public documents are those printed by the order of either House of Congress, and publications or books procured or purchased by Congress, or either House, for the use of the members.

The same privilege allowed to Members of Congress is extended to the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives during their official terms, which terminate with the election of their successors.

The privilege of the Vice President is enlarged, so that he may send and receive free, public documents during his official term.

The Governors of States may send, free of postage, all laws and reports, whether bound or unbound, and all records and documents of their respective States, which may be directed by the Legislature of the several States to be transmitted to the Executive of other States, the Governor writing his name thereon, with the designation of his office, and the kinds of books or documents enclosed, the package to be addressed to the Governor of the State to which it is sent.

The three Assistant Postmasters General, and Postmasters throughout the United States, are authorized to send, free of postage, any letters, packets, or other matters, *relating exclusively to their official duties* or the business of the Post Office Department, to be duly franked as on "official business" by the Assistants, and "Post Office business" by the Postmasters.

All letters and packets from and to the heads of Departments, or the other public officers who were entitled to the franking privilege prior to the passage of the act of the 3d of March, 1845, in relation to the business of their respective offices, will be delivered to the persons addressed, without any charge of postage, as an appropriation has been made by Congress for their payment. All letters and packets issuing from the Departments should be marked on the envelope "official business," and signed by the heads of the Departments, or, under their direction, by their chief clerks, and by the other officers who were entitled to the franking privilege prior to the act of 1845, designating their official capacity. But such officers have not the right to send or receive free their private letters or papers.

Every printer of newspapers may send one paper to each and every other printer of newspapers within the United States, free of postage, under such regulations as the Postmaster General shall provide. This privilege does not extend to an exchange with papers printed in foreign countries.

This privilege embraces extras and supplements. The papers so sent by one printer to another are free, though none, nor not so many, be returned in exchange.—*Act of 1825, sec. 29.*

But a pamphlet, or a magazine, cannot be received by a printer of a newspaper free of postage. Neither can the publisher of a pamphlet or magazine receive newspapers or magazines free of postage.



Printers of newspapers are permitted to send to each other, free of postage, open *slips* containing foreign intelligence, ship news, &c., provided they be not placed in the mail in the form of a letter. If they have that form, letter postage must be charged.

Printers may also send their papers to regular subscribers without the prepayment of postage; but the postage on all transient papers sent by them must be pre-paid.

All Postmasters are authorized to send free, through the mails, all letters and packets which they may have occasion to write or send, relating exclusively to the business of their office or of the Post Office Department, endorsing thereon "post office business," and signing their names thereto. And those whose compensation did not exceed \$200 for the year ending the 30th June, 1846, may also send free, through the mails, letters written by themselves, and receive free all written communications on their own private business, not weighing over one half ounce.

Letters, newspapers, and packets not exceeding one ounce in weight, addressed to any officer, musician, or private in the army of the United States in Mexico, or at any post or place on the frontier of the United States bordering on Mexico, will pass free in the mails. Each letter so addressed should specify, after the name of the person, "belonging to the army." The law will continue in force during the war with Mexico, and for three months after its termination



# POST OFFICE LAWS.

## AN ACT

Concerning Public Contracts.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That, from and after the passage of this act, no member of Congress shall, directly or indirectly, himself, or by any other person whatsoever in trust for him, or for his use or benefit, or on his account, undertake, execute, hold or enjoy, in the whole or in part, any contract or agreement, hereafter to be made or entered into with any officer of the United States, in their behalf, or with any person authorized to make contracts on the part of the United States; and if any member of Congress shall, directly or indirectly, himself, or by any other person whatsoever in trust for him, or for his use or benefit, or on his account, enter into, accept of, agree for, undertake or execute, any such contract or agreement, in the whole or in part, every member so offending shall, for every such offence, upon conviction thereof, before any court of the United States, or of the Territories thereof, having cognizance of such offence, be adjudged guilty of a high misdemeanor, and shall be fined three thousand dollars; and every such contract or agreement as aforesaid shall, moreover, be absolutely void and of no effect: *Provided, nevertheless,* That in all cases where any sum or sums of money shall have been advanced on the part

Members of Congress not to contract.

Penalty.

of the United States, in consideration of any such contract or agreement, the same shall be forthwith repaid; and in case of refusal or delay to repay the same, when demanded, by the proper officer of the department under whose authority such contract or agreement shall have been made or entered into, every person so refusing or delaying, together with his surety or sureties, shall be forthwith prosecuted at law for the recovery of any such sum or sums of money advanced as aforesaid.

**Exception.** SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That nothing herein contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, to any contract or agreement, made, or entered into, or accepted by any incorporated company, where such contract or agreement shall be made for the general benefit of such incorporation or company; nor to the purchase or sale of bills of exchange, or other property, by any member of Congress, where the same shall be ready for delivery, and for which payment shall be made at the time of making or entering into the contract or agreement.

**Condition to be inserted in public contracts.** SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That in every such contract or agreement, to be made, or entered into, or accepted, as aforesaid, there shall be inserted an express condition that no member of Congress shall be admitted to any share or part of such contract or agreement, or to any benefit to arise thereupon.

**Penalty on any officer who shall contract with a member.** SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That if any officer of the United States, on behalf of the United States, shall directly or indirectly, make or enter into any contract, bargain or agreement, in writing or otherwise, other than such as are herein excepted, with any member of Congress, such officer so offending, on conviction thereof, before any court having jurisdiction thereof, shall be deemed and taken to be guilty of a high misdemeanor, and be fined in a sum of three thousand dollars.

**Heads of Departments to report all contracts to Congress.** SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That from and after the passing of this act, it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury, Secretary of War, Secretary of the Navy, and the Postmaster General, annually, to lay before Congress a statement of all the contracts which have been made in their respective departments, during the year preceding such report, exhibiting in such statement the name of the contractor, the article or thing

contracted for, the place where the article was to be delivered, or the thing performed, the sum to be paid for its performance or delivery, the date and duration of the contract.

APPROVED, *April 21, 1808.*

---

AN ACT

To discontinue certain Post Roads and to establish others.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That all waters on which steamboats 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. Certain waters declared post roads.

APPROVED, *March 3, 1823.*

---

AN ACT

To reduce into one the several acts for establishing and regulating the Post Office Department.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That there be established, at the seat of the Government of the United States, a General Post Office, under the direction of a Postmaster General. The Postmaster General shall appoint two Assistants,\* and such clerks as may be necessary for the performance of the business of his office, and as are authorized by law; and shall procure, and cause to be kept, a seal for the said office, which shall be affixed to commissions of Postmasters, and used to authenticate all transcripts and copies which may be required from the Department. He shall establish post offices, and appoint Postmasters, at all such places as shall appear to him expedient, on the post roads that are, or may be established by law. He shall give his Assistants, the Postmasters, and all Postmaster General's powers.  
Seal.

---

\*A Third Assistant authorized to be appointed, see section 20 of act of July 2, 1836.

**Power of instruction.** other persons whom he shall employ, or who may be employed, in any of the departments of the General Post Office, instructions relative to their duty. He shall

**To convey mail.** provide for the carriage of the mail on all post roads that are, or may be established by law, and as often as he, having regard to the productiveness thereof, and other circumstances, shall think proper. He may direct

**How often.** the route or road, where there are more than one, between places designated by law for a post road, which route shall be considered the post road. He shall obtain,

**To control accounts.** from the Postmasters, their accounts and vouchers for their receipts and expenditures, once in three months, or oftener, with the balances thereon arising in favor of the General Post Office. He shall pay all expenses

**To defray expenses.** which may arise in conducting the post office, and in the conveyance of the mail, and all other necessary expenses arising on the collection of the revenue, and management of the General Post Office. He shall prosecute

**To prosecute.** offences against the post office establishment. He shall, once in three months, render to the Secretary of the Treasury a quarterly account of all the receipts and expenditures in the said Department, to be adjusted and settled as other public accounts. He shall, also, superintend the business of the Department, in all the duties that are, or may be, assigned to it: *Provided, That,* in case of the death, resignation, or removal from office, of the Postmaster General, all his duties shall be performed by his senior Assistant, until a successor shall be appointed, and arrive at the General Post Office, to perform the business.

**When Senior Assistant acts as Postmaster General.**

**Oath.** **SEC. 2.** *And be it further enacted,* That the Postmaster General, and all other persons employed in the General Post Office, or in the care, custody, or conveyance of the mail, shall, previous to entering upon the duties assigned to them, or the execution of their trusts, and before they shall be entitled to receive any emolument therefor, respectively take and subscribe the following oath or affirmation, before some magistrate, and cause a certificate thereof to be filed in the General Post Office: "I, A B, do swear or affirm, (as the case may be,) that I will faithfully perform all the duties required of me, and abstain from every thing forbidden by the laws in relation to the establishment of the post office and post roads within the United States." Every person

who shall be, in any manner employed in the care, custody, conveyance, or management of the mail, shall be subject to all pains, penalties and forfeitures, for violating the injunctions, or neglecting the duties, required of him by the laws relating to the establishment of the post office and post roads, whether such person shall have taken the oath or affirmation, above prescribed, or not.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be the duty of the Postmaster General, upon the appointment of any Postmaster, to require, and take of such Postmaster, bond, with good and approved security, in such penalty as he may judge sufficient, conditioned for the faithful discharge of all the duties of such Postmaster, required by law, or which may be required by any instruction or general rule for the government of the Department: *Provided, however*, That, if default shall be made by the Postmaster aforesaid, at any time, and the Postmaster General shall fail to institute suit against such Postmaster, and said sureties, for two years from and after such default shall be made, then, and in that case, the said sureties shall not be held liable to the United States, nor shall suit be instituted against them.

Suits within  
two years after  
default.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That the Postmaster General shall cause a mail to be carried from the nearest post office, on any established post road, to the Court House of any county which is now, or may hereafter be, established in any of the States or Territories of the United States, and which is without a mail; and the road on which such mail shall be transported shall become a post road, and so continue, until the transportation thereon shall cease. It shall, also, be lawful for the Postmaster General to enter into contracts, for a term not exceeding four years, for extending the line of posts, and to authorize the persons so contracting, as a compensation for their expenses, to receive, during the continuance of such contracts, at rates not exceeding those for like distances, established by this act, all the postage which shall arise on letters, newspapers, magazines, pamphlets, and packets, conveyed by any such posts; and the roads, designated in such contracts, shall, during the continuance thereof, be deemed and considered as post roads, within the provision of this act; and a duplicate of every such contract shall, within sixty days after the execution thereof, be lodged

Mail to court  
houses.

Extended post  
routes.

in the office of the Comptroller of the Treasury of the United States.

**Mails in steam boats or packets.** SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That the Postmaster General be authorized to have the mail carried in any steamboat, or other vessel, which shall be used as a packet, in any of the waters of the United States, on such terms and conditions as shall be considered expedient: *Provided,* That he does not pay more than three cents for each letter, and more than one-half cent for each newspaper conveyed in such mail.

**Steamboat letters to be deposited.** SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall be the duty of every master or manager of any steamboat, which shall pass from one port or place to another port or place in the United States, where a post office is established, to deliver, within three hours after his arrival, if in the day time, and within two hours after the next sunrise, if the arrival be in the night, all letters and packets addressed to, or destined for, such port or place, to the Postmaster there, for which he shall be entitled to receive, of such Postmaster, two cents for every letter or packet so delivered, unless the same shall be carried or conveyed under a contract with the Postmaster General; and, if any master or manager of a steamboat shall fail so to deliver any letter or packet, which shall have been brought by him, or shall have been in his care, or within his power, he shall incur a penalty of thirty dollars for every such failure. And every person, employed on board any steamboat, shall deliver every letter, and packet of letters, entrusted to such person, to the master or manager of such steamboat, and before the said vessel shall touch at any other port or place; and for every failure or neglect so to deliver, a penalty of ten dollars shall be incurred for each letter or packet.\*

**Penalty.**

**Mail carriers to be free whites.** SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted,* That no other than a free white person shall be employed in conveying the mail; and any contractor who shall employ, or permit any other than a free white person to convey the mail, shall, for every such offence, incur a penalty of twenty dollars.

SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted,* That, whenever it shall be made to appear to the satisfaction of the Post-

\*Amended; see section 13, act of 1825.



master General, that any road established, or which may hereafter be established as a post road, is obstructed by fences, gates, bars, or other than those lawfully used on turnpike roads to collect their toll, and not kept in good repair, with proper bridges and ferries, where the same may be necessary, it shall be the duty of the Postmaster General to report the same to Congress with such information as can be obtained, to enable Congress to establish some other road instead of it, in the same main direction.

Obstruction of  
post routes by  
fences, &c.

SEC. 9. *And be it further enacted*, That, if any person shall, knowingly and wilfully, obstruct or retard the passage of the mail, or of any driver or carrier, or of any horse or carriage, carrying the same, he shall, upon conviction for every such offence, pay a fine not exceeding one hundred dollars; and if any ferryman shall, by wilful negligence, or refusal to transport the mail across any ferry, delay the same, he shall forfeit and pay, for every ten minutes that the same shall be so delayed, a sum not exceeding ten dollars.

Retarding the  
mail.

At ferries.

Penalty.

SEC. 10. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be the duty of the Postmaster General to give public notice, in one newspaper published at the seat of government of the United States, and in one or more of the newspapers published in the State or States, or Territory, where the contract is to be performed, for at least twelve weeks before entering into any contract for carrying the mail, that such contract is intended to be made, and the day on which it is to be concluded, describing the places from and to which such mail is to be conveyed, the time at which it is to be made up, and the day and hour at which it is to be delivered. He shall, moreover, within ninety days after the making of any contract, lodge a duplicate thereof, together with the proposals which he shall have received respecting it, in the office of the Comptroller of the Treasury of the United States: *Provided*, That no contract shall be entered into for a longer term than four years.

Making con-  
tracts.

SEC. 11. *And be it further enacted*, That every postmaster shall keep an office, in which one or more persons shall attend on every day on which a mail shall arrive, by land or water, as well as on other days, at such hours as the Postmaster General shall direct, for the purpose of performing the duties thereof; and it

Post office hours

shall be the duty of the postmaster, at all reasonable hours, on every day of the week, to deliver, on demand, any letter, paper, or packet, to the person entitled to, or authorized to receive the same; and all letters brought to any post office half an hour before the time of making up the mail at such office, shall be forwarded therein, except at such post-offices where, in the opinion of the Postmaster General, it requires more time for making up the mail, and which he shall accordingly prescribe: but this shall, in no case, exceed one hour.

No fees, &c. in  
General Post Of-  
fice.

SEC. 12. *And be it further enacted*, That no fees or perquisites shall be received by any person employed in the General Post Office, on account of the duties to be performed by virtue of his appointment.

Rates of postage

SEC. 13. *And be it further enacted*, That the following rates of postage be charged upon all letters and packets, (excepting such as are excepted by law,) conveyed in the mail of the United States, viz: For every letter composed of a single sheet of paper, conveyed not exceeding thirty miles, six cents: Over thirty, and not exceeding eighty, ten cents: Over eighty, and not exceeding one hundred and fifty, twelve and a half cents: Over one hundred and fifty, and not exceeding four hundred, eighteen and three quarters of a cent: Over four hundred, twenty five cents. And for every double letter, or letter composed of two pieces of paper, double those rates; and for every tripple letter, or letter composed of three pieces of paper, tripple those rates; and for every packet composed of four or more pieces of paper, or one or more other articles, and weighing one ounce avoirdupois, quadruple those rates; and in that proportion for all greater weights: *Provided*, That no packet of letters, conveyed by the water mails, shall be charged with more than quadruple postage, unless the same shall contain more than four distinct letters. No postmaster shall receive, to be conveyed by the mail, any packet which shall weigh more than three pounds; and the postage marked on any letter or packet, and charged in the post bill which may accompany the same, shall be conclusive evidence in favor of the postmaster who delivers the same, of the lawful postage thereon, unless such letter or packet shall be opened in the presence of the postmaster or his clerk. Every four folio pages, or eight quarto pages, or sixteen octavo, or twen-

Limit of packets  
to three pounds.

ty-four duodecimo pages, or pages of less size than that of a pamphlet or magazine, whatever be the size of the paper of which it is formed, shall be considered a sheet, and the surplus pages of any pamphlet or magazine shall also be considered a sheet; and the Journals of the Legislatures of the several States, not being bound, shall be liable to the same postage as pamphlets. Any memorandum which shall be written on a newspaper, or other printed paper, pamphlet, or magazine, and transmitted by mail, shall be charged with letter postage: *Provided*, The publisher of a newspaper may send a printed or written notice to a subscriber, stating the amount due on his subscription; which notice shall be attached to the margin of the newspaper, and the postmaster who delivers the paper shall charge for such notice the same postage as for a newspaper.\*

Pamphlets,  
magazines, and  
legislative jour-  
nals.

Memorandum  
on a newspaper.

SEC. 14. *And be it further enacted*, That the Postmaster General be, and he is hereby, authorized to allow to each postmaster, such commission on the postages by him collected, as shall be adequate to his services and expenses: *Provided*, That his commission shall not exceed the following several rates on the amount received in one quarter, viz:

Postmasters'  
commissions on  
letter postage.

On a sum not exceeding one hundred dollars, thirty per cent.

On any sum over and above the first hundred dollars, and not exceeding four hundred dollars, twenty-five per cent.

On any sum over and above the first four hundred, and not exceeding two thousand four hundred dollars, twenty per cent.

On any sum over and above the first two thousand four hundred dollars, eight per cent.—

Except to the postmasters who may be employed in receiving and despatching foreign mails, whose compensation may be augmented, not exceeding twenty-five dollars in one quarter; and excepting to the postmasters at offices where the mail is regularly to arrive between the hours of nine o'clock at night and five o'clock in the morning, whose commission on the first hundred dollars, collected in one quarter, may be increased to a sum not exceeding fifty per cent. The postmaster General may allow to the postmasters, respectively, a com-

Who rise at  
night.

On newspaper  
postage.

\*Rates of postage changed; see 1st and 2d section of act of 1845.

mission of fifty per cent. on the moneys arising from the postage of newspapers, magazines, and pamphlets; and to the postmasters whose compensation shall not exceed five hundred dollars in one quarter, two cents for every free letter, delivered out of the office, excepting such as are for the postmaster himself; and each postmaster, who shall be required to keep a register of the arrival and departure of the mails, shall be allowed ten cents for each monthly return which he makes thereof to the General Post Office. The Postmaster General may allow to the postmaster at New Orleans, at the rate of eight hundred dollars a year in addition to his ordinary commissions. The Postmaster General is hereby authorized to allow to the postmaster of the city of Washington, in addition to the allowance made by this act, for postage collected and for free letters received by him for delivery, a commission of five per cent. on the amount of mails distributed at his office: *Provided, nevertheless,* That the whole annual emolument of the said postmaster, including the extra compensation of eight hundred dollars which is hereby allowed him, shall be subject to the restrictions imposed by the forty-first section of this act.\*

On free letters.

Mail Register.

Proviso.

Ship Letters.

SEC. 15. *And be it further enacted,* That every letter or packet, brought into the United States, or carried from one port therein to another, in any private ship or vessel, shall be charged with six cents, if delivered at the post office where the same shall arrive; and if destined to be conveyed, by post, to any place, with two cents added to the ordinary rates of postage.

Illegal rates of postage or rewards.

SEC. 16. *And be it further enacted,* That if any postmaster, or other person, authorized by the Postmaster General to receive the postage of letters, shall fraudulently demand or receive any rate of postage, or gratuity, or reward, other than is provided by this act for the postage of letters or packets, on conviction thereof, he shall forfeit, for every such offence, one hundred dollars.

Masters of vessels to deposit letters.

SEC. 17. *And be it further enacted,* That no ship or vessel, arriving at any port within the United States where a post office is established, shall be permitted to report, make entry, or break bulk, until the master or commander shall have delivered to the postmaster all

\*Amended, see section 6, of act of 3d March, 1845, see 1, of act of March 1, 1847. Also sec 1 of act of March 2, 1847.

letters directed to any person or persons within the United States, or the Territories thereof, which, under his care, or within his power, shall be brought in such ship or vessel, except such as are directed to the owner or consignee of the ship or vessel. And it shall be the duty of the collector, or other officer of the port empowered to receive entries of ships or vessels, to require, from every master or commander of such ship or vessel, an oath or affirmation, purporting that he has delivered all such letters, except as aforesaid; and if any commander or master of any such ship or vessel shall break bulk before he shall have complied with the requirements of this act, every such offender shall, on conviction thereof, forfeit, for every such offence, a sum not exceeding one hundred dollars.

SEC. 18. *And be it further enacted,* That the postmaster to whom such letters may be delivered, shall pay the master or commander, or other person delivering the same, except the commanders of foreign packets, two cents for each letter or packet; and shall obtain from the person delivering the same, a certificate, specifying the number of letters and packets, with the name of the ship or vessel, and the place from whence she last sailed; which certificate, together with a receipt for the money, shall be, with his quarterly accounts, transmitted to the Postmaster General, who shall credit him with the amount.

Two cents for each.

SEC. 19. *And be it further enacted,* That no stage or other vehicle, which regularly performs trips on a post road, or on a road parallel to it, shall convey letters; nor shall any packet boat or other vessel, which regularly plies on a water declared to be a post road, except such as relate to some part of the cargo. For the violation of this provision, the owner of the carriage, or other vehicle, or vessel, shall incur the penalty of fifty dollars. And the person who has charge of such carriage, or other vehicle, or vessel, may be prosecuted under this section, and the property in his charge may be levied on and sold, in satisfaction of the penalty, and costs of suit: *Provided,* That it shall be lawful for any one to send letters by special messenger.

No letters to be carried on post routes, either by land or water.

Penalty

SEC. 20. *And be it further enacted,* That the deputy postmasters, and other agents of the Postmaster General, shall duly account, and answer to him, for all way let-

Way letters.

ters which shall come to their hands; and for this purpose, the post riders, and other carriers of the mail, receiving any way letter or letters, (and it shall be their duty to receive them; if presented more than one mile from a post office,) shall deliver the same, together with the postage, if paid, at the first post office to which they shall afterwards arrive; where the postmaster shall duly enter the same, and specify the number, and rate or rates, in the post bill, adding to the rate of each way letter one cent, which shall be paid by the postmaster to the mail carrier from whom such way letters shall be received.

One cent for each.

Detaining, delaying, opening, or destroying, any letter, or packet, &c.

Penalty.

If containing money, &c.

SEC. 21. *And be it further enacted,* That if any person employed in any of the departments of the Post Office establishment, shall unlawfully detain, delay, or open, any letter, packet, bag, or mail of letters, with which he shall be entrusted, or which shall have come to his possession, and which are intended to be conveyed by post; or, if any such person shall secrete, embezzle, or destroy, any letter or packet entrusted to such person as aforesaid, and which shall not contain any security for, or assurance relating to money, as hereinafter described, every such offender, being thereof duly convicted, shall, for every such offence, be fined, not exceeding three hundred dollars, or imprisoned, not exceeding six months, or both, according to the circumstances and aggravations of the offence. And if any person, employed as aforesaid, shall secrete, embezzle, or destroy, any letter, packet, bag, or mail of letters, with which he or she shall be entrusted, or which shall have come to his or her possession, and are intended to be conveyed by post, containing any bank note or bank post bill, bill of exchange, warrant of the Treasury of the United States, note of assignment of stock in the funds, letters of attorney for receiving annuities or dividends, or for selling stock in the funds, or receiving the interest thereof, or any letter of credit, or note for, or relating to, payment of moneys, or any bond, or warrant, draft, bill, or promisory note, covenant, contract, or agreement, whatsoever, for, or relating to, the payment of money, or the delivery of any article of value, or the performance of any act, matter, or thing, or any receipt, release, acquittance, or discharge of, or from, any debt, covenant, or demand, or any part thereof, or

any copy of any record of any judgment, or decree, in any court of law, or chancery, or any execution which may have issued thereon, or any copy of any other record, or any other article of value, or any writing representing the same; or if any such person employed as aforesaid, shall steal, or take, any of the same out of any letter, packet, bag, or mail of letters, that shall come to his or her possession, such person shall, on conviction for any such offence, be imprisoned not less than ten years, nor exceeding twenty-one years; and if any person who shall have taken charge of the mails of the United States, shall quit or desert the same before such person delivers it into the post office kept at the termination of the route, or some known mail carrier, or agent of the General Post Office, authorized to receive the same, every such person, so offending, shall forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding five hundred dollars for every such offence; and if any person concerned in carrying the mail of the United States, shall collect, receive, or carry any letter, or packet, or shall cause or procure the same to be done, contrary to this act, every such offender shall forfeit and pay, for every such offence, a sum not exceeding fifty dollars.

Stealing, &amp;c.

Penalty to those in Post Office employment.

Quitting, or deserting the mail. Penalty.

Mail carriers' penalty for carrying letters.

SEC. 22. *And be it further enacted,* That if any person shall rob any carrier of the mail of the United States, or other person entrusted therewith, of such mail, or of part thereof, such offender or offenders shall, on conviction, be imprisoned not less than five years, nor exceeding ten years; and, if convicted a second time of a like offence, he or they shall suffer death; or, if, in effecting such robbery of the mail, the first time, the offender shall wound the person having custody thereof, or put his life in jeopardy, by the use of dangerous weapons, such offender or offenders shall suffer death. And if any person shall attempt to rob the mail of the United States, by assaulting the person having custody thereof, shooting at him or his horse or mule, or threatening him with dangerous weapons, and the robbery is not effected, every such offender, on conviction thereof, shall be punished by imprisonment, not less than two years, nor exceeding ten years. And, if any person shall steal the mail, or shall steal or take from, or out of, any mail, or from, or out of, any post office, any letter or packet; or, if any person shall take the mail, or any letter or packet

Robbing the mail.

Penalty.

Attempting to rob.

Stealing the mail, or from the mail, or embezzling, &amp;c.

therefrom, or from any post office, whether with or without the consent of the person having custody thereof, and shall open, embezzle, or destroy, any such mail, letter, or packet, the same containing any article of value, or evidence of any debt, due, demand, right or claim, or any release, receipt, acquittance, or discharge, or any other article, paper, or thing, mentioned and described in the twenty-first section of this act; or, if any person shall, by fraud or deception, obtain from any person having custody thereof, any mail, letter or packet, containing any article of value, or evidence thereof, or either of the writings referred to, or next abovementioned, such offender or offenders, on conviction thereof, shall be imprisoned, not less than two, nor exceeding ten years.

**Penalty.**

Opening, prying into, or destroying letters.

And, if any person shall take any letter or packet, not containing any article of value, nor evidence thereof, out of a post office, or shall open any letter, or packet, which shall have been in a post office, 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 pry into another's business, or secrets; 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 five hundred dollars, and be imprisoned not exceeding twelve months.

**Penalty.**

Cutting or destroying mail bags or portmanteaus.

**SEC. 23.** *And be it further enacted,* That, if any person shall rip, cut, tear, burn, or otherwise injure, any valise, portmanteau, or other bag, used, or designed to be used, by any person acting under the authority of the Postmaster General, or any person in whom his powers are vested, in a conveyance of any mail, letter, packet or newspaper, or pamphlet, or shall draw or break any staple, or loosen any part of any lock, chain, or strap, attached to, or belonging to any such valise, portmanteau, or bag, with an intent to rob, or steal any mail, letter, packet, newspaper, or pamphlet, or to render either of the same insecure, every such offender, upon conviction, shall, for every such offence, pay a sum not less than one hundred dollars, nor exceeding five hundred dollars, or be imprisoned not less than one year, nor exceeding three years, at the discretion of the court before whom such conviction is had.

Loosening any strap, or lock, &c.

**Penalty.**

**SEC. 24.** *And be it further enacted.* That every person, who, from and after the passage of this act,



shall procure, and advise, or assist, in the doing or perpetration of any of the acts or crimes by this act forbidden, shall be subject to the same penalties and punishments as the persons are subject to, who shall actually do or perpetrate any of the said acts or crimes, according to the provisions of this act.

Aiders and abettors.

SEC. 25. *And be it further enacted,* That every person who shall be imprisoned, by a judgment of court, under and by virtue of the twenty-first, twenty-second, twenty-third, or twenty-fourth sections of this act, shall be kept at hard labor during the period of such imprisonment.

SEC. 26. *And be it further enacted,* That the postmasters shall, respectively, publish, at the expiration of every three months, or oftener, when the Postmaster General shall so direct, in one of the newspapers published at or nearest the place of his residence, for three successive weeks, a list of all the letters remaining in their respective offices, or instead thereof, shall make out a number of such lists, and cause them to be posted at such public places in their vicinity, as shall appear to them best adapted for the information of the parties concerned :\* and at the expiration of the next three months, shall send such of the said letters as then remain on hand, as dead letters, to the General Post Office, where the same shall be opened and inspected ; and if any valuable papers, or matters of consequence, shall be found therein, it shall be the duty of the Postmaster General to return such letter to the writer thereof, or cause a descriptive list thereof to be inserted in one of the newspapers published at the place most convenient to the supposed residence of the owner, if within the United States ; and such letter, and the contents, shall be preserved, to be delivered to the person to whom the same shall be addressed, upon payment of the postage, and the expense of publication. And if such letter contain money, the Postmaster General may appropriate it to the use of the Department, keeping an account thereof, and the amount shall be paid by the Department to the rightful claimant so soon as he shall be found.

Advertising letters on hand.

Dead letters.

SEC. 27. *And be it further enacted,* That letters and packets to and from the following officers of the United States, shall be received and conveyed by post free of

Free letters.

\*Modified ; see 18th section of act of March 3, 1845

Officers entitled  
to frank.

postage: Each postmaster, provided each of his letters or packets shall not exceed half an ounce in weight; each member of the Senate, and each member and delegate of the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States; the Secretary of the Senate, and Clerk of the House of Representatives, provided each letter or packet (except documents printed by the order of either House of Congress,) shall not exceed two ounces in weight, and during their actual attendance in any session of Congress, and sixty days before and after such session, and in case of excess of weight, that excess alone shall be paid for; the President of the United States, Vice President; the Secretary of State, of the Treasury, of War, of the Navy; Attorney General; Postmaster General, and the Assistant Postmasters General; the Comptrollers of the Treasury, Auditors, Register, Treasurer, and Commissioner of the General Land Office; and such individual who shall have been, or may hereafter be, President of the United States; and each may receive newspapers by post, free of postage: *Provided*, That postmasters shall not receive, free of postage, more than one daily newspaper each, or what is equivalent thereto; nor shall members of the Senate, or of the House of Representatives, the Clerk of the House, or Secretary of the Senate, receive newspapers, free of postage, after their privilege of franking shall cease.\*

Free newspa-  
pers.

Persons enti-  
tled to frank, not  
to frank for  
others.

Penalty.

SEC. 28. *And be it further enacted*, That if any person shall frank any letter or letters, other than those written by himself, or by his order on the business of his office, he shall, on conviction thereof, pay a fine of ten dollars, and it shall be the especial duty of postmasters to prosecute for said offence: *Provided*, That the Secretary of the Treasury, Secretary of State, Secretary of War, Secretary of the Navy, and Postmaster General, may frank letters or packets on official business, prepared in any other public office, in the absence of the principal thereof.† And if any person, having the right to receive his letters free of postage, shall receive en-

Letters enclosed  
in free letters.

\*Repealed; see 5th section of act of March 3, 1845. For law relating to franking privilege, 1st, 6th, 7th, 8th, and 23d sections of act of March 3, 1845, and sections 3, 4, and 5, of act of March 1, 1847.

†Repealed; see section 5, act of March 3, 1845.

closed to him, any letter or packet addressed to a person not having that right, it shall be his duty to return the same to the post office, marking thereon the place from whence it came, that it may be charged with postage. And if any person shall counterfeit the hand-writing or frank of any person, or cause the same to be done, in order to avoid the payment of postage, each person, so offending, shall pay, for every such offence, five hundred dollars.

Counterfeiting  
franks.

SEC. 29. *And be it further enacted,* That every printer of newspapers may send one paper to each and every other printer of newspapers within the United States, free of postage, under such regulations as the Postmaster General shall provide.

Printers' ex-  
change papers  
free.

SEC. 30. *And be it further enacted,* That all newspapers conveyed in the mail, shall be under cover, open at one end, and charged with a postage of one cent each, for any distance not more than one hundred miles, and one and a half cent for any greater distance: *Provided,* That the postage of a single newspaper from any one place to another, in the same State, shall not exceed one cent; and the Postmaster General shall require those who receive newspapers by post, to pay always the amount of one quarter's postage in advance; and should the publisher of any newspaper, after being three months previously notified that his paper is not taken out of the office to which it is sent for delivery, continue to forward such paper in the mail, the postmaster to whose office such paper is sent, may dispose of the same, for the postage, unless the publisher shall pay it. If any person employed in any department of the post office, shall improperly detain, delay, embezzle, or destroy, any newspaper, or shall permit any other person to do the like, or shall open, or permit any other to open, any mail, or packet, of newspapers, not directed to the office where he is employed, such offender shall, on conviction thereof, forfeit a sum not exceeding fifty dollars, for every such offence. And if any other person shall open any mail or packet of newspapers, or shall embezzle or destroy the same, not being directed to such person, or not being authorized to receive or open the same, such offender shall, on conviction thereof, pay a sum not exceeding twenty dollars for every such offence. And if any person shall take, or steal, any packet, bag, or mail of news-

Newspapers

Postage.

Paid in advance.

When sold for  
postage.

Detaining, em-  
bezzling, or des-  
troying them.

Penalty.

Stealing them.

papers, from, or out of any post office, or from any person having custody thereof, such person shall, on conviction, be imprisoned, not exceeding three months, for every such offence, to be kept at hard labor during the period of such imprisonment. If any person shall enclose or conceal a letter, or other thing, or any memorandum in writing, in a newspaper, pamphlet, or magazine, or in any package of newspapers, pamphlets, or magazines, or make any writing or memorandum thereon, which he shall have delivered into any post office, or to any person for that purpose, in order that the same may be carried by post, free of letter postage, he shall forfeit the sum of five dollars for every such offence; and the letter, newspaper, package, memorandum, or other thing, shall not be delivered to the person to whom it is directed, until the amount of single letter postage is paid for each article of which the package is composed. No newspapers shall be received by the postmasters, to be conveyed by post, unless they are sufficiently dried, and enclosed in proper wrappers, on which, besides the direction, shall be noted the number of papers which are enclosed for subscribers, and the number for printers: *Provided*, That the number need not be endorsed, if the publisher shall agree to furnish the postmaster, at the close of each quarter, a certified statement of the number of papers sent in the mail, chargeable with postage. The Postmaster General, in any contract he may enter into for the conveyance of the mail, may authorize the person with whom such contract is to be made, to carry newspapers, magazines, and pamphlets, other than those conveyed in the mail: *Provided*, That no preference shall be given to the publisher of one newspaper over that of another, in the same place. When the mode of conveyance, and the size of the mail will admit of it, such magazines and pamphlets as are published periodically, may be transported in the mail, to subscribers, at one and a half cents a sheet, for any distance not exceeding one hundred miles, and two and a half cents for any greater distance. And such magazines and pamphlets as are not published periodically, if sent in the mail, shall be charged with a postage of four cents on each sheet, for any distance not exceeding one hundred miles, and six cents for any greater distance.\*

Enclosing in them letters, &c. or writing on them.

Penalty.

To be dried and numbered.

Privilege to mail carriers to carry newspapers.

Proviso.

Periodical magazines and pamphlets.

Postage.

Not periodical.

\*Modified : see 3d section of act of March 3, 1845.

**SEC. 31.** *And be it further enacted,* That, if any postmaster, or other person authorized to receive the postage of letters and packets, shall neglect or refuse to render his accounts, and pay over to the Postmaster General the balance by him due, at the end of every three months, it shall be the duty of the Postmaster General to cause a suit to be commenced against the person or persons so neglecting or refusing: That all suits, which shall be hereafter commenced, for the recovery of debts or balances due to the General Post Office, whether they appear by bond or obligations, made in the name of the existing, or any preceding Postmaster General, or otherwise, shall be instituted in the name of the "Postmaster General of the United States." That certified statements, under the seal of the General Post Office, of the accounts of the several postmasters and contractors, after the same shall have been examined and adjusted at that office, shall be admitted as evidence in all suits brought by the Postmaster General for the recovery of balances or debts due from postmasters or contractors; and also certified copies of the quarterly accounts of postmasters; or, if lodged in the Treasury, copies, certified by the Register, under the seal of his office, shall be admitted as evidence.

Delinquent  
postmasters.

To be sued.

Accounts to be  
certified under  
seal.

**SEC. 32.** *And be it further enacted,* That, if any postmaster shall neglect to render his accounts for one month after the time, and in the form and manner prescribed by law, and by the Postmaster General's instructions, conformable therewith, he shall forfeit double the value of the postages which shall have arisen at the same office in any equal portion of time previous or subsequent thereto; or, in case no account shall have been rendered at the time of trial of such case, then such sum as the court and jury shall estimate, equivalent thereto, to be recovered by the Postmaster General, in an action of debt, on the bond against the postmaster and his securities, and for which the securities shall be liable.

Penalty for de-  
faults.

**SEC. 33.** *And be it further enacted,* That all pecuniary penalties and forfeitures, incurred under this act, shall be one half for the use of the person or persons informing and prosecuting for the same, and the other half to the use of the United States, and shall be paid over to the Postmaster General, and accounted for by him as other moneys of the Department.

Of fines.

Mails beyond  
sea.

SEC. 34. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall be lawful for the Postmaster General 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 United States to another port therein; and the letters so received shall be formed into a mail, sealed up, and directed to the postmaster of the port to which such ship or vessel shall be bound; and for every letter or packet so received, there shall be paid, at the time of its reception, a postage of one cent, which shall be for the use of the postmasters respectively receiving the same. And the Postmaster General may make arrangements with the postmasters in any foreign country, for the reciprocal receipt and delivery of letters and packets through the post office.

Postage.

Exemption from  
militia and jury  
duty.

SEC. 35. *And be it further enacted,* That the postmasters, postriders, and drivers of the mail stages, shall be exempt from militia duties, and serving on juries, or any fine or penalty for neglect thereof.

Letter carriers.

SEC. 36. *And be it further enacted,* That letter carriers shall be employed at such post offices as the Postmaster General shall direct, for the delivery of letters in the places, respectively, where such post offices are established; and, for the delivery of each such letter, the letter carrier may receive, of the person to whom the delivery is made, two cents: *Provided,* That no letter shall be delivered to such letter carrier for delivery, addressed to any person who shall have lodged at the post office a written request that the letter shall be detained in the office. And, for every letter lodged at any post office, not to be carried by post, but to be delivered at the place where it is so lodged, the postmaster shall receive one cent of the person to whom it shall be delivered.\*

Letter box let-  
ters, one cent.

State courts' ju-  
risdiction.

SEC. 37. *And be it further enacted,* That all causes of action arising under this act, may be sued, and all offenders against this act, may be prosecuted, before the justices of the peace, magistrates, or other judicial courts of the several States, and of the several Territories of the United States, they having competent jurisdiction, by the laws of such States or Territories, to the trial of claims and demands of as great value, and of the prosecutions, where the punishments are of as great extent;

\*Rates changed for drop letters: see 1st section of act of March 3, 1845.

and such justices, magistrates, or judiciary, shall take cognizance thereof, and proceed to judgment and execution, as in other cases.

SEC. 38. *And be it further enacted*, That, in all suits or causes arising under this act, the court shall proceed to trial, and render judgment the first term after such suit shall be commenced: *Provided, always*, That, whenever service of the process shall not have been made twenty days, at least, previous to the return day of such term, the defendant shall be entitled to one continuance, if the court, on the statement of such defendant, shall judge it expedient: *Provided, also*, That, if the defendant in such suits shall make affidavit that he has a claim against the General Post Office, not allowed by the Postmaster General, although submitted to him conformably to the regulations of the Post Office, and shall specify such claim in the affidavit, and that he could not be prepared for the trial at such term, for want of evidence, the court, in such case, being satisfied in those respects, may grant a continuance until the next succeeding term; and the Postmaster General shall be authorized to discharge from imprisonment any person confined in jail, on any judgment in a civil case, obtained in behalf of the Department: *Provided*, It be made to appear that the defendant has no property of any description: *And provided*, That such release shall not bar a subsequent execution against the property of the defendant.

Judgments first term.

Provisos.

Postmaster General may discharge from prison.

Provisos.

SEC. 39. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be the duty of the Postmaster General to report annually, to Congress, every post road which shall not, after the second year from its establishment, have produced one-third of the expense of carrying the mail on the same.\*

Post roads not producing one-third.

SEC. 40. *And be it further enacted*, That the Adjutant General of the militia of each State and Territory shall have a right to receive, by mail, free of postage, from any Major General or Brigadier General thereof, and to transmit to said Generals, any letter or packet relating solely to the militia of such State or Territory: *Provided, always*, That every such officer, before he delivers any such letter or package for transmission, shall, in his own proper hand writing, on the outside

Adjutant Generals of militia frank.

Proviso.

\*Modified: see act of March 3, 1845, section 2, entitled "An act to establish certain post roads and discontinue others."

Penalty.

thereof, endorse the nature of the papers enclosed, and thereto subscribe his name and office, and shall previously furnish the postmaster of the office where he shall deposit the same, with a specimen of his signature. And if any such officer shall frank any letter or package, in which shall be contained any thing relative to any subject other than of the militia of such State or Territory, every offender shall, on conviction of every such offence, forfeit and pay a fine of fifty dollars.

Surplus of Post-  
masters' emolu-  
ments over  
\$2,000 per an.

SEC. 41. *And be it further enacted*, That, whenever the annual emoluments of any postmaster, after deducting therefrom the necessary expenditures incident to his office, shall amount to more than two thousand dollars, the surplus shall be accounted for, and paid to the Postmaster General, and by him to be accounted for, in the same manner as other moneys accruing from the Post Office establishment.

Postmasters, &c.  
not to be con-  
tractors.

SEC. 42. *And be it further enacted*, That no postmaster, assistant postmaster, or clerk, employed in any post office, shall be a contractor, or concerned in a contract for carrying the mail: *Provided*, That this section shall not interfere with contracts heretofore made.

Increase of pay  
of contractors re-  
stricted.

SEC. 43. *And be it further enacted*, That no additional allowance shall be made, by the Postmaster General, to the contractor or carrier of any mail, on any route, over or beyond the amount stipulated in the contract entered into for the transportation of the mail on such route, unless additional service shall be required; and then no additional compensation shall be allowed, to exceed the exact proportion of the original amount to the additional duties required; and the Postmaster General shall, in all such cases, within thirty days thereafter, transmit to the First Comptroller of the Treasury an account of such additional services, and the compensation to be allowed therefor.

Proposers for  
contracts who  
do not comply.

SEC. 44. *And be it further enacted*, That any person or persons, who shall hereafter make any proposal in writing, to carry or transport the mail upon any route or routes, which may be advertised to be let, and such person or persons shall be determined by the Postmaster General to be entitled to the contract, by virtue of such proposition, and such person or persons shall fail or refuse to enter into an obligation, with good and sufficient security, to perform such contract within the time re-



quired by the Postmaster General, in such advertisement, such person or persons shall forfeit and pay so much money as shall be the difference between the amount contained in such proposal, and the amount the Postmaster General shall have to pay for the same transportation of the mail on such route or routes; which sum may be recovered by the Postmaster General in an action on the case. Forfeit.

SEC. 45. *And be it further enacted*, That if any person shall buy, receive, or conceal, or aid in buying, receiving, or concealing, any article mentioned in the twenty-first section of this act, knowing the same to have been stolen or embezzled from the mail of the United States, or out of any post office, or from any person having the custody of the said mail, or the letters sent or to be sent therein; or if any person shall be accessory after the fact to any robbery of the carrier of the mail of the United States, or other person entrusted therewith, of such mail, or of part thereof, every person, so offending, shall, on conviction thereof, pay a fine not exceeding two thousand dollars, and be imprisoned and confined to hard labor for any time not exceeding ten years. And such person or persons, so offending, may be tried and convicted without the principal offender being first tried, provided such principal offender has fled from justice, or cannot be found to be put on his trial. Aiders and abettors of mail robbers.

SEC. 46. *And be it further enacted*, That all acts and parts of acts which have been passed for the establishment and regulation of the General Post Office, shall be, and the same are hereby, repealed: *Provided*, That the act, entitled "An act concerning public contracts," approved on the twenty-first of April, one thousand eight hundred and eight, shall not be affected hereby, but shall remain in full force and virtue: *And provided*, Penalty. Repeal of former acts. Provisos. *also*, that nothing herein contained shall be construed to affect, or extend to, any offence committed against the laws, now in force, intended by this act to be repealed: but the same shall be prosecuted, and determined, and punished, according to the said laws; nor to affect any existing contract, or debt, or demand, due to or from the Department; but all such offences, crimes, debts, duties, demands, and contracts, shall be held in force, and adjudged, determined, and executed, accord-

ing to the present laws in force, as though this act had not passed ; nor shall it affect any appointments to office made under the laws hereby repealed.

APPROVED, *March 3, 1825.*

---

AN ACT

To establish certain Post Roads, and to discontinue others.

Certain post routes to be discontinued.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That all post routes which hereafter, within the term of three successive years, fail to yield one-fourth of the expense incident to its establishment, shall be discontinued by the Postmaster General, unless in cases where it may be necessary as a connection or continuance of a route or routes : *Provided, also,* That this section shall not be so construed as to deprive the seat of justice, in each county, of one mail going to and from said town.

APPROVED, *March 3, 1825.*

---

AN ACT

Amendatory of the Act regulating the Post Office Department.

Commission allowed to postmasters at distributing offices.

Proviso.

Allowance for ship letters received and mailed.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the Postmaster General be authorized to allow to the postmasters at the several distributing offices, a commission, not to exceed five per cent. on the amount of postage on letters and packets received for distribution, the allowance to commence on the third of March, eighteen hundred and twenty-five : \* *Provided,* That, if the number of mails received at, and despatched from, any such office, is not increased by the distributing system, then no allowance shall be made therefor, except where special provision is made.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the Postmaster General be authorized to allow to each postmaster one cent for every letter received from any ship or

---

\*7 per cent. allowed : see act of 2d of March, 1847.

vessel, and mailed by him, provided, his usual commission, together with the allowance aforesaid, shall not exceed the sum of two hundred dollars a year. And the letter carriers employed at post offices shall be authorized to receive for each newspaper delivered by them, an half cent, and no more. Letter carriers.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That no person, other than the Postmaster General, or his authorized agents, shall set up any foot or horse post, for the conveyance of letters and packets, upon any post-road, which is or may be established as such by law. And every person who shall offend herein, shall incur a penalty of not exceeding fifty dollars, for each letter or packet so carried.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That the Commissioners of the Navy Board, the Adjutant General, Commissary General, Inspectors General, Quartermaster General, Paymaster General, the Secretary of the Senate, Clerk of the House of Representatives, and Superintendent of the Patent Office, be authorized to frank, and to receive letters and packets by post, free of postage, and that no other persons or officers, excepting those enumerated herein, and in the act "to reduce into one the several acts establishing and regulating the Post Office Department," passed on the third of March, eighteen hundred and twenty-five, shall be authorized to frank or to receive letters through the mail free of postage.\* Franking privilege given to certain officers.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That one or more pieces of paper, mailed as a letter, and weighing one ounce, shall be charged with quadruple postage, and at the same rate, should the weight be greater; and quadruple postage shall be charged on all packets containing four pieces of paper. Every printed pamphlet or magazine which contains more than twenty-four pages on a royal sheet, or any sheet of less dimensions, shall be charged by the sheet, and small pamphlets printed on a half or quarter sheet of royal, or less size, shall be charged with half the amount of postage charged on a full sheet; and there shall be printed or written, on one of the outer pages of all pamphlets and magazines, to be sent by mail, the number of sheets they contain; Rules for charging letter postage.

Rules for charging pamphlet postage.

\*Repealed: see 5th section, act of 3d of March, 1845.

and if such number shall not be truly stated, double postage shall be charged.\*

No Postmaster or assistant Postmaster to act as agent for lottery offices.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That no postmaster or assistant postmaster shall act as agent for lottery offices, or under any color of purchase, or otherwise, vend lottery tickets; nor shall any postmaster receive free of postage, or frank, lottery schemes, circulars, or tickets. For a violation of this provision, the person offending shall suffer a penalty of fifty dollars.

APPROVED, *March 2, 1827.*

## AN ACT

To change the organization of the Post Office Department, and to provide more effectually for the settlement of the accounts thereof.

Revenues to be paid into the Treasury.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That the revenues arising in the Post Office Department, and all debts due to the same, shall, when collected, be paid, under the direction of the Postmaster General, into the Treasury of the United States.

Postmaster General to submit estimates, &c.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the Postmaster General shall submit to Congress at the next and each succeeding annual session, specific estimates of the sums of money expected to be required for the service of the Department in the subsequent year, commencing on the first day of July, under the following heads, viz: "Compensation of Postmasters," "Transportation of the Mails," "Ship, steam-boat, and way letters," "Wrapping paper," "Office furniture," "Advertising," "Mail bags," "Blanks," "Mail locks, keys, and stamps," "Mail depredations and special agents," "Clerks for offices," and "Miscellaneous." And the Postmaster General shall render an account to Congress, at each succeeding annual session, of the amounts actually expended for each of the purposes above specified.

\*Modified: see 1st and 3d sections of act of 3d of March, 1845.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That the aggregate sum required "for the service of the Post Office Department" in each year, shall be appropriated by law out of the revenue of the Department, and that all payments of the receipts of the Post Office Department into the Treasury, shall be to the credit of the said appropriation.

Appropriation made from revenues of the Post Office Department.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That the sums appropriated for the service aforesaid shall be paid by the Treasurer in the manner herein directed: *Provided,* That the compensation of postmasters, the expenses of post offices, and such other expenses of the Department for which appropriations have been made, as may be incurred by postmasters, may be deducted out of the proceeds of their offices, under the direction of the Postmaster General: *And provided, also,* That all charges against the Department by postmasters, on account of such expenses, shall be submitted for examination and settlement, to the Auditor herein provided for; and that no such deduction shall be valid, unless the expenditure so deducted, be found to have been made in conformity to law: *And provided, also,* That the Postmaster General shall have power to transfer debts due on account of the Department, by postmasters and others, in satisfaction of the legal demands for which appropriations have been made, of such contractors who may be creditors of the Department, as shall have given bonds, with security, to refund any moneys that may come into their hands over and above the amount which may be found due to them on the settlement of their accounts.

To be paid by the Treasurer.

Proviso.

Proviso.

Proviso.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That the Treasurer of the United States shall give receipts for all moneys received by him to the credit of the appropriation for the service of the Post Office Department; which receipt shall be endorsed upon warrants drawn by the Postmaster General, and without such warrant no acknowledgement for money received as aforesaid shall be valid.

Treasurer to give receipts.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted,* That the appropriations for the service of the Post Office Department, shall be disbursed by the Treasurer out of the moneys paid into the Treasury for the service of the Post Office Department, upon the warrants of the Postmaster General, registered and countersigned as herein provided, and

Payments to be made on warrants.

expressing on their faces the appropriation to which they should be charged.

Accounts rendered quarterly to the Auditor.

SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted,* That the Treasurer shall render his accounts of the moneys received and paid by him on account of the Post Office Department, quarterly, to the Auditor for the Post Office Department, hereinafter provided for, and shall transmit copies of the same, when adjusted by him, to the two Houses of Congress.

Auditor to be appointed, and his duties.

SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted,* That there shall be appointed by the President, with the consent of the Senate, an Auditor of the Treasury for the Post Office Department, whose duty it shall be to receive all accounts arising in the said Department, or relative thereto, to audit and settle the same, and certify their balances to the Postmaster General: *Provided,* That if either the Postmaster General, or any person whose account shall be settled, be dissatisfied therewith, he may, within twelve months, appeal to the First Comptroller of the Treasury, whose decision shall be final and conclusive. The said Auditor shall report to the Postmaster General, when required, the official forms of papers to be used by postmasters, and other officers or agents of the Department concerned in its receipts and payments, and the manner and form of keeping and stating its accounts. He shall keep and preserve all accounts, with the vouchers, after settlement. He shall promptly report to the Postmaster General all delinquencies of postmasters in paying over the proceeds of their offices. He shall close the accounts of the Department quarterly, and transmit to the Secretary of the Treasury quarterly statements of its receipts and expenditures. He shall register, charge and countersign, all warrants upon the Treasury for receipts and payments issued by the Postmaster General, when warranted by law. He shall perform such other duties, in relation to the financial concerns of the Department, as shall be assigned to him by the Secretary of the Treasury, [or Postmaster General,] and shall make to them respectively, such reports as either of them may require respecting the same. The said Auditor may frank, and receive free of postage, letters and packets under the regulations provided by law for other officers of the Government. And all letters and packets to and from the Chief Engineer, which

Proviso.

may relate to the business of his office, shall be free of postage.

SEC. 9. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall be the duty of the Postmaster General to decide on the official forms of all papers to be used by postmasters, and other officers or agents of the Post Office Department, concerned in its receipts and payments, and the manner and form of keeping and stating its accounts; to enforce the prompt rendition of the returns of postmasters, and of all certificates, acknowledgements, receipts, and other papers, by postmasters and contractors, relative to the accounts of the Department; to control, according to law, and subject to the settlement of the Auditor, the allowances to postmasters, the expenses of post offices, and all other expenses incident to the service of the Department; to regulate and direct the payment of the said allowances and expenses for which appropriations have been made; to superintend the disposition of the proceeds of post offices and other moneys of the Department; to prescribe the manner in which postmasters shall pay over their balances; to grant warrants for money to be paid into the Treasury, and out of the same, in pursuance of appropriations by law, to persons to whom the same shall be certified to be due by the said Auditor: *Provided,* That advances of necessary sums to defray expenses may be made by the Postmaster General to agents of the Department employed to investigate mail depredations, examine post routes and post offices, and perform other like services, to be charged by the Auditor for the Post Office Department, and be accounted for in the settlement of their accounts.

Duties of the  
Postmaster General.

Proviso.

SEC. 10. *And be it further enacted,* That the Auditor for the Post Office Department shall state and certify, quarterly, to the Postmaster General, accounts of the moneys paid pursuant to appropriations, in each year, by postmasters out of the proceeds of their offices, towards the expenses of the Department, under each of the heads of the said expenses specified in the second section of this act; upon which the Postmaster General shall issue warrants to the Treasurer of the United States, as in case of the receipt and payment of the said moneys into and out of the Treasury, in order that the same may be carried to the credit and debit of the appropriation for the service of the Post Office Department, on the books of the Auditor for said Department.

Other duties of  
the Auditor.

Duplicates of contracts, &c.

SEC. 11. *And be it further enacted,* That the Postmaster General shall, within sixty days after the making of any contract, cause a duplicate thereof to be lodged in the office of the Auditor of the Post Office Department. Upon the death, resignation, or removal of any postmaster, he shall cause his bond of office to be delivered to the said Auditor; and shall also cause to be promptly certified to him all establishments and discontinuances of post offices, and all appointments, deaths, resignations, and removals of postmasters, together with all orders and regulations which may originate a claim, or in any manner affect the accounts of the Department.

Accounts, how to be kept.

SEC. 12. *And be it further enacted,* That the accounts of the Post Office Department shall be kept in such manner as to exhibit the amounts of its revenues, derived respectively from "letter postages," "newspapers and pamphlets," and "fines;" and the amount of its expenditures for each of the following objects, namely: "compensation of postmasters," "transportation of the mails," "ship, steamboat, and way letters," "wrapping paper," "office furniture," "advertising," "mail bags," "blanks, mail locks, keys, and stamps," "mail depredations and special agents," "clerks for offices," and "miscellaneous."

Bonds and contracts with the U. States, and all suits in its name.

SEC. 13. *And be it further enacted,* That the bonds and contracts of postmasters, mail contractors, and other agents of the Post Office Department, shall hereafter be made to and with the United States of America; and all suits to be commenced for the recovery of debts or balances due by postmasters and others, or upon bonds or contracts made to or with the present or any former Postmaster General, or for any fines, penalties, or forfeitures, imposed by the laws respecting the Post Office Department, or by the Postmaster General, pursuant thereto, shall be instituted in the name of the United States of America; and the demands in such suits shall have all the privileges and priorities in adjudication and payment secured to other claims of the United States, by the existing laws: *Provided,* That actions and suits which may have been instituted in the name of the Postmaster General, previous to the passage of this act, shall not be affected by the provisions of this section.

Proviso.

Auditor to superintend collection of debts.

SEC. 14. *And be it further enacted,* That the Auditor of the Post Office Department shall superintend the



collection of all debts due to the Department, and all penalties and forfeitures imposed on postmasters for failing to make returns, or pay over the proceeds of their offices; he shall direct suits and legal proceedings, and take all such measures as may be authorized by law to enforce the prompt payment of moneys due to the Department.

SEC. 15. *And be it further enacted,* That copies of the quarterly returns of postmasters, and of any papers pertaining to the accounts in the office of the Auditor for the Post Office Department, certified by him, under his seal of office, shall be admitted as evidence in the courts of the United States; and in every case of delinquency of any postmaster or contractor, in which suit may be brought, the said Auditor shall forward to the Attorney of the United States certified copies of all papers in his office tending to sustain the claim; and in every such case a statement of the account, certified as aforesaid, shall be admitted as evidence, and the court trying the cause shall be thereupon authorized to give judgment and award execution, subject to the provisions of the thirty-eighth section of the act to reduce into one the several acts establishing and regulating the Post Office Department, approved March third, eighteen hundred and twenty-five. No claim for a credit shall be allowed upon the trial but such as shall have been presented to the said Auditor, and by him disallowed in whole or in part, unless it shall be proved to the satisfaction of the court that the defendant is at the time of the trial in possession of vouchers not before in his power to procure, and that he was prevented from exhibiting to the said Auditor a claim for such credit, by some unavoidable accident. In suits for balances due from postmasters, interest at the rate of six per centum per annum shall be recovered, from the time of the default until payment.

Certified copies of quarterly returns, &c. to be evidence, &c.

SEC. 16. *And be it further enacted,* That the Attorneys of the United States, in the prosecution of suits for moneys due on account of the Post Office Department, shall obey the directions which may, from time to time, be given to them by the Auditor for the Post Office Department; and it shall be the duty of each of the said attorneys, immediately after the end of every term of any court in which any of the suits aforesaid shall have

Duties of U. States Attorneys

been pending, to forward to the said Auditor a statement of all the judgments, orders, and steps which have been made or taken in the same during the said term, accompanied by a certificate of the clerk, showing the parties to, and amount of, each judgment, with such other information as may be required by the said Auditor. The said attorneys shall direct speedy and effectual process of execution upon the said judgments; and it shall be the duty of the marshals of the United States to whom the same shall be directed, to make to the said Auditor, at such times as he may direct, returns of the proceedings which have taken place upon the said process of execution.

Sums wrongfully paid to be recovered by suit.

SEC. 17. *And be it further enacted,* That in all cases where any sum or sums of money have been paid out of the funds of the Post Office Department to any individual or individuals, under pretence that service has been performed therefor when in fact such service has not been performed, or by way of additional allowance for increased service actually rendered, when the additional allowance exceeds the sum which, by the provisions of law, might rightfully have been allowed therefor, and in all other cases where the moneys of the Department have been paid over to any person in consequence of fraudulent representations, or by the mistake, collusion, or misconduct of any officer or clerk of the Department, it shall be the duty of the Postmaster General to cause suit to be brought, in the name of the United States of America, to recover back the same, or the excess, as the case may be, with interest thereon.

Auditor to adjust balances due from postmasters, &c.

SEC. 18. *And be it further enacted,* That the Auditor for the Post Office Department shall adjust and settle all balances due from postmasters on account of transactions prior to the first day of July, eighteen hundred and thirty-six. He shall, when necessary, institute suits for the same, and cause them to be effectually prosecuted to judgment and execution; and in cases in which proceedings at law for these or any other balances that are or may become due on account of the Post Office Department, have been or shall be fruitless, may direct the institution of suits in chancery, to set aside fraudulent conveyances or trusts, or attach debts due to the defendants, or obtain any other proper exercise of the powers of equity, to have satisfaction of the said judgments;

and the courts of the United States, sitting in chancery, shall have jurisdiction to entertain such bills, and make such decrees and orders thereupon as may be consonant to the principles and usages of equity. The said Auditor shall report to the Postmaster General, to be by him submitted to Congress, at its next annual session, a statement of all the balances and debts due to the Post Office Department as aforesaid, by late postmasters, showing, in each case, the name and office of the principal debtor, the names of the sureties, if any, the amount of the debt, the time at which it accrued, the steps taken to collect the same, and whether they have been successful or not. The said statement shall also classify such of the said balances as may then remain due, into such as are considered collectible, and such as are not, with the whole amount of each class.

SEC. 19. *And be it further enacted,* That the Auditor for the Post Office Department, or any mayor of a city, justice of the peace, or judge of any court of record in the United States, by him especially designated, shall be authorized to administer oaths and affirmations, in relation to the examination and settlement of the accounts committed to his charge; and if any person shall knowingly swear or affirm falsely, touching the expenditures of the Post Office Department, or in relation to any account of, or claim against, or in favor of, the said Department, he or she shall, upon conviction thereof, suffer as for wilful and corrupt perjury.

Auditor, mayors, &c. may administer oaths, &c.

SEC. 20. *And be it further enacted,* That there shall be employed by the Postmaster General a Third Assistant Postmaster General, who may receive and send letters and packets free of postage; and in lieu of the clerks now employed in the Department, one chief clerk, three principal clerks, and thirty-three other clerks, one messenger, and three assistant messengers, and two watchmen.

Third Assistant Postmaster General.

Clerks, &c.

SEC. 21. *And be it further enacted,* That there shall be employed by the Secretary of the Treasury, in the office of the Auditor for the Post Office Department, one chief clerk, four principal clerks, and thirty-eight other clerks, one messenger, and one assistant messenger; also, three clerks, one at a salary of fourteen hundred dollars per annum, one at a salary of twelve hundred dollars, and one at a salary of one thousand dollars, in the office of the Treasurer of the United States, in lieu

Clerks to be employed in the office of Auditor.

And in that of the same number of clerks now employed in the office of the Fifth Auditor of the Treasury, in adjusting the accounts of the Post Office Department.

Reports to be made to Congress by the Postmaster General.

SEC. 22. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall be the duty of the Postmaster General to make to Congress, at each annual session thereof, the following several reports :

*First.* A report of all contracts made for the transportation of the mail within the preceding year, stating in each case of contract its date and duration, the name of the contractor, the route or routes embraced in the contract, with the length of each, with the times of arrival and departure at the ends of each route, the mode of transportation contracted for, and the price stipulated to be paid by the Department; also, a statement of all such land and water mails as may have been established or ordered by the Department within the year preceding, other than those let to contract at the annual lettings of mail contracts, specifying, in each case, the route or water course on which the mail is established, the name of the person employed to transport it, the mode of transportation, the amount paid or to be paid, and the proposed duration of the order or contract.

*Second.* A report of all allowances made to contractors, within the year preceding, beyond the sums originally stipulated in their respective contracts, and the reasons for the same; and of all orders made by the Department, whereby additional expense is, or will be incurred, beyond the original contract price on any land or water route, specifying, in each case, the route to which the order relates, the name of the contractor, the original service provided by the contract, the original price, the date of the order for additional service, the additional service required, and the additional allowance therefor; also, a report of all curtailments of expenses effected by the Department within the preceding year, specifying, in each case, the same particulars as required in cases of additional allowances.

*Third.* A report of all incidental expenses of the Department for the year ending on the thirtieth day of June preceding, arranged according to the several objects, as for "wrapping paper," "office furniture," "advertising," "mail bags," "blanks," "mail locks, keys, and stamps," "mail depredations, and special agents," "clerks for offices," "miscellaneous," showing the sum

paid under each head of expenditure, and the names of the persons to whom paid, except only that the names of the persons employed in detecting depredations on the mail, and other confidential agents, need not be disclosed in said report.

*Fourth.* A report of the finances of the Post Office Department for the year ending on the thirtieth day of June preceding, showing the whole amount of balances due to the Department at the beginning of the year, from postmasters and all others, the whole amount of postage that accrued within the year, the whole amount of the engagements and liabilities of the Department for mail transportation during the year, the amount actually paid during the year, for and on account of mail transportation, and otherwise, stating separately so much of the said amount as may have been paid on account of the transportation of the mail, and for other debts for the same object, in preceding years.

*Fifth.* A report of all fines imposed, and deductions from the pay of contractors made during the preceding year, for failures to deliver the mail, or for any other cause, stating the names of the delinquent contractors, the nature of the delinquency, the route on which it occurred, the time when it occurred, the time when the fine was imposed, and whether the fine has been remitted, or order for deduction rescinded, and for what reason.

SEC. 23. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall be the duty of the Postmaster General, before advertising for proposals for the transportation of the mail, to form the best judgment practicable as to the mode, time, and frequency of transportation on each route, and to advertise accordingly. No consolidated or combination bid shall be received, and no additional compensation shall be made to any mail contractor, so as that the compensation for additional regular service shall exceed the exact proportion which the original compensation bears to the original services stipulated to be performed; and no extra allowance shall be made to any contractor, by the Postmaster General, for an increase of expedition in the transportation of the mail, unless thereby the employment of additional stock or carriers, by the contractor, shall be rendered necessary; and in such case, the additional compensation shall never bear a greater proportion to the additional stock or carriers rendered necessary, than the sum stipulated in the original con-

Advertisements  
for contracts, and  
regulations res-  
pecting them.

tract bears to the stock and carriers necessarily employed in its execution; and when any extra service shall be ordered, the amount of the allowance therefor, in dollars and cents, shall be signified in the order for such service, and be forthwith entered upon the books of the Post Office Department, and no additional compensation shall be paid for any extra regular service rendered before the issuing of such order, and the making of such entry; and every order, entry, or memorandum whatever, on which any action of the Department is to be had, allowance made, or money paid, and every contract, paper or obligation drawn up in said office, by any officer thereof, shall have affixed to it its true date; and every paper relating to contracts or allowances filed in said office shall have the date of its filing endorsed thereon. And whenever it shall become necessary to change the terms of any existing contract in any other manner than that designated in this act, or to enter into a contract for the transportation of the mail at any other time than at the annual letting, the Postmaster General shall give notice in one newspaper published at Washington City, and in one newspaper published as near as may be to the route on which the services are to be performed, for at least four weeks before changing or making such contract, inviting proposals therefor; which proposals shall be received and opened, and such proceedings thereon had, in all things as at the annual lettings: *Provided, however,* That the Postmaster General may make temporary contracts until a regular letting can take place.

**Proviso.**

**Proposals for contracts.**

**SEC. 24.** *And be it further enacted,* That proposals for mail contracts shall be delivered to the Department sealed, and shall be kept sealed until the biddings are closed, and shall then be opened and marked in the presence of the Postmaster General and of one of the Assistant Postmasters General, or in the presence of two of the Assistant Postmasters General. And the contracts in all cases shall be awarded to the lowest bidder, except when his bid is not more than five per centum below that of the last contractor, on the route bid for, who shall have faithfully performed his contract. *Provided, however,* That the Postmaster General shall not be bound to consider the bid of any person who shall have wilfully or negligently failed to execute or perform a prior contract.

**Proviso.**

**SEC. 25.** *And be it further enacted,* That it shall be the duty of the Postmaster General to have recorded in a well bound book, a true and faithful abstract of offers made to him for carrying the mail, embracing as well those which are rejected, as those which are accepted. The said abstract shall contain the names of the party or parties offering, the terms on which he or they propose to carry the mail, the sum for which it is offered to contract, and the length of time the agreement is to continue. And it shall also be the duty of the Postmaster General to put on file and preserve the originals of the propositions of which abstracts are here directed to be made, and to report at each session of Congress a true copy from the said record of all offers made for carrying the mail as aforesaid.

Offers for carrying the mail to be recorded.

**SEC. 26.** *And be it further enacted,* That if any person employed in the Post Office Department, or postmaster, shall become interested in any mail contract, or act as agent, with or without compensation, in any matter or thing relating to business in said Department, for any contractor, or person offering to become a contractor, he shall be forthwith dismissed from office, and shall be liable to pay so much money as would have been realized from said contract, to be recovered in an action of debt in any court having jurisdiction thereof, in the name of the United States, for the use of the Post Office Department; and it shall be the duty of the Postmaster General to cause prosecution to be instituted.

Persons employed in Post Office not to be interested in contracts.

**SEC. 27.** *And be it further enacted,* That every proposal for the transportation of the mail shall be accompanied by a written guaranty, signed by one or more responsible persons, to the effect that he or they undertake that the bidder or bidders will, if his or their bid be accepted, enter into an obligation, in such time as may be prescribed by the Postmaster General, with good and sufficient sureties, to perform the service proposed. No proposal shall be considered, unless accompanied by such guaranty. If, after the acceptance of a proposal, and notification thereof to the bidder or bidders, he or they shall fail to enter into an obligation within the time prescribed by the Postmaster General, with good and sufficient sureties for the performance of the service, then the Postmaster General shall proceed to contract with some other person or persons, for the performance of

Proposals for transporting the mail to be accompanied by a guaranty.

the said service, and shall forthwith cause the difference between the amount contained in the proposal so guaranteed, and the amount for which he may have contracted for the performance of said service, for the whole period of the proposal, to be charged up against the said bidder or bidders, and his or their guarantor or guarantors, and the same may be immediately recovered by the United States, for the use of the Post Office Department, in an action of debt against either or all of the said persons.

Contracts not to be made with persons who have entered into combination.

SEC. 28. *And be it further enacted*, That no contract for the transportation of the mail shall knowingly be made by the Postmaster General, with any person who shall have entered into any combination, or proposed to enter into any combination, to prevent the making of any bid for a mail contract by any other person or persons; or who shall have made any agreement or shall have given or performed, or promised to give or perform, any consideration whatever, or to do or not to do any thing whatever, in order to induce any other person or persons not to bid for a mail contract. And if any person so offending be a mail contractor, he may be forthwith dismissed from the service of the Department: *Provided*, That whenever the Postmaster General shall exercise the power conferred on him by this section, he shall transmit a copy or statement of the evidence on which he acts to Congress, at its next session.

Proviso.

No payment to be made until after execution of contract.

SEC. 29. *And be it further enacted*, That no person whose bid for the transportation of the mail may be accepted, shall receive any pay, until he shall have executed his contract according to law and the regulations of the Department; nor shall any payment be made for any additional regular service in the transportation of the mail, unless the same shall have been rendered in obedience to a prior legal order of the Postmaster General.

Part of act of March 3, 1825, repealed.

SEC. 30. *And be it further enacted*, That so much of the act concerning the Post Office Department, approved March third, eighteen hundred and twenty-five, as directs that duplicates or copies of contracts or orders made by the Postmaster General shall be lodged in the office of the Comptroller of the Treasury, be repealed.

SEC. 31. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be the duty of the Postmaster General to furnish to the postmasters at the termination of each route, a schedule,



specifying the times of arrival and departure at their offices, respectively, of each mail, a copy of which the postmaster shall post up in some conspicuous place in his office; and the Postmaster General shall also furnish a notice in like manner, of any change or alteration in the arrivals and departures which may be ordered by him. And it shall be the duty of every postmaster promptly to report to the Department every delinquency, neglect, or malpractice of the contractors, their agents or carriers, that may come to his knowledge. And the Postmaster General shall cause to be kept, and returned to the Department, at short and regular intervals, by postmasters at the ends of routes, and such others as he may think proper, registers, showing the exact times of the arrivals and departures of the mails.

Postmasters to be furnished with schedule of times of arrival and departure.

SEC. 32. *And be it further enacted,* That if any postmaster shall unlawfully detain in his office any letter, package, pamphlet, or newspaper, with intent to prevent the arrival and delivery of the same to the person or persons to whom such letter, package, pamphlet or newspaper may be addressed or directed in the usual course of the transportation of the mail along the route; or if any postmaster shall, with intent as aforesaid, give a preference to any letter, package, pamphlet, or newspaper, over another which may pass through his office, by forwarding the one and retaining the other, he shall, on conviction thereof, be fined in a sum not exceeding five hundred dollars, and imprisoned for a term not exceeding six months, and shall, moreover, be forever thereafter, incapable of holding the office of postmaster in the United States.

Penalty for detaining letters, &c. in a post office.

SEC. 33. *And be it further enacted,* That there shall be appointed by the President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, a deputy postmaster for each post office at which the commissions allowed to the postmaster amounted to one thousand dollars or upwards in the year ending the thirtieth day of June, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-five, or which may, in any subsequent year, terminating on the thirtieth day of June, amount to or exceed that sum, who shall hold his office for the term of four years, unless sooner removed by the President.

Certain postmasters to be appointed by and with the consent of the Senate.

SEC. 34. *And be it further enacted,* That assistant postmasters and clerks regularly employed and engaged

Postmasters and clerks to be exempt from military duty.

in post offices, shall be exempt from militia duty, and serving on juries, and from any fine or penalty for neglect thereof.

Advertisements of letters may be made in more than one paper.

SEC. 35. *And be it further enacted*, That advertisements of letters remaining in post offices may, under the direction of the Postmaster General, be made in more than one newspaper: *Provided*, That the whole cost of advertising shall not exceed four cents for each letter.

Postmasters not to receive or frank any package other than such as contain paper or money.

SEC. 36. *And be it further enacted*, That no postmaster shall receive free of postage, or frank any letter or packet composed of, or containing any thing other than paper or money; and for a violation of this provision, the offender shall be dismissed from office, and upon conviction in any court of competent jurisdiction, pay a fine of twenty dollars. And no person shall hold the office of postmaster who shall not be an actual resident of the city or town wherein the office is situated, or the district of country usually supplied by said office.

Release of sureties of a postmaster.

SEC. 37. *And be it further enacted*, That when any one or more of the sureties of a postmaster shall notify to the Postmaster General their desire to be released from their suretyship, or when the Postmaster General shall deem it necessary, he shall require the said postmaster to execute a new bond, with security, which, when accepted by the Postmaster General, shall be as valid as the bond given upon the original appointment of said postmaster, and the sureties in the prior bond shall be released from responsibility for all acts or defaults of said postmaster, which may be done or committed subsequent to the acceptance of the new bond, the date of which shall be endorsed thereon: *Provided*, That payments made subsequent to the execution of the new bond by said postmaster shall be applied first to discharge any balance which may be due on the old bond, unless he shall, at the time of payment, expressly direct them to be applied to the credit of his new account.

Proviso.

Penalty for stealing or taking letters, &c. from the mail.

SEC. 38. *And be it further enacted*, That if any person shall be accessory after the fact, to the offence of stealing or taking the mail of the United States, or of stealing or taking any letter or packet, or enclosure in any letters or packets sent or to be sent in the mail of the United States, from any Post Office in the United States, or from the mail of the United States, by any person or persons whatever, every person so offending as

accessary, shall, on conviction thereof, pay a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars, and be imprisoned for a term not exceeding five years; and such accessary after the fact may be tried, convicted, and punished in the district in which his offence was committed, though the principal offence may have been committed in another district, and before the trial of the principal offender: *Provided*, such principal offender has fled from justice, **Proviso.** or cannot be arrested to be put upon his trial.

**SEC. 39.** *And be it further enacted*, That in case the **Express mail.** Postmaster General shall deem it expedient to establish an express mail, in addition to the ordinary mail, on any of the post roads in the United States, for the purpose of conveying slips from newspapers in lieu of exchange newspapers, or letters, other than such as contain money, not exceeding half an ounce in weight, marked "express mail," and public despatches, he shall be authorized to charge all letters and packets carried by such express mail with triple the rates of postage to which letters and packets, not free, may be by law subject, when carried by the ordinary mails.

**SEC. 40.** *And be it further enacted*, That in case of **Duties of P. M. Genl. to devolve on Assis. P. M. G.** the death, resignation, or absence of the Postmaster General, all his powers and duties shall devolve, for the time being, on the First Assistant Postmaster General.

**SEC. 41.** *And be it further enacted*, That the **Letter carriers.** Postmaster General shall be authorized whenever the same may be proper for the accommodation of the public in any city, to employ letter carriers for the delivery of letters received at the post office in said city; except such as the persons to whom they are addressed may have requested, in writing, addressed to the postmaster, to be retained in the post office; and for the receipt of letters at such places in the said city as the Postmaster General may direct, and for the deposit of the same in the post office; and for the delivery by a carrier of each letter received from the post office, the person to whom the same may be delivered shall pay not exceeding two cents; and for the delivery of each newspaper and pamphlet, one half cent; and for every letter received by a carrier to be deposited in the post office, there shall be paid to him, at the time of the receipt, not exceeding two cents; all of which receipts, by the carriers in any city, shall, if the Postmaster General so direct, be ac-

counted for to the postmaster of said city, to constitute a fund for the compensation of the said carriers, and be paid to them in such proportions and manner as the Postmaster General may direct. Each of the said carriers shall give bond with sureties, to be approved by the Postmaster General, for the safe custody and delivery of letters, and for the due account and payment of all moneys received by him.

Carrying mails  
on canals.

SEC. 42. *And be it further enacted,* That the Postmaster General shall be authorized, in his discretion, to contract for carrying the mail on the navigable canals of the several States, in all cases where, in his opinion, the public interest and convenience shall require it; and for the time during which mails may be carried on such canals, or any parts thereof, the same are hereby declared to be post roads.

Salaries of As-  
sistant Postmas-  
ters General and  
others.

SEC. 43. *And be it further enacted,* That the following annual salaries shall be allowed to the Assistant Postmasters General, and to the clerks, messengers, and watchmen provided for the service of the Post Office Department, viz :

To the three Assistant Postmasters General, each, twenty five hundred dollars;

To the chief clerk, two thousand dollars;

To the three principal clerks, each, one thousand six hundred dollars;

To ten clerks, each, one thousand four hundred dollars;

To fifteen clerks, each, one thousand two hundred dollars;

To eight clerks, each, one thousand dollars;

To the messenger, seven hundred and fifty dollars;

To the three assistant messengers, each, three hundred and fifty dollars;

To the two watchmen, each, three hundred dollars.

Salaries of Au-  
ditor and others.

SEC. 44. *And be it further enacted,* That the following annual salaries shall be allowed to the Auditor of the Post Office Department, and to the clerks and messengers herein provided for the service of his office, viz :

To the Auditor, three thousand dollars;

To the chief clerk, two thousand dollars;

To the four principal clerks, each, one thousand six hundred dollars;

To ten clerks, each, one thousand four hundred dollars;

To twenty clerks, each, one thousand two hundred dollars;

To eight clerks, each, one thousand dollars;

To the messenger, seven hundred and fifty dollars; and to the assistant messenger, three hundred and fifty dollars.

SEC. 45. *And be it further enacted*, That the sum of three millions one hundred and fifty thousand dollars be, and the same is hereby appropriated, for the service of the Post Office Department, for the year commencing on the first day of July, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-six, out of any moneys in the Treasury, arising from the revenues of the said Department, to be accounted for in the manner pointed out in the second section of this act. \$3,150,000 appropriated for the year 1836.

SEC. 46. *And be it further enacted*, That this act shall be in force and take effect from the passage thereof. Act to go into immediate effect.

APPROVED, July 2, 1836.

---

## AN ACT

To establish certain Post Routes, and to discontinue others.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That each and every railroad within the limits of the United States, which now is, or hereafter may be made and completed, shall be a post route; and the Postmaster General shall cause the mail to be transported thereon, provided he can have it done upon reasonable terms, and not paying therefor, in any instance, more than twenty-five per centum over and above what similar transportation would cost in post coaches.

APPROVED, July 7, 1838.

---

## AN ACT

Further to regulate the Transportation of the Mail upon Railroads.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That the Postmaster General shall not, by virtue of the authority vested in him by the second sec-

tion of the "Act to establish certain post routes, and to discontinue others," approved July 7th, 1838, allow more than three hundred dollars per mile, per annum, to any railroad company in the United States, for the conveyance of one or more daily mails upon their roads: *Provided*, That nothing in this act contained shall be construed so as in any way to remove or impair the limitations upon the power of the Postmaster General, imposed by that section.

APPROVED, *January 25, 1839.*

---

### AN ACT

Making appropriations for the Civil and Diplomatic expenses of Government, for the year 1839.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That no officer in any branch of the public service, or any other person whose salaries, or whose pay or emoluments is or are fixed by law and regulations, shall receive any extra allowance or compensation, in any form whatever, for the disbursement of public money, or the performance of any other services, unless the said extra allowance or compensation be authorized by law. \*

APPROVED, *March 3, 1839.*

---

### AN ACT

To repeal the act, entitled "An act to provide for the collection, safekeeping, transfer, and disbursement of the Public Revenue," and to provide for the punishment of embezzlers of Public Money, and for other purposes.

SEC. 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That the act entitled, "An act to provide for the collection, safekeeping, transfer, and disbursement of the public revenue," approved on the fourth day of July, A. D. one thousand eight hundred and forty, be, and the same is hereby, repealed: *Provided, always*, That for any offences which may have been committed against the provisions of the seventeenth section of the said act, the offenders may be prosecuted

Act of 4th July, 1840, repealed.

Proviso; offences already committed against 17th section punishable.

and punished according to those provisions; and that all bonds executed under the provisions of said act, and all civil rights and liabilities which have arisen or accrued under said act, and the remedies therefor, shall remain and continue as if said act had not been repealed; any thing herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

Bonds, &c., not affected by the repeal.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That if any officer charged with the safekeeping, transfer, or disbursement of public moneys, or connected with the Post Office Department, shall convert to his own use, in any way whatever, or shall use, by way of investment in any kind of property or merchandise, or shall loan, with or without interest, any portion of the public moneys entrusted to him for safekeeping, transfer, disbursement, or for any other purpose, every such act shall be deemed and adjudged to be an embezzlement of so much of the said moneys as shall be thus taken, converted, invested, used, or loaned, which is hereby declared to be a felony; and the neglect or refusal to pay over, on demand, any public moneys in his hands, upon the presentation of a draft, order, or warrant drawn upon him, and signed by the Secretary of the Treasury, or to transfer or disburse any such moneys promptly, according to law, on the legal requirement of a superior officer, shall be *prima facie* evidence of such conversion to his own use of so much of the public moneys as may be in his hands. Any officer or agent of the United States, and all persons advising, or knowingly and willingly participating in such embezzlement, upon being convicted thereof before any court of the United States of competent jurisdiction, shall, for every such offence, forfeit and pay to the United States a fine equal to the amount of the money embezzled, and shall suffer imprisonment for a term not less than six months nor more than five years.

Felony for officers charged with safekeeping, transfer, or disbursement of public moneys, or connected with Post Office Department, to use public moneys.

Neglect or refusal to pay over, transfer, or disburse such moneys, *prima facie* evidence of such use.

Punishment for said offence, and for advising, or knowingly or willingly participating therein.

APPROVED, August 13, 1841.

## AN ACT

Making appropriations for the Civil and Diplomatic expenses of Government for the year eighteen hundred and forty-two.

SEC. 1. By part of section 15, of the act of May 18, 1842, it is *Provided*, That the job printing, stationery,

Printing, stationery, and binding, of the Executive Departments, to be furnished by contract.

and binding of each of the Executive Departments shall, until otherwise directed by law, be furnished by contract, proposals for which shall regularly be advertised in the public prints. The classes, character, and description of the printing being specified in each advertisement as far as that can be done, and it being made a condition in all cases, unless otherwise specifically stated in the advertisement, that the work shall be done in the city of Washington; and the contract shall in each case, so far as the proposals and acceptance shall enable the contract to be made, be given to the lowest bidder, whose bid shall be accompanied by proper testimonials of the ability of the bidder to fulfil his contract.

Proviso, requiring Postmasters to make returns of all emoluments received from boxes, &c.

SEC. 2. By part of section 202, of the act of May 18, 1842, it is *Provided*, That in addition to returns now required to be rendered by postmasters, it shall be the duty of postmasters at New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and New Orleans, and the other several cities of the Union, each and every year hereafter, to render a quarter-yearly account to the Postmaster General, under oath, in such form as the latter shall prescribe, for the purpose of giving full effect to this proviso, of all emoluments or sums by them respectively received for boxes, or pigeon-holes, or other receptacles for letters or papers, and by them charged for to individuals; or for the delivery of letters or papers at or from any place in either of said cities, other than the actual post office of such city; and of all emoluments, receipts and profits, that have come to their hands by reason of keeping branch post offices in either of said cities; and if, from such accounting, it shall appear that the net amount received by either of the postmasters at either of such cities, for such boxes, and pigeon-holes, and other receptacles for letters and papers, and for delivering letters or papers at or from any place in either of said cities, other than said post office, and by reason of keeping a branch post office in either of said cities, shall, in the aggregate, exceed the sum of three thousand dollars in any one year, such excess shall be paid to the Postmaster General, for the use and purposes of the Post Office Department; and no postmaster shall, hereafter, under any pretence whatsoever, have, or receive, or retain for himself, in the aggregate, more than five thousand

If the net receipts exceed \$3,000 a year, the excess shall be paid to the Postmaster General, for the use of the Department.

No postmaster to receive more than \$5,000 a year, salary included.



dollars per year, including salary, commissions, boxes, and all other fees, perquisites, and emoluments, of any name or character whatsoever, and for any service whatsoever.\*

APPROVED, *May 18, 1842.*

---

AN ACT

Legalizing and making appropriations for such necessary objects as have been usually included in the general appropriation bills without authority of law, and to fix and provide for certain incidental expenses of the departments and offices of Government, and for other purposes.

SEC. 11. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall be the duty of the Secretaries of State, of the Treasury, War, and Navy, of the Commissioners of the Navy, of the Postmaster General, of the Secretary of the Senate, and of the Clerk of the House of Representatives, to report to Congress, at the beginning of each year, the names of the clerks and other persons that have been employed, respectively, during the preceding year, or any part thereof, in their respective departments and offices, together with the time that each clerk or other person was actually employed, and the sums paid to each; and, also, whether they have been usefully employed; whether the services of any of them can be dispensed with without detriment to the public service; and whether the removal of any individuals, and the appointment of others in their stead, is required for the better despatch of business; and no greater allowance shall be made to any such clerk, or other person, than is or may be authorized by law, except to watchmen and messengers, for any labor or services required of them beyond the particular duties of their respective stations, rendered at such times as does not interfere with the performance of their regular duties.

SEC. 12. *And be it further enacted,* That no allowance or compensation shall be made to any clerk, or other officer, by reason of the discharge of duties which

Report of clerks and other persons employed to be annually made to Congress.

No allowance to be made for extra services.

---

\*For further provisions see act of March 3, 1847, entitled "An act to establish certain post routes, and for other purposes," section 13.

belong to any other clerk or officer in the same or any other department; and no allowance or compensation shall be made for any extra services whatever which any clerk or officer may be required to perform.

Duty of chief clerks to supervise the duties of other clerks, &c.

SEC. 13. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall be the duty of each chief or principal clerk in the respective departments, bureaus, and other offices, to supervise, under the direction of his immediately superior officer, the duties of the other clerks therein, and to see that their duties are faithfully executed, and that such duties are distributed with equality and uniformity, according to the nature of the case. And such distribution shall be revised, from time to time, by the said chief or principal clerk, for the purpose of correcting any tendency to undue accumulation or reduction of duties, whether arising from individual negligence or incapacity, or from increase or diminution of particular kinds of business; and such chief or principal clerk shall report monthly to his superior officer any existing defect that he may be aware of in the arrangement or despatch of business; and such defect shall be amended by new arrangements of duties, dismissal of negligent or incompetent officers, or otherwise.

Manner in which estimates are to be communicated to Congress.

SEC. 14. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall be the duty of the several heads of departments, in communicating estimates of expenditures and appropriations to Congress, and to any of the committees thereof, to specify, as nearly as may be convenient, the sources from which such estimates are derived, and the calculations upon which they are founded; and, in so doing, to discriminate between such estimates as are conjectural in their character, and such as are framed upon actual information and application from disbursing officers; and, in communicating the several estimates, reference shall be given to the laws and treaties by which they are authorized, the dates thereof, and the volume, page, and section in which the necessary provisions are contained.

Employment of extra clerks.

SEC. 15. *And be it further enacted,* That no extra clerk shall be employed in any department, bureau, or office, at the seat of Government, except during the session of Congress, or when indispensably necessary to enable such department, bureau, or office, to answer some call made by either House of Congress at one session, to be answered at another; and not then, except

by order of the head of the department in which, or in some bureau or office of which, such extra clerk shall be employed; and no such extra clerk, for copying, shall receive more than three dollars per day, or for any other service more than four dollars per day, for the time actually and necessarily employed.

SEC. 16. *And be it further enacted,* That no messenger, assistant messenger, laborer, or other person, shall be employed in any department, bureau, or office, at the seat of Government, or paid out of the contingent fund appropriated to such department, bureau, or office, unless such employment shall be authorized by law, or shall become necessary to carry into effect some object for which appropriations may be specifically made; and not exceeding one hundred dollars per annum shall be applied by each department (except the Department of State) for the purchase of newspapers for such department, and all the bureaus and offices connected therewith; and such papers shall be preserved as files for said department.

Employment of messengers, laborers, &c.

Purchase of newspapers.

SEC. 17. *And be it further enacted,* That all stationery, of every name and nature, for the use of the two Houses of Congress, and all stationery and job printing, of every name and nature, for the use of the several departments of the Government, and for the bureaus and offices in those departments at Washington, including all stationery, blanks, wrapping paper, and twine, and mail bags, furnished the post offices and collectors' offices throughout the United States, shall hereafter be furnished and performed by contract, by the lowest bidder, as follows: the Secretary of the Senate, the Clerk of the House of Representatives, the head of each department, and such deputy postmasters in the Post Office establishment, and such collectors in the custom-house establishment, as the Postmaster General and the Secretary of the Treasury shall respectively designate for that purpose, shall respectively advertise, once a week, for at least four weeks, in one or more of the principal papers published in the places where such articles are to be furnished, or such printing done, for sealed proposals for furnishing such articles, or the whole of any particular class of articles, or for doing such printing, or the whole of any specified job thereof, to be done at such place, specifying in such advertisement the amount, quantity,

Stationery and job printing to be furnished and performed by contract.

and description of each kind of articles to be furnished, and, as near as may be, the nature, amount, and kind of printing to be done; and all such proposals shall be kept sealed until the day specified in such advertisement for opening the same, when they shall be opened, by or under the direction of the officer making such advertisement, in the presence of at least two persons; and the person offering to furnish any class of such articles, or to perform any specified portion or job of said work, and giving satisfactory security for the performance thereof, under a forfeiture not exceeding twice the contract price in case of failure, shall receive a contract for doing the same; and in case the lowest bidder shall fail to enter into such contract and give such security within a reasonable time, to be fixed in such advertisement, then the contract shall be given to the next lowest bidder who shall enter into such contract and give such security. And in case of a failure to supply the articles or to perform the work, by the person entering into such contract, he and his sureties shall be liable for the forfeiture specified in such contract, as liquidated damages, to be sued for in the name of the United States, in any court having jurisdiction thereof.

Bids and proposals to be preserved, &c.

SEC. 18. *And be it further enacted,* That all such bids or proposals shall be returned by the person authorized, as aforesaid, to receive the same, to the Executive Department from which such authority is derived, and shall be preserved in said Department, subject to such examination as Congress may at any time order and direct.

Relative to the purchase of books, &c.

SEC. 19. *And be it further enacted,* That no part of the contingent fund appropriated to any department, bureau, or office, shall be applied to the purchase of books, periodicals, pictures, or engravings, or other thing, except such books, periodicals, and maps, or other thing, as the head of such department shall deem necessary and proper to carry on the business of such department, and shall, by written order, direct to be procured for that purpose.

Detailed statement of the manner in which the contingent funds have been expended to be reported to Congress.

SEC. 20. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Senate, at the commencement of every regular session of Congress, to report to the Senate, and of the Clerk of the House of Representatives to report to the House, and of the head

of each department to report to Congress, a detailed statement of the manner in which the contingent fund for each House, and of their respective departments, and for the bureau and offices therein, has been expended, giving the names of every person to whom any portion thereof has been paid; and if for anything furnished, the quantity and price; and if for any services rendered, the nature of such service, and the time employed, and the particular occasion or cause, in brief, that rendered such service necessary; and the amount of all former appropriations in such case on hand, either in the Treasury or in the hands of any disbursing officer or agent. And they shall require of the disbursing officers, acting under their direction or authority, the return of precise and analytical statements and receipts for all the moneys which have been, from time to time, during the next preceding year, expended by them; and the results of such returns, and the sums total shall be communicated annually to Congress, by the said officers, respectively.

APPROVED, August 26, 1842.

## AN ACT

Regulating the currency of foreign coins in the United States.

Part of SEC. 1. *Be it enacted*, That from and after the passage of this act, foreign gold and silver coins shall pass current as money within the United States, and be a legal tender for the payment of all debts and demands, at the several and respective rates following, and not otherwise, viz: The gold coins of Great Britain and Portugal, of their present standard, at the rate of one hundred cents for every twenty-seven grains of the actual weight thereof; the gold coins of France, Spain, and the dominions of Spain, of their present standard, at the rate of one hundred cents for every twenty-seven grains and two-fifths of a grain of the actual weight thereof; Spanish milled dollars, at the rate of one hundred cents for each, the actual weight whereof shall not be less than seventeen pennyweights and seven grains, and in proportion for the parts of a dollar; crowns of France, at the rate of one hundred and ten cents for

After the 10th of April, 1806, foreign gold and silver coins to be a legal tender for the payment of all debts and demands, at the rates specified, &c., &c.

Rates of foreign gold.

Rates of foreign silver coins.

each crown, the actual weight whereof shall not be less than eighteen pennyweights and seventeen grains, and in proportion for the parts of a crown.

APPROVED, *April 10, 1806.*

---

AN ACT

Regulating the value of certain foreign silver coins within the United States.

Certain silver coin to pass by tale.

SEC. 1. *Be it enacted, &c.,* That from and after the passage of this act, the following silver coins shall be of the legal value, and shall pass current as money within the United States, by tale, for the payment of all debts and demands, at the rate of one hundred cents to the dollar; that is to say, the dollar of Mexico, Peru, Chili, and Central America, of not less weight than four hundred and fifteen grains each, and those re-stamped in Brazil, of the like weight, of not less fineness than ten ounces, fifteen pennyweights of pure silver in the Troy pound of twelve ounces of standard silver, and the five franc pieces of France, when of not less fineness than ten ounces and sixteen pennyweights in twelve ounces Troy weight of standard silver, and weighing not less than three hundred and eighty-four grains each, at the rate of ninety three cents each.

APPROVED, *June 25, 1834.*

---

AN ACT

Regulating the value of certain foreign gold coins within the United States.

Standard and weight of coins.

SEC. 1. *Be it enacted, &c.,* That from and after the thirty-first day of July next, the following gold coins shall pass as current within the United States, and be receivable in all payments, by weight, for payment of all debts and demands, at the rates following, that is to say: The gold coins of Great Britain, Portugal and Brazil, of not less than twenty-two carats fine, at the rate of ninety-four cents and eight-tenths of a cent per

pennyweight; the gold coins of France nine-tenths fine, at the rate of ninety-three cents and one tenth of a cent per pennyweight; and the gold coins of Spain, Mexico, and Colombia, of the fineness of twenty carats three grains and seven-sixteenths of a grain, at the rates of eighty-nine cents and nine-tenths of a cent per pennyweight.

APPROVED, *June 28, 1834.*

## AN ACT

Supplementary to the act entitled "An act establishing a Mint and regulating the coins of the United States."

SEC 9. *And be it further enacted,* That of the silver coins, the dollar shall be of the weight of four hundred and twelve and one-half grains; the half-dollar of the weight of two hundred and six and one-fourth grains; the quarter-dollar of the weight of one hundred and one-eighth grains; the dime, or tenth part of a dollar, of the weight of forty-one and a quarter grains; and the half-dime, or twentieth part of a dollar, of the weight of twenty grains and five-eighths of a grain. And that dollars, half dollars, quarter-dollars, dimes, and half-dimes, shall be legal tenders of payment, according to their nominal value, for any sums whatever.

Weight of silver coins.

Silver coins a legal tender.

SEC. 10. *And be it further enacted,* That of the gold coins, the weight of the eagle shall be two hundred and fifty-eight grains; that of the half eagle, one hundred and twenty-nine grains; and of the quarter-eagle, sixty-four and one-half grains; and that for all sums whatever, the eagle shall be a legal tender of payment for ten dollars; the half-eagle for five dollars; and quarter eagle for two and a half dollars

Weight of gold coins.

Gold coins to be a legal tender.

SEC. 11. *And be it further enacted,* That the silver coins heretofore issued at the mint of the United States, and the gold coins issued since the thirty-first day of July, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-four, shall continue to be legal tenders of payment for their nominal values, on the same terms as if they were of the coinage provided for by this act.

Gold and silver coins heretofore issued to be a legal tender.

Weight of copper coins.

SEC. 12. *And be it further enacted*, That of the copper coins, the weight of a cent shall be one hundred and sixty-eight grains, and the weight of the half cent eighty four grains. And the cent shall be considered of the value of one hundredth part of a dollar, and the half-cent of the value of two hundredth parts of a dollar.

APPROVED, *January 18, 1837.*

---

## AN ACT

To provide more effectually for the settlement of accounts between the United States and receivers of public moneys.\*

Where Revenue officers or other persons become insolvent, or when the estate of any deceased debtor is insufficient, &c., the debt due the U. States to be first satisfied.

SEC. 5. That where any revenue officer, or other person, hereafter becoming indebted to the United States, by bond or otherwise, shall become insolvent, or where the estate of any deceased debtor, in the hands of executors or administrators, shall be insufficient to pay all the debts due from the deceased, the debt due to the United States shall be first satisfied; and the priority hereby established shall be deemed to extend, as well as to cases in which a debtor, not having sufficient property to pay all of his debts, shall make a voluntary assignment thereof, or in which the estate and effects of an absconding, concealed, or absent debtor, shall be attached by process of law, as to cases in which an act of legal bankruptcy shall be committed.

APPROVED, *March 3, 1797.*

---

## JOINT RESOLUTION

Authorizing the Postmaster General of the United States to contract with railroad companies in certain cases without advertising for proposals therefor.

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That the Postmaster General be, and he

---

\*See sec. 13, page 33, act of 1836, as to the priority of payment to the United States.



hereby is, authorized to make and enter into contracts with any railroad company for the transmission of the mail, without advertising for bids on such railroads, as now required by law. Authority to contract with any railroad.

APPROVED, *February 20, 1845.*

## AN ACT

To provide for the transportation of the mail between the United States and foreign countries, and for other purposes.

SEC. 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the Postmaster General of the United States be, and he is hereby authorized, under the restrictions and provisions of the existing laws, to contract for the transportation of the United States mail between any of the ports of the United States and a port or ports of any foreign power, whenever, in his opinion, the public interest will thereby be promoted; and it shall be his duty to report to the next ensuing Congress a copy of each of said contracts, with a statement of the amount of postage derived under the same, as far as the returns of the department will enable him to do. And such contracts may be made, if it shall appear to the Postmaster General to be required by the public interest, for any greater period than four years, and not exceeding ten years. Postmaster General to make contracts.

To report the same to Congress.

Time for which they may be made.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That all such contracts shall be made with citizens of the United States, and the mail to be transported in American vessels, by American citizens. Each contract entered into under the provisions of this act, besides the usual stipulations for the right of the Postmaster General to discontinue the same, shall contain the further stipulation that it may, at any time, be terminated by a joint resolution of the two Houses of Congress. Contracts to be made with American citizens and mail to be transported in American vessels.

May be discontinued by joint resolutions of Congress.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That the rates of postage to be charged and collected on all letters, packages, newspapers, and pamphlets, or other printed matter, between the ports of the United States and the ports of foreign governments enumerated herein, transported Rates of postage.

Between the U.  
S. and England  
or France.

in the United States mail under the provisions of this act, shall be as follows: Upon all letters and packages not exceeding one-half ounce in weight, between any of the ports of the United States and the ports of England or France, or any other foreign port not less than three thousand miles distant, twenty-four cents, with the inland postage of the United States added, when sent through the United States mail to or from the post office at a port of the United States; upon letters and packets over one-half an ounce in weight, and not exceeding one ounce, forty-eight cents; and for every additional half ounce or fraction of an ounce, fifteen cents; upon all letters and packets not exceeding one-half ounce, sent through the United States mail between the ports of the United States and any of the West India islands, or islands in the gulf of Mexico, ten cents; and twenty cents upon letters and packets not exceeding one ounce; and five cents for every additional half ounce or fraction of an ounce; upon each newspaper, pamphlet, and price current, sent in the mail between the United States and any of the ports and places above enumerated, three cents, with inland United States postage added when the same is transported to or from said port of the United States in the United States mail.

Between the U.  
S. and the West  
India Islands and  
Gulf of Mexico.

Persons not al-  
lowed to carry  
letters, &c., in  
vessels employ-  
ed to transport  
the mail.

Penalty.

Penalty for  
counterfeiting  
the post office  
stamp.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall not be lawful for any person to carry or transport any letter, packet, newspaper, or printed circular or price current, (except newspapers in use, and not intended for circulation in the country to which such vessel may be bound,) on board the vessels that may hereafter transport the United States mail, as provided for in this act; and for every violation of this provision, a penalty of five hundred dollars is hereby imposed, to be recovered by presentment, by information, or *qui tam* action—one half for the use of the informer and the other half for the use of the Post Office Department.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That if any person or persons shall forge or counterfeit, or shall utter or use knowingly, any counterfeit stamp of the Post Office Department of the United States issued by authority of this act, or by any other act of Congress, within the United States, or the post office stamp of any foreign Government, he shall be adjudged guilty of felony, and, on conviction thereof in any court having ju-

risdiction of the same, shall undergo a confinement at hard labor for any length of time not less than two years, nor more than ten, at the discretion of the court.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted,* That the Postmaster General, or the Secretary of State, be, and he is hereby, authorized to empower the consuls of the United States to pay the foreign postage of such letters, destined for the United States, as may be detained at the ports of foreign countries for the non-payment of postage; which postage shall be by the consul marked as paid by him, and the amount thereof shall be collected in the United States, as other postage, on the delivery of the letters, and repaid to said consul, or credited on his account at the State Department.

Consuls in foreign countries to pay postage on letters for U. S.

To be collected in U. S. and repaid to said consuls.

SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted,* That the Postmaster General shall, in all cases of offers to contract for carrying the mail between any of the ports of the United States and any foreign port or place, give the preference to such bidder for the contract as shall propose to carry the mail in a steam ship or ships, and the said contractor stipulating to deliver said ship or ships to the United States, or to their proper officer, upon demand made, for the purpose of being converted into a vessel or vessels of war; the United States being bound, on their part, to pay to said owner or owners the fair full value of every such ship or vessel at the time of such delivery; said value to be ascertained by four appraisers to be appointed, two by the President of the United States, and two by the owner or owners; and in case of disagreement among said appraisers, the President of the United States to select and appoint an umpire, who shall fix the value.

Preference to be given to steamships in making contracts.

Said steamships to be delivered on demand to U. States.

The owners to receive full value therefor.

Value, how to be ascertained.

SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted,* That the Postmaster General may, if he shall deem it to be for the public interest, make contracts to continue not exceeding ten years, for the transportation of the mail from place to place in the United States in steamboats by sea and on the Gulf of Mexico and on the Mississippi river from the mouth thereof up to the city of New Orleans, on the conditions specified in the last preceding section of this act.

Transportation of the mail in the Gulf of Mexico, in steamers.

APPROVED, *March 3, 1845.*

## AN ACT

To reduce the rates of postage, to limit the use and correct the abuse of the franking privilege, and for the prevention of frauds on the revenues of the Post Office Department.

After 1st July next members of Congress and delegates may, during recess, receive letters not over two ounces in weight free.

Franking privilege granted to Vice President.

Postage on letters.

Parcels.

Drop letters.

Advertised letters.

Postage on newspapers.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That, from and after the first day of July next, members of Congress and delegates from Territories may receive letters, not exceeding two ounces in weight, free of postage, during the recess of Congress, any thing to the contrary in this act notwithstanding; and the same franking privilege which is granted by this act to the members of the two houses of Congress, is hereby extended to the Vice President of the United States; and in lieu of the rates of postage now established by law, there shall be charged the following rates, viz: For every single letter, in manuscript, or paper of any kind, by or upon which information shall be asked for or communicated in writing, or by marks and signs, conveyed in the mail, for any distance under three hundred miles, five cents; and for any distance over three hundred miles, ten cents; and for a double letter there shall be charged double these rates; and for a treble letter, treble these rates; and for a quadruple letter, quadruple these rates; and every letter or parcel not exceeding half an ounce in weight, shall be deemed a single letter; and every additional weight of half an ounce, or additional weight of less than half an ounce, shall be charged with an additional single postage. And all drop letters, or letters placed in any post office, not for transmission by mail, but for delivery only, shall be charged with postage at the rate of two cents each. And all letters which shall hereafter be advertised as remaining over in any post office shall, when delivered out, be charged with the costs of advertising the same in addition to the regular postage, both to be accounted for as other postages now are.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That all newspapers of no greater size or superficies than nineteen hundred square inches, may be transmitted through the mail by the editors or publishers thereof, to all subscribers or other persons within thirty miles of the city,

town, or other place in which the paper is or may be printed, free of any charge for postage whatever; and all newspapers of and under the size aforesaid, which shall be conveyed in the mail any distance beyond thirty miles from the place at which the same may be printed, shall be subject to the rates of postage chargeable upon the same under the thirtieth section of the act of Congress, approved the third of March, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-five, entitled "An act to reduce into one the several acts for establishing and regulating the Post Office Department;" and upon all newspapers of greater size or superficial extent than nineteen hundred square inches, there shall be charged and collected the same rates of postage as are prescribed by this act to be charged on magazines and pamphlets.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That all printed or lithographed circulars and handbills, or advertisements, printed or lithographed, on quarto post or single cap paper, or paper not larger than single cap, folded, directed, and unsealed, shall be charged with postage at the rate of two cents for each sheet, and no more, whatever be the distance the same may be sent; and all pamphlets, magazines, periodicals, and every other kind and description of printed or other matter, (except newspapers,) which shall be unconnected with any manuscript communication whatever, and which it is or may be lawful to transmit by the mail of the United States, shall be charged with postage at the rate of two and a half cents for each copy sent, of no greater weight than one ounce, and one cent additional shall be charged for each additional ounce of the weight of every such pamphlet, magazine, matter, or thing, which may be transmitted through the mail, whatever be the distance the same may be transported; and any fractional excess of not less than one half of an ounce in the weight of any such matter or thing, above one or more ounces, shall be charged for as if said excess amounted to a full ounce.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That the Postmaster General be, and he is hereby authorized, upon all mail routes over or upon which the amount of matter usually transported, or which may be offered or deposited in the post office, or post offices for transportation, is or may become so great as to threaten materially

Postage on printed circulars, handbills, or advertisements.

Pamphlets, magazines, and periodicals.

Letter mail may be separated from the other mail, in certain cases, for expedition.

to retard the progress or endanger the security of the letter mail, or to cause any considerable augmentation of the cost of transporting the whole mail at the present rate of speed, to provide for the separate and more secure conveyance of the letter mail, at a speed at least equal to that at which the mail is now transported over such route, taking care to allow in no case of any greater delay in the transportation of the other matters and things to be transported in the mail on any such route than may appear to be absolutely necessary, regard being had to the cost of expediting its transportation, and the means at his disposal or under his control for effecting the same.

**27th section, act of 3d March, 1825 and other acts granting privilege to receive and send letters free of postage, repealed.**

**Officers of Government having the franking privilege to keep account of postage.**

**Said account to be paid quarterly out of contingent fund.**

**Assistant Postmasters General to have postage on business letters remitted.**

**Same authorized to transmit let-**

**SEC. 5.** *And be it further enacted,* That the twenty-seventh section of the act of Congress entitled "An act to reduce into one the several acts for establishing and regulating the Post Office Department," approved and signed the third day of March, in the year one thousand eight hundred and twenty-five, and all other acts and parts of acts granting and conferring upon any person whatsoever the right or privilege to receive and transmit through the mail, free of postage, letters, packets, newspapers, periodicals, or other matters, be, and the same are hereby, utterly abrogated and repealed.

**SEC. 6.** *And be it further enacted,* That from and after the passage of this act, all officers of the Government of the United States, heretofore having the franking privilege, shall be authorized and required to keep an account of all postage charged to and payable by them, respectively, upon letters, packages, or other matters received through the mail, touching the duties or business of their respective offices; and said accounts for postage, upon being duly verified by said officers respectively, shall be allowed and paid quarter-yearly, out of the contingent fund of the bureau or department to which the officers aforesaid may respectively belong or be attached. And the three Assistant Postmasters General shall be entitled to have remitted by the Postmaster in Washington all postage charged upon letters, packages, or other matter, received by them, respectively, through the mail, touching the business of the Post Office Department, or the particular branch of that business committed to them, respectively; and each of the said Assistant Postmasters General shall be, and hereby is,

authorized to transmit through the mail, free of postage, any letters, packages, or other matters relating exclusively to his official duties, or to the business of the Post Office Department; but he shall, in every such case, endorse on the back of the letter or package so to be sent free of postage, over his own signature, the words "official business." And for any such endorsement falsely made, the person so offending shall forfeit and pay three hundred dollars. And the several deputy postmasters throughout the United States shall be authorized to charge, and have allowed to them in the settlement of their accounts with the Post Office Department, all postage which they may have paid or had charged to them, respectively, for letters, packages, or other matters received by them on the business of their respective offices, or of the Post Office Department, upon a verification on oath of their accounts for the same, and the transmission of the charged letters as vouchers; and the several deputy postmasters shall be, and hereby are, authorized to send through the mail, free of postage, all letters and packages which it may be their duty, or they may have occasion to transmit to any person or place, and which shall relate exclusively to the business of their respective offices, or to the business of the Post Office Department; but in every such case the deputy postmaster sending any such letter or package shall endorse thereon, over his own signature, the words "Post Office business." And for any and every such endorsement falsely made, the person making the same shall forfeit and pay three hundred dollars. And when the commissions of any postmaster amount to less than twenty-five dollars per annum, it shall be lawful for the Postmaster General to increase the rate of his commissions, provided that they do not exceed fifty per cent. on letter postage accruing at such office, and the Postmaster General is hereby required to cause accounts to be kept of the postage that would be chargeable at the rates prescribed in this act upon all matter passing free through the mail according to the provisions of this act; and the sums thus chargeable shall be paid to the Post Office Department from the contingent funds of the two Houses of Congress, and of the other departments of the Government for which such mail service may have

ters on business free.

Letters to be endorsed "official business."

Penalty for false endorsement.

Deputy postmasters to be paid postage on business letters.

Same authorized to transmit business letters free.

Letters to be endorsed "Post Office business."

Penalty for false endorsement.

Commissions to postmasters

Accounts to be kept of postage that would be chargeable on all matter passing free.

Sums charged to be paid.

Act June 30th,  
1834, continued  
in force.

Members of  
Congress, dele-  
gates, Secretary  
of the Senate,  
Clerk of House  
of Representa-  
tives, authorized  
to transmit pub-  
lic documents  
free of postage.

Franking privi-  
lege granted to  
members of Con-  
gress, delegates,  
Secretary Sen-  
ate, and Clerk  
House of Repre-  
sentatives.

Limitation.

Postage charged  
on business let-  
ters, to Senators,  
Members, and  
Delegates, for  
excess of weight,  
to be paid out of  
contingent fund.

Authorized to  
frank their own  
letters all the  
year.

Private expres-  
ses for letters  
forbidden on  
mail routes.

been performed, and where there is no such fund that they be paid out of the Treasury of the United States.

SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted,* That the act of Congress entitled "An act authorizing the Governors of the several States to transmit by mail certain books and documents," approved June the thirtieth, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-four, shall remain and continue in full force, any thing hereinbefore to the contrary notwithstanding; and the members of Congress, the delegates from Territories, the Secretary of the Senate, and the Clerk of the House of Representatives, shall be, and they are hereby, authorized, to transmit, free of postage, to any post office within the United States, or the Territories thereof, any documents which have been or may be printed by order of either House of Congress, any thing in this law to the contrary notwithstanding.

SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted,* That each member of the Senate, each member of the House of Representatives, and each delegate from a Territory of the United States, the Secretary of the Senate, and the Clerk of the House of Representatives, may, during each session of Congress, and for a period of thirty days before the commencement and thirty days after the end of each and every session of Congress, send and receive through the mail, free of postage, any letter, newspaper, or packet, not exceeding two ounces in weight; and all postage charged upon any letters, packages, petitions, memorials, or other matters or things received during any session of Congress by any Senator, member or delegate of the House of Representatives, touching his official or legislative duties, by reason of any excess of weight above two ounces, of the matter or thing so received, shall be paid out of the contingent fund of the House of which the person receiving the same may be a member. And they shall have the right to frank written letters from themselves during the whole year, as now authorized by law.

SEC. 9. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall not be lawful for any person or persons to establish any private express or expresses for the conveyance, nor in any manner to cause to be conveyed, or provide for the conveyance or transportation, by regular trips, or at stated periods or intervals, from one city, town, or other place,



to any other city, town, or place, in the United States, between and from and to which cities, towns, or other places, the United States mail is regularly transported, under the authority of the Post Office Department, of any letters, packets, or packages of letters, or other matter properly transmittable in the United States mail, except newspapers, pamphlets, magazines, and periodicals; and each and every person offending against this provision, or aiding and assisting therein, or acting as such private express, shall, for each time any letter or letters, packet or packages, or other matter properly transmittable by mail, except newspapers, pamphlets, magazines, and periodicals, shall or may be, by him, her, or them, or through his, her, or their means or instrumentality, in whole or in part, conveyed or transported contrary to the true intent, spirit, and meaning of this section, forfeit and pay the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars.

Penalty for offending.

SEC. 10. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall not be lawful for any stage coach, railroad car, steamboat, packet boat, or other vehicle or vessel, nor any of the owners, managers, servants, or crews of either, which regularly perform trips at stated periods on a post route, or between two or more cities, towns, or other places, from one to the other of which the United States mail is regularly conveyed under the authority of the Post Office Department, to transport or convey, otherwise than in the mail, any letter or letters, packet or packages of letters, or other mailable matter whatsoever, except such as may have relation to some part of the cargo of such steamboat, packet boat, or other vessel, or to some article at the same time conveyed by the same stage coach, railroad car, or other vehicle, and excepting also, newspapers, pamphlets, magazines, and periodicals; and for every such offence, the owner or owners of the stage coach, railroad car, steamboat, packet boat, or other vehicle or vessel, shall forfeit and pay the sum of one hundred dollars; and the driver, captain, conductor, or person having charge of any such stage coach, railroad car, steamboat, packet boat, or other vehicle or vessel, at the time of the commission of any such offence, and who shall not at that time be the owner thereof, in whole or in part, shall, in like manner, forfeit and pay, in every such case of offence, the sum of fifty dollars.

Mailable matter not to be conveyed over any regular mail route otherwise than in the mail.

Exceptions.

Penalty.

Penalty for transporting persons engaged in carrying mail matter over any mail route.

Carrying of letters, &c., by private hands, without compensation, not prohibited.

Special messengers.

Penalty for transmitting, by private express, matter forbidden by this act.

Transmission of letters by steamboats under act of 3d March, 1825, not prohibited.

SEC. 11. *And be it further enacted,* That the owner or owners of every stage coach, railroad car, steamboat, or other vehicle or vessel, which shall, with the knowledge of any owner or owners, in whole or in part, or with the knowledge or connivance of the driver, conductor, captain, or other person having charge of any such stage coach, railroad car, steamboat, or other vessel or vehicle, convey or transport any person or persons acting or employed as a private express for the conveyance of letters, packets, or packages of letters, or other mailable matter, and actually in possession of such mailable matter, for the purpose of transportation, contrary to the spirit, true intent, and meaning of the preceding sections of this law, shall be subject to the like fines and penalties as are hereinbefore provided and directed in the case of persons acting as such private expresses, and of persons employing the same; but nothing in this act contained shall be construed to prohibit the conveyance or transmission of letters, packets, or packages, or other matter, to any part of the United States, by private hands, no compensation being tendered or received therefor in any way, or by a special messenger employed only for the single particular occasion.

SEC. 12. *And be it further enacted,* That all persons whatsoever who shall, after the passage of this act, transmit by any private express, or other means by this act declared to be unlawful, any letter or letters, package or packages, or other mailable matter, excepting newspapers, pamphlets, magazines, and periodicals, or who shall place or cause to be deposited at any appointed place, for the purpose of being transported by such unlawful means, any matter or thing properly transmittable by mail, excepting newspapers, pamphlets, magazines, and periodicals, or who shall deliver any such matter, excepting newspapers, pamphlets, magazines, and periodicals, for transmission to any agent or agents of such unlawful expresses, shall, for each and every offence, forfeit and pay the sum of fifty dollars.

SEC. 13. *And be it further enacted,* That nothing in this act contained shall have the effect, or be construed to prohibit the conveyance or transportation of letters by steamboats, as authorized by the sixth section of the act entitled "An act to reduce into one the several acts for establishing and regulating the Post Office

Department, approved the third of March, one thousand eight hundred and twenty five ;” *Provided*, That the requirements of said sixth section of said act be strictly complied with, by the delivery, within the time specified by said act, of all letters so conveyed, not relating to the cargo, or some part thereof, to the postmaster or other authorized agent of the Post Office Department at the port or place to which said letters may be directed, or intended to be delivered over from said boat ; and the postmaster or other agent of the Post Office Department shall charge and collect upon all letters or other mailable matter, so delivered to him, except newspapers, pamphlets, magazines, and periodicals, the same rates of postage as would have been charged upon said letters had they been transmitted by mail from the port or place at which they were placed on board the steamboat from which they were received ; but it is hereby expressly provided, that all the pains and penalties provided by this act, for any violation of the provisions of the eleventh section of this act, shall attach in every case to any steamboat, or to the owners and persons having charge thereof, the captain or other person having charge of which shall not, as aforesaid, comply with the requirements of the sixth section of the said law of one thousand eight hundred and twenty-five. And no postmaster shall receive, to be conveyed by the mail, any packet which shall weigh more than three pounds.

SEC. 14. *And be it further enacted*, That the Postmaster General shall have power, and he is hereby authorized, to contract with the owners or commanders of any steamboat plying upon the Western or other waters of the United States, for the transportation of the mail for any length of time or number of trips, less than the time for which contracts for transporting the mail of the United States are now usually made under existing laws, and without the previous advertisements now required before entering into such contracts, whenever in his opinion the public interest and convenience will be promoted thereby : *Provided*, That the price to be paid for such service shall in no case be greater than the average rate paid for such service under the last preceding or then existing regular contract for transporting the mail upon the route he may so for a less time contract for the transportation of the mail upon.

**Proviso : requirements of 6th section, of act of 3d March, 1825, to be complied with.**

**Penalties provided in this act to attach to captains or owners of steamboats who do not comply with requirements of 6th section, act 1825.**

**No packet weighing over 3 pounds to be sent by mail.**

**Postmaster General authorized to contract with owners of steamboats for conveying the mail, without previous advertisement.**

**Proviso : price limited.**

What constitutes  
"mailable mat-  
ter."

SEC. 15. *And be it further enacted,* That "mailable matter," and "matter properly transmittable by mail," shall be deemed and taken to mean all letters and newspapers, and all magazines and pamphlets periodical-ly published, or which may be published in regular series or in successive numbers, under the same title, though at irregular intervals, and all other written or printed matter whereof each copy or number shall not exceed eight ounces in weight, except bank notes, sent in packages or bundles, without written letters accompanying them; but bound books, of any size, shall not be held to be included within the meaning of these terms. And any packet or packets, of whatever size or weight, being made up of any such mailable matter, shall subject all persons concerned in transporting the same to all the penalties of this law, equally as if it or they were not so made up into a packet or packages. But nothing in this act contained shall be so construed as to prohibit any person whatever from transporting, or causing to be transported, over any mail route, on any road or way parallel thereto, any books, magazines, or pamphlets, or newspapers, not marked, directed, or intended for immediate distribution to subscribers or others, but intended for sale as merchandise, and transported in the usual mode of transporting merchandise over the particular route used, and sent or consigned to some bona fide dealer or agent for the sale thereof; nor shall any thing herein be construed to interfere with the right of any traveller to have and take with him or her, for his or her own use, any book, pamphlet, magazine or newspaper.

Transportation  
of books, maga-  
zines, pamphlets,  
or newspapers,  
intended for sale  
as merchandise,  
not prohibited.

Travellers may  
carry books, pa-  
pers, &c., for  
their own use.

! What is under-  
stood by "news-  
per."

SEC. 16. *And be it further enacted,* That the term "newspaper," hereinbefore used, shall be, and the same is hereby defined to be, any printed publication, issued in numbers, consisting of not more than two sheets, and published at short stated intervals of not more than one month, conveying intelligence of passing events, and bona fide extras and supplements of any such publication. And nothing herein contained shall be so construed as to prevent the free exchange of newspapers between the publishers thereof, as provided for under the twenty-ninth section of the act entitled "An act to reduce into one the several acts for establishing and regulating the Post Office Department, approved the third day of March, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-five."

Free exchange of  
newspapers be-  
tween publishers  
not prohibited.

**SEC. 17.** *And be it further enacted,* That all pecuniary penalties and forfeitures, incurred under this act, shall be one half for the use of the person or persons informing and prosecuting for the same, and the other half to the use of the United States, and shall be paid over to the Postmaster General, and accounted for by him as other moneys of the department; and all causes of action arising under this act, may be sued, and all offenders against this act may be prosecuted, before the justices of the peace, magistrates, or other judicial courts of the several States and of the several Territories of the United States, they having competent jurisdiction, by the laws of such States or Territories, to the trial of claims and demands of as great value, and of the prosecutions, where the punishments are of as great extent; and such justices, magistrates, or judiciary, shall take cognizance thereof, and proceed to judgment and execution, as in other cases.

Penalties and forfeitures under this act, one-half to go to informer, and one-half to U. S.

Prosecution of offenders.

**SEC. 18.** *And be it further enacted,* That it shall be the duty of the Postmaster General in all future lettings of contracts for the transportation of the mail, to let the same, in every case, to the lowest bidder, tendering sufficient guaranties for faithful performance, without other reference to the mode of such transportation than may be necessary to provide for the due celerity, certainty, and security of such transportation; nor shall any new contractor hereafter be required to purchase out, or take at a valuation, the stock or vehicles of any previous contractor for the same route. And all advertisements made under the orders of the Postmaster General, in a newspaper or newspapers, of letters uncalled for in any post office, shall be inserted in the paper or papers, of the town or place where the office advertising may be situated, having the largest circulation, provided the editor or editors of such paper or papers shall agree to insert the same for a price not greater than that now fixed by law; and in case of question or dispute as to the amount of the circulation of any papers, the editors of which may desire this advertising, it shall be the duty of the postmaster to receive evidence and decide upon the fact.

Contracts for transporting the mail to be let to the lowest responsible bidder.

Contractor not required to buy out their predecessors.

Letters to be advertised in two newspapers, of largest circulation, in place where the office is situated.

**SEC. 19.** *And be it further enacted,* That to insure, as far as may be practicable, an equal and just rate of compensation, according to the service performed, among the several railroad companies in the United

Transportation of the mail by railroads.

States, for the transportation of the mail, it shall be the duty of the Postmaster General to arrange and divide the railroad routes, including those in which the service is partly by railroad and partly by steamboats, into three classes according to the size of the mails, the speed with which they are conveyed, and the importance of the service; and it shall be lawful for him to contract for conveying the mail with any such railroad company, either with or without advertising for such contract:

**Proviso: compensation limited.**

*Provided*, That, for the conveyance of the mail on any railroad of the first class, he shall not pay a higher rate of compensation than is now allowed by law; nor for carrying the mail on any railroad of the second class, a greater compensation than one hundred dollars per mile per annum; nor for carrying the mail on any railroad of the third class, a greater compensation than fifty dollars per mile per annum. And in case the Postmaster General shall not be able to conclude a contract for carrying the mail on any of such railroad routes, at a compensation not exceeding the aforesaid maximum rates, or for what he may deem a reasonable and fair compensation for the service to be performed, it shall be lawful for him to separate the letter mail from the residue of the mail, and to contract, either with or without advertising, for conveying the letter mail over such route, by horse express or otherwise, at the greatest speed that can reasonably be obtained, and also to contract for carrying over such route the residue of the mail, in wagons or otherwise, at a slower rate of speed:

**In case a contract cannot be made with a railroad, how the mail may be transmitted.**

**Proviso: additional allowance when sent by night or twice a day.**

*Provided*, That if one-half of the service, on any railroad, is required to be performed in the night season, it shall be lawful for the Postmaster General to pay twenty-five per cent. in addition to the aforesaid maximum rates of allowance: *And provided further*, That if it shall be found necessary to convey over any railroad route more than two mails daily, it shall be lawful for the Postmaster General to pay such additional compensation as he may think just and reasonable, having reference to the service performed and the maximum rate of allowance established by this act.

**Courts for trial of offenders against this act.**

**SEC. 20.** *And be it further enacted*, That all causes of action arising under this act may be sued, and all offenders against this act may be prosecuted, before any circuit or district court of the United States, or the Dis-

trict of Columbia, or of the Territories of the United States.

SEC. 21. *And be it further enacted*, That for the purpose of guarding against the possibility of any embarrassment in the operations of the Post Office Department consequent upon any deficiency of the revenues of said department which may be occasioned by the reduction of the rates of postage by this act made, there be, and hereby is, appropriated the sum of seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars, to be paid out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, and to be placed to the credit of the Post Office Department in the Treasury of the United States, to be applied, under the direction of the Postmaster General, to supplying any deficiency in the regular revenues from postage, in the same manner as the revenues of said department are now by law applied.

\$750,000 appropriated to guard against a deficiency in the revenues of Post Office Department.

SEC. 22. *And be it further enacted*, That in case the amount of postages collected from the rates of postage prescribed by this act, with the annual appropriation from the Treasury of seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars herein granted, shall prove insufficient to defray the expense of the mail service throughout the United States to an extent equal to what is now enjoyed by the public, and also the expense of extending and enlarging the same in due proportion with the increase and expansion of the population, particularly in the new States and Territories, the deficiency that may so arise shall be paid out of any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated: *Provided*, That the amount of expenditure for the Post Office Department shall not in the entire aggregate, exclusive of salaries of officers, clerks, and messengers, of the General Post Office, and the contingent fund of the same, exceed the annual amount of four million five hundred thousand dollars.

Additional appropriation for deficiencies in revenues of the Post Office.

Proviso.

SEC. 23. *And be it further enacted*, That nothing in this act contained shall be construed to repeal the laws heretofore enacted, granting the franking privilege to the President of the United States when in office, and to all ex-Presidents, and to the widows of the former Presidents Madison and Harrison.

Franking privilege continued to President, ex-Presidents, Mrs. Madison, and Mrs. Harrison.

APPROVED, *March 3d*, 1845.

## AN ACT

Establishing certain post routes, and for other purposes.

Postmaster General may continue present mail service in Texas.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the Postmaster General be, and he is hereby, authorized to continue in operation such portions of the present mail service in Texas, established under its former laws, upon any of the foregoing routes, as he may deem expedient—not, however, for a longer period than the thirtieth June, eighteen hundred and fifty; and to make contracts for the appropriate mail service on any of the foregoing routes, either without advertisement, where the same can be effected at rates of compensation not exceeding the average prices for like service in the other States of this Union, or upon advertisements for a less period than twelve weeks, as he shall deem best for the public interests.

Postmaster General may pay mail contractors in Texas for service performed.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That the Postmaster General be, and he is hereby, authorized to pay mail contractors in Texas for service duly performed by them since the sixteenth day of February, eighteen hundred and forty-six, and also officers employed in superintending the mail service: *Provided, however,* That such payment shall in no case exceed the compensation agreed upon with the late authorities of Texas: *Provided, also,* That the several postmasters in Texas, appointed by the late Government of Texas, shall duly account to and pay over to the Postmaster General of the United States all balances accruing at their offices, respectively, from and after said sixteenth of February, eighteen hundred and forty-six; that is, all money collected, or to be collected, for postages at their offices, respectively, after deducting the commissions allowed by the law to postmasters in the United States. And it is hereby enacted and declared to be the duty of said persons and postmasters as aforesaid, in Texas, to account for and pay over to said Postmaster General of the United States all said balances, in the manner and to the extent required by the laws of the United States of the several postmasters of the United States; and the like remedies and means of collecting, and enforcing collection, by suit or otherwise, of said balances, are hereby granted, as now exist by law against the post-

Proviso.

Postmasters in Texas to account for and pay over to the Postmaster General all balances, &c.



masters of the United States. The same rates of postage are to be charged and collected in Texas as in other States of this Union ; and all laws concerning the Post Office Department, and regulations thereof, are hereby declared to have full effect and operation in said State from and after said sixteenth of February aforesaid.

Rates to be the same as in other States.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That the act establishing certain post routes in Texas, approved the sixth of February, anno Domini eighteen hundred and forty-six, be, and the same is hereby repealed.

Repeal of act of Feb. 6, 1846, establishing post routes in Texas.

APPROVED, *May 29*, 1846.

## AN ACT

To provide for the better organization of the Treasury, and for the collection, safe-keeping, transfer, and disbursement of the public revenue.

Whereas, by the fourth section of the act entitled "An act to establish the Treasury Department," approved September two, seventeen hundred and eighty-nine, it was provided that it should be the duty of the Treasurer to receive and keep the moneys of the United States, and to disburse the same upon warrants drawn by the Secretary of the Treasury, countersigned by the Comptroller, and recorded by the Register, and not otherwise : and whereas it is found necessary to make further provisions to enable the Treasurer the better to carry into effect the intent of the said section in relation to the receiving and disbursing the moneys of the United States : Therefore—

Preamble.

[SEC. 1.] *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That the rooms prepared and provided in the new Treasury building at the seat of Government for the use of the Treasurer of the United States, his assistants, and clerks, and occupied by them, and also the fire-proof vaults and safes erected in said rooms for the keeping of the public moneys in the possession and under the immediate control of said Treasurer, and such other apartments as are provided for in this act as places of deposite of the public money, are

The Treasury of the U. S. designated.

Moneys paid into same subject to the draft of the Treasurer.

hereby constituted and declared to be, the Treasury of the United States. And all moneys paid into the same shall be subject to the draft of the Treasurer, drawn agreeably to appropriations made by law.

U. S. Mint at Philadelphia and Branch Mint at New Orleans made places of deposite.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the mint of the United States, in the city of Philadelphia, in the State of Pennsylvania, and the branch mint in the city of New Orleans, in the State of Louisiana, and the vaults and safes thereof, respectively, shall be places of deposite and safe keeping of the public moneys at those points, respectively; and the treasurer of the said mint and branch mint, respectively, for the time being, shall be assistant treasurers under the provisions of this act, and shall have the custody and care of all public moneys deposited within the same, and shall perform all the duties required to be performed by them, in reference to the receipt, safe-keeping, transfer, and disbursements of all such moneys, according to the provisions hereinafter contained.

Treasurers of the mint and branch mint to be assistant treasurers, their powers & duties.

Places of deposite and assistant Treasurers for New York and Boston, their powers and duties.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That the rooms which were directed to be prepared and provided within the custom-houses in the city of New York, in the State of New York, and in the city of Boston, in the State of Massachusetts, for the use of receivers general of public moneys, under the provisions of the act entitled "An act to provide for the collection, safe-keeping, transfer, and disbursement of the public revenue," approved July fourth, eighteen hundred and forty, shall be for the use of the assistant treasurers hereinafter directed to be appointed at those places respectively; as shall be also the fire-proof vaults and safes prepared and provided within said rooms for the keeping of the public moneys collected and deposited with them respectively; and the assistant treasurers, from time to time appointed at those points, shall have the custody and care of the said rooms, vaults, and safes, respectively, and of all the public moneys deposited within the same, and shall perform all the duties required to be performed by them, in reference to the receipt, safe-keeping, transfer, and disbursement of all such moneys, according to the provisions of this act.

Places of deposite and assistant Treasurers at Charleston

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That the offices, with suitable and convenient rooms, which were directed to be erected, prepared, and provided for the use of

receivers general of public money, at the expense of the United States, at the city of Charleston, in the State of South Carolina, and at the city of St. Louis, in the State of Missouri, under the act entitled "An act to provide for the collection, safe keeping, transfer, and disbursement of the public revenue," approved July fourth, eighteen hundred and forty, shall be for the use of the assistant treasurer hereinafter directed to be appointed at the places above-named; as shall be also the fire proof vaults and safes erected within said offices and rooms for the keeping of the public money collected and deposited at those points respectively; and the said assistant treasurers, from time to time appointed at those places, shall have the custody and care of the said offices, vaults, and safes, erected, prepared, and provided as aforesaid, and of all the public moneys deposited within the same, and shall perform all the duties required to be performed by them, in reference to the receipt, safe-keeping, transfer, and disbursement of all such moneys, according to the provisions hereinafter contained.

and St. Louis, their powers and duties.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That the President shall nominate, and by and with the advice and consent of the Senate appoint, four officers, to be denominated "assistant treasurers of the United States," which said officers shall hold their respective offices for the term of four years, unless sooner removed therefrom; one of which shall be located at the city of New York, in the State of New York; one other of which shall be located at the city of Boston, in the State of Massachusetts; one other of which shall be located at the city of Charleston, in the State of South Carolina; and one other at St. Louis, in the State of Missouri. And all of which said officers shall give bonds to the United States, with sureties, according to the provisions hereinafter contained, for the faithful discharge of the duties of their respective offices.

Four assistant treasurers to be appointed, who shall hold their offices for four years.

Location of assistant treasurers

Shall give bonds

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted,* That the Treasurer of the United States, the treasurer of the mint of the United States, the treasurers, and those acting as such, of the various branch mints, all collectors of the customs, all surveyors of the customs acting also as collectors, all assistant treasurers, all receivers of public moneys at the several land offices, all postmasters, and

The treasurer, assistant treasurers, and other officers having the custody of public moneys required to keep the same safely, &c. and faithfully & promptly

ly to make such payments and transfers as are required to be made, &c.

all public officers of whatsoever character, be, and they are hereby required to keep safely, without loaning, using, depositing in banks, or exchanging for other funds than as allowed by this act, all the public money collected by them, or otherwise at any time placed in their possession and custody, till the same is ordered, by the proper Department or officer of the Government, to be transferred or paid out; and, when such orders for transfer or payment are received, faithfully and promptly to make the same as directed, and to do and perform all other duties as fiscal agents of the Government which may be imposed by this or any other acts of Congress, or by any regulation of the Treasury Department made in conformity to law; and also to do and perform all acts and duties required by law, or by direction of any of the Executive Departments of the Government, as agents for paying pensions, or for making any other disbursements which either of the heads of those Departments may be required by law to make, and which are of a character to be made by the depositaries hereby constituted, consistently with the other official duties imposed upon them.

Treasurer of U. S., treasurers of the mint and branch mint, and assistant treasurers to give bond.

SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted,* That the Treasurer of the United States, the treasurer of the mint of the United States, the treasurer of the branch mint at New Orleans, and all the assistant treasurers hereinbefore directed to be appointed, shall respectively give bonds to the United States faithfully to discharge the duties of their respective offices according to law, and for such amounts as shall be directed by the Secretary of the Treasury, with sureties to the satisfaction of the Solicitor of the Treasury; and shall, from time to time renew, strengthen, and increase their official bonds as the Secretary of the Treasury may direct, any law in reference to any of the official bonds of any of the said officers to the contrary notwithstanding.

Secretary of Treasury to require the several other depositaries to give bonds, &c.

SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury, at as early a day as possible after the passage of this act, to require from the several depositaries hereby constituted, and whose official bonds are not hereinbefore provided for, to execute bonds, new and suitable in their terms, to meet the new and increased duties imposed upon them respectively by this act, and with sureties and in sums

such as shall seem reasonable and safe to the Solicitor of the Treasury; and from time to time to require such bonds to be renewed and increased in amount, and strengthened by new sureties, to meet any increasing responsibility which may grow out of accumulations of money in the hands of the depositary, or out of any other duty or responsibility arising under this or any other law of Congress.

Such bonds may be renewed, strengthened, and increased.

SEC. 9. *And be it further enacted,* That all collectors and receivers of public money, of every character and description, within the District of Columbia, shall, as frequently as they may be directed by the Secretary of the Treasury, or the Postmaster General, so to do, pay over to the Treasurer of the United States, at the Treasury, all public moneys collected by them, or in their hands; that all such collectors and receivers of public moneys within the cities of Philadelphia and New Orleans shall, upon the same direction, pay over to the treasurers of the mints in their respective cities, at the said mints, all public moneys collected by them, or in their hands; and that all such collectors and receivers of public moneys within the cities of New York, Boston, Charleston, and St. Louis, shall, upon the same direction, pay over to the assistant treasurers, in their respective cities, at their offices, respectively, all the public moneys collected by them, or in their hands, to be safely kept by the said respective depositaries until otherwise disposed of according to law; and it shall be the duty of the said Secretary and Postmaster General respectively to direct such payments by the said collectors and receivers at all the said places, at least as often as once in each week, and as much more frequently, in all cases, as they in their discretion may think proper.

Collectors and receivers of the public money to pay over the same, and to whom.

SEC. 10. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall be lawful for the Secretary of the Treasury to transfer the moneys in the hands of any depositary hereby constituted to the Treasury of the United States, to be there safely kept, to the credit of the Treasurer of the United States, according to the provisions of this act; and also to transfer moneys in the hands of any one depositary constituted by this act to any other depositary constituted by the same, at his discretion, and as the safety of the public moneys, and the convenience of the public service shall seem to him to require; which authority

Secretary of the Treasury & Postmaster General to direct such payments.

Secretary of Treasury may make transfers of the public moneys.

The Postmaster General authorized to make transfers of moneys belonging to the Post Office Department.

Depositaries to keep separate and distinct accounts of the moneys of the Post Office Department.

The Treasurer may draw on any depositary.

Depositaries to make returns to the Treasury & Post Office Department.

Examinations to be made of the books, &c. of the depositaries.

Additional examinations to be made—how.

to transfer the moneys belonging to the Post Office Department is also hereby conferred upon the Postmaster General, so far as its exercise by him may be consistent with the provisions of existing laws; and every depositary constituted by this act shall keep his account of the money paid to or deposited with him, belonging to the Post Office Department, separate and distinct from the account kept by him of other public moneys so paid or deposited. And for the purpose of payments on the public account, it shall be lawful for the Treasurer of the United States to draw upon any of the said depositaries, as he may think most conducive to the public interest, or to the convenience of the public creditors, or both. And each depositary so drawn upon shall make returns to the Treasury and Post Office Departments of all moneys received and paid by him, at such times and in such form as shall be directed by the Secretary of the Treasury or the Postmaster General.

SEC. 11. *And be it further enacted,* That the Secretary of the Treasury shall be, and he is hereby, authorized to cause examinations to be made of the books, accounts, and money on hand of the several depositaries constituted by this act; and for that purpose to appoint special agents, as occasion may require, with such compensation, not exceeding six dollars per day and traveling expenses, as he may think reasonable, to be fixed and declared at the time of each appointment. The agents selected to make these examinations shall be instructed to examine as well the books, accounts, and returns of the officer, as the money on hand, and the manner of its being kept, to the end that uniformity and accuracy in the accounts, as well as safety to the public moneys, may be secured thereby.

SEC. 12. *And be it further enacted,* That, in addition to the examinations provided for in the last preceding section, and as a further guard over the public moneys, it shall be the duty of each naval officer and surveyor, as a check upon the assistant treasurers, or the collector of the customs, of their respective districts; of each register of a land office, as a check upon the receiver of his land office; and of the director and superintendent of each mint and branch mint, when separate officers, as a check upon the treasurers, respectively, of the said mints, or the persons acting as such, at the close of

each quarter of the year, and as much more frequently as they shall be directed by the Secretary of the Treasury to do so, to examine the books, accounts, returns, and money on hand, of the assistant treasurers, collectors, receivers of land offices, treasurers of the mint, and each branch mint, and persons acting as such, and to make a full, accurate, and faithful return to the Treasury Department of their condition.

SEC. 13. *And be it further enacted*, That the said officers, respectively, whose duty it is made by this act to receive, keep, and disburse the public moneys, as the fiscal agents of the Government, may be allowed any necessary additional expenses for clerks, fire-proof chests, or vaults, or other necessary expenses of safe keeping, transferring, and disbursing said moneys; all such expenses of every character to be first expressly authorized by the Secretary of the Treasury, whose directions upon all the above subjects, by way of regulation and otherwise, so far as authorized by law, are to be strictly followed by all the said officers: *Provided*, That the whole number of clerks to be appointed by virtue of this section of this act shall not exceed ten; and that the aggregate compensations of the whole number shall not exceed eight thousand dollars; nor shall the compensation of any one clerk so appointed exceed eight hundred dollars per annum.

Necessary expenses for clerks, chests, &c. allowed.

All such expenses to be first authorized by the Secretary of the Treasury.

Proviso.

SEC. 14. *And be it further enacted*, That the Secretary of the Treasury may, at his discretion, transfer the balances remaining with any of the present depositaries to any other of the present depositaries, as he may deem the safety of the public money or the public convenience may require: *Provided*, That nothing in this act shall be so construed as to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to transfer the balances remaining with any of the present depositaries to the depositaries constituted by this act before the first day of January next: *And provided*, That, for the purpose of payments on public account, out of balances remaining with the present depositaries, it shall be lawful for the Treasurer of the United States to draw upon any of the said depositaries as he may think most conducive to the public interests, or to the convenience of the public creditors, or both.

Secretary of Treasury may transfer balances remaining with present depositaries.

Proviso.

SEC. 15. *And be it further enacted*, That all marshals, district attorneys, and others having public money

Payments of public money to the U. S. and

payments for patents—to whom to be made.

to pay to the United States, and all patentees wishing to make payment for patents to be issued, may pay all such moneys to the Treasurer of the United States, to the treasurer of either of the mints in Philadelphia or New Orleans, to either of the other assistant treasurers, or to such other depositary constituted by this act as shall be designated by the Secretary of the Treasury in other parts of the United States to receive such payments, and give receipts or certificates of deposit therefor.

Entries required to be made of the public moneys other than those of the Post Office Department.

SEC. 16. *And be it further enacted*, That all officers and other persons, charged by this act, or any other act, with the safe-keeping, transfer, and disbursement of the public moneys, other than those connected with the Post Office Department, are hereby required to keep an accurate entry of each sum received, and of each payment or transfer; and that if any one of the said officers, or of those connected with the Post Office Department, shall convert to his own use, in any way whatever, or shall use, by way of investment in any kind of property or merchandise, or shall loan, with or without interest, or shall deposit in any bank, or shall exchange for other funds, except as allowed by this act, any portion of the public moneys intrusted to him for safe-keeping, disbursement, transfer, or for any other purpose, every such act shall be deemed and adjudged to be an embezzlement of so much of the said moneys as shall be thus taken, converted, invested, used, loaned, deposited, or exchanged, which is hereby declared to be a felony; and any failure to pay over or to produce the public moneys intrusted to such person shall be held and taken to be *prima facie* evidence of such embezzlement; and if any officer charged with the disbursements of public moneys shall accept or receive, or transmit to the Treasury Department to be allowed in his favor, any receipt or voucher from a creditor of the United States, without having paid to such creditor, in such funds as the said officer may have received for disbursement, or such other funds as he may be authorized by this act to take in exchange, the full amount specified in such receipt or voucher, every such act shall be deemed to be a conversion by such officer to his own use of the amount specified in such receipt or voucher; and any officer or agent of the United States, and all persons advising or partici-

Felony to use, loan, or deposit in a bank, &c. money entrusted to him; punishment.



pating in such act, being convicted thereof before any court of the United States of competent jurisdiction, shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a term of not less than six months nor more than ten years, and to a fine equal to the amount of the money embezzled. And, upon the trial of any indictment against any person for embezzling public money under the provisions of this act, it shall be sufficient evidence, for the purpose of showing a balance against such person, to produce a transcript from the books and proceedings of the Treasury, as required in civil cases, under the provisions of the act entitled "An act to provide more effectually for the settlement of accounts between the United States and receivers of public money," approved March third, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-seven; and the provisions of this act shall be so construed as to apply to all persons charged with the safe keeping, transfer, or disbursement of the public money, whether such persons be indicted as receivers or depositaries of the same; and the refusal of such person, whether in or out of office, to pay any draft, order, or warrant which may be drawn upon him by the proper officer of the Treasury Department, for any public money in his hands belonging to the United States, no matter in what capacity the same may have been received or may be held, or to transfer or disburse any such money promptly, upon the legal requirement of any authorized officer of the United States, shall be deemed and taken, upon the trial of any indictment against such person for embezzlement, as *prima facie* evidence of such embezzlement.

SEC. 17. *And be it further enacted,* That, until the rooms, offices, vaults, and safes, directed by the first four sections of this act to be constructed and prepared for the use of the Treasurer of the United States, the treasurers of the mints at Philadelphia and New Orleans, and the assistant treasurers at New York, Boston, Charleston, and St. Louis, can be constructed and prepared for use, it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury to procure suitable rooms for offices for those officers at their respective locations, and to contract for such use of vaults and safes as may be required for the safe keeping of the public moneys in the charge and custody of those officers respectively, the expense to be paid by the United States.

Evidence sufficient to show a balance on a charge of embezzlement.

Until the rooms, &c. directed to be prepared by the first four sections of this act can be constructed, others to be procured.

And whereas, by the thirtieth section of the act entitled "An act to regulate the collection of duties imposed by law on the tonnage of ships or vessels, and on goods, wares, and merchandise imported into the United States," approved July thirty-one, seventeen hundred and eighty-nine, it was provided that all fees and dues collected by virtue of that act should be received in gold and silver coin only; and whereas, also, by the fifth section of the act approved May ten, eighteen hundred, entitled "An act to amend the act entitled 'An act providing for the sale of the lands of the United States in the territory northwest of the Ohio, and above the mouth of the Kentucky river,'" it was provided that the payment for the said lands shall be made by all purchasers in specie, or in evidences of the public debt; and whereas, experience has proved that said provisions ought to be revived and enforced, according to the true and wise intent of the Constitution of the United States—

From and after Jan. 1, 1847, the duties, taxes, &c. accruing to the U. S. shall be paid in gold and silver coin, or in treasury notes.

Proviso.

SEC. 18. *Be it further enacted*, That on the first day of January, in the year one thousand eight hundred and forty-seven, and thereafter, all duties, taxes, sales of public lands, debts, and sums of money accruing or becoming due to the United States, and also all sums due for postages or otherwise, to the General Post Office Department, shall be paid in gold and silver coin only, or in Treasury notes issued under the authority of the United States: *Provided*, That the Secretary of the Treasury shall publish, monthly, in two newspapers at the city of Washington, the amount of specie at the several places of deposite, the amount of Treasury notes or drafts issued, and the amount outstanding on the last day of each month.

From and after April 1, 1847, all disbursing officers and agents shall make payments in gold and silver coin; or in treasury notes if the creditor agrees to receive them.

Violations of this and the preceding section to be reported to the President.

SEC. 19. *And be it further enacted*, That on the first day of April, one thousand eight hundred and forty-seven, and thereafter, every officer or agent engaged in making disbursements on account of the United States, or of the General Post Office, shall make all payments in gold and silver coin, or in Treasury notes, if the creditor agree to receive said notes in payment; and any receiving or disbursing officer or agent who shall neglect, evade, or violate the provisions of this and the last preceding section of this act, shall, by the Secretary of the Treasury, be immediately reported to the Pre-

sident of the United States, with the facts of such neglect, evasion, or violation; and also to Congress, if in session; and if not in session, at the commencement of its session next after the violation takes place.

SEC. 20. *And be it further enacted,* That no exchange of funds shall be made by any disbursing officers or agents of the Government, of any grade or denomination whatsoever, or connected with any branch of the public service, other than on exchange for gold and silver; and every such disbursing officer, when the means for his disbursements are furnished to him in gold and silver, shall make his payments in the money so furnished; or when those means are furnished to him in drafts, shall cause those drafts to be presented at their place of payment, and properly paid according to the law, and shall make his payments in the money so received for the drafts furnished, unless, in either case, he can exchange the means in his hands for gold and silver at par. And it shall be and is hereby made the duty of the head of the proper department immediately to suspend from duty any disbursing officer who shall violate the provisions of this section, and forthwith to report the name of the officer or agent to the President, with the fact of the violation, and all the circumstances accompanying the same, and within the knowledge of the said Secretary, to the end that such officer or agent may be promptly removed from office, or restored to his trust and the performance of his duties, as to the President may seem just and proper: *Provided, however,* That those disbursing officers, having at present credits in the banks, shall, until the first day of January next, be allowed to check on the same, allowing the public creditors to receive their pay from the banks either in specie or bank notes.

No exchange of funds to be made except for gold and silver.

How payments shall be made.

Officers violating this section to be suspended and reported to the President.

Proviso.

SEC. 21. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury to issue and publish regulations to enforce the speedy presentation of all Government drafts for payment at the place where payable, and to prescribe the time, according to the different distances of the depositaries from the seat of Government, within which all drafts upon them, respectively, shall be presented for payment; and, in default of such presentation, to direct any other mode and place of payment which he may deem proper;

The Secretary of the Treasury to issue and publish regulations to enforce the speedy presentation of all drafts for payment, &c.

No officer of the U. S. shall dispose of for a premium any treasury note, draft, &c. not his private property, without crediting U. S. in his accounts.

Salaries of assistant treasurers.

Additional compensation to the treasurers of the mint and branch mints.

No officer to charge or receive any commission, &c. for official services.

but, in all these regulations and directions, it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury to guard, as far as may be, against those drafts being used or thrown into circulation as a paper currency or medium of exchange. And no officer of the United States shall, either directly or indirectly, sell or dispose to any person or persons, or corporations, whatsoever, for a premium, any Treasury note, draft, warrant, or other public security, not his private property, or sell or dispose of the avails or proceeds of such note, draft, warrant, or security in his hands for disbursement, without making return of such premium, and accounting therefor by charging the same in his accounts to the credit of the United States; and any officer violating this section shall be forthwith dismissed from office.

SEC. 22. *And be it further enacted,* That the assistant treasurers directed by this act to be appointed shall receive, respectively, the following salaries per annum, to be paid quarter-yearly at the Treasury of the United States, to wit: the assistant treasurer at New York shall be paid a salary of four thousand dollars per annum; the assistant treasurer at Boston shall be paid a salary of two thousand five hundred dollars per annum; the assistant treasurer at Charleston shall be paid a salary of two thousand five hundred dollars per annum; the assistant treasurer at St. Louis shall be paid a salary of two thousand five hundred dollars per annum; the treasurer of the mint at Philadelphia shall, in addition to his present salary, receive five hundred dollars annually, for the performance of the duties imposed by this act; the treasurer of the branch mint at New Orleans shall also receive five hundred dollars annually, for the additional duties created by this act; and these salaries, respectively, shall be in full for the services of the respective officers; nor shall either of them be permitted to charge or receive any commission, pay, or perquisite, for any official service, of any character or description whatsoever; and the making of any such charge, or the receipt of any such compensation, is hereby declared to be a misdemeanor, for which the officer convicted thereof, before any court of the United States of competent jurisdiction, shall be subject to punishment by fine and imprisonment, or both, at the discretion of the court before which the offence shall be tried.

SEC. 23. *And be it further enacted,* That there shall be and hereby is appropriated, to be paid out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of five thousand dollars, to be expended, under the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury, in such repairs or additions as may be necessary to put in good condition for use, with as little delay as may be consistent with the public interests, the offices, rooms, vaults, and safes herein mentioned, and in the purchase of any necessary additional furniture and fixtures, in the purchase of necessary books and stationery, and in defraying any other incidental expenses necessary to carry this act into effect. \$5,000 appropriated for repair, &c. of vaults and safes.

SEC. 24. *And be it further enacted,* That all acts or parts of acts which come in conflict with the provisions of this act, be and the same are hereby, repealed. Acts and parts of acts conflicting repealed.

APPROVED, *August 6, 1846.*

## AN ACT

Making appropriations for the service of the Post Office Department for the year ending the thirtieth of June, eighteen hundred and forty-eight.

[SEC. 1.] *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the following sums of money be, and the same are hereby, appropriated for the service of the Post Office Department, for the year ending thirtieth of June, eighteen hundred and forty-eight, out of any moneys in the Treasury arising from the revenues of the said department, in conformity to the act of the second of July, eighteen hundred and thirty-six, namely :

For transportation of the mails within the United States, two million four hundred and forty-one thousand three hundred and ninety-one dollars. Appropriations from revenues of the Post Office Department.

For transportation by steam ships between New York and Bremen, according to the contract with Edward Mills, authorized by the "act to provide for the transportation of the mail between the United States and foreign countries," approved March third, eighteen hundred and forty-five, two hundred and fifty-eight thousand six hundred and nine dollars. Transportation by steam-ships.

**Postmasters.****Proviso.**

For compensation to postmasters, one million and forty-two thousand dollars. *Provided*, That it shall not be lawful for the Postmaster General to make any allowance or compensation to any deputy postmaster, in addition to his commissions, except the special allowance made by law to the postmasters at New Orleans and the city of Washington, and excepting, also, the allowance to which postmasters are entitled by law, from the income from boxes: *And provided, further*, That each deputy postmaster, whose compensation for the last preceding year did not exceed two hundred dollars, may send through the mail all letters written by himself, and receive through the mail all written communications addressed to himself on his private business which shall not exceed in weight one half ounce free of postage.

**Letters.**

For ship, steamboat, and way-letters, seventeen thousand dollars.

**Paper.**

For wrapping paper, sixteen thousand dollars.

**Furniture.**

For office furniture, (for the offices of postmasters,) three thousand dollars.

**Advertising.**

For advertising, thirty thousand dollars.

**Mail bags.**

For mail bags, twenty thousand dollars.

**Blanks.**

For blanks, seventeen thousand dollars.

**Locks.**

For mail locks, keys, and stamps, four thousand dollars.

**Depredations & special agents. Proviso.**

For mail depredations and special agents, thirteen thousand dollars: *Provided*, That the Postmaster General be, and he is hereby, authorized to employ, when the service may require it, the assistant postmasters general as special agents, and to make them compensation and allowance therefor, not to exceed the amount expended by said agents as necessary travelling expenses while so employed.

**Clerks.**

For clerks for offices, (in the offices of postmasters,) two hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars.

**Miscellaneous.**

For miscellaneous, fifty thousand dollars.

**Any deficiency of revenue to be supplied from the Treasury.**

**SEC. 2.** *And be it further enacted*, That in case the revenues of the department referred to in the first section of this act, shall prove insufficient to meet the foregoing appropriations, then any deficiency that may thus arise, shall be paid out of any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the assistant messengers of the Post Office Department shall be entitled to an annual salary of four hundred and fifty dollars.

Salary of ass't. messengers.

APPROVED, *March 2, 1847.*

## AN ACT

To amend the act entitled "An act to reduce the rates of postage, to limit the use and correct the abuse of the franking privilege, and for the prevention of frauds on the revenues of the Post Office Department," passed third of March, eighteen hundred and forty-five.

[ SEC. 1. ] *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That in lieu of commissions allow-

Rates of commission.

ed deputy postmasters by the fourteenth section of the act of the third of March, eighteen hundred and twenty-five, the Postmaster General may allow, on the proceeds of their respective offices, a commission not exceeding the following rates on the amount received in any one year, or a due proportion thereof for less than a year : On a sum not exceeding one hundred dollars, forty per cent. ; on a sum over the first hundred and not exceeding four hundred dollars, thirty-three and one-third per cent. ; on a sum over and above the first four hundred dollars and not exceeding twenty-four hundred dollars, thirty per cent. ; on a sum over twenty-four hundred dollars, twelve and one-half per cent. ; on all sums arising from the postage on newspapers, magazines, and pamphlets, fifty per cent. ; on the amount of postages on letters or packets received for distribution, seven per cent. : *Provided*, That all allowances, commissions, or other emoluments shall be subject to the provisions of the forty-first section of the act which this is intended to amend ; and that the annual compensation therein limited shall be computed for the fiscal year commencing on the first of July and ending the thirtieth of June each year, and that for any period less than a year the restrictions contained in said section shall be held to apply in a due proportion for such fractional period :

Allowances, commissions, &c., subject to provisions of forty-first section of act of 1845.

*And provided further*, That the compensation to any deputy postmaster under the foregoing provisions to be

Compensation to deputy postmasters.

computed upon the receipt at his office of a larger sum shall in no case fall short of the amount to which he would be entitled under a smaller sum received at his office.

Moneys taken by robbery shall be paid to the order of Postmaster General.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That all moneys taken from the mails of the United States by robbery, theft, or otherwise, which have come, or may hereafter come into the possession or custody of any of the agents of the Post Office Department, or any other officers of the United States, or any other person or persons whatever, shall be paid to the order of the Postmaster General, to be kept by him as other moneys of the Post Office Department, to and for the use and benefit of the rightful owner, to be paid whenever satisfactory proof thereof shall be made; and upon the failure of any person in the employment of the United States to pay over such moneys when demanded, the person so refusing shall be subject to the penalties prescribed by law against defaulting officers.

Franking privilege.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That all members of Congress, delegates from Territories, the Vice President of the United States, the Secretary of the Senate, and the Clerk of the House of Representatives, shall have the power to send and receive public documents free of postage during their term of office, and that the said members and delegates shall have the power to send and receive public documents free of postage up to the first Monday of December following the expiration of their term of office.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That the Secretary of the Senate and Clerk of the House of Representatives shall have the power to receive, as well as to send, all letters and packages, not weighing over two ounces, free of postage, during their term of office.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That members of Congress shall have the power to receive, as well as to send, all letters and packages, not weighing over two ounces, free of postage, up to the first Monday in December following the expiration of their term of office.

APPROVED, *March 1, 1847.*



## AN ACT

To establish certain post routes and for other purposes.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That the Postmaster General be, and he hereby is, authorized and directed to cause a mail to be transported once a week, and oftener, if he shall think the public interest requires it, from New Orleans, via Galveston, Passo Callo, Brasos de St. Iago, to Tampico, with return mails, the service to be performed by contract, or by the use of the public steamers now in the service of the War Department in the Gulf of Mexico, with the consent of the head of that Department; and for this service the sum of thirty thousand dollars is hereby appropriated.

Mails from New Orleans to Tampico.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That all letters, newspapers, and other packets, not exceeding in weight one ounce, directed to any officer, musician, or private of the army of the United States in Mexico, or at any post or place on the frontier of the United States, bordering on Mexico, shall be conveyed in the mail free of postage: *Provided,* That all letters or other packets directed to any person in the army shall contain, as a part of their direction, the words, "belonging to the army."

Letters, &c., to persons belonging to the army in Mexico to be free.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That the two preceding sections shall continue in force during the present war, and for three months after the same may be terminated, and no longer.

Proviso

The two preceding sections to continue in force during the present war.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted,* That the Postmaster General be, and he is hereby authorized, to contract for transporting a mail from Charleston, South Carolina, to Chagres, touching at St. Augustine and Key West, and also at Havana, in the Island of Cuba, if deemed expedient, and across the isthmus to Panama, and from thence to Astoria, or the mouth of the Columbia river, touching at Monterey, St. Francisco, and such other places on the coast as the Postmaster General may direct; the mail to be conveyed from Charleston to Chagres, and from Panama to Astoria, in steamships, and to be transported each way once every two months, or oftener, as the public interest may require: *Provided,* That the expenditure for said service shall not exceed one hundred thousand dollars per annum.

Mail from Charleston to Chagres, and from Panama to Astoria.

Proviso

Post Office to be established at Astoria.

SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That the Postmaster General be, and he is hereby, authorized to establish a post office and appoint a deputy postmaster at Astoria, and such other places on the coast of the Pacific, within the territory of the United States, as the public interest may require: that all letters conveyed to or from Chagres shall be charged with twenty cents postage; and all letters conveyed to or from Havana shall be subject to twelve and a half cents postage; and letters carried to or from Panama shall pay a postage of thirty cents, and letters to or from Astoria, or any other place on the Pacific coast, within the territory of the United States, shall pay forty cents postage.

Rates of postage.

Contracts to provide for the purchase of the steamships employed in conveying mails.

SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That any contract made in pursuance of this act shall provide for the purchase, by the United States, of the steamships to be employed in conveying the mail, at its option, agreeably to the provisions of an act, entitled "An act to provide for the transportation of the mail between the United States and foreign countries, and for other purposes," approved the third day of March, one thousand eight hundred and forty-five: *Provided*, That the departure and return of said mail may, at the discretion of the Postmaster General, be either from Charleston, New York, Savannah, Pensacola, or New Orleans, as may be deemed most consistent with the public interest.

Proviso.

\$30,000 appropriated.

SEC. 9. *And be it further enacted*, That the sum of thirty thousand dollars be, and the same is hereby appropriated for the service herein provided for, to be paid from the general appropriation for mail transportation.

Branch post office.

SEC. 10. *And be it further enacted*, That the Postmaster General be authorized and directed, when in his judgment the public interest or convenience may require it, to establish one or more branch post offices, to facilitate the operation of the post office in any city or place which, in the opinion of the Postmaster General, may require such additional accommodation for the convenience of the inhabitants; and it shall be the duty of the Postmaster General to prescribe the rules and regulations for the branch post offices which may be established by virtue of this act; and no additional postage shall be charged for the receipt or delivery of any letter or packet at such branch post office.

**SEC. 11.** *And be it further enacted,* That to facilitate the transportation of letters in the mail, the Postmaster General be authorized to prepare postage stamps, which, when attached to any letter or packet, shall be evidence of the payment of the postage chargeable on such letter, which said stamps the Postmaster General may deliver to any deputy postmaster who may apply for the same, the deputy postmaster paying, or becoming accountable for the amount of the stamps so received by him; and if any of said stamps shall not be used, but be returned to the General Post Office, the amount so returned shall be credited to such deputy postmaster; and such deputy postmaster may sell or dispose of any stamps so received by him, to any person who may wish to use the same; but it shall not be lawful for any deputy postmaster to prepare, use, or dispose of any postage stamps not authorized by and received from the Postmaster General; and any person who shall falsely and fraudulently make, utter, or forge any postage stamp, with the intent to defraud the Post Office Department, shall be deemed guilty of felony, and on conviction shall be subject to the same punishment as is provided in the twenty-first section of the act approved the third day of March, eighteen hundred and twenty five, entitled "An to reduce into one the several acts establishing and regulating the Post Office Department."

Postage stamps.

Penalty for  
forging such  
stamps.

**SEC. 12.** *And be it further enacted,* That so much of the sixth section of the act to which this is supplementary as requires the Postmaster General to cause accounts of the postage that would be chargeable by the rates prescribed in said act upon all matter passing free through the mail, and that the same shall be paid to the Post Office Department from the contingent funds of the two Houses of Congress, and of the other departments of the government for which such mail service may have been performed, be, and the same is hereby, repealed; and that in lieu of such payment, and in compensation for such mail services as may be performed for the several departments of the Government, there shall be paid to the Post Office Department, from the Treasury, for each year's service, the sum of two hundred thousand dollars, which is hereby appropriated for that purpose, out of any unappropriated money in the Treasury.

Repeal of so  
much of the 6th  
sec. of act 3d  
Mar. 1845 as re-  
quires accounts  
to be kept of the  
postages of the  
public Depts. &c.\$200,000 ap-  
propriated in lieu  
thereof.

Penalty for depositing in any P. O. two or more letters to different persons under the same envelope.

SEC. 13. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall not be lawful to deposite in any post office, to be conveyed in the mail, two or more letters directed to different persons enclosed in the same envelope or packet: and every person so offending shall forfeit the sum of ten dollars, to be recovered by action *qui tam*, one half for the use of the informer, and the other half for the use of the Post Office Department: *Provided,* That this prohibition shall not apply to any letter or packet, directed to any foreign country; and all newspapers conveyed in the mail, shall be subject to postage, except those sent by way of exchange between the publishers of newspapers, and except those franked by persons enjoying the franking privilege; and newspapers not sent from the office of publication, and all handbills or circulars printed or lithographed, not exceeding one sheet, shall be subject to three cents postage each, to be paid when deposited in any post office to be conveyed in the mail; and it shall be lawful for any contractor, or mail carrier, to transport newspapers out of the mail for sale or distribution to subscribers; and the Postmaster General shall have authority to pay or cause to be paid a sum not exceeding two cents each, for all letters or packets conveyed in any vessel or steamboat not employed in carrying the mail, from one post or place to any other post or place in the United States, subject to such regulations as the Postmaster General may prescribe; and such publications or books as have been or may be published, procured, or purchased by order of either House of Congress, or a joint resolution of the two Houses, shall be considered as public documents, and entitled to be franked as such; and it shall not be lawful to make any allowance or compensation to deputy postmasters in addition to their commissions as authorized by law, excepting the receipts from boxes, of which all beyond two thousand dollars, shall be applied in defraying the expenses of their offices, and to be accounted for in the same manner as they are required to account for their commissions; and excepting the special allowance made by law to the postmasters at Washington city and New Orleans.

Proviso.

All newspapers, with certain exceptions, handbills, &c. to be subject to postage.

Contractors or mail carriers may transport papers out of the mails, &c.

What publications shall be considered as pub. doc's. and may be franked as such.

Repeal of so much of the act of May 3, 1845, as is inconsistent herewith.

SEC. 14. *And be it further enacted,* That so much of the act approved the third day of March, A. D. eighteen hundred and forty-five, entitled "An act to reduce the

rates of postage, to limit the use and correct the abuse of the franking privilege, and for the prevention of frauds on the Post Office Department," and of all other acts relating to the Post Office Department, or the service of that department, as is inconsistent with this act, be and the same are hereby repealed.

APPROVED, *March 3, 1847.*

---

*Notes of decisions on the duties and obligations of the "Postmaster General," "Postmasters," and the "Post Office."*

The decisions of the courts of the United States on the duties and obligations of the "Postmaster General," "Postmasters," and the "Post Office," have been:

When the issue is taken upon the neglect of the postmaster himself, it is not competent to give in evidence the neglect of his assistant. *Dunlop v. Munroe*, 7 Cranch, 242; 2 Cond. Rep. 484.

When it is intended to charge a postmaster for the negligence of his assistants, the pleadings must be made up according to the case; and his liability then will only result from his own neglect in not properly superintending the discharge of their duties in his office *Ibid.*

In order to make a postmaster liable for negligence, it must appear that the loss or injury sustained by the plaintiff was the consequence of his negligence. *Ibid.*

Parol evidence cannot be given, that one set of written instructions from the Postmaster General superseded the other. *Ibid.*

The Circuit courts of the Union have jurisdiction, under the Constitution, and the acts of April 30, 1810, sec. 29, and of March 3, 1815, sec. 4, of suits brought in the name of "The Postmaster General of the United States," on bonds given to the Postmaster General by a deputy postmaster, conditioned "to pay all moneys that shall come to his hands for the postages of whatever is by law chargeable with postage, to the Postmaster General of the United States for the time being, deducting only the commission and allowances made by law, for his care, trouble, and charges in managing said office," &c. *Postmaster General v. Early*, 12 Wheat. 136; 6 Cond. Rep. 480.

The Postmaster General has a right to take a bond from postmasters to him, as Postmaster General, under the different acts establishing and regulating the Post Office Department; and particularly under the act of May 1, 1810, chap. 42, sec. 29. *Ibid.*

An entry in the post bill is by no means conclusive evidence of the transmission of a letter so as to charge the postmaster for it; still it may never have been put into the mail, or it may

have been stolen on the passage. *Dunlop v. Munroe*, 7 Cranch, 242; 2 Cond. Rep. 484.

The neglect of the Postmaster General to sue for balances due by postmasters, within the time prescribed by law, although he is thereby rendered personally chargeable by the United States with such balances, is not a discharge of such postmasters or their sureties from liability on their official bonds. Nor is an order from the Postmaster General to retain those balances, directed to the postmaster, until they should be drawn for by the General Post Office. *Locke v. The Postmaster General*, 3 Mason's C. C. R. 446.

The provisions of law enjoining on the Postmaster General to require from his deputies regular periodical settlements and payments, are directory to him, but they form no condition in the contract between the postmasters and their sureties. *Ibid.*

The Postmaster General cannot sue in the federal courts under that part of the Constitution which gives jurisdiction to those courts in consequence of the character of the party, nor is he authorized to sue by the judiciary act. He comes into the courts of the United States under the authority of an act of Congress, the constitutionality of which rests upon the admission that his suit is a case arising under a law of the United States. *Osborn et. al. v. The Bank of the United States*, 9 Wheat. 738; 5 Cond. Rep. 741.

The act of Congress for regulating the Post Office Department does not, in terms, discharge the obligors, in the official bond of a deputy postmaster, from the direct claim of the United States upon them, on the failure of the Postmaster General to commence a suit against the defaulting postmaster, within the time prescribed by law. Their liability, therefore, continues. They remain the debtors of the United States. The responsibility of the Postmaster General is superadded to, not substituted for, that of the obligors. *Dox et. al. v. The Postmaster General*, 1 Peters', 323.

The claim of the United States, upon the official bond of a postmaster, and upon all the parties thereto, is not released by the laches of the Postmaster General, to whom the assertion of this claim is entrusted by law. Such laches have no effect, whatsoever, on the claim of the United States, as well on the sureties, as upon the principal in the bond. *Ibid.*

The Circuit Court of the United States for the District of Columbia, has a right to award a mandamus to the Postmaster General of the United States, requiring him to pass to the credit of certain contractors for carrying the United States mail, a sum found to be due to them by the Solicitor of the Treasury of the United States, the Solicitor acting under the provisions of a special act of Congress. The mandamus does not seek to direct or control the Postmaster General in the performance of an official duty, partaking in any respect of an executive character; but to enforce the performance of a mere ministerial act, which neither he, nor the President, has any authority to control. *Kendall, Postmaster General, v. the United States*, on the relation of *Stockton and Stokes*, 12 Peters, 524.

The distinction between the relation of a postmaster to his sworn assistant acting under him, and between master and servant generally, has long been settled; and though the latter relation might sanction the admission of evidence in an action against the postmaster, to show the neglect of the assistant, if it is intended to charge the postmaster with the neglect of the assistant, the pleading must be made up according to the case; and his liability will then only result from his neglect in not properly superintending the discharge of their duties in his office. *Dunlop v. Munroe*, 7 Cranch 242; 2 Cond. Rep. 484.

Where there are items of debit and credit, in a running account between the Postmaster General and the deputy postmasters, in the absence of any specific appropriation by either party, the credits are to be applied to the discharge of the debits antecedently due, in the order of the account. *Postmaster General v. Furber*, 4 Mason's C. C. R. 333.

The official bonds taken by the Postmaster General from his deputies are valid; and the omission to bring suits on such bonds, for the defaults of the principal in such a bond, does not discharge the sureties. *Postmaster General v. Reeder*, 4 Wash. C. C. R. 678.

The mere omission to bring suit on such official bonds, by the Postmaster General, against a deputy postmaster, is not, per se, evidence of fraud. *Ibid.*

The giving a new official bond by a deputy postmaster does not discharge his sureties under the old bond for the past or subsequent defaults of the postmaster. *Ibid.*

The order of the Postmaster General, to the deputy postmaster, not to remit the money he may receive, but to retain it to answer his drafts, does not discharge the sureties. *Ibid.*

The equity rule of limitations applied to bonds where there has been no demand for twenty years, is a mere presumption of payment, not an absolute limitation. *Postmaster General v. Rice*, Gilpin's D. C. R. 562.

The provisions of the act of March 3, 1825, releasing the sureties of a deputy postmaster where suit is not brought within two years after a default, do not apply to a default which occurred before the passing of the act. *Ibid.*

The law which limits suits by the Postmaster General against sureties, to two years after the default of the principal, does not operate in cases of balances unpaid at the end of a quarter, which are subsequently liquidated by the receipts of a succeeding one. *Postmaster General v. Norvel*, Gilpin's D. C. R. 131.

A bond given by a postmaster, with sureties, for the performance of official duties, does not constitute a binding contract, until approved and accepted by the Postmaster General. *Ibid.*

The reception and detention of an official bond by the Postmaster General for a considerable time, without objection, is sufficient proof of its acceptance. *Ibid.*

The return of a bond to the principal obligor, by the Postmaster General, for the purpose of obtaining additional security, affords no proof that it was not accepted; nor does it amount either to a surrender or cancelling of it. *Ibid.*

The Postmaster General has a right to require a bond from a deputy postmaster for the faithful performance of his duties, although such bond is not expressly required by law. *Postmaster General v. Rice*, Gilpin's D. C. R. 554.

The provisions of the act of March 3, 1825, substitute a certified statement of the settled account as evidence in suits against deputy postmasters, in lieu of the certified account current required by the act of April 30, 1810. *Ibid.*

A mail carrier is within the 18th section of the "Act regulating the post-office establishment," subjecting to a penalty in certain cases, persons employed in any departments of the General Post Office. *United States v. Belew*, 2 Brockenb. C. C. R., 280.

The United States instituted a suit against the Bank of the Metropolis, claiming twenty-seven thousand eight hundred and eighty-one dollars and fifty-seven cents, the balance, according to the statements of the Treasury, due to the United States. The defendant claimed credits amounting to twenty-three thousand dollars, exclusive of interest, which had been presented to the proper accounting officers, for acceptances of the Post Office Department of the drafts of mail contractors, and an item of six hundred and eleven dollars and fifty-two cents, overdraft of an officer of the Post Office Department on the Bank of the Metropolis. The drafts of the contractors, accepted by the Post Office Department, were discounted by the bank in the way of business; one draft was accepted unconditionally, the other drafts were accepted "on condition that the contracts be complied with." Held: That the bank became the holder of the draft unconditionally accepted, for valuable consideration; and its right to charge the United States with the amount cannot be defeated by any equities between the drawers and the Post Office. *The United States v. The Bank of the Metropolis*, 15 Peters, 377.

It was no matter how the account of the drawer of the draft unconditionally accepted stood with the Post Office Department; whether he was a debtor or a creditor; whether the bank knew one or the other. An unconditional acceptance was tendered to the bank for discount. It was not the duty of the bank to inquire how the account stood, or for what purpose the acceptance was made. All it had to look to was the genuineness of the acceptance, and the authority of the officer to give it. *Ibid.*

The rule is, that the want of consideration between the drawer and the acceptor is no defence against the rights of a third party, who has given a consideration for the bill: and this, even though the acceptor has been defrauded by the drawee, if that be not known to such third party. *Ibid.*

If one purpose making a conditional acceptance only, and commit that acceptance to writing, he should be careful to express the condition therein. He cannot use general terms, and then exempt himself from liability, by relying upon particular facts which have already happened, though they are connected with the conditional acceptance. By express terms the acceptor might have guarded against any construction, other than that which



was intended by, or was the apparent meaning of the words of the acceptance. It matters not what the acceptor meant by a cautious and precise phraseology, if it be not expressed as a condition. *Ibid.*

Nothing out of the condition expressed in the words of the acceptance can be inferred; unless it be in a case where the words used are so ambiguous as to make it necessary that parol evidence should be resorted to, to explain them. *Ibid.*

If two persons deal in relation to the executory contracts of a third, and one of them, being the obligee, induces the other to advance money, "upon condition that his contracts be complied with," and he knows that forfeitures have been already incurred by the obligor, for breaches of his contract, and does not say so, he shall not be permitted afterwards to get rid of his liability, by saying, "I cannot pay you, for when I accepted there was already due to me from the drawer of the bills more than I accepted for; you did not choose to make inquiry." *Ibid.*

The terms "accepted, when the contracts of the drawer of the bill are complied with," are not retroactive; they do not refer to past transactions, to the subsequent performance of the contractors. *Ibid.*

The Postmaster General had the same power, and no more, over the credits allowed by his predecessor, if allowed within the scope of his official authority, as given by law to the head of the Department. This right in an incumbent of reviewing a predecessor's decisions, extends to mistakes in matters of fact, arising from errors in calculation, and to cases of rejected claims, in which material testimony is afterwards discovered and produced. But, if a credit has been given, or an allowance made by the head of a department, and it is alledged to be an illegal allowance, the judicial tribunals must be resorted to, to construe the law under which the allowance was made; and to settle the right between the United States and the party to whom the credit was given. It is no longer a case between one officer's judgment, and that of his successor. No statute is necessary to authorize the United States to sue in such a case. The right to sue is independent of statute, and it may be done by the direction of the incumbent of the Department. *The United States v. The Bank of Metropolis, 15 Peters, 377.*

---

NOTE.—The priority of payment claimed by the United States is derived from certain acts of Congress. The several acts are, the act of 31st July, 1789, ch. 5, sec. 21, the act of 4th August, 1790, ch. 35, sec. 45, the act of 1792, ch. 27, sec. 18, the act of 3d of March, 1797, ch. 74, sec. 5, and the act of 2d of March, 1799, ch. 128, sec. 65. All these acts, except that of 1797, confirmed the priority of the United States to custom-house bonds, and bonds taken under the collection act. It was the act of 1797 that went further, and gave a preference to the United States in all cases whatever, whoever might be the

debtor, or however he might be indebted. The act of 2d July, 1836, "to change the organization of the Post Office Department," &c. &c., sec. 13, provides that all suits to be commenced for debts or balances due the Department, "shall have all the privileges and *priorities* in adjudication and *payment* secured to other *claims* of the United States by the *existing laws*." This act clothes the Post Office Department with all the power and privileges as regards priority of payment which exist under the collection act of 1799, and all preceding acts of Congress.

This priority is given by the 5th section of the act of the 3d of March, 1797, ch. 94. It is also given by the 65th section of the collection law, in the words following: "And in all cases of insolvency, or where any estate in the hands of the executors, administrators, or assigns, shall be insufficient to pay all the debts due from the deceased, the debt or debts due to the United States on such bond or bonds shall be first satisfied." In the same section the Legislature explain their meaning of "insolvency," by declaring that it shall be deemed to extend, as well to cases in which a debtor, not having sufficient property to pay all his debts, shall make a voluntary assignment thereof for the benefit of his creditors, or in which the estate or effects of an absconding, concealed, or absent debtor shall have been attached by process of law, as to cases in which an act of legal bankruptcy shall have been committed. In giving a construction to these statutes, the Supreme Court of the United States has held that they only apply to two general classes of cases, viz: A living insolvent, having an assignee, and a dead insolvent, represented by executors and administrators.—(Conard *vs.* Nicholl, 4th Peters' Rep. 308.) That the priority of payment, as against living debtors, only where the debtor had become actually and notoriously insolvent, manifested by some open act, as taking the oath of insolvent debtors, under the law of some of the States.—(See 3 Cr. 73; 1 Pet. 439.) It is not a mere inability of the debtor to pay all his debts, but that inability must be manifested in one of the three modes pointed out in the explanatory clause of the 65th section of the act of 1799. The preference of the United States does not extend to cases where the debtor has not made an assignment of the *whole* of his property. If the assignment leaves out a trivial part of his property for the purpose of evading the act giving the preference, it will be considered as a fraud upon the law, and the court treat it as a total divestment. The deed of assignment must embrace all of the property of the debtor, &c. &c.—(4th vol. Wheaton, 108.) A deed executed by a debtor of the United States, conveying all his property in the possession of the debtor, to trustees, for the payment of his debts, not including the debt of the United States, is an act of insolvency, both within the spirit and letter of the act of Congress giving priority in such cases to debts due the United States over all others; and the priority attaches at the instant that the deed is executed.—(United States, et al. *vs.* Cochran, et al., Brocken C. C., Rep. 274.) The preference of the United States will not relate back to the act of insolvency so as to overreach intermediate *bona fide* se-

curities given by the insolvent to creditors. It has been the uniform construction of the 5th section of the act of 1797, (1 Story's Laws, 464,) and of the similar provision in the 65th section of the collection act of 1799, (1 Story's Laws, 630,) that whether in a case of insolvency, death, or assignment, the property of a debtor passes to the assignee, executor, or administrator, the priority of the United States, operating not to prevent the transmission of the property, but giving them a preference in payment out of the proceeds.—(Brent vs. the Bank of Washington, 10 Peters', 596.) When the priority of the United States has actually attached, there is, strictly speaking, no lien, either general or specific, on the property in the hands of the executors, administrators, assigns, or trustees, as the case may be; but only a claim on the funds in their hands. The priority established can never attach while the debtor continues the owner and in the possession of the property, although he may be unable to pay his debts, and no evidence can be received of the insolvency of the debtor until he has been divested of his property in one of the modes stated in the collection act. And when he is thus divested of his property, the person who becomes invested with the title is thereby made a trustee for the United States, and is bound to pay their debt first out of the proceeds of the debtor's property.—(Beaston vs. The Farmers' Bank of Delaware, 12 Peters', 133.) The moment the transfer of property takes place under the statute, the person taking it, whether by voluntary assignment or by operation of law, becomes bound to the United States for the faithful performance of the trust.—(1 Peters' Rep. 439; 12 Peters', 131.)

When the insolvency or acts of bankruptcy required by the statutes have actually occurred, the priority immediately attaches; although sometime may elapse before a trustee be formally appointed. Every person indebted to the insolvent, or in the possession of his property, becomes, as to such debt or property, the trustee of the United States from the moment he has notice of their priority. Should he actually pay over the debt, or deliver the property to another creditor, with notice of the claim of the United States, he is responsible. An assignee is not liable under the acts of Congress until notice of the debt due to the United States. But the notice need not be given by the United States; nor is a judgment or suit against him necessary, in order to charge him with notice. The notice must be such as is required in ordinary cases of trustees, and enough to put a prudent man on inquiry.—(2 Wash. C. C. Rep., 196.) Assignees and trustees, administrators and executors, are personally liable if they omit to discharge such debt or debts, if funds actually come into their hands. If a debtor dies without sufficient property to pay his debts, the right to satisfaction out of his estate, in preference to other creditors, is undoubtedly in the United States.—(10 Peters', 612.)

The priority of the United States does not extend so as to take the property of a partner from partnership effects to pay a separate debt due by such partner to the United States, when the partnership effects are not sufficient to satisfy the creditors of the partnership.—(United States vs. Hack, et. al., 8 Peters',

271.) If there be any deficiency in the proceeds of any particular estate to pay the mortgages thereon, the mortgages cannot come in upon the funds and proceeds of the sales of other estates, except as general creditors.

---

*Opinion of the Attorney General.*

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE, }  
 July 22, 1845. }

SIR: I have received your communication of the 12th instant, asking my opinion on a question involving "any and what difference there exists between newspapers, pamphlets, magazines, and periodicals, if the latter should be under nineteen hundred square inches," under the act of 3d March, 1845, in view of the rates of postage to be charged.

The act recognizes these four descriptions ofailable matter, and prescribes the rate of postage. The difficulty consists in determining under its provisions what particular publications belong to each class. This has been found to be embarrassing to the Department, and opinions have been given by Mr. Legare and by Mr. Nelson, at the request of the Postmaster General. I do not regard it as yet free from difficulty.

The 2d section of the act of 3d March, 1845, declares that all newspapers of no greater size or superficies than nineteen hundred square inches, may be transmitted through the mails by the editors or publishers thereof, to all subscribers or other persons within thirty miles of the place of publication, free of postage. It also prescribes the rates of postage on newspapers of less size and of greater size, thus showing that Congress did not intend to fix an arbitrary standard of size or dimension to determine what is a newspaper.

The 3d section prescribes the postage of all pamphlets, magazines, periodicals, and every other kind and description of printed or other matter, (except newspapers;) pamphlets, magazines, and periodicals have no free circulation, nor have all other kinds and descriptions of printed or other matter except newspapers, however short the distance.

It appears to me that the exception applies to the descriptive general terms immediately preceding every other kind and description of printed matter except newspapers, and as a consequence, that pamphlets, magazines, and periodicals are not synonymous with newspapers.

In the 15th sectionailable matter, and matter properly transmittable by mail, is defined to be all letters and newspapers, and all magazines and pamphlets periodically published. The continued and repeated distinction between the several publications, lead to the construction of the act without much difficulty. But in the 16th section, Congress has for the first time given a definition of the term newspaper. It is declared that the term newspaper hereinbefore used, "shall be and the same is hereby defined to be, any printed publication issued in numbers consisting of not more than two sheets, and published at short stated

intervals of not more than one month, conveying intelligence of passing events and bona fide extras and supplements of any such publication." This definition is substantially that given by McCulloch in his Commercial Dictionary. The act of 1825 had defined a sheet to consist of four folio pages, eight quarto pages, sixteen octavo pages, or twenty four duodecimo pages, less than that of a pamphlet size or magazine. This is the meaning of the term sheet used in the act of 1845. McCulloch's definition of a newspaper is "publications in numbers consisting commonly of single sheets published at short and stated intervals, giving intelligence of passing events." His article on the subject throws much light on the class of publications which come within the definition. "Their utility," says he, "to commerce is unquestionable. The advertisements they circulate, the variety of facts and information they contain, as to the supply and demand of commerce in all quarters of the world, their prices and the regulations by which they are affected, render newspapers indispensable to commercial men, supersede a great mass of correspondence, raise merchants in remote places towards an equality in point of information with those in the great marts, and wonderfully quicken all the movements of commerce." This is a legitimate commentary on the publication called newspaper, a publication conveying intelligence of passing events. A magazine is defined by Webster to be a "pamphlet periodically published, containing miscellaneous papers or compositions." A pamphlet is defined to be "a small book consisting of a sheet of paper or of sheets stitched together, but not bound." Magazines and pamphlets are not newspapers, but it may be admitted that a newspaper of a superficies not exceeding nineteen hundred square inches, may be put up in magazine or pamphlet form, and not be subject to postage as one or the other. I conclude, therefore, that neither the dimensions nor manner of putting up, determines the character of the publication. What then is the criterion? The definition given in the law affords a satisfactory answer. It must be a publication communicating to the public intelligence of passing events, and it is to the contents rather than to the form that you must refer, to determine the question. To entitle such a publication to the privileges of a newspaper, its main object and purpose must be to disseminate intelligence of passing events, and the employment of a portion of its columns in publishing essays or compositions of a moral, political, or literary character, is not inconsistent with this leading and general object. Under the act to make a publication a newspaper entitled to free circulation, it must be first, printed; second, issued in numbers consisting of not more than two sheets, whose superficies does not exceed nineteen hundred inches; third, published at short stated intervals of not more than one month; and fourth, convey intelligence of passing events. It must be devoted as its primary object to this purpose of collecting and disseminating news, or of conveying intelligence of passing events. I should be disposed to regard the "Living Age" as a magazine, and the application of the rule which I have endeavored to give, will enable you to decide on such others as may be presented.

J. Y. MASON.

Hon. CAVE JOHNSON, *Postmaster General*,



---

**REGULATIONS FOR THE GOVERNMENT**

**OF THE**

**POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.**

---





REGULATIONS  
FOR THE  
GOVERNMENT  
OF THE  
POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

---

ORGANIZATION OF THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

CHAPTER 1.

The duties of the Department are divided and distributed as follows, viz :

SEC. 1. The general supervision of the Post Office Department is assigned by the constitution and laws to the Postmaster General ; and, with a view to the more convenient and prompt despatch of business, the duties of the Department are distributed among the following bureaus : The *Contract Office*, under the charge of the First Assistant Postmaster General ; the *Appointment Office*, under the charge of the Second Assistant Postmaster General ; the *Finances*, other than those assigned to the Auditor, under the charge of the Third Assistant Postmaster General ; the *Miscellaneous branch*, including the *Inspection of Mail Service*, under the charge of the Chief Clerk.

FIRST ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL.

*Contract Office.*

2. To this office is assigned the business of arranging the mail service of the United States, and placing the same under contract, embracing all correspondence and proceedings respecting the frequency of trips, mode of conveyance, and times of departures and arrivals on all the routes ; the course of the mail between the different sections of the country and with foreign countries, the

points of mail distribution, and the regulations for the government both of the domestic and foreign post service of the United States. It prepares the advertisements for mail proposals, receives the bids, and takes charge of the annual and occasional mail lettings, and the adjustment and execution of the contracts. All applications for the establishment or alteration of mail arrangements, and the appointment of mail agents and messengers, should be sent to this office. All claims should be submitted to it for transportation service not under contract, as the recognition of said service is first to be obtained through the Contract Office as a necessary authority for the proper credits at the Auditor's Office. The correspondence under the 6th, 19th, and 20th sections of the act of 1825, and the 9th, and other sections of the act of 1845, and other acts for the protection of the mail service, is conducted through this office. From this office all postmasters at the ends of routes receive the statement of mail arrangements prescribed for the respective routes; and the different bureaus of the Government obtain the official distances by course of mail. It reports weekly to the Auditor all contracts executed, and all orders affecting the accounts, and prepares the statistical exhibits of the mail service; and reports to Congress the mail lettings, giving a statement of each bid; also the contracts made, the new service originated, the curtailments ordered, and the additional allowances granted within the year.

#### SECOND ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL.

##### *Appointment Office.*

3. To this office are assigned all questions which relate to the establishment and discontinuance of post offices, changes of sites and names, appointment and removal of postmasters, as also the giving instructions to deputy postmasters. Postmasters are furnished with stamps, letter balances, and blanks by this bureau.

#### THIRD ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL.

##### *The Finances.*

The Third Assistant Postmaster General has the following assignment of duties, viz:

4. The supervision and management of the financial business of the Department, not devolved by law upon the Auditor, embracing accounts with the draft offices and other depositaries of

the Department, the issuing of warrants and drafts in payment of balances reported by the Auditor to be due to mail contractors and other persons, the supervision of the accounts of offices under orders to deposite their quarterly balances at designated points, and the superintendence of the rendition, by postmasters, of their quarterly returns of postages. He has charge of the dead letter office, of the issuing of stamps for the prepayment of postage, and of the accounts connected therewith.

To the Third Assistant Postmaster General all postmasters should direct their quarterly returns of postages; those at draft offices, their letters reporting quarterly the net proceeds of their offices, and those at depositing offices, their certificates of deposite; to him should also be directed the weekly and monthly returns of the depositaries of the Department, as well as all applications for prepaid stamps, and for dead letters.

#### CHIEF CLERK.

#### *Inspection.*

5. To this office is assigned the duty of receiving and examining all reports of failures of the mails, noting the delinquencies of contractors, and preparing them for the action of the Postmaster General; furnishing blanks for reports of mail failures; providing and sending out mail bags, and mail locks and keys, and doing all other things which may be necessary to secure a faithful and exact performance of their contract on the part of contractors.

All reports of mail failures and all letters complaining of contractors, should be directed "Post Office Department," and superscribed "Inspection."

All cases of lost letters and mail depredations are also under the supervision of this branch of the Department. All communications respecting them should, therefore, be addressed as above.

#### *Auditor's Office of the Treasury for the Post Office Department.*

6. To this office are assigned the duties of examining the returns of postmasters, and of notifying them of errors found therein; of adjusting their general accounts; of designating the post offices from which contractors shall make collections, and of furnishing them the blank orders and receipts necessary for that purpose; of transmitting forms to postmasters at the ends of routes for certifying the performance of mail service, and upon receipt of said certificates, together with the acknowledgments of contractors

of collections, and of notices of fines imposed on them, of adjusting their quarterly compensation, and of transmitting to them the drafts issued in payment of the balances found due; of adjusting the accounts for all blanks furnished to post offices, for advertising, mail bags, mail locks and keys, stamps, special agents, and all other demands properly arising under the laws, contracts, regulations or orders of the Department; of closing the accounts of the Department quarterly, and of reporting the amounts paid by postmasters pursuant to appropriations made by law, and of registering, charging, and countersigning all warrants upon the Treasury for receipts and payments when warranted by law, as well as all drafts issued in payment or in the collection of debts.

7. To the Auditor are also assigned the duties of reporting all delinquencies on the part of postmasters in paying over the moneys in their hands; of directing suits, and superintending all proceedings at law or in equity proper for enforcing the prompt collection of all balances due the Department, including penalties imposed on postmasters for failing to make returns, or pay over the proceeds of their offices.

8. To this office should be transmitted all accounts, (other than postmasters' quarterly returns,) all letters and vouchers relating to accounts or items in such returns, and the receipts of postmasters for public property turned over to them by their predecessors; all acknowledgments of drafts issued in payment of balances; all certificates of service, receipts of contractors for, and their acknowledgments of collections from postmasters; all letters admitting or contesting balances due on general accounts of postmasters or contractors; all receipts for drafts issued in collecting such balances; and all letters returning such drafts, or reporting the non-payment thereof; all stated returns of District Attorneys and Marshals of their proceedings in post office cases; all receipts for deposits of money collected in such cases; all letters making propositions of settlement; and all letters seeking directions, or giving information preparatory to trial, or relating to the service of executions or sale of property, &c., in any such cases.

*Office of the Treasurer of the United States for the service of the Post Office Department.*

9. The first section of the act of July, 1836, provides that the revenues arising in the Post Office Department, and all debts due to the same, shall, when collected, be paid, under the direction of the Postmaster General, into the Treasury of the United States.

## CHAPTER 2.

*Post Roads.*

Post roads are—

10. Those roads which are declared by Act of Congress to be such.—*Act March 3, 1823.*

11. All waters on which steamboats regularly pass from port to port.—*Act March 3, 1823.*

12. The navigable canals of the several States.

13. All railroads in the United States.

14. Those roads on which the Postmaster General causes the mail to be carried from the nearest post offices on legally declared post roads, to court-houses not otherwise provided with the mail.

15. And all roads to special offices.—*Act March 3, 1825, Sec. 4.*

## CHAPTER 3.

*Contractors.*

16. The Union is divided into four contract sections, and a letting of contracts occurs every year.

The contract sections are—

17. Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New York.

18. New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and Ohio.

19. Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.

20. Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, and Oregon.

21. The contract year commences on the 1st of July, and four of those years constitute the full regular contract term.—*See sec. 4, act of 1825.*

22. Each contractor will execute duplicate contracts with sureties to be returned, *both of them*, to the Contract Office, one of them there to be filed, and the other to be reported to the Auditor; a copy of which will afterwards be furnished to the contractor.

23. If post offices depend for their supply of the mail upon postages received, and the postages received should fall short of the amount which the contractor or carrier may be authorized to receive out of them, he can have no claim on the Department for the deficiency.

24. If the surplus exceeds the amount, as stipulated in the contract to be paid by the Department, the surplus is to be held subject to the draft or order of the Department.

25. During the existence of a contract for supplying an office, the deputy postmaster can only pay according to instructions, or in conformity with the contract, and he must forward to the Auditor the receipt of the contractor for such payment immediately upon the close of the quarter.

26. If the contractor fails to perform the service stipulated in the contract, it becomes the duty of the postmaster to report the fact to the Postmaster General, and to furnish the name of the person (if one can be found) who will enter into contract at the lowest price, for the residue of the term.

27. After the expiration of a contract, and until the Postmaster General has decided upon any offer to enter into a new contract, or upon the expediency of discontinuing the office, or of making some other provision for its supply, postmasters cannot make any payment, unless expressly authorized by him.

28. Contractors are required, in all cases, to carry the entire mail, and are not permitted to leave bags of newspapers and pamphlets on their routes.

29. The Postmaster General may annul the contract for failures on the part of the contractor; for violating the Post Office laws; for disobeying the instructions of the Department; for refusing to discharge a carrier when required by the Department; for assigning the contract without the consent of the Postmaster General.

30. The Postmaster General is prohibited by law from knowingly making a contract for the transportation of the mail with any person who shall have entered into any combination, or proposed to enter into any combination, to prevent the making of any bid for a mail contract by any other person or persons, or who shall have made any agreement, or shall have given or performed, or promised to give or perform, any consideration to do, or not to do, any thing whatever to induce any other person not to bid for a mail contract.

## CHAPTER 4.

### *Proposals for carrying the Mail.*

31. A bid received after the time designated in the proposal, without the guaranty required by law, or that combines several routes in one sum of compensation, cannot be considered in competition with a regular proposal not adjudged to be extravagant.

32. A bidder may offer, where the transportation called for in the advertisement is difficult or impracticable at certain seasons, to substitute an inferior mode of conveyance, or to intermit service a specified number of days, weeks, or months. He may propose to omit an office that is inaccessible, or is not on the stage road, the railway, or at a steamboat landing, as the case may be; or he may offer to substitute an inferior mode of supply in such cases. He may propose different days and hours of departure and arrival, provided no more running time is asked, and it is obvious that no mail connexion or other public accommodation is prejudiced. He may ask for more running time to the trip, during a specified number of days, at certain seasons of peculiarly bad roads; but, beyond these changes, a proposal for service different from the advertisement will prevent its being considered in competition with a regular bid not set aside for extravagance; and where a bid contains any of the above alterations, their disadvantages will be estimated in comparing it with other proposals.

33. There should be but one route bid for in a proposal.

34. The route, the service, the yearly pay, the bidder's name and residence, and the name of each member of the firm, where a company offers, should be distinctly stated; also the mode of conveyance, if a higher mode than on horseback is intended.

35. The bid should be sent under seal, addressed to the First Assistant Postmaster General, with "Mail proposals in the State of \_\_\_\_\_," written on the face of the letter; and should be despatched in time to be received by or before the time specified in the advertisement.

36. Under the act of 3d March, 1845, the route is to be let to the lowest bidder tendering sufficient guaranties for faithful performance, without other reference to the mode of transportation than may be necessary to provide for the due celerity, certainty, and security of such transportation.

When the lowest bid proposes a mode of conveyance that is inadequate for the route, in respect to the certainty, security, and celerity of the mails, aside from any accommodation for travel, it will not be entitled to the route.

37. When the bid does not name a mode of conveyance, it will be taken and understood to be for the lowest mode of conveyance, to wit: on horseback. When it proposes to carry according to the advertisement, and no mode of conveyance is stated for the route in the advertisement, it will be considered as offering only for horseback conveyance.

38. Since the passage of the act of March 3, 1845, a new description of bid has been received. It specifies no mode of con-

veyance, but engages to carry the mail with certainty, celerity, and security, using the terms of the law. These bids are called, from the manner in which they are designated on the books of the Department, "*star bids.*" It has been decided, after mature consideration, that a bid proposing a specific mode of conveyance of as high a grade as two-horse coach transportation is to be preferred to the star bid. The experience of the Department enables it to lay down the following rules, viz :

When the mail on the route is not so large as to require two-horse coach conveyance, a star bid, if the lowest, will be preferred to the specific bid.

39. When the mails are of such size and weight as to render it necessary or expedient, in reference to them alone, to provide two-horse coach conveyance, the specific bid, though the highest, will be preferred to the star bid, to the extent of a moderate difference in the compensation, in case the difference is not such as to interfere with the policy of the new law, which looks to a reduction in the cost of transportation. Exception, however, may be allowed, where the star bid is made by the present owner of the stock on the route, and it is manifest that the reasons for preferring the specific bid do not exist in his case.

40. On routes of the highest class, where four-horse coach or steamboat transportation is required by the size and importance of the mails, the preference for the specific bid will be, if necessary, carried to a greater extent of difference than on the inferior coach routes, subject, however, to the exceptions above stated.

41. A modification of a bid, in any of its essential terms, is tantamount to a new bid, and cannot be received, so as to interfere with regular competition, after the last hour set for receiving bids.

## CHAPTER 5.

### *Deputy Postmasters, by whom appointed.*

42. Postmasters at offices where the commissions amount to one thousand dollars and upwards, per annum, receive their appointment from the President of the United States, with the concurrence of the Senate. *Act of 1836, sec. 33.*

43. Upon the appointment of a postmaster, he is furnished with a letter of appointment and a blank bond. Upon executing the bond, as required, and taking the oath of office, he is authorized to take charge of the office, and not before.



*Who can hold the office of Postmaster.*

44. No person can hold the office of postmaster, who shall not be an actual resident of the city or town wherein the post office is situated. *Act of 1836, sec. 36.*

45. No person can hold the office of postmaster who is not a citizen of the United States.

CHAPTER 6.

*Steps to be taken on receiving the Appointment.*

46. Every person who receives the appointment of postmaster, will take and subscribe, before a magistrate, the following oaths, viz:

“I, \_\_\_\_\_, do swear, (or affirm, as the case may be,) that I will faithfully perform all the duties required of me, and abstain from everything forbidden by the laws in relation to the establishment of the Post Office and post roads within the United States.”

“I do solemnly swear, (or affirm, as the case may be,) that I will support the Constitution of the United States.”—*Act of 1825, sec. 2.—Constitution of the United States, art. 6.*

47. These oaths should be certified by the magistrate who administers them.

48. The person appointed will then execute the bond forwarded to him by the Department, and signed in the presence of suitable witnesses, by himself and at least two sureties, the sufficiency of each of whom, for the payment of the sum inserted in the bond, must be shown by the certificate of the magistrate who administers the oath. *Act of 1825, sec. 3.*

49. In case of the death, removal from the State, or bankruptcy of one or both of the sureties, the postmaster will report the fact to the Department, in order that a new bond may be taken.

50. The oaths and bond are then to be placed in the mail, and transmitted to the Appointment Office, and when received a commission will issue.

CHAPTER 7.

*Charge of the Office.*

51. The office of postmaster is one of much trust and responsibility, and the appointment proceeds from a confidence

reposed in him personally by the Postmaster General. Therefore he cannot be permitted to transfer the charge of his office, and the performance of its duties to another ; thus creating a sinecure, and virtually substituting in his stead as deputy postmaster, a person unknown to the Department.

52. It follows, also, that though he may have one or more assistants, he is required to have, in person, a general superintendence of his office ; since without it, the guaranty afforded to the Department, by the reputation and character which induced the appointment, that the office would be well conducted, is lost.

53. The duties of his office must be performed only by himself, personally, or by a sworn assistant or assistants, whom he may employ to aid him, when necessary ; for the care and attention of every one of whom he will be himself responsible to the Department.

54. Every assistant, before he is permitted to have any agency in the business of the office, must take and subscribe the oaths set forth in the preceding chapter, which must be certified by a magistrate, and forwarded to the Department.—*Act of 1825, sec. 2.*

55. On taking charge of a post office, the postmaster will take duplicate inventories of all property belonging to it, being careful to make separate ones of the locks, keys, and mail-bags ; also of all laws, regulations, circulars, orders, &c. ; also of all letters, packets, newspapers, and pamphlets, and other mail matter on hand, stating the unpaid postage, and footing up the aggregate amount thereof.

56. He will deliver one set of the duplicate inventories, with his receipt thereon, to his predecessor, and transmit the other to the Auditor's Office ; one respecting locks, keys, and mail bags, to the Inspection Office, and that respecting the mail matter on hand, to the Auditor.

57. Precaution should be taken by the postmaster in all cases to appoint an assistant to prevent the office from being left without a duly qualified person to perform its duties, in case of the necessary absence, the sickness, resignation, or death of the postmaster.

58. The postmaster will cause his clerks, also the letter carriers, to take the necessary oaths of office, and send them for file to the Appointment Office, before they enter upon their duties. The letter carriers, also, must execute bonds with sureties.

59. No person under the age of sixteen years should be employed as a mail carrier on any post route, *or a clerk* in any post office in the United States. The better to enforce this regulation, it is required that the ages of the carriers and clerks be

entered upon the oaths of office, which they respectively take before they are transmitted by the contractor or postmaster, to the Department for file. . And the special agents of the Department will promptly report all instances of non-compliance with this regulation to the Appointment Office.

60. Postmasters, assistants, and clerks, regularly employed and engaged in post offices, and also post riders, and drivers of mail stages, are by law exempt from militia duty and serving on juries, and from any fine or penalty for neglect thereof.—*Act of 1825, sec. 35 ; Act of 1836, sec. 34.*

61. A postmaster will suffer no person whatever, except his duly sworn assistants, or clerks and letter-carriers, who may also have been sworn, to have access to the letters, newspapers, and packets in his office, or whatever constitutes a part of the mail, or to the mail keys.

62. Mails may be opened and made up in the view of persons not authorized to handle them, but never within their reach ; while discharging these duties, therefore, he will, if a room be appropriated to the use of his office, exclude from it all persons except his assistants regularly employed and sworn.

63. For the safe keeping of letters and packets at post offices, where the business is not so extensive as to require the appropriation of a room to that use, a cheap, plain desk, or case, is to be provided at the expense of the Department, with a good lock and key. But this expense, nor any contingent expense, will not be allowed, unless the nett proceeds of the office amount to at least \$5 per quarter.

64. The postmaster will keep his office open for the despatch of business, every day, except Sunday, during the usual hours of business in the place ; and attend at such other hours as may be necessary to receive and despatch mails.—*Act of 1825, sec. 11.*

65. When the mail arrives on Sunday, he will keep his office open for one hour or more, if the public convenience require it, after the arrival and assortment thereof, unless it be during the time of public worship ; in which case he will keep the office open for one hour or more, if necessary, after the same has ceased.

66. It is expected that a disposition to accommodate will prompt him to search for and deliver a letter, on the application of a person who cannot call in the usual office hours.

67. The postmaster having voluntarily assumed the responsibilities of office, he is not at liberty to abandon them, either by closing his office, or by transferring its management and funds to an irresponsible person. Upon receiving notice, at any time, of a wish to retire, the Department will take measures to select and

appoint a suitable successor. But until a successor is appointed, and has been qualified by giving bond, he will continue in charge of the office, either personally or by an assistant, for whose acts he is responsible.

68. If at the expiration of any period for which he may have received an appointment from the President, or Postmaster General, and has not received a new appointment and qualified under it, or a successor has not been appointed and qualified, he will in like manner continue in charge of the office, either personally or by an assistant, for whose acts he is responsible, until one or other of these events happen.

69. Whether the appointment be from the President or the Postmaster General, in the event of death, the responsibility of the bondsmen will continue, for the fidelity of the person left in charge of the office, until a successor is appointed and qualified.

70. And it may be lawful for the sureties or any one of them to perform the duties of postmaster, by themselves or agent, until their successor be appointed.

71. All instructions, circulars, and orders received by a postmaster, from any branch, or officer of the Department, are to be filed in the office, and turned over to his successor. In like manner he will turn over to his successor, or in the event of the discontinuance of the office, deliver to the nearest postmaster, as *public property*, all desks, cases, and other furniture or fixtures, and all books, maps, blanks, stationery, and other articles, which have either been furnished to him as postmaster, or have been charged and allowed at any time, whether as contingent expenses in the quarterly account, or as items in the commission, emolument, or other account, and which may remain on hand when the vacancy or discontinuance happens.

72. If, from any cause, a post office ceases to operate, the nearest postmaster on the same route will report the fact to the Department, and open the mails addressed to such office, deliver the letters and papers to the persons entitled to them, and account for the postage, in the returns of his own office.

73. When the Postmaster General shall change the name of an existing post office, the order will not take effect until the postmaster shall have executed new bonds and returned them to the Second Assistant Postmaster General. When the bond shall have been thus executed and returned, the name designated by the Postmaster General will be used from and after the first day of the next succeeding quarter. But no postmaster can change the name of his office, without the order of the Department; and he is expected to be particular in seeing none other substituted than the proper *official* name of his office.

74. In all communications to the Department, as well as in his private correspondence, every postmaster should embrace in the date, the name of his post office, county, (district or parish,) and State.

## CHAPTER 8.

The operations of the Department, on the mail routes, and in the post offices, are divided into—

1. The making up and forwarding of mails.
2. The receiving and opening of mails and delivering of letters, newspapers, and packets.
3. The keeping and rendering of accounts and payment of balances.

*Making up and forwarding mails. What may be admitted into the mail.*

75. The mails were established for the transmission of intelligence ; the articles, therefore, proper to be sent in them are letters, newspapers, and pamphlets.

76. Packets of every description, weighing more than three pounds, are to be excluded, except public documents, printed by order of either House of Congress, or such publications or books as have or may be published, procured, or purchased, by order of either House of Congress, or a joint resolution of the two Houses, legally franked.

77. Bound books of any size are not included in the term mailable matter, except books sent by Governors of States, and bound public documents, legally franked.

## CHAPTER 9.

*How the mails should be made up.*

78. Letters received to be sent by mail, should be carefully marked with the name of the Post Office at which they are received, and the initial of the State or Territory, the day of the month on which they are forwarded in the mail, and the rate of postage chargeable on them ; or if they be free, with the word *Free*. The name, date, and *Free*, may be either written or stamped on them.

79. At offices where there is much business, the work of rating and marking should be performed as fast as the letters are received.

ed, and not left until the time of closing the mail, when, in the hurry of business, many errors might be committed.

80. Letters, however, must bear post mark, and post bills must bear the date on which the mail leaves the post office.

81. The postmaster will carefully assort the letters—and all letters addressed to offices in his own State, and all letters addressed to distributing offices, capitals of States and Territories, and all letters to offices in other States, situated between his office and a distributing office, he shall mail direct. When a letter necessarily passes through a distributing office, it shall be the duty of the postmaster to mail to the nearest distributing office short of the place where the letter is directed, and write upon the packet the name of the office and State, and the letters D. P. O. (the usual abbreviation for “Distributing Post Office,”) for example: A letter from Richmond, Virginia, to Dayton, Ohio, should be mailed and directed “Columbus, Ohio, D. P. O.”

82. Way offices on railroads will be supplied by exchanging of pouches as the cars pass, without waiting for time to change the mail, and postmasters at such offices should have the mails ready when the cars come.

83. The number of letters and amount of postage are to be entered under the proper heads in the post bill, to be sent with them; and having written the proper address at the top of the bill, the same must be dated and signed by the postmaster.

84. The post bill being completed, its contents are to be entered in the *Account of mails sent*, stating the name of the office (and State if a different one,) to which the mail is sent, (or if sent to a distributing office the name of such office.) Letters for distribution, and letters for delivery, should be made up in separate packets, and a way bill should accompany each packet.

85. The letters are to be made up into bundles, and the post bill with them, wrapped in a paper of proper strength, and tied with twine. If there are more letters for one office than can be conveniently put into one bundle, they should be made up into two or more bundles, and numbered; the post bill being put into the last number.

86. The mails for all the offices to which there are any letters addressed, being in this manner complete, they are to be put into the bag or bags destined to receive them, which is to be locked and delivered to the carrier.

87. Post bills, as to year, month, and day of the month, should always be *fully* and *plainly* dated; and the date should, in all cases, correspond with the day on which they are, or by due course

of mail should be, *actually sent*, without regard to the day on which they may happen to have been made up.

## CHAPTER 10.

### *Receiving and Despatching mails.*

88. A postmaster will always be in readiness, in person, or by his assistants, to receive the mail when it arrives, and despatch it with all possible expedition.

89. If no special regulation upon the subject has been made in regard to his office, he is allowed seven minutes only to change the mail.

90. If the mail be carried in a stage, coach, or sulky, it will be the duty of the driver to deliver it as near the door of his office, as he can come with his vehicle, but he is not required to leave his horses, neither should he be permitted to throw the mail on the ground.

91. He will never detain a mail beyond the time fixed for its departure, except for the arrival of a pending mail, and in that case it should be despatched in time to connect with other important mails, at the place of arrival.

92. When the mail is to remain but a few minutes at his office, the mail should be made up and ready to put into the mail bag before the time it usually arrives.

93. He will stop all packets which he finds going in the wrong direction, and put them in the right one.

94. In case of a failure of the mail, he will forward all the packets by the next trip.

95. It is inadmissible to send letters in a canvass bag without a leather bag and lock.

96. Never deliver the mail bag to the carrier without being certain that it is locked.

## CHAPTER 11.

### *Opening the mail.*

97. Upon the arrival of the mail, at any post office, the packets addressed to that office, and none other, will be opened, and the postmaster will find in each one a bill of the contents, called a *post bill*. Compare this bill with the contents, and if they do not agree, note upon the bill the amount of the difference, and whether *undercharged or overcharged*.

98. Every postmaster will then look over the letters thus received, to see if the postages be properly charged or marked on them, and correct the rates on the letters, where he sees mistakes, noting the amount corrected on the bill, as *under* or *overcharged*.

99. If a postmaster observes any letters that are not within his delivery, and are missent to his office, he will put them in the proper place to be forwarded, noting on the bill the amount forwarded, and writing on the letters the words "*missent and forwarded,*" *with the date.* They should be forwarded by the first mail.

100. Upon making up the mail it is the duty of every postmaster when he is of opinion, or has good reason to believe, that any letter has been illegally franked, to erase the frank, and charge the same with the legal postage; and the postmaster at the office of delivery of any letter which he believes has been illegally franked, is directed to charge such letter with the legal postage; and if upon an exhibition of any letter franked and rated with postage upon which postage has been charged and collected, it shall appear, that the same was a letter rightfully and legally franked by the person who wrote it, or if written by another at the request of him who franks it, upon the business of the office of the person franking, the postage will be refunded, and the proper entries made.

101. These examinations having been made, the postmaster is ready to deliver the letters, newspapers, &c.

102. Having carefully examined the post bills, and found them right, or discovered and corrected their errors, as well in casting up, as in the particulars above mentioned, every postmaster will enter their contents in the *Account of mails received*, stating the name of the office (and State, if out of his own,) from which each bill came.

103. Every postmaster will enter the amount of unpaid letters, as it is charged in the bill, whether the charge be correct or erroneous. If erroneous, it falls either under the denomination of *undercharged* or *overcharged*, and by an entry of the sum, *under* or *overcharged*, in the proper column, that error is balanced.

104. All letters received by mail are to be entered in the *Account of Mails received*, though no post bill accompany them, and the fact should be noted on the account that no post bill was received.

105. Letters received by mail regularly marked paid by the postmaster, or having on it a prepaid stamp, are to be delivered as paid, though they be entered in the bill as unpaid. In such case the postmaster will make the proper correction on the post bill; inform the postmaster who mailed the letter of the mistake, and request him to make the necessary correction in his *Account of*



*mails sent.* If the error be repeated, postmasters will notify the facts to the Department.

106. When a postmaster opens the mail bag, he should be careful to leave no packets of letters or newspapers addressed to his office in it; and, if his office be at a connecting point of the mails, from which other mails branch, he will carefully examine the packets in the bag, take out all such as are addressed to offices supplied by the branching mails, and give them their proper direction by the earliest conveyance. When this is neglected, it is expected that the *first* postmaster who discovers it, will return the missent packets, and promptly report the facts to the Department.

## CHAPTER 12.

### *Time allowed for opening the mail.*

107. Seven minutes are allowed for opening and closing the mails at all offices where no particular time is specified; but on railroad and steamboat routes, there is to be no more delay than is necessary to deliver and receive the bags.

## CHAPTER 13.

### *Distribution, in what manner to be made up.*

108. Distribution offices are established to insure certainty and regularity in the transmission of letters and packets between remote points; and to this end, besides the usual business of a post office, certain peculiar duties are performed in them.

109. Letters addressed to distributing offices are not to be stopped or opened at any other office, and when received are not to be entered in the account of mails received for distribution.

110. All post bills proper for distributing offices are to be filled according to the directions in chapter 9, with the contents of each parcel, and addressed, as the case may be, either to the office for delivery, or to the proper distributing office. These post bills are then to be dated, and entered in the *Account of mails sent from the distributing office.*

111. A postmaster at a distributing office will not open and distribute a mail which is addressed to a particular office, though it may pass through his office.

112. If letters be sent by any postmaster to a distributing post office, when they should have been mailed direct to the offices to which they are addressed, the postmaster at such distributing post

office, will request the postmaster so sending to correct his practice; and if continued, report him for such violation of instructions.

113. All letters and packets are to be distributed and remailed before the departure of the mail; and on no account are they to be delayed a single post.

## CHAPTER 14.

### *Time allowed for closing mails at Distributing Offices.*

114. The great mails are to be closed at all distributing offices, one hour before the time fixed for their departure; and all other mails at those offices, and all mails at all other offices, half an hour before that time, unless the departure is between 9 o'clock, P. M., and 5, A. M., in which case the mail is to be closed at 9, P. M.—*Act of 1825, sec. 11, page 7.*

## CHAPTER 15.

### *Postage on Letters.*

115. On a letter not exceeding half an ounce in weight, sent any distance not exceeding three hundred miles, five cents.

116. When sent any distance over three hundred miles ten cents.

117. For every additional weight of half an ounce, or any fractional excess of less than half an ounce, there shall be charged an additional postage of five or ten cents, according to the distance.

118. On letters "*dropped*" in the post office for delivery in the same place, two cents each.

119. Letters addressed to different persons, enclosed in the same envelope or packet, cannot be sent through the mails, under a penalty of ten dollars, unless addressed to foreign countries. This is not applicable to packets made up by postmasters to be forwarded from one office to another.

120. The distance according to which postage is chargeable, is that on the post road from one office to another, upon which the mail is conveyed.

121. Letters should in all cases be sent by the most expeditious routes, unless otherwise ordered by the person sending the same.

## CHAPTER 16.

### *Postage on Ship and Steamboat Letters.*

122. All ship letters and packets are to be charged with a postage of six cents each, when delivered from the office at which

they are first received ; when forwarded in the mail to other offices, with two cents, in addition to the ordinary rates of postage. They should all be marked "*Ship*," at the time of receiving them. This applies to all letters and packets brought by vessels from foreign countries, as well as those conveyed from one port to another in the United States over routes not declared post roads.

123. Masters of foreign packets are not to be paid any thing for letters delivered into the office ; such letters are, notwithstanding, to be charged with postage, when delivered from the office, or forwarded by mail.

124. The above rates of postage are not to be increased on letters and packets, carried in a private ship or vessel, from one port in the United States to another, though a *part* of the voyage be over a water declared to be a post road. Thus, the Mississippi river, from New Orleans to the mouth, is a post road ; yet letters carried by ship between New Orleans and any other port in the United States, are subject to the usual ship letter postage. But if the *whole* of the water between any two ports, be a post road by law, then inland postage will be charged.

125. Letters and packets that are carried on any of the waters of the United States, in packets, under an arrangement with the Department, are subject to the same postage as if carried in the mail overland.

126. Upon letters and packets received from the masters of steamboats, on waters deemed post roads, the persons addressed will be charged, when delivered to them, the same postage as if the letters and packets had been conveyed in the mail overland.

127. If a letter be received as above, to be sent in the mail to another office, there will be charged the proper rate of postage for the distance between the place at which the letter was placed on board the boat, and the office to which it is addressed. Letters brought by steamboats should be marked "*Steamboat*," at the time of receiving them.

128. For every letter received by a postmaster at a sea port, to be conveyed to a foreign country, there shall be paid to the postmaster one cent.—*Act of 1825, sec. 34.*

129. The master (except of a foreign packet) is to be paid two cents for each letter and packet delivered by him, except to ports on Lake Erie, where one cent is to be paid to the master, and except where special contracts are made.

130. If the letters be delivered into the post office by a passenger or sailor, and not in behalf of the master, nothing is to be paid for them ; they are, nevertheless, to be charged with ship letter postage, and the number entered in the account of ship letters, with the name of the vessel in which they were brought.

131. For every letter or packet, delivered by the master of a steamboat, every postmaster will pay him two cents, or one cent if on Lake Erie, unless his boat carries letters and packets under a contract with the Department. He will take the receipt of the master, specifying the number of letters, and the places from which they were brought. *Act of 1825, sec. 6.*

132. On ship letters and packets, two cents are to be charged in addition to the ordinary rates when mailed for other places.

133. The account of steamboat letters received, with the sums paid for them, and the postage on such, as are to be delivered from the office, is to be kept in the account of *ship and steamboat letters received*, and as the account of ship letters.

## CHAPTER 17.

### *Postage on Way Letters.*

134. Way letters are such letters as a mail carrier receives on his way between two post offices. The carrier will deliver them to the first post office at which he arrives. The postmaster will inquire of the carrier at what places he received them, and rate them with postage from those places to the offices to which they are directed, writing against the rate, the word "*way.*"—*Act of 1825, sec. 20.*

135. If such way letters are within the delivery of the office, the amount of their postage is to be noted on one of the bills received by the same post, and when the bills in the *Account of mails received* are entered, such amount of postage in the column headed *Way letter*, is to be entered also.

136. If any of these way letters are not to be delivered by the postmaster, their postage is not to be entered in that column, but the letters are to be included in the post bill with the other letters for the office to which they are addressed.

137. The postmaster will pay the mail carrier one cent if demanded for each way letter which he delivers to him, and add that cent to the ordinary postage on the letter.

## CHAPTER 18.

### *Postage on Circulars and Handbills.*

138. On all circulars or handbills which may be printed or lithographed, on quarto post or single cap paper, or paper not larger than single cap, and which are folded and directed but left

unsealed, three cents on each for any distance, to be paid in advance when the circulars are deposited in the office; when sealed to be rated as letters, and when rated as letters prepayment is not required.

139. Quarto post is the size usually called letter paper, single cap is the size commonly called foolscap or writing paper.

140. When the circular is on a sheet larger than single cap, it is to be rated with pamphlet postage.

141. If persons with the obvious and palpable intent to evade the payment of postage, in their correspondence, send through the mails matters of private concern, in printed sheets, having the form and some of the characteristics of newspapers or pamphlets, such papers are to be taken and considered as handbills or circulars, and must be charged with postage accordingly. And publications containing advertisements, recommendations of goods, &c., although they may borrow the name of a newspaper and may contain a quantity of general matter, are to be rated as handbills.

142. Prospectuses of newspapers accompanying papers, or sent separately, are to be charged as circulars, and postage required in advance.

143. Engravings are to be charged with handbill postage.

144. Letter postage is to be charged on all handbills, circulars, or other things assuming that shape, which contain any manuscript writing whatever.

145. *Corrected proof sheets* are to be charged with postage on pamphlets not periodical, in case the corrections be those only of typographical errors; but if new matter be introduced by the corrections, the sheets are subject to letter postage.

146. Postmasters will charge letter postage on all packets that are closely enveloped and sealed, so that what they contain cannot be known, and on newspapers so enveloped as not to be open at one end.

## CHAPTER 19.

### *Postage on Newspapers.*

147. Newspapers carried not over 100 miles, or any distance within the State in which they are mailed, are to be charged with a postage of one cent each.

148. If carried over 100 miles, and out of the State in which they are mailed, they are to be charged with one and a half cents each.—*Act of 1825, sec. 30.*

149. This postage is chargeable by the *newspaper*, not by the *sheet*. Hence, if two or more newspapers be printed on one sheet, as has been done, full postage is to be charged on each; nor is the postage to be abated on a newspaper printed on less than a whole sheet.

150. Newspaper postage is to be charged upon newspapers, extra newspapers, supplements to newspapers, and the printed or written notices sent by the publishers of newspapers to their subscribers, attached to the margin of the newspaper, stating the amount due for subscription.—*Act of 1825, sec. 13.*

151. Publishers' receipts cannot be so sent, but *bills* only; and this privilege does not extend to publishers of pamphlets and magazines.

152. A newspaper is defined to be any printed publication issued in numbers, and published at stated intervals of not more than a month, conveying intelligence of passing events. It generally consists of a sheet, but may be composed of two sheets, of paper. In such case it is chargeable with only single newspaper postage; provided the two sheets, in the aggregate, do not exceed nineteen hundred square inches. If it exceed that superficial extent, it is to be rated as a pamphlet.

153. An extra newspaper, or a supplement to a newspaper, when they are such, *bona fide*, will be rated separately, with newspaper postage. When they are styled extra or supplementary newspapers, but are in fact mere advertisements or circulars, they will be charged as such, with three cents each sheet, (to be pre-paid,) if not more than single cap or quarto post; if on a sheet larger, then they will be charged as pamphlets.

154. When the article to be mailed is a circular, pamphlet, or newspaper, it should be so enveloped or folded that it can be distinctly seen at the office to be such, and also that it contain no writing, marks, or signs, to serve the purpose of written communications. If not done up so as to be open at the end, it is to be charged as a letter, by weight.

155. Contractors, mail carriers, railroad and steamboat lines may carry newspapers out of the mails, for sale or distribution among regular subscribers. But if such newspapers are delivered to the postmaster, to distribute among subscribers, postage must be charged and collected.

156. Reprints of books or magazines in newspaper form, are likewise to be rated with periodical pamphlet postage.

157. Extras of a paper which contain mainly and chiefly a republication of books or private matter must be placed on the footing of periodical pamphlets.—*See Opinion of the Attorney General, at the end of volume of Laws.*

158. Newspapers not sent from the office of publication, by which is meant those not sent by editors or publishers, except such as are legally franked, are to be rated at three cents, and the postage paid in advance at the time they are deposited in the office.

## CHAPTER 20.

### *Postage on Pamphlets and Magazines.*

159. On all pamphlets, magazines, periodicals, and every other kind and description of printed or other matter, (except newspapers, and except, also, circulars, handbills, and advertisements, as aforesaid,) which shall be unconnected with any manuscript communication whatever, two and a half cents for every copy of no greater weight than one ounce, for any distance. For every additional ounce, one cent; any fractional excess exceeding half an ounce, to be charged as an ounce; but any excess less than half an ounce is not to be regarded.

160. A pamphlet is a small unbound printed book. A magazine is a pamphlet published periodically, in numbers, containing articles on science, literature, politics, news, &c. &c.

## CHAPTER 21.

### *Paid Letters, Newspapers, and Pamphlets.*

161. If the writer of a paid letter wishes the postmaster at the nearest office to forward the letter by a private opportunity, to a place where there is no post office, it is to be duly forwarded in that manner, when a proper opportunity occurs.

162. Any person who desires it is to be allowed to pay the postage on any letter, newspaper, magazine, or pamphlet, which he deposits in the office, to be sent by mail; the rate of postage is to be marked upon it, and against the rate, the word "*Paid,*" at full length. All paid letters, handbills, circulars, and newspapers are to be entered in the post bill, and when the mail is made up, in the proper column in the *Account of mails sent.*

163. The postage on the paid newspapers and pamphlets is to be placed at the foot of *Accounts of newspapers and pamphlets received.*

164. In entering the postage received on paid newspapers and pamphlets, sent from his office at the foot of this account, (*see preceding sec.*) the postmaster will distinguish that which is received on newspapers from that received on pamphlets.

## CHAPTER 22.

*Abating and refunding Postage.*

165. If it be demanded, postmasters will remit the postage charged on letters written by postmasters in the discharge of their official duty, such as letters to publishers of newspapers informing them that their papers are not taken out, &c., which should be franked.

166. But the postage on a private letter cannot be remitted, on the ground that the writer might have franked it.

167. Postmasters may refund an overcharge caused by an erroneous estimate of the weight of the letter, or of the distance on the post road over which the letter was conveyed.

168. Sometimes packets of newspapers, pamphlets, and books, chiefly from abroad, made up in the form of letters, are deposited in a post office, to be sent in the mail. Such packets should be rated with letter postage according to their weight. When they arrive at the office of delivery, if the party to whom they are addressed, would claim an abatement of the letter postage, he should open them in the presence of the postmaster. If they contain only the articles above mentioned, they may be delivered upon the payment of the postage legally chargeable upon those articles. *See sec. 152.*

169. In all cases other than those stated in the preceding sections, where an abatement of postage on articles sent in the mail is claimed, postmasters will report the facts specially to the Department for its decision.

170. When any abatement of letter postage takes place, it should be specially noted on the post bill that came with the overcharged letters.

## CHAPTER 23.

*Collection of Postage.*

171. Postmasters will receive nothing but specie in payment of postage, or of any draft, demand, or deposit, which they may be authorized to collect or receipt for, on account of the Department.

172. Postmasters are not authorized in any case to give credit for postage.

173. If credit has been given, they cannot detain a letter addressed to the person credited, which is free, or paid, or on which



the postage is tendered by him, until he pays the postmaster the amount credited.

174. Neither can they, when there are several letters in the office, addressed to the same person, refuse to deliver him any of them, unless he will pay the postage on all.

175. Postmasters will not fail to make out a detailed return of the names and number of all newspapers mailed and delivered at their office, to subscribers, and the amount of postage on each.

176. At the beginning of every post office quarter, postmasters will require the subscribers, and others who receive newspapers regularly through their offices, to pay the quarter's postage thereon in advance; and, without such payment, they will not deliver them any papers, even though they tender the postage on them singly.—*Act of 1825, sec. 30.*

177. If a newspaper begin to arrive at the office in the course of the post office quarter, postmasters will demand the postage in advance, of the subscriber, up to the end of that quarter.

178. At the end of a quarter, postmasters will refund the postage on so many of the newspapers as have not arrived at the office during the quarter.

179. The postage on all pamphlets and magazines, is to be paid on each as they are delivered, and to be entered at the time in a separate list, and accounted for in the account current.

180. All transient newspapers, handbills and circulars, and all other matter which is required to be prepaid, should be charged as paid letters in the way bills and account of mails sent.

## CHAPTER 24.

### *Delivery of Letters.*

181. The persons entitled to letters received by mail, are those whose names are in the address. Postmasters, therefore, in delivering letters, will be governed in all cases by their address.

182. The delivery should be either to the person addressed, or according to his or her order. The order is, in some cases, implied, as where a person is in the habit of receiving his letters through his son, clerk, or servant, and of recognising the delivery to them as proper.

183. If a letter appear to be of value, it will be well, in most cases, to require a written order for its delivery to the person calling, if he or she be not the person addressed.

184. A letter addressed to a firm may be delivered to any member of the firm; if addressed to several persons, it may be delivered to any one of them.

185. If there be two or more persons of the same name, and a letter addressed to their name be delivered to the wrong person, the postmaster will, if he is fully satisfied that there has been a mistake, instantly reseal the letter in the presence of the person who opened it, and request him to write upon it the words, "*Opened by me through mistake,*" and sign his name; then he will refund the postage paid, and replace the letter in the office.

## CHAPTER 25.

### *Masters of Steamboats to deliver Letters and Packages into Post Offices.*

186. The masters of steamboats that are under contract with the Department, will deliver into the post offices, (or the local agent of the Department, if there be any,) at the places at which they arrive, all letters received by them, or any person employed in their boats, at any point along the route.

187. Masters or managers of all other steamboats, are required by law, under a penalty of thirty dollars, to deliver all letters brought by them, or within their care or power, addressed to, or destined for the places at which they arrive, to the postmasters at such places: *except letters relating to some part of the cargo.* All letters not addressed to persons, to whom the cargo, or any part of it is consigned, are therefore to be delivered into the post office, to be charged with the proper rates of postage.—*See act of 1825, secs. 6 and 19.*

188. All letters conveyed by steamboats, packets, or other vessels, relating to the cargo, must be left unsealed; and if sealed must be delivered into the Post Office and charged with letter postage; but if upon being opened in the presence of the postmaster, and found to relate to the cargo, the postage should be remitted.

189. This law is often violated. Postmasters will use diligence to correct the evil, and prosecute for the penalty, in every case where they can obtain testimony.

## CHAPTER 26.

### *Masters of every Vessel from a Foreign Port, to deliver Letters and Packets into Post Offices.*

190. These terms, ship letters and packets, embrace the letters and packets that are brought into the United States, by sea, from foreign countries, and those that are carried from one port in the United States to another, in any private ship or vessel.

191. Every master of a vessel from a foreign port is bound, immediately on his arrival at a port, and before he is permitted to report, make entry, or break bulk, under a penalty not to exceed \$100, to deliver into the post office all letters brought in his vessel, directed to any person in the United States, or the Territories thereof, which are under his care or within his power, except such letters as relate to the cargo or some part thereof.

192. It is the special duty of every postmaster at a port where vessels or boats land, to see that this law is faithfully executed, and to institute prosecutions for every violation of it.

193. Every postmaster will obtain from the master of the ship or vessel, a certificate, specifying the number of letters, with the name of the ship or vessel, and place from which she last sailed, and upon each letter he shall pay to the said master or owner two cents, and take his receipt therefor, except to ports on Lake Erie, where one cent will be paid.

194. All letters written in the United States, and conveyed in steamboats or vessels over waters declared by law to be post routes, and delivered to postmasters under the foregoing regulations, are subject to the same rates of postage as would have been charged, if said letters had been transmitted by mail from the port or place at which they were placed on board the steamboat, from which they were received.

## CHAPTER 27.

### *Letters missent and to be forwarded.*

195. In forwarding letters by mail, postmasters will, in all cases, be governed by the address upon them. If through accident, or mistake, a letter addressed to another office be sent to this office, they will follow the instruction in section 99.

196. Upon such a *missent* letter, they will charge no new postage for forwarding; but if necessary, they will add so much to the postage first marked on it, as will make the full rate of postage from the place where it was originally mailed, to the office named in the address.

197. A postmaster will forward a letter addressed to and lying in his office, to any other office, at the request of the writer thereof, if he knows him to be such, or of the person addressed; and in such case, they will add a new postage for forwarding, to the rate already marked on the letter; the whole postage to be paid when the letter is taken out of the office to which it is forwarded.

198. Orders to forward letters should be in writing, and filed by postmasters.

199. In every case of a letter forwarded, the amount forwarded should be noted on the bill with which the letter was received, if it can be found; if not, upon some other post bill; and it should be entered on the proper line of the *Account of mails received*, in the column headed *overcharged*, and the word "*forwarded*," with the date, written immediately after it.

## CHAPTER 28.

### *Return of Letters.*

200. To prevent fraudulent practices, the postmaster will be careful not to return any letter put into his office for transmission by mail, unless it be to the writer thereof, or some one presenting his written order.

201. And to enable him to know that the person applying, or sending his order, for the return of a letter is the writer, he may require him, or his messenger, to exhibit to him the same superscription and seal that are upon the letter. And if the postmaster is satisfied that the handwriting and seal are the same as those upon the letter, he will return it; taking a receipt and preserving it with the paper containing the superscription, and the order, if one were sent.

202. A letter bearing the frank of an individual may be returned to him, or his order.

## CHAPTER 29.

### *Advertising Letters.*

203. At the end of every quarter, all letters then on hand, and which have not been already advertised, are to be entered alphabetically in a list, and advertised. If there is a newspaper published near the office, and the publisher will insert the advertisement three times, at the rate of two cents for each letter mentioned in the advertisement, it is then to be published in such newspaper. If there is no newspaper that has much circulation in the neighborhood of the office, or if the publisher will not advertise the letters for the price abovementioned, then manuscript lists of them are to be made out, and posted at such public places in the town and neighborhood, as shall appear best adapted for the information of the parties concerned.—*Act of 1825, sec. 26.*

204. The newspaper of the town or place where the office may be situated having the largest circulation in the vicinity, or usual delivery of the office, must be selected by the postmaster to advertise the uncalled for letters: *Provided*, The editor or publisher shall agree to insert the same, at the above rate.

205. In case of question or dispute, as to the circulation of any paper claiming the advertisement of the uncalled for letters, it shall be the duty of the postmaster, on the first day of July in each year, to receive evidence, and decide upon the fact; and such decision shall remain for one year, unless for good cause, the Postmaster General shall otherwise order; and the evidence upon which the postmaster decides to give the printing to a particular paper, shall always be open to inspection.

206. Postmasters, in towns and villages where there is no newspaper published, will hereafter advertise letters in the mode prescribed in the act of Congress of 1825, viz: "make out a number of such lists, and cause them to be posted at such public places in their vicinity as shall appear to them best adapted for the information of the parties concerned."

207. The 35th section of the act of 2d July, 1836, authorizes the Postmaster General to direct the advertisement to be made in more than one newspaper, provided the cost does not exceed four cents per letter. But neither the additional expense of the advertisement in a second paper, nor of more frequent advertisements in a single paper is to be incurred at any office, unless specially directed by the Postmaster General.

208. Postmasters at offices where the nett balances average five hundred dollars a quarter, will advertise at the end of every month the letters then on hand, which have not been already advertised.

209. Refused letters are not to be advertised, nor those which the postmaster expects will be immediately taken from the office.

210. Drop and box letters, and circulars are not to be advertised.

211. Neither is it necessary to advertise free packets, known to contain printed documents, speeches, &c.

## CHAPTER 30.

### *Dead Letters.*

212. Dead letters are such as have been advertised, and have remained on hand, for three months or longer, including refused letters.

213. At the end of every quarter, they should be made up into mails, and forwarded with a bill to the Department, together with the *Quarterly Accounts*.

214. The dead letters must be carefully put up in the quarterly return, so as under no circumstances to be separated from it in its transmission to the Department.

215. No allowance will be made for dead letters returned, unless accompanied by said bill.

216. When any letter from this Department, or any other Department or office at the seat of Government, is not called for within one month from the time of its receipt, or when the person addressed is known to have removed, such letter should be returned to the proper Department, and must not be retained to accompany the dead letters.

217. If the person addressed is known to have removed, or if a postmaster have any other reason to believe that the letter is misdirected, he will immediately notify the proper Department or office of the fact, and either be governed by its direction, or return the letters at the end of the month, as the case may be.

## CHAPTER 31.

### *Lost Letters and Mail Depredations.*

218. Money, or other valuable things, sent in the mail, is at the risk of the owner. But, if it be lost, the Department will make every effort in its power to discover the cause, and, if there has been a theft, to punish the offender.

219. In every case of loss by mail, whether supposed to be the result of casualty or of depredation, the Department should be informed without delay, of all the circumstances connected with it. Particular care should be taken to state the name of the office in which the letter was placed, the day on which it was so placed, and whether by the writer himself, or by another person, the day on which, if at all, it was actually mailed, the names of the writer and the person addressed, the amount, and if practicable, a particular description of the valuable enclosure, the amount of postage marked on the letter, and whether unpaid or paid, the office to which addressed, and whether mailed direct thereto, or to another office for distribution, and the route by which it was sent, with any further particulars that may aid the Department in its investigation respecting the cause of loss.

220. No reported loss will be investigated by an agent, unless satisfactory evidence is produced, either by the certificate of the

postmaster, or some other disinterested individual that the money or other valuable thing was deposited in the post office.

221. All necessary expenses that may be incurred in recovering the mail, and in apprehending the robber, will be reimbursed by the Department.

222. In some cases it may be proper to offer a reward, not to exceed fifty dollars, payable on conviction, for the apprehension of the criminal.

223. In every case when the criminal is apprehended, the Attorney of the United States for the district in which the offence was committed, should be promptly informed of the facts, and his advice obtained.

224. If the prosecution be had before the Federal Court for the District, which the Department prefers in every case, where it is convenient, and which should be had there, in all cases, in which State officers refuse to act, the Attorney of the United States will conduct it.

225. Persons arrested for mail depredations should in all cases, when it is practicable, be taken before a district, or circuit judge of the United States, for examination and commitment.

226. In every case it is expected that postmasters will spare no exertions to have justice done, and the guilty punished, by procuring testimony, and giving the prosecution every other aid in their power.

227. Cases of mail robberies should be at once reported to the Department, and information given from time to time, of what further transpires respecting them.

228. At all large offices at which daily mails from other large offices are received, care should be taken to note the fact, if the usual mail from either of those offices fail, for any given day, to arrive, and if subsequent mails arrive, leaving that for a preceding day still due, the mailing office should immediately be written to for information, if any such mail as that supposed to be missing, was actually sent; and if the answer be in the affirmative, a report of the loss should, without further delay, be made to the Department.

229. If a postmaster has reason to believe that a mail has recently been robbed or stolen, in the vicinity of his office, he should at once examine into the evidence of the fact; and, if then satisfied that such robbery or theft has actually occurred, should take immediate and energetic measures for recovering such mail, and for apprehending and prosecuting the offender.

## CHAPTER 32.

*Letter Carriers.*

230. Postmasters are authorized to have letter carriers. They will nominate to the Postmaster General suitable persons to be employed, who are required to give bonds to the United States, to be approved by him.—*Act of July 1836, sec. 41.*

231. When duly appointed and qualified, the postmaster may, at his risk and responsibility, place in their hands for delivery all letters received, except such as are for persons who may have lodged with him a written request to retain their letters in the office.—*Act of 1825, sec. 36.*

232. Such carriers may charge and receive two cents for every letter, and a half cent for every newspaper, delivered by them.—*Act of 1825, sec. 36, also act of 1836, sec. 41.*

233. These regulations do not apply to the city of New York, and other cities, where special instructions have been given.

234. It is the duty of a mail carrier to receive and convey a letter, (and the money for its postage when tendered,) if delivered to him more than a mile from a post office, and to hand it, with the money, if paid, into the first post office at which he arrives. A penalty of \$50 attaches, on failure to do so.—*See secs. 134, 135.*

235. On the letters brought by a mail carrier to be mailed, called way-letters, one cent is to be charged, in addition to the usual postage, which is to be rated from the place where the carrier received the letter. It is to be marked "*Way*," and one cent paid to the carrier.

## CHAPTER 33.

*Mail Carriers, and Mail Agents, on Railroad and Steamboat routes.*

236. For the better security of the mails and efficiency of service, the Postmaster General reserves the right of ordering the dismissal of mail carriers, and the power of enforcing it, by annulling the contract in case of refusal.

237. Certain railroad and steamboat routes, the Postmaster General provides with *mail agents*, whose business it is—1st. To receive letters written after the mail is closed, also, way-letters unpaid or prepaid, accounting to the postmaster at the end of the route for all prepaid postage received, and to hand over said let-



ters to the proper office for delivery or mailing, reporting a list of all such letters to the Auditor of the Department—2d. To assort the mails for the several offices, being entrusted with the key to the iron lock for that purpose—3d. To attend to the delivery and reception of mail bags—4th. To report all irregularities of service on the route.

238. On the same class of routes, the Postmaster General appoints mail messengers in certain cases where the post office, being an intermediate one on the route, is situated too far from the steamboat wharf, or the railroad depot for the ordinary carrier to exchange the bags.

239. On the Ohio river below Louisville, and on the Mississippi and Red river, the passage of the mail is engaged by the trip through. Agents assigned to that duty are stationed at Louisville, St. Louis, and New Orleans. The evidence of the arrangement and its term, is reported to the Contract Office. The mail bill, executed by the agent and captain, and the certificates of the postmasters of the receipt of the mails upon the duplicate of the bill, upon which the captain obtains payment for the service, is sent to the Inspection Office as proof of performance.

240. The mail agent and mail messenger should take the necessary oaths of office, and transmit them to the Inspection Office.

241. These persons and mail carriers are exempt from militia and jury duty.

242. Mail carriers, contractors, or stage drivers, cannot lawfully carry out of the mail any letter, or packet, newspapers excepted, unless it be delivered to the postmaster at the next office as a *Way letter*.

243. Besides the conveyance of mails under contract and by appointed agents and messengers, letters and packets are transported by ships, steamboats, and other vessels, at two cents a letter or packet, which in the case of conveyance over the waters of the United States, may by special agreement be raised to three cents a letter, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  cent a newspaper. This rule does not apply to letters delivered at ports on Lake Erie.

## CHAPTER 34.

### *Repeal of Regulation 549.*

244. It is ordered that Regulations 549, which authorizes persons to subscribe for newspapers, by depositing the money with postmasters, &c., be, and the same is repealed. This order to take effect from and after the first day of July, 1847.

## CHAPTER 35.

*Newspapers, Pamphlets, and Magazines.*

245. The printers of newspapers should have their papers, that are to be sent by mail, well dried, and made up into packets enclosed in substantial wrappers—one end being left open, and tied with strong twine, if intended for a distant office.—*Act of 1825, sec. 30.*

246. The newspapers that are intended for one office should be put into one packet, if they do not exceed twenty in number; if there be more than that number, they should be put into packets of nearly that number.

247. The printers are to write on the outside of every packet, in a plain large hand, the name of the office and State, (together with the name of the county, if there be two places of the same name in the State,) for which the papers are intended. The same direction should also be put on one of the newspapers in each packet.

248. If the foregoing regulations be not complied with by the printers, their newspapers should be returned to them.—*Act of 1825, sec. 30.*

249. Printers often complain of the miscarriage of their papers: postmasters are held responsible for such failures, unless they show that the fault is with the printers, or the contractors. The postmaster must procure from the printer an alphabetical list of the packets he sends, and compare the packets deposited with it; note the variances, if there be any, and inform the printer of them.

250. A postmaster will not open, nor suffer to be opened, any packet of newspapers, which is not addressed to his office, under a penalty of fifty dollars. The law imposes a penalty of twenty dollars on any person, not authorized to open mails, who shall open any packet of newspapers, not directed to himself.—*Act of 1825, sec. 30.*

251. Every packet of newspapers that has lost its address, should be returned to the publisher, with a letter stating the fact.

252. Pamphlets or magazines, are not to be carried out of the mail, unless it be authorized by the Department: and if it be so authorized, no preference shall be given by the contractor to any one publisher, over another, in the same place.

253. The wrappers of all newspapers, pamphlets, and magazines, received by mail for delivery, should be taken off. Frauds are very often attempted, by concealing letters or memoranda in these articles. A wrapper forms no part of the paper or pam-

phlet; neither is postage paid on it as such, and it is as much the duty of postmasters to take the wrappers from transient papers and examine them in reference to frauds on the revenue as to ascertain whether the postage be correctly charged. Nothing can be more unjust than to censure a postmaster for vigilance in this branch of his duty. Newspapers, pamphlets, and public documents legally franked, are not included in this regulation.

254. If the address be written on the wrapper only, the postmaster will, when he takes it off, write it upon the newspaper or pamphlet.

255. Contractors or mail carriers may transport newspapers out of the regular mails for sale or distribution to subscribers. But postmasters are not required to receive such papers, and deliver them to subscribers.

## CHAPTER 36.

### *Newspapers not to be read in the office.*

256. Postmasters will not allow newspapers to be read in their offices, by persons to whom they are not addressed; nor lend them out to such, in any case, without the permission of the owners.

## CHAPTER 37.

### *When newspapers and pamphlets are not taken out of the office, publishers of the same to be informed.*

257. In every instance in which newspapers, that come to the office, are not taken out by the person to whom they are sent, postmasters will give immediate notice of it to the publisher, adding the reason, if known, why the papers are not taken out. If papers be sent for three months after such notice, postmasters may sell them for the postage, unless the publisher shall pay it. Such newspapers should not be transmitted to the Department, neither should pamphlets nor magazines, that are not taken out by the persons to whom they are sent.—*Act of 1825, sec. 30.*

258. If magazines or pamphlets published periodically, and sent to the office, be not taken out by the person to whom they are directed, postmasters will promptly inform the publisher of the fact, and the reason, when known. If the publisher desire them to be returned, it should be done, and on delivering them to him, he will pay the postage both for their transmission and return by mail. Such notices to publishers should be franked.

## CHAPTER 38.

*Account of unpaid Newspapers, &c.—how to be kept.*

259. No account is now required to be kept of the unpaid newspapers and pamphlets sent from any post office : it will be the duty of every postmaster to keep an account of those received by him.

260. Every postmaster will enter in his account the amount of the postage on newspapers, pamphlets and magazines, received during the quarter.

261. Every postmaster will enter, at the beginning of his quarters, in the account, *by name*, those newspapers that come regularly to his office, and in the proper column opposite, the amount of the quarter's postage which he has received in advance.—*See sec. 176.*

262. A separate memorandum may be kept of the postage on the newspapers and pamphlets that come occasionally to the office ; as, also, of the postage on extras and supplements to newspapers, and printers' bills.—*See sec. 175.*

263. Enter in the account, also, *by name*, the periodicals, pamphlets and magazines that are regularly received during the quarter, and the postage received on them.

264. Every postmaster will enter as "*various pamphlets,*" all pamphlets and magazines that have come occasionally to his office.

## CHAPTER 39.

*Foreign Newspapers, Magazines, and Pamphlets.*

265. Newspapers from foreign countries may be sent directly from the office of publication, or through authorized agents, to regular subscribers ; but transient foreign newspapers, not sent from the office of publication, or their known authorized agent, must be prepaid.

266. Magazines and pamphlets published in foreign countries, are transmitted through the mails at the same rate of postage as if published in the United States.

## CHAPTER 40.

*The Privilege of Franking.*

267. The law gives to certain citizens and officers of Government the right to send and receive letters and packets by mail, free of postage, under various restrictions. To wit :

Mrs. Madison, the relict of James Madison.

Mrs. Harrison, widow of Wm. H. Harrison.

Each individual who has been President of the United States.  
The President of the United States.

268. Members of Congress and Delegates from Territories may send and receive free, through the mails, from thirty days before the commencement of each Congress, until the meeting of the next Congress, letters and packets not exceeding two ounces in weight, and public documents not exceeding three pounds in weight. Public documents are those printed by the order of either House of Congress, and publications or books procured or purchased by Congress, or either House, for the use of the members.

269. The same privilege allowed to members of Congress is extended to the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives during their official terms, which terminate with the election of their successors.

270. The privilege of the Vice President is the same as members of Congress, except the right to receive letters and packets free during the period intervening between the adjournment of one Congress and the meeting of the next.

271. The Governors of States may send, free of postage, all laws and reports, whether bound or unbound, and all records and documents of their respective States, which may be directed by the Legislatures of the several States to be transmitted to the Executive of other States, the Governor writing his name thereon, with the designation of his office and the kind of books or documents enclosed; the packet to be addressed to the Governor of the State to which it is to be sent.

272. The three Assistant Postmasters General are authorized to send, free of postage, any letters, packets, or other matters, *relating exclusively to their official duties* or the business of the Post Office Department, to be duly franked by them as on "official business."

273. All postmasters throughout the United States are also authorized to send all letters and packets which it may be their duty, or they may have occasion, to transmit to any person or place, which shall relate exclusively to the business of their respective offices, or to the business of the Post Office Department. But, in every such case, the postmaster shall endorse thereon, over his own signature, the words "Post Office business."

274. All postmasters whose compensation did not exceed \$200 for the year ending the 30th June, 1846, may also send free, through the mails, letters written by themselves, and receive free, all written communications, on their own private business, not

weighing over one half ounce. This includes all the postmasters in the United States, except those named in the list published.—*See Appendix.*

275. Persons entitled to the privilege of franking should endorse on all letters or packets weighing under two ounces, "*Free*," and sign the same, designating the office they fill; and all public documents which exceed two ounces in weight, should be designated by writing the words "public document" on them, and signing them officially, as above. The character of public documents issued from the public offices in the city of Washington, and directed to persons authorized to receive them free, may be designated by a stamp specifying the office from which they issue, and the words "public document," or such other evidence of their character as may be agreed upon between them and the postmaster of the city of Washington. Any document folded and sealed, not having such evidence of its character on the envelope, will be rated with postage, which will be remitted by the delivering postmaster upon satisfactory evidence that it is a public document, transmissible free through the mails to the person addressed.

276. All letters and packets from and to the heads of Departments, or the other public officers who were entitled to the franking privilege prior to the passage of the act of the 3d of March, 1845, in relation to the business of their respective offices, will be delivered to the persons addressed, without any charge of postage as an appropriation has been made by Congress for their payment. All letters and packets issuing from the Departments should be marked on the envelope "official business," and signed by the heads of the Departments, or, under their direction, by their chief clerks, and by the other officers who were entitled to the franking privilege prior to the act of 1845, designating their official capacity. But such officers have not the right to send or receive free their private letters or papers.

277. Letters, newspapers, and packets, not exceeding one ounce in weight, addressed to any officer, musician, or private in the army of the United States in Mexico, or at any post or place on the frontier of the United States bordering on Mexico, will pass free in the mails. Each letter so addressed, should specify, after the name of the person, "belonging to the army." The law will continue in force during the war with Mexico, and for three months after its termination.

278. A postmaster cannot send or receive free, a pamphlet, magazine, newspaper, circular, handbill, or other thing, except written communications *not* exceeding half an ounce in weight.

279. He cannot frank, nor receive free, letters written by, or addressed to, his wife, or any other member of the family.

280. He cannot frank, nor receive free, letters written by, or addressed to a firm of which he is a member; nor is he authorized to frank the letters of any person whatever containing money or other things; and it is not proper for him to enter into the business of agencies for others, and use his frank in the transaction of such business, to the injury of the revenue of the Department.

281. If a postmaster be *bona fide* the agent of another, letters on the subject of his agency may be franked by him and received free, but he cannot become an agent *for the purpose* of exempting the correspondence of another from the charge of postage. No postmaster, or assistant postmaster, shall act as agent for lottery offices, or under any color of purchase, or otherwise, vend lottery tickets, nor shall any postmaster receive free of postage, or frank lottery schemes, circulars, or tickets. For a violation of this provision, the person offending shall suffer a penalty of fifty dollars. *Act of 1827, sec. 6.*

282. Transient newspapers, handbills, or circulars, cannot be received free by postmasters under their privilege. If such should be addressed to them, it is their duty to return them to the sender, under a new cover, rated with letter postage. If deposited in a post office unsealed, addressed to postmasters or others, they will not in any case be forwarded by mail without pre-payment of the postage. If sealed, they will be charged with letter rates, and forwarded in the mails.

283. When a postmaster abuses his franking privilege, he violates his oath of office, as well as the law, and will assuredly be removed from office upon detection, and otherwise punished according to law.

284. Every printer of newspapers may send one paper to each and every other printer of newspapers within the United States, free of postage, under such regulations as the Postmaster General shall provide. This privilege does not extend to an exchange with papers printed in foreign countries.

285. This privilege embraces extras and supplements. The papers so sent by one printer to another are free, though none, nor not so many, be returned in exchange.—*Act of 1825, sec. 29.*

286. But a pamphlet, or a magazine, cannot be received by a printer of a newspaper, free of postage. Neither can the publisher of a pamphlet or magazine receive newspapers or magazines free of postage.

287. Printers of newspapers are permitted to send to each other free of postage, open *slips* containing foreign intelligence, ship news, &c. provided they be not placed in the mail in the form of a letter. If they have that form, letter postage must be charged.

## CHAPTER 41.

### *General regulations concerning the Franking Privilege.*

288. If the name of the individual be known as the handwriting of a person entitled to frank, the letter may be regarded as free, although the style of the office be omitted.

289. Postmasters are particularly referred to the provisions of the 28th section of the act of 1825, and the 36th section of the act of 2d July, 1836, relating to the abuses of the franking privilege. A violation of law in this respect should be reported to the Department, and, when sufficient evidence can be obtained, a prosecution for the penalty should be instituted by the postmaster.

290. Penalties attach, whenever a person franks a letter from another, unless written on the business of his office, by his order.

291. A penalty of three hundred dollars attaches to the Assistant Postmasters General and postmasters, for every false endorsement of a letter or packet.

292. If any person shall frank any letter or letters, other than those written by himself, or by his order on the business of his office, he shall, on conviction thereof, pay a fine of ten dollars.—*Act of July 2d, 1836.*

293. In prosecuting for the penalties, postmasters will obtain the aid of the District Attorney of the United States, and for that purpose, report to him the circumstances, and the name of the witnesses in each case; and they will cause the proceedings to be instituted in the District Court of the United States, not only against those who abuse their frank, *but also against those who procure it to be done.*

294. It is because the letter is actually, or by construction of law, *from* the person authorized to send it free, that it is exempted from postage. The frank is merely the certificate of the fact that it is so. When, therefore, the circumstances connected with the letter are such as to show that it is *not* from such a person, and that the frank on it is in effect, a false certificate, postmasters will, in such cases, charge the letter with postage. If, however, after the postage shall have been charged and paid on such letter, it shall be ascertained by the postmaster that the letter franked was from



the person franking it, the postage shall be refunded, and the proper corrections of the bills made.

295. If any person, having the right to receive his letters free of postage, shall receive, enclosed to him, any letter or packet addressed to a person not having that right, it shall be his duty to return the same to the post office, marking thereon the place from whence it came, that it may be charged with postage.—*Act of 1825, sec. 28.*

296. If any person shall counterfeit the hand writing or frank of any person, or cause the same to be done, in order to avoid the payment of postage, each person so offending shall pay, for every such offence, five hundred dollars.—*Act of 1825, sec. 28.*

297. No postmaster or other privileged person can authorize his assistant, clerk, or any other person to write his name for the purpose of franking any letter, public or private.

298. The franking privilege travels with the person possessing it, and can be exercised in but one place at the same time.

299. No postmaster or privileged person can leave his frank behind him upon envelopes to cover his correspondence in his absence.

300. If letters or papers be put into a post office bearing the frank of a privileged person who notoriously has not been in that vicinity for several days; or if letters or papers marked free, be received at an office, directed to a privileged person but notoriously intended to be received by some person not privileged, whether acting as the agent of the privileged person, or not, it is the duty of the postmasters to charge them with postage.

301. If any letter to or from a privileged person, be put into, or received at a post office, of greater weight than such person has a right by law to frank, the postmasters will charge the excess with letter postage.

302. If any postmaster detect such packets or bundles, except Congressional documents duly franked, passing in the mail, he will charge the letter or packet with the excess, and enter the charge in his proper account.

303. Postmasters will not send bound books by mail, whether franked or not, excepting only laws, reports, records, or documents of the several States, franked by the Governors, and public documents printed and bound by order of either House of Congress, and so endorsed by the person franking and sending them.

304. One-half of the penalties collected for violations of the franking privilege go to the prosecutor, and the other half to the United States, and are to be paid over to and accounted for by the Postmaster General. They may be sued for before the circuit and district courts of the United States.

## CHAPTER 42.

*Accounts and Returns of Postmasters.*

305. At the end of every quarter, which is on the last day of March, June, September, and December, every postmaster must make up his accounts, and forward transcripts of them to the Department. The originals should be filed by him with his general account, and will, like it, be held subject to inspection as provided in *Chapter 44, sec. 352.*

306. In case of death, resignation, removal, or the discontinuance of the office, or in case of the giving of a new official bond, in consequence of a change in the name of the office, the expiration of the term for which the postmaster may have been appointed, or otherwise, the accounts must be made up to the day, (though it be not the end of a quarter) in which the office ceases to operate, or the new appointment, or the new bond, as the case may be, takes effect.

307. The accounts of all postmasters are examined and adjusted by the Auditor as they are received, and the errors, if there be any, are carefully corrected.

308. In all cases postmasters are required to sign their accounts, and insert the name of the office, county, (district or parish,) and State, in the headings of them.

309. When the accounts are signed by an assistant, which should be done only in case of the unavoidable absence or sickness of the postmaster, the name of the postmaster, for whom he signs, should be distinctly written above his own name, followed by the word "by."

310. *All errors* are corrected, on such examination, and such as increase, by as much as fifty cents, the balance due to the United States, are notified to the postmaster, by the Auditor for the Post Office Department.

311. Postmasters, therefore, will understand that any alteration in the balances of their accounts is occasioned either by the correction of some numerical error, or by some deviation, on their part, from a strict conformity to the law, and these instructions.

## CHAPTER 43.

*Failure to return Quarterly Accounts—penalties.*

312. If any postmaster shall neglect to render his accounts for one month after the time, in the form and manner pre-

scribed by law, and by the Postmaster General's instructions, he shall forfeit double the value of postages which shall have arisen at his office.—*See sec. 32, act of 1825.*

313. The postmaster, though he may have mailed his accounts, will not be considered as discharged from the penalty mentioned in section 312, unless within one month, upon being notified that they have not been received at the Department, he transmits duplicates, from the copies retained in his possession.

## CHAPTER 44.

### *Papers and Accounts to be returned to the Post Office Department, by Postmasters.*

314. The Quarterly Return is composed of the following accounts and papers, viz :

1. A transcript of the *Account of Mails sent* from the office for the quarter.

2. The entries in this account must, of course, be made every post day, before the mail is sent from the office, and at all large offices, it should be transcribed daily.

3. A transcript of the *Account of Mails received* at the office for the quarter. At all large offices, the entries in this account should be made daily, and it should be transcribed daily, so as to prevent any delay, which would otherwise be unavoidable in making it out after the close of the quarter.

4. A transcript of the *Account of Newspapers and Pamphlets received* at the office during the quarter.

5. From the post offices where such accounts should be kept, a transcript of the *Account of Ship and Steamboat Letters received* in the quarter, and the moneys paid for them.

6. A transcript of the *Account of Letters sent by sea* from the offices at sea ports.

7. Blanks for keeping this account are now furnished, and the accounts must be regularly kept at every office where letters are put on shipboard.

8. All the *post bills* received from other offices during the quarter.

9. *Accounts and receipts for contingent expenses.*

10. The *Dead letters*, and a bill or bills of them.

11. From Distributing offices, a transcript of the *Account of mails received for Distribution.*

12. The *Account current.*

13. *General account.*

315. The commission account—the emolument account, and the account of any city despatch post, and the vouchers belonging to them—must also accompany the quarterly account of all postmasters whose duty it is to render such accounts, respectively.

316. To ensure a correct and expeditious settlement of the quarterly accounts or returns of postmasters, it is indispensable that each return should arrive at the Department in one perfect, unbroken bundle or packet. Each postmaster, therefore, should observe the following directions in packing up his return for transmission in the mail, viz :

317. Put up each part of the return in a separate parcel, with strong paper, tying it with twine, and writing on each parcel its proper contents, and the name of the office, county, and State. Then pack up all the parcels, constituting the entire quarterly return, in one compact bundle or packet, and direct it plainly to the Third Assistant Postmaster General, Post Office Department.

318. No letter, paper, or other thing whatever, not strictly belonging to the quarterly return, should be put up in it.

## CHAPTER 45.

### *The Account Current.*

The *Account current* consists of 29 articles, viz :

319. Every postmaster will make himself debtor for the whole amount of postage on the unpaid letters which remained on hand at the close of the preceding quarter.

320. Every postmaster will make himself debtor for the whole amount of the postage on unpaid letters, as it is stated in the bills from other offices. This article he will find in the column of *Unpaid Letters* in his *Account of mails received* from other offices. See chapter 11.

321. Every postmaster will make himself debtor for the amount of postage on the way-letters received at his office, for delivery; this he will find in the second column of his *Account of mails received*.—See chapter 17.

322. Every postmaster will next debit himself with the amount of letters undercharged. This amount he will find in the third column of his *Account of mails received*.—See sec. 103.

323. Every postmaster will next debit himself with the number and amount of ship and steamboat letters received for delivery. This article he will find in the first column of his *Account of Ship and Steamboat Letters*.—Chapter 16.

324. Every postmaster will next debit himself with the amount of *Paid Letters* sent, including transient newspapers and circulars. This amount he will find in the second column of his *Account of Mails sent from his office*.—See sec. 162 and 163.

325. Every postmaster will charge himself, on the eighth line of his quarterly account, with the whole amount he has paid for advertising letters.

326. He will mark on each letter the cost of advertising, and it will be in addition to the original postage.

327. When he delivers any advertised letters, he receives the cost of advertising together with the postage, and for those he sends to the Department as dead letters, he takes credit for the postage and cost of advertising. In this way he cancels the charge and gives evidence that he has complied with the requisition of the law on the subject.

328. Every postmaster will next credit himself with the amount of postage on letters which have been overcharged and missent to his office and forwarded. The amount he will find in the fourth column of his *Account of mails received*. He will find further observations on this subject in *section 103*.

329. The amount of postage on unpaid *Dead Letters* is next to be entered to his credit. These letters are to be made up into mails, and forwarded with his accounts.—See *chapter 30*.

330. The amount of postage of unpaid letters on hand at the close of the quarter is now to be entered to his credit.

331. This is a temporary credit, given, because the postmaster is already charged with the amount in the second article of his account. The whole sum now entered to his credit, must be entered to his debit in the first article of his next account, whether any of the letters be taken up, or be returned as dead letters, or otherwise.

332. Having added together the sums of the first six mentioned articles, and placed the amount in the same line opposite, he will then deduct these articles from that amount, which leaves the balance, being the amount of letter postage collected by him this quarter. #

333. The balance, which has been placed on the credit side of the account, is now to be entered to his debit.

334. Every postmaster will next debit himself with the whole amount of postage on the newspapers, magazines, and pamphlets, which he has received from other offices during the quarter, together with the amount received on paid newspapers, magazines, and pamphlets, sent from his office, carrying the amount out short.

335. This amount he will obtain from his *Account of Newspapers and Pamphlets received*.

336. Every postmaster will deduct the amount of postage on dead pamphlets and magazines, and likewise, the amount of postage on such newspapers as have continued to come to the office, after he has given the publishers three months notice that they are not taken out. This last deduction is not to be made without due notice having been given to the publisher.—*See chapter 37, sec. 257.* Nor is it to be made, if he shall have sold the newspapers for the postage. If he has received any part of the postage on the sale, the deduction is not to be made for that part.

337. Postmasters will next add the amount of postages collected on letters, newspapers, pamphlets, and magazines together, and place the sum in the line opposite.

338. Every postmaster will next cast his commission on the amount of postage collected on letters during the quarter. The rates of commissions are fixed in the 1st section of the act of 1847, and recited in chapter 52.

339. Every postmaster will next cast his commission on the amount of postage collected on newspapers and pamphlets, except transient newspapers, at 50 per cent., and enter it in this place. The commission is to be cast on the balance remaining after the deductions as directed in section 336 are made.

340. If the commission on letters, newspapers, and pamphlets do not exceed 500 dollars in one quarter, the postmaster will then set down the number of free letters received by mail, for delivery at the office, and carry the amount, at two cents each, to his credit. This number he will find in the sixth column of his *Account of Mails received*.

341. The postmaster will next set down the number of *Ship and Steamboat Letters* which he has paid for this quarter, and carry in their amount at two cents each. These sums he will find in the second and third columns of his *Account of Ship and Steamboat Letters received*.

342. The postmaster will next state the number, and credit himself with the amount paid the mail carrier for way-letters. No form is prescribed for keeping this account.—*See chapter 17.*

343. It now remains for the postmaster to make out his account of *Contingent Expenses*, if any. Wrapping paper and twine are allowed, but postmasters are required to preserve and use the wrappers and twine which come into their offices upon letters and packets received, as far as they can be again safely used. The other articles, which may be charged as contingent expenses, are sealing wax, advertising letters, repairs of mail bags.

344. No allowance for furniture will be made to any post office where the net proceeds do not amount to \$20 per year.

345. A strict observance of the rules herein laid down, in relation to contingent expenses is indispensable. All vouchers for expenses charged in the quarterly account, or in the Commission or Emolument account, must be transmitted with the said accounts; and if for wrapping paper or twine, must state the quantity and; price or if for advertising letters, the number of letters. Unreasonable delay not only implies neglect of the public business, but is calculated to bring suspicion upon the claims withheld; and the Department, therefore, reserves to itself the right to reject all such claims made after the quarterly accounts have been adjusted.

346. Postmasters are prohibited from purchasing supplies for their offices from themselves or from persons associated with them in business, if the articles required can elsewhere be had at a fair price.

347. Postmasters are in the habit of settling their printer's bills only once in two or three years, and then forwarding the advertising account for several quarters at once. This must not be done. All contingent accounts must be forwarded with the returns to which they belong.

348. Postmasters who are allowed to charge, among the contingent expenses, advertisements of the arrivals and departures of the mails, will limit such charge to an advertisement of three weeks only—once each week.

349. Besides the printer's account, and receipt for advertising letters on hand, the newspaper containing the advertisement should be transmitted.

350. The postmasters will now strike the balance of the account which shows how much he is indebted to the Department for postages.

351. As this Account Current is intended to show the nett proceeds of the office for the quarter, no balance due on a former quarter, nor any payment to, or collection for, the Department is to be inserted.

## CHAPTER 46.

### *General Account.*

352. Every postmaster will keep in his office a *General Account with the United States, for the service of the Post Office Department*, subject to the inspection of the Postmaster General, or

of any general or special agent of the Department, and a copy of which is to be furnished to the Auditor, from time to time, when he may so require.

353. In this general account, every postmaster will credit the United States with the balances due on his quarterly returns as acknowledged, and when notified by the Auditor of any corrections made on examination thereof, he will make the corresponding corrections in the general account, or enter the proper credit therefor.

354. The postmaster will likewise credit all sums collected by, or deposited with him, on account of the Department, and will debit the account with all sums paid over for the general service of the Department, whether by deposit upon draft or upon collection order. A draft office may be required to deposit, or to pay on a collection order, or a collection office to deposit or to pay on a draft.

355. The duplicate quarterly accounts, the duplicate certificates of deposit, the duplicate collection orders and the drafts paid, and also all instructions are to be filed as vouchers with this account, and be subject to inspection.

356. The postmaster, upon being furnished with a statement of his general account as kept by the Auditor, will immediately compare it with the amount of his account, and at once acknowledge to the Auditor the balance appearing on such statement, or point out the particulars wherein the accounts disagree.

## CHAPTER 47.

### *Collection of Debts.*

357. The collection of debts due to the Post Office Department, whether by postmasters, contractors, or other persons, is assigned by the act of July, 1836, to the Auditor of the Treasury for the Post Office Department.

358. When such debts, if collected, would over-pay the contractor for the route, on or near which the debtor resides, or when the Auditor finds it otherwise more convenient to employ a postmaster in the vicinity, he will consider himself as a special agent of the Department for this purpose, and will obey such orders as he may receive from the Auditor in respect to such collection.

359. If the debt is collected, the postmaster will give notice thereof to the Auditor, by transmitting his receipt for the amount, and will credit the same in his general account with the United States, for the service of the Post Office Department.



360. If the exertions of the postmaster to collect prove unavailing, he will communicate to the Auditor the causes of the failure, and also the circumstances of the parties, if alive, or of their estates, and the administrators on them, if deceased.

361. If due diligence be not used in making the collection, or if, being unsuccessful, any postmaster fail to return the draft or demand to the Auditor, or otherwise to give notice of such failure, or fail to give any information required in relation to the same, such neglect and want of fidelity will amount to a breach of the condition of his bond, for which the damages will be recoverable; and will moreover be considered just ground of removal from office.

## CHAPTER 48.

### *Paying over money to the use, or for the service of the Post Office Department.*

362. No moneys are to be paid directly into the Department, neither are any paid out directly by it. The proceeds of postage, therefore, should never be remitted by postmasters to the Department, or to any of its officers or agents, without a special order from the Postmaster General.

363. For the purpose of paying over the funds of the Department, all the Post Offices, except Special Offices, are classed, either as Deposit Offices, Draft Offices, or Collection Offices. These designations are changed from time to time to suit the convenience of the service, and when such changes are necessary, they are notified to the postmasters, respectively, by a circular letter.

364. Deposit offices are such as are ordered to place, quarterly or oftener, their funds in deposite in some Depository.

365. Draft offices are those which are ordered to retain their funds in hand to meet drafts drawn by the Postmaster General, and countersigned by the Auditor for the Post Office Department.

366. Collection offices are those which are required to pay over their net proceeds quarterly to the mail contractor named in their special instructions, upon the production by him, from time to time, of the proper orders and receipts sent to him by the Department.

367. Certain postmasters are designated as depositaries of the funds of the offices in their vicinity under orders to deposite quarterly.

368. A failure, either to deposite according to instructions, or to pay a draft when presented, or to pay over to a contractor, upon the production of the proper collection orders and receipts will

be followed by the removal of the delinquent postmaster from his office, unless satisfactorily explained to the Postmaster General.

369. Postmasters who pay the money of the Department to contractors or others, except upon drafts or orders of the Department, do so entirely at their own risk.

370. The postmaster, upon paying a draft, will take a separate receipt from the holder, specifying its date, number, and amount, and will report such payments, and transmit such receipts from time to time, as directed to the Auditor for the Post Office Department.

371. Postmasters at draft offices will, in like manner, transmit summary reports to the Department of the moneys received, as they may be directed.

372. Want of funds can never be an excuse for failing to pay, or to deposite; as the postmaster is not authorized to give credit for postages, which are regarded as cash in his hands. In like manner he is prohibited from using, loaning, investing, depositing in bank, or exchanging moneys received for postages, on pain of criminal prosecution.—*Act of 1841, sec. 2, and act of 6th Aug. 1846, sec. 16.*

373. A postmaster cannot refuse to pay a draft or collecting order, because the contractor is indebted to him, nor because there is an unsettled private account between them, nor upon any other pretext; but such refusal is made, by the law, *prima facie* evidence of embezzlement, subjecting him to punishment.—*Act of 1841, sec. 2, and act of 6th Aug. 1846, sec. 16.*

374. Every postmaster under orders to place his funds in a depository, will take duplicate certificates of each deposite, signed by the proper officer, one of which should be transmitted to the Third Assistant Postmaster General by the first mail thereafter, as the postmaster will not be entitled to a credit therefor until its reception at the Department.

375. The deposite is to be made to the credit of the Treasurer of the United States, for the service of the Post Office Department.

376. The deposite should include the whole amount due, whether for postage at the office, or for collections or deposits made with the postmaster on account of the Department.

377. Postmasters at collection offices must be ready to pay over at the end of each quarter, and will transmit the contractor's receipt to the Auditor for the Post Office Department, by the very first mail after payment is made. Such payments must include the whole amount on hand, whether arising from the postages of the quarter, or any preceding quarters, all errors being corrected— or from moneys collected by, or deposited with the postmaster. The receipts must never be put up with the quarterly return, but

should be sent under a separate envelope, addressed directly to the Auditor.

378. Every postmaster of a "special office," will report to the Postmaster General, at the end of each quarter, the balance in his hands, over and above the sums due the contractor for supplying his office with the mail, in order that the Department may make a proper disposition of such balance.

379. Postmasters at "special offices," when under orders to pay their respective contractors, will not only pay promptly, but lose no time in transmitting to the Auditor for the Post Office Department the receipts taken for their quarterly payments.

380. All payments to the Department, whether upon drafts, or otherwise, must be in specie; and postmasters, in receiving payment of postages, or other dues to the Department, should always bear in mind that they are bound to pay them over in the legal currency of the United States.

381. No allowance can be made to a postmaster for deficiency in weight of money received for postage. Neither can any allowance or remuneration be made for losses by fire, robbery, or theft, nor can compensation be made for collecting or paying over moneys to the Department, not arising from postages at his office.

## CHAPTER 49.

### *Applications for Payment and Renewal of lost drafts or warrants.*

382. In all cases where application is made for the issue of a duplicate draft or warrant, upon the allegation that the original is lost, every such application must be addressed to the Auditor for the Post Office Department, and must be accompanied by a statement, on oath or affirmation, by the applicant, or the person who is the legal holder thereof, showing the time, place, and all the circumstances attending the loss or destruction of the draft or warrant, with its number, date, and amount; in whose favor it was issued; when made payable; together with any other particulars relating to it within the knowledge of the applicant.

383. The applicant must also produce a letter or certificate from the officer or person, on whom the draft or warrant may have been drawn, showing that it has not been paid—also that payment of the same will not thereafter be made to the owner or any other person whatever.

384. The duplicate, when issued, shall have the same force and effect as the original.

## CHAPTER 50.

*Decedent's Estates.*

385. A person presenting a claim against the Post Office Department, which *was* due to a person *then* deceased, must show his authority to receive it, by an authenticated copy of the proceedings of the court, proving the will, or appointing the administrator, as the case may be, accompanied by proof, derived from such record, that he has qualified to discharge his duty, as required by the laws of the State or Territory in which he was appointed.

## CHAPTER 51.

*Claims against the Department.*

386. Postmasters, contractors and other persons, having claims or demands on the Department not of the nature of proper accounts, or any other business with it not herein assigned to other offices, will address their communications to the Postmaster General. In all branches of the Department, including the Auditor's Office, the same prompt attention is given to business transmitted by letter as to that presented in person, and hence the employment of an agent to transact such business, is not only unnecessary, and must prove expensive, but may involve loss to the parties interested.

## CHAPTER 52.

*Emoluments of Postmasters.*

387. The commissions, allowances, and emoluments of postmasters for their compensation and expenses are limited by law. — *Act of 1825, sec. 14; act of 1842, sec. 2; act of March 1, 1847; and act of March 3, 1847.* In no case can the Department increase them, beyond such limit; they are as follows, viz :

1. On the amount of letter postage not exceeding \$100 in any one year, 40 per cent.
2. On any sum between \$100 and \$400 in any year, 33½ per cent.
3. On any sum between \$400 and \$2,400 in a year, 30 per cent.
4. On any sum over \$2,400 in a year, 12½ per cent.

5. On the amount of letters and packets received for distribution at offices designated by the Postmaster General for that purpose, 7 per cent.

6. Two cents for every free letter (those addressed to the postmaster excepted) which he receives by post and delivers; unless his commission, otherwise, amounts to \$500 in the same quarter.

↳ The term *letter postage* includes all postages received, except those which arise from newspapers sent from the offices of the publishers to subscribers, and from pamphlets and magazines—so that all prepaid postage upon transient papers, hand-bills, and circulars, printed or lithographed, will be treated as letter postage in the settlement of accounts of postmasters.

7. On all sums arising from the postage on newspapers, magazines, and pamphlets, 50 per cent.

388 As the accounts of postmasters have to be settled quarterly, and their commissions allowed for that time, the postmasters will credit themselves with 40 per cent. upon the first twenty-five dollars received in the quarter, and for any sum between twenty-five dollars and one hundred dollars in the quarter, at the rate of  $33\frac{1}{3}$  per cent.; and upon any sum between one hundred and six hundred dollars received in the quarter, 30 per cent.; and on any sum over six hundred dollars received in the quarter, at the rate of  $12\frac{1}{2}$  per cent.

389. For any period less than a quarter the higher rates of commission will be allowed on such amounts, in lieu of the several amounts limited, in due proportion to such period.

390. The commissions on newspaper postage belongs to the postmaster who collects it, though he may immediately go out of office, and the papers be delivered by his successor.

391. Every postmaster whose commissions and allowances together, as charged in any quarterly account, exceed \$500 in amount, will render with such quarterly account, an account to be called the *Commission Account*—stating on one side, the amount of said commissions and allowances; and on the other, his own compensation for the quarter, as limited by law, and the incidental expenses of his office necessarily and actually incurred for said quarter. The charges for incidental expenses must be accompanied by the proper vouchers and receipts, and must specify distinctly the several objects thereof—as rent, fuel, candles, stationery, &c., and the names, ages, rate of compensation and time paid for, of each and every person employed as assistant or clerk. If the amount of the said commissions and allowances fall short of the amount of the said compensation and expenses, the postmaster has no claim on the United States for the deficiency. If

the amount exceed such compensation and expenses, the postmaster will add the excess to the balance, to be acknowledged by him as due the United States on his quarterly return for the same quarter.—*Act of 1825, sec. 41.*

392. The annual compensation to which postmasters are limited will be computed for the fiscal year commencing the 1st of July, and ending the 30th of June, and in due proportion for any period less than a year.—*Act of March 1, 1847.*

393. The postmaster of New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, New Orleans, and every other city of the Union, will, severally, at the end of each quarter, with his quarterly account, render an account under oath, to be called *the Emolument Account*, of all other profits or emoluments by him received during said quarter, stating on one side of said account the full amount of profits or emoluments, with the several sources from which they are derived, whether from box rent, branch offices, or otherwise; and on the other side, the expenses in relation to the same necessarily and actually incurred, accompanied by the proper vouchers. And after deducting said necessary expenses, the postmaster will add any balance remaining on said account, over and above the rate of two thousand dollars per annum, to the credit of his commission account for the same quarter as mentioned in the preceding section, to be applied to the objects and be subject to the limitations thereof.

## CHAPTER 53.

### *Attention to the manner of carrying the Mails.*

394. Every postmaster will consider himself the agent of the Department, in regard to its affairs in his immediate vicinity; and he will carefully observe, and promptly report to it, everything tending to affect its interests, or injure its reputation.

395. It is especially expected that he will keep a vigilant eye upon the manner in which the mails are carried to and from his office. This is amongst the most important of his duties.

396. Postmasters will report every instance in which the mail is brought to his office by a person not qualified.

397. If a mail-carrier, having the mail in charge, become intoxicated, he will instantly dismiss him, employ another at the expense of the contractor, and report the facts to the Department.

398. Report promptly all irregularities of mail-carriers, in charge of the mail, and the causes, when known.

399. If the mail arrive without a lock, ascertain where the fault is, and report it to the Department.

400. If the mail be carried on horseback, he will see that it be covered with an oil-cloth or bear-skin: If in a stage, that it be carried in a secure dry boot under the driver's feet, or in the box which constitutes the driver's seat: If in a sulky or other vehicle, he will see that it be well protected from the weather.

401. When the newspaper mail, on a stage route, is large, and separate from the letter mail, it may be carried in the boot behind the stage, but it must not be exposed to the weather.

402. Report all instances in which the mails are carried without the securities from the weather, as above directed.

403. Contractors are required, in all cases, to carry the entire mail. Postmasters will never permit them to leave any part of it.

404. Neither are contractors permitted to leave bags of newspapers and pamphlets at places on their routes. Report every case of this kind that may occur.

405. When the mail stops over night, where there is a post-office, it must be kept in the office.

## CHAPTER 54.

### *Report of the Arrivals and Departures of the Mails to be made by Postmasters.*

406. Postmasters at the ends of every mail route are required to report to the Department, every instance, as it occurs, when the mail departs or arrives after the contract time, whether with or without excusable cause, and likewise, every other description of failure to perform according to contract; and at the end of each quarter, they are to certify to the Auditor of the Department, that the mail has been carried on the route according to contract, excepting the failures before reported. The schedule of arrangements furnished to the postmaster by the Department, with the notifications of changes therein subsequently ordered, will show what service the contract requires.

407. Postmasters at intermediate offices are also required to report all failures and delinquencies of contractors that may occur at their offices.

## CHAPTER 55.

### *Failures of Mails.*

408. Failures of mails to arrive at the ends of routes and other points within contract time, cannot but be known in all cases to contractors or their agents.

409. No notice, therefore, is necessary to be given to contractors of failures to arrive at any post office in contract time, as reported by postmasters to the Department.

410. Should a mail at any time fail to arrive at the end of a route or at any intermediate post office, where the time of arrival is fixed, within the time specified in the contract or schedule, it will be expected of every contractor immediately, by himself or agent, to send his excuse to the Inspection Office, setting forth, *particularly*, the cause of the failure; and if, after waiting a reasonable time, no specific and satisfactory excuse be received, the Chief Clerk is directed to present the case thus reported to the Postmaster General for fine.

411. A specific excuse is required for each specific delinquency of any contractor; so that general allegations will not be admitted. If bad roads be alleged, a specific report must be made of what portion of the road was so bad as to obstruct the mails, and what was its peculiar condition; if high waters, it must be shown what water-courses were impassable; and so of all other excuses.

## CHAPTER 56.

### *Forfeitures and Fines.*

412. In all cases, there is to be a forfeiture of the pay of the trip when the trip is not run; a forfeiture of at least one-fourth part of it, when the running or arrival is so far behind time as to lose the connection with a depending mail; and a forfeiture of a due proportion of it, when a grade of service is rendered inferior to that in the contract. These forfeitures may be increased into penalties of a higher amount, according to the nature or frequency of the failure and the importance of the mail.

413. Fines will be imposed, unless the delinquency be satisfactorily explained in due time, for failing to take or deliver at a post office the mail, or any part of it; for suffering it to be wet, injured, lost, or destroyed; for conveying it in a place or manner that exposes it to depredation, loss, or injury; for refusing, after demand, to carry a mail by any coach, railroad car, or steamboat, which the contractor regularly runs on the route, beyond the specified number of trips in the contract; and for not arriving at the time set.

## CHAPTER 57.

### *Penalties.*

414. A Member of Congress becoming interested in any contract for transporting the mail is guilty of a high misdemeanor, and



liable to a fine of \$3,000, and every such contract shall be null and void.—*Act of 1808, sec. 1.*

415. A public officer making any such contract on behalf of the United States, subject to the same fine.—*Ibid.*

416. If any person employed in the Post Office Department, or postmaster, shall become interested in a mail contract, or act as agent, with or without compensation, in any matter or thing appertaining to the business in said Department, for any contractor or person offering to become such, he shall be liable to pay so much money as would have been realized from said contract.  
*Act of 1836, sec. 26.*

417. This restriction applies to all assistants and clerks of post offices, whether special or public, and to all interest in or agency for the mails, whether carried on a public or a special route, or from a steamboat or railroad route to any office, under contract, order of the Department, or otherwise.

418. Masters of steamboats or vessels failing to deliver to postmasters of the port, if there be such, within three hours after the arrival, all letters and packets in his charge intended for such place, a fine of \$30 for each offence.—*Sec. 6, act of 1825.*

419. Persons employed on board of steamboats, failing to deliver all letters and packets entrusted to such persons to the master or manager of such steamboat, for every failure, a fine of \$10 for each letter or packet.—*Sec 6, act of 1825.*

420. Retarding or obstructing the passage of the mail, a fine of \$100.—*Sec. 9, act of 1825.*

421. Neglect of ferryman to convey the mail across a ferry, \$10 for every ten minutes delayed.—*Ibid.*

If any postmaster shall unlawfully detain in his office any letter or packet, pamphlet or newspaper, with the intent to prevent the arrival and delivery of the same to the persons to whom such papers may be addressed, he shall, on conviction thereof, be fined a sum not exceeding five hundred dollars, and imprisoned for a time not exceeding six months.

422. If any officer connected with the Post Office Department, charged with the safe keeping, transfer, and disbursement of public moneys shall convert to his own use in any way whatever, by investment, loan, or otherwise, or shall deposite in bank, or shall exchange for other funds any public moneys entrusted to him for safe keeping, disbursement, transfer, or for any other purpose, shall be deemed guilty of embezzlement, and on conviction be subject to the penalties prescribed in the 16th section of the act of 6th August, 1846, to provide for the better organization of the Treasury, &c.

423. Neglect or refusal of any officer connected with the Post Office Department to pay over, or produce on demand, any public money so entrusted, shall be *prima facie* evidence of such conversion to his own use of so much of the public moneys as may be in his hands.

424. One half the penalties recovered in prosecution for violations of the post office laws, shall be for the use of the person or persons informing or prosecuting, and the other half will be paid over to the Department. Where a postmaster prosecutes, he will give information of the fact to the Department and hold one half of the penalty collected subject to its order.—*Act of 1825, sec. 33.*

425. If the passage of the mail on any post route in the vicinity of a post office, be illegally obstructed, the postmaster will at once report the facts to the Department, and prosecute the person who caused the obstruction for the penalty provided by law.—*Act 1825, sec. 9.*

## CHAPTER 58.

### *Violations and Evasions of Laws.*

426. It is a violation of law to enclose or conceal a letter, or other things, or any memorandum in writing, in any newspaper, pamphlet, or magazine, or in any packet thereof, or to make any writing or memorandum thereon, or on the wrappers enclosing them, except the direction, and deliver the same into any post office, or to any person for that purpose.

427. In all such cases, the newspaper, pamphlet, or magazine should be charged with letter postage; and if the person to whom the paper or pamphlet is addressed refuses to pay letter postage thereon, the postmaster will immediately enclose the paper or pamphlet to the postmaster from whose office it came, and request him to prosecute the person who placed it in his office for the penalty of five dollars, prescribed by law.—*See sec. 30, act of 1825.*

428. In order that frauds of this kind may be readily traced and detected, postmasters will be careful to post-mark or stamp every transient paper, magazine, or pamphlet sent from the office with the name of the office and State, and the amount of postage, and the date.

429. If the packet be addressed to the office, and contain papers for several persons, only the newspaper in which the letter or memorandum is enclosed, and its contents, should be charged with letter postage.

430. It is the practice of many to address their hand bills to postmasters, by which means they give them an extensive circulation, free of postage. This is an abuse which must be corrected. In every instance where postmasters receive a communication, addressed to him as postmaster, which is of a private character, and designed to promote private interests, with an evident intention of giving circulation to it, without paying postage, the postmaster will return the same to the person who sent it, under a new envelope, with the charge of letter postage endorsed.

431. In every case in which a letter or packet is carried out of the mail, in violation of the acts of Congress, that comes to his knowledge, the postmaster will prosecute the persons offending for the penalty provided by law, and report the facts to the Department, stating the name of the carrier and his employer.

432. As the law prohibits a private post or express, on or parallel to a mail line, those who aid and assist or employ such to carry letters or packages, which by law have a right to be sent by the mail, are guilty of a violation of the law of Congress of 1825, and subject to be prosecuted for the penalty under the 24th section of said act.

433. It is a violation of law for mail carriers, stage drivers, or contractors to carry out of the mail any letter or packet, sealed or unsealed, unless it be delivered to the postmaster at the next office as a way letter.—*Act of 1825, sections 20 and 21—see chapter 21.*

434. Upon the arrival of every steamboat or other vessel navigating the waters of the United States at any port where there is a post office, it is the duty of the captain, or other officer having charge of the same, to deliver to the post office at such place, or to the person authorized by the Department as local agent, all letters and packets which he may have, except such as relate to the cargo of such vessel, (under penalty of thirty dollars.) And all persons employed on such boat are required, under penalty of ten dollars, to deliver to the master or manager of such boat all letters or packets before their arrival at such port. The letters, &c., are to be delivered within three hours after the arrival of the boat, if in the day time. If she arrives in the night, within two hours after the next sunrise.—*Act of 1825, sec. 6.*

## CHAPTER 59.

### *Blanks for Accounts, Post bills, &c.*

435. Postmasters in the States of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York,

New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware, will apply to the postmaster at New York city, New York, for such blanks as are necessary for the use of their offices.

436. Postmasters in the States of Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, and Florida, will apply to the postmaster at Washington, D. C.

437. Postmasters in the States of Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, and Texas, will apply to the postmaster at Cincinnati, Ohio, for such blanks as are necessary for the use of their offices.

438. Postmasters in the States of Illinois, Iowa, and Wisconsin, will apply to the postmaster at Chicago, Illinois, for such blanks as are necessary for the use of their offices.

439. Postmasters in the States of Michigan and Indiana, will apply to the postmaster at Buffalo, New York, for such blanks as are necessary for the use of their offices.

440. When the postages collected at an office amount to \$300 a year, the name of the postmaster will be printed on the post bills.

441. Stamps are only to be procured upon application to the Appointment Office. They are furnished to offices that collect in postages \$300 a year.

## CHAPTER 60.

### *Mail Locks and Keys.*

442. Locks and keys are furnished, when wanted, upon application to the Inspection Office. These applications, and all other official statements addressed to the Inspection Office, should be signed by the postmaster only, except in case of sickness or unavoidable absence, when they may be signed by an assistant.

445. Postmasters at the principle offices are supplied with several locks, in order that they may be used when extra mail bags are forwarded. In such cases, they should see that the locks are returned, and report any postmaster who shall unnecessarily detain them.

446. The mail key should be kept with great care. It should never be carried out of the office, but be secured therein, under lock, and accessible only to the postmaster and his assistant. It will be deemed highly reprehensible in any postmaster to lose the mail key.

447. Application for mail keys should be made directly to the Inspection Office, and should state the reason why a new key is

wanted. If one be lost or broken, its place may be supplied by borrowing from an adjacent office, until another is furnished by the Inspection Office, when the borrowed key must be returned.

448. In case a key is lost or broken, the chain or strap of the mail bag ought not to be cut, but the fact should be notified to the next postmaster, who should be requested to take out the packets addressed to his office, and send them out of the mail, until a new key be obtained.

449. Every postmaster, in cases where the mail arrives at his office without a lock upon the bag, should procure a common pad-lock, and lock up the mail therewith, the key of which to be sealed up, and delivered to the carrier, and addressed to the next postmaster on the route.

## CHAPTER 61.

### *Mail Pouches and Mail Bags.*

450. All communications relating to portmanteaus, mail pouches and mail bags to be addressed to the Post Office Department, superscribed "Inspection Office."

451. When a postmaster at the end of a route discovers a mail bag to be out of order, he will immediately have it repaired, and charge the amount in his account of contingent expenses, and send a receipt therefor. But if it be so unsound as that the mail will not be secure in it until it gets to the end of the route, the postmaster who first discovers it will have it repaired, even though it should detain the mail.

452. Mails of letters and newspapers, before being put into the mail bag, are to be placed in separate linen bags, where such bags are used; and whenever these bags are worn out, or lost, the postmasters at the ends of routes will apply to the Inspection Office for such bags as may be necessary for the transportation of the mail.

453. All mail bags not in use should be immediately returned to the office from which they were sent. Postmasters who send extra bags should see that they are returned; this they can do by writing to the postmasters who retain them. If they be not returned, the facts should be reported to the Inspection Office.

454. A sufficient number of mail bags should be retained at distributing offices, and at offices where the packets of a large mail are divided and destined for several routes, to send all the packets.

455. When a new mail bag is wanted, application must be made to the Inspection Office, describing the size and the number of the route on which it is to be used. No allowance will be made to postmasters or contractors for mail bags procured by them, without special instructions from the Department.

456. Postmasters whose offices are mail bag depots, may furnish mail bags in cases of emergency, and make a report to the Department, stating the kind of bag, and the number of the route upon which it is placed. The established depots from which quarterly returns must be made to the Inspection Office of the number and description of surplus mail bags and mail locks, are as follows :

457. Portland and Bangor, Maine ; Portsmouth and Concord, New Hampshire ; Montpelier and Bennington, Vermont ; Boston, Massachusetts ; Providence, Rhode Island ; Hartford, Connecticut ; New York city, Albany, Rochester, and Buffalo, New York ; Trenton, New Jersey ; Philadelphia, Harrisburg, and Pittsburg, Pennsylvania ; Baltimore, Maryland ; Washington, District of Columbia ; Richmond, Wheeling, and Abingdon, Virginia ; Raleigh and Asheville, North Carolina ; Charleston and Columbia, South Carolina ; Augusta, Savannah, and Columbus, Georgia ; Tallahassee, Florida ; Mobile, Tuscaloosa, and Huntsville, Alabama ; Jackson and Natchez, Mississippi ; New Orleans, Louisiana ; Little Rock, Arkansas ; Knoxville, Nashville, and Memphis, Tennessee ; Louisville and Maysville, Kentucky ; Columbus, Cincinnati, and Cleveland, Ohio ; Detroit, Michigan ; Indianapolis and Vincennes, Indiana ; Springfield, Galena, and Chicago, Illinois ; St. Louis, Jefferson city, and Liberty, Missouri ; Madison, Wisconsin ; Iowa city, Iowa ; and Galveston, Texas.

## CHAPTER 62.

### *Distribution of Foreign Mails.*

458. The principal Post Offices for the despatch and receipt of foreign mails are the cities of Boston, New York, Charleston, and New Orleans.

## CHAPTER 63.

### *Foreign Mails—How made up.*

459. When a letter is placed in a Post Office to be sent to a foreign country, postage on it must be paid to the seaport, except

letters and packets sent to the British American Provinces, and those to Bremen, in Germany, by the New York and Bremen line of mail steamers, and those places in Europe to which mail matter will be sent by said line through the Bremen Post Office.

460. Postmasters at seaports will always receive letters that are offered for places beyond sea. The letters so received, together with those that come in the mail, addressed to foreign countries, should be marked with the name of the office, and the time of reception.

461. As soon as the postmaster finds that a vessel is ready to sail, which will be convenient to carry letters to the place of their destination, he will carefully examine all such letters, and see that there are none among them destined to another place. He will then count them, and enter their number in a bill. If there be few letters, and no bag for them furnished by the master of the vessel, they may be made into a bundle like a common mail, taking care to enclose the certificate with them, and sealing the wrapper with the office seal. If a bag be furnished, the string is to be sealed with the office seal. And if there be many letters, and no bag furnished by the master of the vessel, the postmaster will furnish one, and charge it to the Department.

462. The postmaster will obtain from the master of a ship, a certificate, specifying the number of letters and packets, with the name of the ship or vessel, and place from whence she last sailed, and a receipt for the money paid.

463. He will mark the number forwarded to other offices, and the number for delivery at his own office, on each certificate.

464. He will then enter them in the *Account of ship and steamboat letters*.

## CHAPTER 64.

### *Postage on Letters, &c. to foreign countries transported in United States mail vessels.*

465. On all letters and packets not exceeding one half ounce in weight, from any port in the United States to any foreign port, *twenty-four cents*.

466. Over one half ounce, and not exceeding one ounce in weight, *forty-eight cents*.

467. And for every additional half ounce, or fraction of an ounce, *fifteen cents*.

468. Upon each newspaper, pamphlet, and prices current, *three cents*.

469. All letters and packets not exceeding half an ounce in weight, sent to the West India and other islands in the Gulf of Mexico, Havana excepted, *ten cents*.

470. Over one half ounce and not exceeding one ounce, *twenty cents*, and *five cents* for every additional half ounce, or fraction of an ounce.

471. Newspapers, pamphlets, and prices current the same as to other foreign ports. — *See act of March 3, 1845, relative to mail steamers, sec. 3.*

472. The above regulation does not apply to Havana, to which port letters will be chargeable with *twelve and a half cents* postage.

473. All letters and packets to and from Chagres, when conveyed in mail vessels, shall be charged with *twenty cents* postage; to Panama, thirty cents, and to other ports on the Pacific, *forty cents*. — *Act of March 3, 1847, sec. 7.*

474. It shall not be lawful for any person to carry any letter, packet, or newspaper for distribution, or any printed circular or prices current on board vessels transporting the United States mail to foreign countries. Violations of this law will subject the offender to a penalty of five hundred dollars.

## CHAPTER 65.

### *Post Offices for the Despatch and Receipt of Foreign Mails bordering on the British Provinces.*

475. By arrangements made with the proper authorities in the British Provinces, mail communications have been established at several points along the frontier of the United States. They are as follows :

476. Houlton and Robbinstown, Maine ; Derby Line, Highgate, and Burlington, Vermont ; White Hall, Plattsburgh, Rouse's Point, Fort Covington, Ogdensburg, Morristown, Cape Vincent, Oswego, Rochester, and Lewistown, New York ; Detroit, Michigan ; also, New York City and Albany, by special arrangement, with Toronto, Kingston, and Montreal.

## CHAPTER 66.

477. Letters received from the British Provinces for offices in the United States, are to be rated at the first post office in the Uni-



ted States at which they are received, with the proper postage from the United States line to the office addressed, except where the letters are prepaid for the whole distance at the offices mailing them in the Provinces.

478. Letters placed in any office in the United States, addressed to offices in New Brunswick and Canada, are to be rated with the proper postage to the United States line. The postage is not required to be paid in advance, as it will be collected and accounted for by the Deputy Postmaster General of New Brunswick, and by the Deputy Postmaster General of Canada.

479. Postmasters bordering on the Canadian frontier will keep an exact account of the postage on all letters, newspapers, pamphlets, &c., passing into those Provinces, and keep an account of the postage on all letters, &c., received from those Provinces, separate and distinct from the accounts of other mails received at, and sent from, their respective offices.

480. Postmasters will be allowed a compensation of seven per cent. on the postages of letters, &c., received from the British Provinces and distributed in the United States, and a commission of three and a half per cent. on letters, &c., sent into those Provinces from the United States.

## CHAPTER 67.

### *Private Expresses.*

481. The establishment of private expresses for the conveyance of any letter, packet or packets of letters, or other matter transmittable in the United States mail, (newspapers, pamphlets, magazines, and periodicals excepted,) from one city, town, or other place, to any other city, town, or place in the United States, between and from and to which the United States mail is regularly transported under authority of the Post Office Department, is prohibited.

482. So is the causing to be conveyed, or the providing for the conveyance or transportation, by regular trips, or at stated periods or intervals, as aforesaid, any letters or other matter transmittable by mail as aforesaid, newspapers, pamphlets, magazines, and periodicals only excepted.

483. Every person offending against this provision, or aiding or assisting therein, or acting as such private express, shall forfeit and pay one hundred and fifty dollars for each time any letter or letters, packet or packets, or other matter properly transmittable by mail, (except newspapers, &c.) shall, or may be by him, her,

or them, or through his, her, or their means or instrumentality, in whole or in part, conveyed.

484. A like fine of one hundred and fifty dollars is to be imposed on the owner or owners of any stage coach, railroad car, steamboat, or other vehicle or vessel, which shall, with the knowledge of any of the owners, in whole or in part, or which shall, with the knowledge or connivance of the driver, conductor, captain, or other person having charge of such stage coach, &c. convey or transport any person or persons acting or employed as a private express for the conveyance of any letter, packet or packets of letters, or other mailable matter, and actually in possession of such mailable matter.

485. This is not to prohibit the conveyance of any letter, packet, or packets, or other matter, by private hands, no compensation being tendered or received therefor in any way, or by special messenger employed only for the single particular occasion.

486. Stage coaches, railroad cars, steamboats, packetboats, and all other vehicles or vessels performing regular trips at stated periods, on a post route between two or more cities, towns, or places, from one to the other, of which the United States mail is regularly conveyed under the authority of the Post Office Department, are prohibited from transporting or conveying, otherwise than in the mail, any letter, packet, or packets of letters, or other mailable matter whatsoever, except such as may have relation to some part of the cargo of such steamboat, packetboat, or other vessel, or to some article at the same time conveyed by such stage, railroad car, or other vehicle, and excepting also, newspapers, pamphlets, magazines, and periodicals.

487. The owners, managers, servants, or crew of all stage coaches, railroad cars, steamboats, packetboats, and all other vehicles or vessels, are also prohibited from conveying as aforesaid.

488. For each offence the owners of the stage coach, railroad car, steamboat, packetboat, or other vehicle or vessel, shall forfeit and pay one hundred dollars; and the driver, captain, conductor, or person having charge of such coach, &c. not being at the time the owner thereof, in whole or in part, shall forfeit and pay fifty dollars.

489. The person who transmits by private express, or any other means prohibited by the act of 3d March, 1845, any letter or letters, packet or packets, or other mailable matter, excepting newspapers, pamphlets, magazines, or periodicals; or who shall place or cause to be deposited at any appointed place, for the purpose of being transported by such unlawful means, any matter or thing properly transmittable by mail, (newspapers, &c. excepted,) or

who shall deliver them for transmission to any agent or agents of such unlawful expresses, shall forfeit and pay for each offence, fifty dollars.

490. Steamboats can carry letters under the fifth and sixth sections of the act of 1825; provided the letters are delivered over to the postmaster of the place, or the authorized agent of the Department, such letters excepted as relate to the cargo. If the letters are not delivered as aforesaid, the owners and persons having charge of the boat shall be liable to the penalty specified in the foregoing section, No. 488.

491. The postmaster or other agent of the Department, to whom letters brought by steamboat are delivered, shall charge and collect upon them the same rates of postage as would have been charged had they been transmitted by mail.

492. Postmasters are specially enjoined promptly to report to the Department all violations of the law—by those carrying expresses—by those setting them up—by those sending letters or packets by them—by those leaving letters, &c. at any appointed place to be forwarded out of the mail—by those delivering them to any agent of an express—and by those in any other way aiding or assisting in such unlawful transmission.

493. They will also report all cases coming to their knowledge where railroads or steamboats, or mail conveyances of any description, convey letters, &c. out of the mail, or transport any persons carrying letters, &c. out of the mail, to the end that suits may be brought against the owners, directors, officers, captains, conductors, or hands, according to their knowledge of such illegal practices, or their connivance, or agency therein.

494. The report of the postmaster will consist of a statement of the offence, giving time and place, the name of the offender, and the names of the witnesses.

495. The prosecutions will be instituted in the district courts of the United States.

496. But any citizen is authorized to prosecute for the penalties in a *qui tam* suit, and in that case will be entitled to one half of the amount received in each instance.

## CHAPTER 68.

### *Stamps for the pre-payment of Postage on Letters.*

497. Postage stamps, one printed in black, representing the head of Washington, of the denomination of ten cents, and the other printed in brown, representing the head of Franklin, of the de-

nomination of five cents, will be transmitted to any postmasters at important points, upon their application in writing, addressed to the Third Assistant Postmaster General.

498. Any postmaster receiving stamps, will, by the next mail, acknowledge the receipt of the amount. At the expiration of each quarter, and with his quarterly postage accounts, he will render an account of stamps, charging himself therein with any amount which remained on hand at the close of the preceding quarter, and with the amounts received during the quarter just ended, and crediting himself with the amount then remaining on hand. The balance of the account so stated, representing the amount of stamps he has sold or disposed of, the postmaster will add to the balance due on his return for the same quarter for postages.

499. In case of resignation, removal, or death, the postmaster or his representative will not be allowed a credit for any stamps turned over to his successor, unless such successor has duly qualified by giving bond, and shall forthwith transmit his receipt for the amount to the Auditor for the Post Office Department.

500. Any letter or packet with one or more stamps affixed, equal in amount to the postage properly chargeable thereon, may be mailed and forwarded from any post office as a prepaid letter or packet; but if the stamps affixed be not adequate to the proper postage, the postmaster receiving the letter or packet for transmission, will rate it with the amount deficient in addition.

501. Stamps so affixed are to be immediately cancelled in the office in which the letter or packet may be deposited, with an instrument to be furnished to certain of the post offices for that purpose. In post offices not so furnished, the stamps must be cancelled by making a cross  $\times$  on each with a pen. If the cancelling has been omitted on the mailing of the letter, the Postmaster delivering it will cancel the stamp in the manner directed, and immediately report the postmaster who may have been delinquent to the Department.

502. Stamp letters and packets will be entered in the post bills, and also in the abstracts of mails sent and received, as *prepaid by stamps*. The amount of stamp letters *sent* will, in the computation of the postmaster's commissions, and for that purpose only, be added to the amount of postages received.

# APPENDIX.

---

## CAPITALS OF THE STATES AND TERRITORIES.

---

STATES.	CAPITALS.
MAINE.....	Augusta.
NEW HAMPSHIRE.....	Concord.
VERMONT.....	Montpelier.
MASSACHUSETTS.....	Boston.
RHODE ISLAND.....	Providence and Newport.
CONNECTICUT.....	Hartford and New Haven.
NEW YORK.....	Albany.
NEW JERSEY.....	Trenton.
PENNSYLVANIA.....	Harrisburgh.
DELAWARE.....	Dover.
MARYLAND.....	Annapolis.
VIRGINIA.....	Richmond.
NORTH CAROLINA.....	Raleigh.
SOUTH CAROLINA.....	Columbia.
GEORGIA.....	Milledgeville.
FLORIDA.....	Tallahassee.
OHIO.....	Columbus.
MICHIGAN.....	Detroit.
INDIANA.....	Indianapolis.
ILLINOIS.....	Springfield.
WISCONSIN.....	Madison.
IOWA.....	Iowa City.
MISSOURI.....	Jefferson City.
KENTUCKY.....	Frankfort.
TENNESSEE.....	Nashville.
ALABAMA.....	Tuscaloosa. [Soon to be Montgomery.]
MISSISSIPPI.....	Jackson.
ARKANSAS.....	Little Rock.
LOUISIANA.....	New Orleans.
TEXAS.....	Austin.

## DISTRIBUTING POST OFFICES IN THE UNITED STATES.

OFFICE.	STATE.
Portland.....	Maine.
Boston.....	Massachusetts.
Providence.....	Rhode Island.
Hartford.....	Connecticut.
New York.....	New York.
Albany.....	
Buffalo.....	
Philadelphia.....	Pennsylvania.
Northumberland.....	
Erie.....	
Pittsburg.....	
Baltimore.....	Maryland.
Washington.....	District of Columbia.
Petersburgh.....	Virginia.
Norfolk.....	
Abingdon.....	
Wheeling.....	
Kanawha, C. H.....	
Raleigh.....	North Carolina.
Ashville.....	South Carolina.
Charleston.....	
Yorkville.....	
Augusta.....	Georgia.
Savannah.....	
Columbus.....	
Cincinnati.....	Ohio.
Columbus.....	
Toledo.....	Michigan.
Detroit.....	
Indianapolis.....	Indiana.
Vincennes.....	Illinois.
Shawneetown.....	
Chicago.....	Missouri.
Saint Louis.....	Kentucky.
Cumberland Gap.....	
Louisville.....	
Maysville.....	Tennessee.
Nashville.....	
Memphis.....	
Montgomery.....	Alabama.
Huntsville.....	
Tuscumbia.....	
Natchez.....	Mississippi.
Vicksburgh.....	
New Orleans.....	Louisiana.
Natchitoches.....	Texas.
Galveston.....	

## DEPOSITARIES.

The Deputy Postmasters at the following offices are authorized to receive, on deposit, from the Postmasters in their respective vicinities, the quarterly balances due from them :

POST OFFICES.	STATE.	POSTMASTERS.
Bangor .....	Maine.....	Charles K. Miller
Worcester .....	Massachusetts.....	Maturin L. Fisher
Providence.....	Rhode Island.....	William B. Sayles
Hartford .....	Connecticut.....	Normand Lyman
New Haven.....	Connecticut.....	Edward A. Mitchell
Albany .....	New York.....	James D. Wasson
Utica .....	New York.....	Augustine G. Dauby
Geneva.....	New York.....	George M. Horton
Syracuse.....	New York.....	William W. Teall
Rochester.....	New York.....	Henry Campbell
Batavia.....	New York.....	Frederick Follett
Buffalo .....	New York.....	Henry K. Smith
Harrisburgh.....	Pennsylvania.....	James Peacock
Uniontown.....	Pennsylvania.....	Armstrong Hadden
Pittsburgh .....	Pennsylvania.....	Chambers McKibbin
Baltimore.....	Maryland.....	James M. Buchanan
Richmond .....	Virginia.....	Thomas B. Bigger
Cincinnati.....	Ohio.....	George Crawford
Columbus.....	Ohio.....	Samuel Medary
Cleveland.....	Ohio.....	Timothy P. Spencer
Detroit.....	Michigan.....	John S. Bagg
Lexington .....	Kentucky.....	Joseph Ficklin
Louisville .....	Kentucky.....	Thomas J. Read

# DISTANCES

FROM

## THE CAPITAL OF THE UNITED STATES

TO THE

### CAPITALS OF THE SEVERAL STATES AND TERRITORIES,

BY DUE COURSE OF MAIL,

AS SHOWN BY THE PRINCIPAL POINTS THROUGH WHICH IT PASSES.

☞ THE DISTANCES ARE GIVEN FROM OFFICE TO OFFICE. ☜

MAIL ROUTES.	STATE.	INTERM. DISTANCE.	DIST. FROM WASHINGTON.
No. 1.			
From WASHINGTON, by.....	Dist. of Columbia.....		
Annapolis Junction, (see 4).....	Maryland.....	23	
Baltimore, (see 5).....	Maryland.....	17	40
Wilmington, and (see 6).....	Delaware.....	70	110
Philadelphia, to.....	Pennsylvania.....	27	137
TRENTON; and by.....	New Jersey.....	30	167
New York, and (see 7 & 8).....	New York.....	59	226
Stonington, to.....	Connecticut.....	125	351
PROVIDENCE, and.....	Rhode Island.....	48	399
BOSTON, and by (see 9).....	Massachusetts.....	43	442
Portsmouth, and.....	New Hampshire.....	55	497
Portland, to.....	Maine.....	52	549
AUGUSTA,.....	Maine.....	59	608
No. 2.			
From WASHINGTON, to.....	Dist. of Columbia.....		
RICHMOND, by.....	Virginia.....	129	
Petersburg.....	Virginia.....	24	153
Junction near Hicksford, (see 10)..	Virginia.....	44	197
Weldon.....	North Carolina.....	20	217
Wilmington.....	North Carolina.....	165	382
Charleston, (see 11).....	South Carolina.....	165	547
Augusta, and.....	Georgia.....	139	686
Atalanta, to.....	Georgia.....	168	854
MONTGOMERY, and by (see 12).....	Alabama.....	181	1,035
Mobile, to.....	Alabama.....	197	1,232
NEW ORLEANS, and by.....	Louisiana.....	164	1,396
Galveston.....	Texas.....	450	1,846
Houston, and.....	Texas.....	80	1,926
Washington, to.....	Texas.....	60	1,986
AUSTIN.....	Texas.....	135	2,121



MAIL ROUTES.	STATE.	INTERM. DISTANCE.	DIST. FROM WASHINGTON.
<b>No. 3.</b>			
<b>From</b> WASHINGTON, by.....	Dist. of Columbia.....		
Relay House.....	Maryland.....	31.....	
Cumberland.....	Maryland.....	170.....	201
Brownsville, (see 13).....	Pennsylvania.....	75.....	276
Wheeling, and.....	Virginia.....	55.....	331
Zanesville, to (see 14).....	Ohio.....	73.....	404
COLUMBUS, and by (see 15).....	Ohio.....	54.....	458
Dayton, to.....	Ohio.....	67.....	525
INDIANAPOLIS, and by.....	Indiana.....	110.....	635
Terre Haute, (see 16).....	Indiana.....	70.....	705
Vandalia, and.....	Illinois.....	96.....	801
St. Louis, to.....	Missouri.....	59.....	800
JEFFERSON CITY.....	Missouri.....	131.....	991
<b>BRANCHES FROM NO. 1.</b>			
<b>No. 4.</b>			
(See No. 1.).....		23.....	
<b>From</b> Annapolis Junction, to.....	Maryland.....		
ANNAPOLIS.....	Maryland.....	20.....	43
<b>No. 5.</b>			
(See No. 1.).....		40.....	
<b>From</b> Baltimore, by.....	Maryland.....		
York, to.....	Pennsylvania.....	57.....	97
HARRISBURG.....	Pennsylvania.....	27.....	124
<b>No. 6.</b>			
(See No. 1.).....		110.....	
<b>From</b> Wilmington, to.....	Delaware.....		
DOVER.....	Delaware.....	48.....	158
<b>No. 7.</b>			
(See No. 1.).....		226.....	
<b>From</b> New York, to.....	New York.....		
ALBANY, (river distance) and by.....	New York.....	144.....	370
Castleton, and.....	Vermont.....	81.....	451
Burlington, to.....	Vermont.....	66.....	517
MONTPELIER.....	Vermont.....	40.....	557
<b>No. 8.</b>			
(See No. 1.).....		226.....	
<b>From</b> New York, by.....	New York.....		
NEW HAVEN, to.....	Connecticut.....	80.....	306
HARTFORD.....	Connecticut.....	36.....	342
<b>No. 9.</b>			
(See No. 1.).....		442.....	
<b>From</b> Boston, by.....	Massachusetts.....		
Lowell, to.....	Massachusetts.....	26.....	468
CONCORD.....	New Hampshire.....	50.....	518

MAIL ROUTES.	STATE.	INTERM. DISTANCE.	DIST. FROM WASHINGTON.
<b>BRANCHES FROM No. 2.</b>			
<b>No. 10.</b>			
(See No. 2).....		197	
From Junction near Hicksford, by.....	Virginia.....		
Gaston, to.....	North Carolina.....	20	217
<b>RALEIGH</b> , and by.....	North Carolina.....	87	304
Fayetteville and.....	North Carolina.....	60	364
Cheraw, to.....	South Carolina.....	72	436
<b>COLUMBIA</b> .....	South Carolina.....	92	528
<b>No. 11.</b>			
(See No. 2).....		547	
From Charleston, by.....	South Carolina.....		
Savannah, (see 11 a).....	Georgia.....	110	657
Gordon,.....	Georgia.....	174	831
Macon, and.....	Georgia.....	20	851
Bainbridge, to.....	Georgia.....	170	1,021
<b>TALLAHASSEE</b> .....	Florida.....	48	1,069
<b>No. 11 a.</b>			
(See above).....		831	
From Gordon, to.....	Georgia.....		
<b>MILLEDGEVILLE</b> .....	Georgia.....	17	848
<b>No. 12.</b>			
(See No. 2).....		1,035	
From Montgomery, by.....	Alabama.....		
Selma,.....	Alabama.....	55	1,090
Greensborough, and.....	Alabama.....	45	1,135
Livingston, to.....	Alabama.....	48	1,183
<b>JACKSON</b> .....	Mississippi.....	150	1,333
<b>BRANCHES FROM No. 3.</b>			
<b>No. 13.</b>			
(See No. 3).....		276	
From Brownsville, by.....	Pennsylvania.....		
Pittsburgh,.....	Pennsylvania.....	50	326
Beaver, and.....	Pennsylvania.....	30	356
Cleveland, to (see 13 a).....	Ohio.....	113	469
<b>DETROIT</b> , (direct,) and by... } During naviga-	Michigan.....	120	589
Kalamazoo,..... } tion on the Lakes.	Michigan.....	147	736
St. Joseph's,..... }	Michigan.....	54	790
Chicago, and..... }	Illinois.....	60	850
Milwaukie, to..... }	Wisconsin.....	94	944
<b>MADISON</b> ..... }	Wisconsin.....	81	1,025
<b>No. 13 a.</b>			
From Cleveland, by (see above,) (see 13 b) } During suspension	Ohio.....	469	
Toledo, to..... } of navigation.	Ohio.....	130	599
<b>DETROIT</b> , and }	Michigan.....	61	660

MAIL ROUTES.	STATE.	INTERM. DISTANCE.	DIST. FROM WASHINGTON.
No. 13 b.			
From Toledo, by (see above).....	Ohio .....	589.....	.....
Adrian,.....	Michigan .....	33.....	632.....
Hillsdale.....	Michigan .....	34.....	666.....
Niles,.....	Michigan .....	98.....	764.....
Chicago, and ...	Illinois.....	102.....	866.....
Milwaukie, to... } During suspen- } sion of naviga- } tion on the MADISON..... } Lakes.	Wisconsin.....	94.....	960.....
	Wisconsin.....	81.....	1,041.....
No. 14.			
(See No. 3.).....		404.....	.....
From Zanesville, by .....	Ohio .....	.....	.....
Chillicothe,.....	Ohio .....	73.....	477.....
Maysville, and.....	Kentucky .....	82.....	559.....
Lexington, to.....	Kentucky .....	64.....	623.....
FRANKFORT.....	Kentucky .....	26.....	649.....
No. 15.			
(See No. 3.).....		458.....	.....
From COLUMBUS, by.....	Ohio .....	.....	.....
Cincinnati,.....	Ohio .....	120.....	578.....
Louisville, and (see 15 a).....	Kentucky .....	132.....	710.....
Bowling Green, to.....	Kentucky .....	112.....	822.....
NASHVILLE.....	Tennessee.....	65.....	887.....
No. 15 a.			
(See above).....		710.....	.....
From Louisville and.....	Kentucky .....	.....	.....
Mouth of White River to.....	Arkansas.....	738.....	1,448.....
LITTLE ROCK.....	Arkansas.....	203.....	1,651.....
No. 16.			
(See No. 3.).....		705.....	.....
From Terre Haute to.....	Indiana.....	.....	.....
SPRINGFIELD, and by.....	Illinois.....	142.....	847.....
Peoria and.....	Illinois.....	68.....	915.....
Burlington, to.....	Iowa.....	103.....	1,018.....
IOWA CITY.....	Iowa.....	89.....	1,107.....

## RULE OF DISTRIBUTION.

---

“81. The postmaster will carefully assort the letters—and all letters addressed to offices in his own State, and all letters addressed to distributing offices, capitals of States and Territories, and all letters to offices in other States, situated between his office and a distributing office, he shall mail *direct*. When a letter necessarily passes through a distributing office, it shall be the duty of the postmaster to mail to the nearest distributing office short of the place where the letter is directed, and write upon the packet the name of the office and State, and the letters D. P. O. (the usual abbreviation for “Distributing Post Office,”) for example: A letter from Richmond, Virginia, to Dayton, Ohio, should be mailed and directed “Columbus, Ohio, D. P. O.””

The following are the distributing offices for the States set opposite to them respectively. And each letter or packet, when not mailed *direct*, as the above regulation requires, should be mailed to the nearest distributing office, short of the place addressed, on the route by which it is to be sent.

NOTE.—The names of the offices, for each State, to which the greatest amount of mail matter is sent, are printed in SMALL CAPITALS.

FOR MAINE - - -	}	To PORTLAND, Me. BOSTON, Mass.
FOR NEW HAMPSHIRE	{	To PORTLAND, Me. BOSTON, Mass. NEW YORK, N. Y. ALBANY, N. Y.
FOR VERMONT - - -	{	To PORTLAND, Me. BOSTON, Mass. NEW YORK, N. Y. ALBANY, N. Y.
FOR MASSACHUSETTS	{	To PORTLAND, Me. BOSTON, Mass. PROVIDENCE, R. I. HARTFORD, Conn. NEW YORK, N. Y. ALBANY, N. Y.

- FOR RHODE ISLAND - { To Boston, Mass.  
PROVIDENCE, R. I.  
New York, N. Y.  
Hartford, Conn.
- FOR CONNECTICUT - { To Boston, Mass.  
Providence, R. I.  
Hartford, Conn.  
New York, N. Y.  
Albany, N. Y.
- FOR NEW YORK - { To Albany, N. Y.  
New York, N. Y.  
Philadelphia, Pa.  
Northumberland, Pa.  
Erie, Pa.  
Buffalo, N. Y.
- FOR NEW JERSEY - { To New York, N. Y.  
Philadelphia, Pa.
- FOR PENNSYLVANIA - { To New York, N. Y.  
Philadelphia, Pa.  
Baltimore, Md.  
Wheeling, Va.  
Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Erie, Pa.  
Buffalo, N. Y.  
Northumberland, Pa.
- FOR DELAWARE - { To Philadelphia, Pa.  
Baltimore, Md.
- FOR MARYLAND - { To Philadelphia, Pa.  
Baltimore, Md.  
Norfolk, Va.  
Washington, D. C.  
Wheeling, Va.
- FOR VIRGINIA - { To Baltimore, Md.  
Washington, D. C.  
Norfolk, Va.  
Petersburg, Va.  
Abingdon, Va.  
Cumberland Gap, Ky.  
Maysville, Ky.  
Kanawha C. H., Va.  
Wheeling, Va.  
Pittsburgh, Pa.
- FOR NORTH CAROLINA { To Petersburg, Va.  
Norfolk, Va.  
Raleigh, N. C.  
Charleston, S. C.  
Augusta, Ga.  
Ashville, N. C.  
Abingdon, Va.

FOR SOUTH CAROLINA	{	To Petersburg, Va. Raleigh, N. C. CHARLESTON, S. C. Savannah, Ga. AUGUSTA, Ga. Ashville, N. C. Yorkville, S. C.
FOR GEORGIA - - -	{	To AUGUSTA, Ga. SAVANNAH, Ga. Columbus, Ga. MONTGOMERY, Ala. Huntsville, Ala. Nashville, Tenn. Ashville, N. C. Yorkville, S. C.
FOR FLORIDA - - -	{	To Charleston, S. C. To SAVANNAH, Ga. Columbus, Ga. Montgomery, Ala. NEW ORLEANS, La.
FOR OHIO - - -	{	To BUFFALO, N. Y. Eric, Pa. Pittsburgh, Pa. WHEELING, Va. Kanawha C. H., Va. Maysville, Ky. CINCINNATI, Ohio. Columbus, Ohio. INDIANAPOLIS, Ia. Toledo, Ohio, Detroit, Mich.
FOR MICHIGAN - - -	{	To DETROIT, Mich. Toledo, Ohio. Indianapolis, Ia. Chicago, Ill.
FOR INDIANA - - -	{	To Toledo, Ohio. COLUMBUS, Ohio. Cincinnati, Ohio. LOUISVILLE, Ky. Vincennes, Ia. St. Louis, Mo. Chicago, Ill. Indianapolis, Ia.
FOR ILLINOIS - - -	{	To CHICAGO, Ill. INDIANAPOLIS, Ia. Vincennes, Ia. Shawneetown, Ill. St. Louis, Mo.
FOR WISCONSIN - - -	{	To Detroit, Mich. CHICAGO, Ill. St. Louis, Mo.
FOR IOWA - - -	{	To CHICAGO, Ill. Indianapolis, Ia. St. Louis, Mo.

FOR MISSOURI	-	-	{	To Chicago, Ill. Indianapolis, Ia. Shawneetown, Ill. St. Louis, Mo.
FOR KENTUCKY	-	-	{	To Kanawha C. H., Va. Cumberland Gap, Ky. NASHVILLE, Tenn. St. Louis, Mo. Shawneetown, Ill. LOUISVILLE, Ky. Cincinnati, Ohio. MAYSVILLE, Ky.
FOR TENNESSEE	-	-	{	To Cumberland Gap, Ky. Abingdon, Va. Ashville, N. C. AUGUSTA, Ga. Montgomery, Ala. Huntsville, Ala. Tuscumbia, Ala. MEMPHIS, Tenn. Shawneetown, Ill. NASHVILLE, Tenn. LOUISVILLE, Ky.
FOR ALABAMA	-	-	{	To AUGUSTA, Ga. Columbus, Ga. Montgomery, Ala. New Orleans, La. Vicksburg, Miss. MEMPHIS, Tenn. Tuscumbia, Ala. NASHVILLE, Tenn. Huntsville, Ala.
FOR MISSISSIPPI	-	-	{	To AUGUSTA, Ga. MONTGOMERY, Ala. New Orleans, La. Natchez, Miss. Vicksburg, Miss. MEMPHIS, Tenn. Tuscumbia, Ala.
FOR ARKANSAS	-	-	{	To LOUISVILLE, Ky. Memphis, Tenn. VICKSBURG, Miss. Natchez, Miss. New Orleans, La. Natchitoches, La. St. Louis, Mo.
FOR LOUISIANA	-	-	{	To Vicksburg, Miss. NATCHEZ, Miss. NEW ORLEANS, La. Natchitoches, La.
FOR TEXAS	-	-	{	To Natchitoches, La. GALVESTON, Texas.

1847

# INDEX

TO THE

## POST OFFICE LAWS.

### A

#### *Abatement of Postage.*

	<i>Section.</i>	<i>Page.</i>
Abating and refunding Postage - - -	13	8

#### *Accessaries.*

If any person shall be accessory, after the fact, to any robbery of the carrier of the Mail of the United States, or other person entrusted therewith, of such mail, or of part thereof, any person so offending shall pay a fine not exceeding \$2,000, and be imprisoned and confined to hard labor for any time not exceeding ten years	45	23
Accessaries may be tried without trial of the principal, provided such principal has fled from justice - - -	45	23
All persons who shall in any way be accessory to any of the crimes forbidden by the Act of 1825, reducing into one the several acts establishing and regulating the Post Office Department, to be subject to penalties therein prescribed - - -	24	14

#### *Accounts, Regulation and settlement of.*

The accounts of the Post Office Department, how to be kept -	12	30
Accounts to be certified under seal, to be admitted in evidence in all suits brought by the United States against Postmasters or Contractors - - -	15	31
Accounts of postmasters to be rendered quarterly - - -	31	19



*Advertising Letters.*

	<i>Section.</i>	<i>Page.</i>
Postmasters to publish every three months, or oftener when directed, in one of the newspapers nearest to the place of their residence, a list of all the letters remaining in their respective offices	- 26	15
Advertisements of letters may be made in more than one paper	- 35	40
The whole cost of said advertisements not to exceed four cents for each letter	- 35	40

*Advertising for Contracts.*

Notice to be given in one or more newspapers, where the contract is to be performed, for at least twelve weeks before entering into any contract for carrying the mail	- 10	7
Advertisements for contracts, and regulations respecting them	- 23	35

*Advertising for Stationery and Job Printing.*

Advertising for Stationery and Job Printing, &c. &c.	- 17	49
--	------	----

*Allowance, Extra.*

Officers, whose salaries are fixed by law, not to receive any extra allowance or compensation	- 3	44
No additional allowance to be made by the Postmaster General, to the contractor or carrier of any mail, beyond the amount stipulated in the contract, unless additional services are required	- 43	22
No allowance or compensation to be made to any postmaster, in addition to his commissions, except the special allowances made by law	- 1	84

*Allowance to Clerks, Extra.*

No allowance or compensation shall be made to any clerk, or other officer, for extra services	- 12	47
---	------	----

*Allowance to Contractors.*

No payment to be made for any additional service in the transportation of the mail, unless the same shall have been rendered in obedience to a prior legal order of the Postmaster General	- 29	38
--	------	----

*Annual Reports.*

	<i>Section.</i>	<i>Page.</i>
Postmaster General, annually, to lay before Congress a statement of all Contracts which have been made, during the year preceding the Report - - - - -	5	2
Reports to be made to Congress by the Postmaster General -	22	34

*Appropriations.*

Appropriations made from revenues of the Post Office Department	3	27
To be paid by the Treasurer - - - - -	4	27
Manner in which estimates for appropriations are to be communicated to Congress - - - - -	14	48

*Assistant Postmasters General.*

First and Second authorized to be appointed - - - - -	1	3
Third authorized to be appointed - - - - -	20	33
Authorized to frank and receive letters and packets free of postage	27	16
May be employed as special agents, when, in the opinion of the Postmaster General, the service may require it - - - - -	6	60
	1	84

*Assistant Postmaster General, (First.)*

In the absence, &c. of the Postmaster General, all his duties, &c. to devolve, for the time being, on the First Assistant Postmaster General - - - - -	1	4
Authorized to frank and to receive letters and packets, by post, free of postage - - - - -	27	16
	6	60

*Attorneys of the United States.*

In prosecutions of suits for moneys due on account of the Post Office Department, the directions given them by the Auditor of the Post Office Department must be obeyed - - - - -	16	31
After the end of every term of any court, in which suits may be pending, the District Attorneys shall forward to the Auditor a statement of the judgments and orders which have been made, or taken during the term - - - - -	16	31

*Auditor of the Post Office Department.*

Auditor appointed - - - - -	8	28
-----------------------------	---	----

	<i>Section.</i>	<i>Page.</i>
His duties and powers - - - - -	10	29
To superintend the collection of debts, penalties, and forfeitures -	14	30
To cause suits to be instituted against delinquent Postmasters and others - - - - -	18	32
Auditor to adjust balances due from Postmasters -	18	32
May direct suits in chancery to set aside fraudulent conveyances, &c. &c. and attach debts due to the defendant -	18	32
He is required to report to the Postmaster General a statement of all balances on debts due to the Post Office Department, by late Postmasters - - - - -	18	33
He may administer oaths and affirmations in relation to the examination and settlement of the accounts committed to his charge -	19	33
He may designate any mayor of a city, any justice of the peace, or any judge of any court of record, to administer oaths or affirmations, in relation to examination and settlement of accounts -	19	33

## **B.**

### *Balances.*

Balances of postages are by Postmaster to be returned quarterly -	1	4
---	---	---

### *Bank Notes.*

Bank Notes, penalty for stealing them from the mail -	21	12
---	----	----

### *Bond.*

Upon the appointment of every Postmaster, the Postmaster General is required to take from such Postmaster a bond with good and approved security - - - - -	3	5
Each Contractor for transporting the mail, to execute a bond with sureties - - - - -	27	37
Letter carriers to execute a bond with sureties -	41	41
All bonds to be made to and with the United States of America -	13	30

### *Books.*

Books are not to be furnished out of the contingent fund of the Department, except such as may be necessary and proper to carry on the business of the Department - - - - -	19	50
---	----	----

*Canals.*

	<i>Section.</i>	<i>Page.</i>
Postmaster General authorized to contract for carrying the mail on navigable Canals - - - - -	42	42

*Chief Clerk of the Post Office Department.*

Duty to supervise the duties of each clerk, and see that their duties are faithfully executed, &c. - - - - -	13	48
--	----	----

*Clerks in General Post Office.*

Clerks in the General Post Office prohibited from entering into any Contract with the Department, or from attending to any business of a contractor - - - - -	26	37
---	----	----

*Clerks and other persons employed in the Department.*

Postmaster General to report to Congress the names of the clerks and other persons employed - - - - -	11	47
No allowance for extra services - - - - -	12	47
No extra clerks to be employed in the Department, except during the session of Congress, or when necessary to answer some call made by either House of Congress - - - - -	15	43

*Clerks in Post Offices.*

Clerks regularly employed in Post Offices exempt from militia duty and serving on juries, &c., &c. - - - - -	34	39
--	----	----

*Clerk of the House of Representatives.*

Authorized to send and to receive letters and packets not exceeding two ounces in weight, free of postage - - - - -	27	16
	6	60
Authorized to frank and to receive letters and packets free of postage - - - - -	4	25
	8	62
Authorized also, to transmit, free of postage, any document printed by order of either House of Congress - - - - -	4	86
	7	62
	3	86

*Closing the Mails.*

Letters brought half an hour before closing the mail, to be forwarded, unless the offices are excepted by the Postmaster General - - - - -	11	8
--	----	---

*Coins and Currency, Regulations of.*

	<i>Section.</i>	<i>Page.</i>
American Gold and Silver - - -	9	53
Weight of American silver coins - - -	9	53
Silver coins a legal tender - - -	9	53
Weight of American gold coins - - -	10	53
Gold coins to be a legal tender - - -	10	53
Rates of American gold coins minted anterior to 31st July, 1834 -	11	53
Weight of copper coins - - -	12	54
Foreign Gold and Silver coins to be a legal tender for the payment of all debts and demands, &c. &c. - - -	1	51
Rates of Foreign gold - - -	1	51
Rates of Foreign silver coins - - -	1	51
Spanish milled dollars, at the rate of one hundred cents for each -	1	51
Certain silver coins to pass by <i>tale</i> - - -	1	52
The Gold coins of Great Britain, Portugal, and Brazil, and France, Spain, Mexico, and Colombia receivable in all payments, by weight, for payment of all debts and demands due the United States - - -	1	52

*Collection, safe keeping, transfer and disbursement of the public money.*

Act of 4th July, 1840, repealed - - -	1	44
Felony for officers connected with the Post Office Department to con- vert to their own use, in any way whatever, any portion of the public moneys entrusted to them - - -	2	45
Neglect or refusal to pay over a transfer, or disburse such money, <i>prima facie</i> evidence of embezzlement - - -	2	45
The Treasury of the United States designated - - -	1	71
Moneys paid into the same, subject to the draft of the Treasurer -	1	72
United States Mint at Philadelphia and Branch Mint at New Orleans made places of deposite - - -	2	72
Treasurers of Mint and Branch Mint to be Assistant Treasurers, their powers and duties - - -	2	72
Places of Deposite and Assistant Treasurers at New York and Bos- ton, their powers and duties - - -	3	72
Places of Deposite and Assistant Treasurers at Charleston and St. Louis, their powers and duties - - -	4	72
Four Assistant Treasurers to be appointed, to hold their offices for four years - - -	5	73

	<i>Section.</i>	<i>Page.</i>
Location of Assistant Treasurers - - - - -	5	73
The Treasurers, Assistant Treasurers, and other officers having the custody of public moneys, required to keep the same safely, &c. and faithfully and promptly to make such transfers as are required to be made, &c. - - - - -	6	73
Treasurer of United States, Treasurers of Mint and Branch Mint, and Assistant Treasurers to give bond - - - - -	7	74
Secretary of Treasury to require the several other depositaries to give bond - - - - -	8	74
Collectors and receivers of public money, of every character, and description, to pay over to the same, and to whom - - - - -	9	75
Secretary of Treasury and Postmaster General respectively to direct such payments - - - - -	9	75
Secretary of the Treasury may make transfers of the public money	10	75
Postmaster General authorized to make transfers of moneys belonging to the Post Office Department - - - - -	10	76
Depositaries to keep separate and distinct accounts of the moneys of the Post Office Department - - - - -	10	76
Depositaries to make returns to the Treasury and Post Office Department - - - - -	10	76
Examination to be made of the books, &c. of the depositaries - - - - -	11	76
Necessary expenses for clerks, chests, &c. allowed - - - - -	13	77
Secretary of Treasury may transfer balances remaining with present depositaries - - - - -	14	77
Payment of public money to the United States and payments for patents, to whom to be made - - - - -	15	78
Entries required to be made of the public moneys other than those of the Post Office Department - - - - -	16	78
Felony to use, loan, or deposite in a bank, &c. money entrusted to him—punishment - - - - -	16	78
Evidence sufficient to show a balance on a charge of embezzlement	16	79
Duties, taxes, &c. accruing to the United States to be paid in gold or silver coin, or Treasury notes - - - - -	18	80
Payments to be made in gold or silver coin, or treasury notes, if the creditor will receive them - - - - -	19	80
No exchange of funds to be made except for gold and silver - - - - -	20	81
How payments shall be made - - - - -	20	81
The Secretary of the Treasury to issue and publish regulations to enforce the speedy presentation of drafts for payment - - - - -	21	81
No officer of the United States shall dispose of for a premium any Treasury note, draft, &c. not his private property, without crediting the United States in his accounts - - - - -	21	82

	<i>Section.</i>	<i>Page.</i>
No officer to charge or receive any commission, &c. for official services - - - - -	22	82

### *Compensation of Postmasters.*

Commission of Postmasters on letter postage - - - - -	14	9
Rate of, how allowed - - - - -	1	85
On free letters - - - - -	14	9
On Newspaper, Magazine, and Pamphlet postage - - - - -	14	10
Allowance for Ship letters - - - - -	34	20
Do. for receiving and despatching foreign mails - - - - -	14	9
Whenever the annual emoluments of Postmaster, are more than two thousand dollars, the surplus must be returned to the Department - - - - -	41	22
If the net proceeds exceed three thousand dollars a year, to be paid to the Postmaster General for the use of the Department - - - - -	2	46
No Postmaster to receive more than five thousand dollars a year, including salary - - - - -	2	46
Postmasters who receive the mail between the hours of nine o'clock at night and five o'clock in the morning, commission on the first hundred dollars collected in one quarter may be increased to a sum not exceeding fifty per cent - - - - -	14	9
Postmasters who shall be required to keep a register of the arrival and departure of the mails, allowed ten cents for each monthly return - - - - -	14	10
Compensation to Postmasters at Distributing offices - - - - -	1	24

### *Compensation of Postmaster at New Orleans.*

Postmaster General may allow the Postmaster at New Orleans at the rate of eight hundred dollars a year, in addition to his ordinary commission, subject to the restriction of the 41st section of the act of 1825 - - - - -	14	10
---	----	----

### *Compensation to Postmaster at Washington City.*

Postmaster General authorized to allow to the Postmaster at Washington City, for postage collected, and for free letters received by him for delivery, a commission of five per cent. on the amount of mails distributed at his office, subject to the restriction of the 41st section of the act of 1825 - - - - -	14	10
---	----	----

*Consuls in Foreign Countries.*

	<i>Section.</i>	<i>Page.</i>
To pay postage on letters destined for the United States which may be detained in foreign countries for non-payment of postage -	6	57
To be repaid to them or credited in their accounts at the State Department - - - - -	6	57

*Contingent Fund of the Department.*

Books not to be purchased out of the Contingent Fund, except such books, &c., as the head of the Department may deem necessary and proper to carry on the business of the Department -	19	50
A detailed statement of the manner in which the Contingent Fund of the Department has been expended to be reported to Congress - - - - -	20	50
The names of every person to whom any portion has been paid, and the services rendered, the nature of the service and the time employed - - - - -	20	51

*Contractors.*

Privilege to Contractors to carry newspapers - - - - -	30	18
No preference to be given to one publisher over another - - - - -	30	18
No additional allowance to be made by the Postmaster General to the Contractor or carrier of any mail beyond the amount stipulated in the contract - - - - -	43	22
Contractors for transporting the mail to foreign ports to be citizens of the United States - - - - -	2	55
Contractors not required to buy out their predecessors - - - - -	18	67
Contractors for past mail service in Texas may be paid by the Postmaster General - - - - -	3	70
Contractors or mail carriers may transport papers out of the mail	13	90

*Contracts.*

All Contracts made by the Postmaster General to be reported to Congress - - - - -	5	2
In making contracts it is the duty of the Postmaster General to give public notice in one or more newspapers published at the seat of Government, and in one or more newspapers published in the State or Territory where the contract is to be performed, for at least twelve weeks before entering into a contract for conveying the mail - - - - -	10	7



	<i>Section.</i>	<i>Page.</i>
Within sixty days after making of any contract, a duplicate thereof to be lodged in the Office of the Auditor of the Post Office Department - - - - -	11	30
Contracts for extending line of posts, with postage to Contractors -	4	5
All contracts with the United States to be made to and with the United States of America - - - - -	13	30
In every such contract, condition to be inserted, that no member of Congress has any interest in such contract or agreement -	3	2
Proposers for contracts, whose bids are accepted, and who do not comply with their proposals, forfeit the difference between their bid and the amount for which the route shall be let - -	44	22
Penalty for any public officer to make a contract with a member of Congress, or one in which a member of Congress is interested	4	2
Persons employed in the Post Office Department not to be interested in contracts, &c. - - - - -	26	37
Contracts not to be made with persons who have entered into combination, or proposed to enter into any combination, &c. -	28	38
Any person so offending, to be dismissed from the service of the Department - - - - -	28	38
Increase of pay of contractors restricted - - - - -	43	22
Whenever the Postmaster General shall exercise the power of dismissing a Contractor from the service of the Department, &c. he is required to transmit a statement of the evidence on which he acts to Congress - - - - -	28	38
No payment to be made until after execution of contract -	29	38
Time for which contracts for foreign mail service may extend -	1	55
Contracts for foreign mail service to be made with citizens of the United States, and the mail transported in American vessels -	2	55
Contracts for foreign mail service may be discontinued by joint resolution of Congress - - - - -	2	55
Contracts for foreign mail service to provide for the purchase of the steamships employed in carrying the mail - - - - -	8	98
In making contracts for foreign mail service, preference to be given to steamships - - - - -	7	57
Contracts may be made with owners of steamboats for carrying the mail without previous advertisement - - - - -	14	65
Contracts for transporting the mail to be let to the lowest responsible bidder - - - - -	18	67

*Contracts for Printing, Stationery, and Binding.*

	<i>Section.</i>	<i>Page.</i>
All stationery of every nature and description for the use of the Department, including blanks, wrapping paper and twine, and mail bags, to be furnished and performed by contract - - -	17	49
Contracts to be given to the lowest bidder - - -	17	49

**D***Dead Letters.*

Dead Letters to be sent to the General Post Office to be opened, and valuable articles preserved - - -	26	15
Valuable papers found in Dead Letters to returned to the writer thereof - - -	26	15
All such letters enclosing money to be paid by the Department to the rightful claimant - - -	26	15

*Dead Newspapers*

Dead Newspapers may be disposed of for postage, unless the publisher shall pay it - - -	30	17
---	----	----

**E***Express Mail, Obsolete.*

Established - - -	39	41
-------------------	----	----

*Exemption from Militia or Jury Duty.*

Postmasters, post riders, and drivers of the mail stages are exempt from militia duty, and serving on juries - - -	35	20
Assistant Postmaster and Clerks exempt - - -	34	39

**F***Fees.*

Fees or perquisites not to be received by persons employed in the service of the Post Office Department - - -	12	8
---	----	---

*Ferryman.*

	<i>Section.</i>	<i>Page.</i>
Ferryman forfeit ten dollars every hour they delay the mail	- 9	7

*Fines and Forfeitures.*

Where any Postmaster shall neglect or refuse to render his accounts, and pay over to the Postmaster General, the balance by him due quarterly, to forfeit double the value of postage which shall accrue at his office	- - - - - 32	19
Persons entitled to frank letters, not to frank for others, under a fine of ten dollars	- - - - - 28	16

*Franking Privilege.*

No person to frank other than their own letters	- - 28	16
The head of a Department may frank official letters for another Department, in case of absence	- - - 28	16
Letters improperly enclosed under frank, to be returned to Post Office	28	16
Franks—counterfeiting of—penalty	- - - 28	17
All acts or parts of acts granting the Franking Privilege repealed	- 5	60
Officers of Government heretofore having the Franking Privilege to keep an account of all postage charged to them on business of their offices—which may be remitted upon being verified by said officers	- - - - - 6	60
Sixth section of act of 1845, in reference to franking privilege, repealed	- - - - - 12	89

**G***General Post Office Department.*

A General Post Office to be established at the seat of Government, under the direction of a Postmaster General, who shall appoint assistants and other clerks, as he may deem necessary, to conduct the business of the office	- - - - - 1	3
\$750,000 appropriated to guard against a deficiency in the revenues of the Department	- - - - - 21	69
Additional appropriations to guard against deficiencies of the revenues of the Department	- - - - - 22	69
Depositaries of public money to keep separate and distinct accounts of the moneys of the Post Office Department	- - 10	76

	Section.	Page.
All sums for postages, or otherwise, due the General Post Office Department, to be paid in gold and silver coin only, or in Treasury notes - - - - -	18	80
Required to make all payments in gold or silver coin only, or in Treasury notes, if the creditor will receive them - - - - -	19	80
Any deficiency in the revenues of the Department to be paid out of the Treasury - - - - -	2	84

### *Governors of the several States.*

Governors of the several States may transmit by mail, free of postage, all laws and reports which may be directed by the legislatures of the several States to be transmitted to the Executives of other States - - - - -	7	62
---	---	----

## H

### *Harrison, Mrs. relict of William Henry Harrison.*

Authorized to frank and to receive letters and packets, free of postage - - - - -	23	69
---	----	----

### *Hours of attendance at Post Offices.*

Postmasters to attend to receiving, delivering, and forwarding the mail at such hour as the Postmaster General may direct - - - - -	11	7
---	----	---

## I

### *Imprisonment.*

Persons imprisoned by judgment of court to be kept at hard labor during such imprisonment - - - - -	25	15
Postmaster General authorized to discharge from imprisonment, any person confined in jail on any judgment obtained in behalf of the Department - - - - -	38	21

### *Incidental Expenses.*

Incidental expenses allowed to Postmasters - - - - -	{ 41 2	22 46
--	-----------	----------

## J

*Jurisdiction.*

	<i>Section.</i>	<i>Page.</i>
All causes of action arising under the laws of Congress for the better regulation of the Post Office Department may be tried, and offenders prosecuted, before the State Court having jurisdiction —	37	20
Court to proceed to trial, &c. the first term after commencement of suit — — — — —	38	21
Offenders against act of March 3, 1845, may be prosecuted before any Circuit or District Court of the United States or District of Columbia, or of the Territories of the United States —	20	68
Continuance on affidavit—if the defendant in such suit shall make affidavit that he has claim against the General Post Office, not allowed by the Postmaster General — — —	38	21

## L

*Letter Carriers.*

Letter carriers — — —	Section 36, page 20 and	41	41
Letter carriers to be employed at such post office as the Post Master General shall direct —	Section 36, page 20 and	41	41
Letters to be retained in office on written request — — —	Section 36, page 20 and	41	41
Two cents for each letter delivered	Section 36, page 20 and	41	41
One cent for every letter lodged, and not carried by mail — —	Section 36, page 20 and	41	41
To receive for each newspaper delivered, a half cent — —	41	41	41
Carriers to give bond with securities — — —	41	41	42

*Letters.*

Letters undercharged and overcharged—evidence of — — —	13	8
How to be marked and rated — — — — —	13	8
	1	58
	15	10
To go beyond the sea—postage of, to be paid in advance — — —	34	20
Dropped in Post Offices for delivery — — — — —	36	20
	1	58
Penalty for conveying them on a post road unauthorized by the Postmaster General — — — — —	19	11
Letters uncalled for to be advertised in newspapers of largest circulation in place where office is situated — — —	18	67

	<i>Section.</i>	<i>Page.</i>
Letters, &c. to persons belonging to the Army in Mexico to be free, provided they be endorsed "belonging to the army" -	4	87

## M

### *Madison, Mrs.*

Entitled to frank and to receive letters and packets free of postage	23	69
--	----	----

### *Magazines and Pamphlets.*

Periodical magazines, &c. may be carried in the mail, at one and a half cents a sheet for not exceeding 100 miles, and two and a half cents for a greater distance; and if not periodical, at four cents a sheet for not exceeding 100 miles, and six cents if further -	30	18
Such pamphlets and magazines as are not published periodically, if sent in the mail, to be charged with a postage of four cents on each sheet, for any distance not exceeding 100 miles, and six cents for any greater distance -	30	18
What is considered a pamphlet sheet	13	9
Rules for charging pamphlet postage	5 3	25 59

### *Mails.*

How contracts for carrying the mail are to be made	10	7
Obstructing its passage—penalty for	8 9	7 7
Packets of every description weighing more than three pounds, are to be excluded from the mails -	13	65
Letter mail may be separated from the other mail in certain cases, for expedition -	4	59
Mailable matter not to be conveyed over any regular mail route otherwise than in the mail -	10	63
What constitutes mailable matter -	15	66
How mail may be transmitted in case a contract cannot be made with a railroad -	19	68

### *Mails beyond the Sea.*

Provision to be made by the Postmaster General for the reception of all letters, &c., to be conveyed from any port of the United States beyond the sea	34	20
--	----	----

	<i>Section.</i>	<i>Page.</i>
Postmaster General authorized to make arrangements with the Postmasters in any foreign country, for the reciprocal receipt and delivery of letters and packets through the office - - - - -	34	20
For every letter or package so received, a postage of one cent to be paid for the use of Postmasters - - - - -	34	20
Postmaster General authorized to contract for transporting the mail to foreign ports - - - - -	1	55
Mails from New Orleans to Tampico authorized - - - - -	3	87
Mails from Charleston to Chagres, and from Panama to Astoria authorized - - - - -	6	87

### *Mail to Court Houses.*

Mail to be sent from the nearest Post Offices to Court Houses - - - - -	4	5
---	---	---

### *Mails in Steamboats.*

Mails may be transported in steamboats and packets - - - - -	5	6
Letters and packets, in steamboats, to be delivered, where a Post Office is, within three hours after arrival, if in the day time, within two hours after the next sun rise, if the arrival be in the night - - - - -	6	6
Masters of steamboats not employed in carrying the mail, to deliver all letters to postmasters on arrival, &c., under penalty - - - - -	6	6
Contracts may be made for transporting the mail in steamboats without previous advertisement - - - - -	14	65

### *Mail Carrier.*

Mail carrier—penalty for deserting or quitting the mail - - - - -	21	13
Allowed one cent for each way letter - - - - -	20	12
To deliver letters to individuals residing on the post road - - - - -	20	12
Penalty for carrying letters illegally - - - - -	21	13
To be free whites - - - - -	7	6
Exemption from militia and jury duty - - - - -	35	20

### *Marshals of the United States.*

Marshals to make return to the Auditor of the Post Office Department of the proceedings which may have taken place upon all judgments and executions in their hands - - - - -	16	32
---	----	----

*Masters of Vessels.*

	<i>Section.</i>	<i>Page.</i>
No ship or vessel arriving at any port within the United States where a post office is established, is permitted to report, make entry, or break bulk, until the master or commander shall have delivered to a postmaster all letters directed to any person or persons within the United States - - -	17	10
No vessel allowed to enter till the master delivers letters to a Postmaster - - - - -	17	10
Collectors to require an oath from every master or commander—of delivery of letters - - - - -	17	11
Postmasters to pay two cents to the master or commander for every Ship Letter - - - - -	18	11
Certificate from the person delivering the letters - - -	18	11
Allowed two cents for each letter and packet - - -	18	11

*Members of Congress and Delegates from Territories.*

Members of Congress are authorized to transmit by mail, free of postage, to any post office within the United States or Territories thereof, any documents which have been, or may be printed, by order of either house of Congress - - -	8	62
Members of Congress are authorized to send and receive letters and packets by post free of postage - - - - -	27	16
Such letters or packets not to exceed two ounces in weight -	27	16
This right commences sixty days before the member takes his seat, and continues sixty days after the close of the session -	27	16
Not to receive newspapers free after privilege of franking expires -	27	16
Any Member of Congress entering into any contract for the transportation of the mail, liable to a fine of 3,000 dollars, and the contract void - - - - -	1	1
Members of Congress and Delegates may receive letters not exceeding two ounces in weight, free of postage, during the recess of Congress - - - - -	1	58
May for a period of thirty days before and after every session of Congress send and receive through the mail, free of postage, any letter, newspaper, or packet, not exceeding two ounces in weight - - - - -	8	62
Members of Congress and Delegates may send and receive public documents free of postage up to first Monday in December following the expiration of their term of office - - -	3	86



May also send and receive letters and packets weighing not over two ounces, free of postage, up to the first Monday in December following the expiration of their term of office	-	-	5	86
--	---	---	---	----

## N

*Newspapers.*

Directions concerning newspapers	-	-	30	17
Printers allowed to exchange a daily paper free	-	-	29	17
Rates of postage	-	-	30	17
• Do commission	-	-	14	9
Postage should be paid in advance	-	-	30	17
All newspapers with certain exceptions, to be subject to postage	-	-	13	90
When sold for postage	-	-	30	17
Detaining, embezzling, or destroying them	-	-	30	17
Enclosing in them letters, &c., or writing on them—penalty	-	-	30	18
Mail carriers may convey them if allowed by Postmaster General	-	-	30	18
Any memorandum which shall be written on a newspaper or other printed paper, pamphlet, or magazine, and transmitted by mail, shall be charged with letter postage	-	-	13	9
The publisher of a newspaper may send a printed or written notice, stating the amount due on his subscription	-	-	13	9
Such notice to be attached to the margin of the newspaper	-	-	13	9
Postmasters who deliver the paper, will charge such notice with newspaper postage	-	-	13	9
If any person shall open any mail or packet of newspapers, or shall embezzle or destroy the same, not being directed to such person, or not being authorized to open the same, shall, on conviction thereof, pay a fine not exceeding twenty dollars for every such offence	-	-	30	17
Enclosing any memorandum in any package of newspapers, pamphlets, or magazines, or marking any writing thereon, the person so offending to forfeit the sum of five dollars	-	-	30	18
No newspapers to be received by Postmasters unless they are sufficiently dried	-	-	30	18
Unauthorized enclosures in newspapers, &c., make them chargeable as letters	-	-	30	18
What is understood by the term "newspaper"	-	-	16	66
Free exchange of newspapers between publishers not prohibited	-	-	16	66

*Oath of Office.*

	<i>Section.</i>	<i>Page.</i>
All persons employed in the General Post Office, and others attached to it in any way, to take an oath before entering upon the duties of their office - - - - -	2	4
Certificate of oath to be filed - - - - -	2	4
Every person in any manner employed in the care and management of the mail, subject to all the fines and penalties, whether he has taken the oath or not - - - - -	2	5

*Officers of Government.*

Heretofore having the franking privilege, to keep an account of postage charged to them on business of their offices, and which may be remitted upon being verified by said officers - - - - -	6	60
So much of the 6th section of the act of 3d March, 1845, as requires accounts to be kept of the postage of the public departments, &c. repealed - - - - -	12	89

*Opening Mails.*

Opening any Letter not containing money—penalty - - - - -	21	12
---	----	----

**P***Pamphlets.*

Pamphlets—postage thereon - - - - -	30	18
Rules for charging pamphlet postage - - - - -	5	25
What is considered a pamphlet - - - - -	3	59
	13	9

*Payments to the Department.*

To be made in gold or silver coin only, or in Treasury notes issued under the authority of the United States - - - - -	18	80
--	----	----

*Penalties.*

Members of Congress becoming interested in any public contract, guilty of high misdemeanor, and liable to a fine of \$3000 - - - - -	1	1
Public officers making any such contract on behalf of the United States, subject to same fine - - - - -	4	2

	<i>Section.</i>	<i>Page.</i>
<b>Owners of steamboats, &amp;c. who shall transport or carry, otherwise than in the mail, any letter or packets of letters, other than those relating to the cargo, subject to a penalty of \$100</b>	- 10	63
<b>Persons in charge of steamboats, &amp;c. failing to deliver to the Postmaster of the port, if there be a Post Office established at such port, within three hours after their arrival, all letters and packets in their charge intended for such port, fine of \$30 for each offence</b>	- - - - - { 6 - - - - - } 10	6 13
<b>Persons employed on board of steamboats failing to deliver all letters and packages in their charge to the masters of such boats, to pay a fine of \$10 for each letter or packet</b>	- - - - - 6	6
<b>Retarding or obstructing the passage of the mail, fine of \$10</b>	- 9	7
<b>Neglect of ferryman to convey the mail across a ferry, a fine of \$10 for every ten minutes delay</b>	- - - - - 9	7
<b>If any commander or master of any ship or vessel shall break bulk before having complied with the requirements of the law, every such offender shall, on conviction thereof, forfeit, for every such offence, a sum not exceeding \$100</b>	- - - - - 17	10
<b>Penalty for persons carrying letters, &amp;c., in vessels employed to transport mail in foreign service</b>	- - - - - 4	56
<b>A stage or other vehicle which performs trips on a post road, or on a road parallel to it, or a packet boat, or other vessel, which regularly plies on a water declared to be a post road, conveying letters, except those relating to some part of the cargo, the owner of the carriage or other vehicle, or vessel, shall incur the penalty of fifty dollars</b>	- - - - - 19	11
<b>No person, other than the Postmaster General, or his authorized agents, shall set up any foot or horse post, for the conveyance of letters and packets, upon any post road, which is or may be established. The person so offending, shall, upon conviction, be fined fifty dollars</b>	- - - - - 3	25
<b>Such carriage, &amp;c., may be levied on and sold, in satisfaction of the penalty and costs of suit</b>	- - - - - 19	11
<b>Persons employed in the departments of the General Post Office, wilfully detaining, delaying, &amp;c., any letter or packet intended to be conveyed by post, and not containing any security, &amp;c., to be fined not exceeding three hundred dollars, and imprisoned not exceeding six months</b>	- - - - - 21	12
<b>If any person employed in the Department be guilty of secreting, embezzling, or destroying any letter or packet, bag or mail-bag, or mail of letters which shall have come to his or her possession,</b>		

and are intended to be conveyed by post, containing any bank note or bank bill, or bill of exchange, or warrant of the Treasury of the United States, &c., such person shall, on conviction of any such offence, be imprisoned not less than ten years, nor exceeding twenty-one years - - - - -	21	13
If any person who shall have taken charge of the mails shall quit or desert the same before such person delivers it into the Post Office, or to some known mail carrier or agent of the General Post Office, every person so offending shall forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding \$500, for every such offence - - - - -	21	13
Persons stealing the mail or stealing from the mail, or from a Post Office, any letter or packet, and opening and embezzling, &c., any such mail, letter or packet containing any article of value, or evidence of debt, &c., to be imprisoned not less than two, nor exceeding ten years - - - - -	22	14
Any person taking any letter or packet not containing any article of value out of a Post Office, &c., to pay not exceeding five hundred dollars, and imprisonment not exceeding twelve months -	22	14
Mail carriers—penalty for carrying letters - - - - -	21	13
Cutting or destroying mail bags or portmanteaus—every such offender shall pay a sum not less than \$500, or be imprisoned not less than one year, nor exceeding three years - - - - -	23	14
Aiders and abettors subject to the same penalties and punishments -	24	14
If any person shall frank any letters, other than those written by himself, or by his order, on the business of his office, he shall, on conviction thereof, pay a fine of \$10 - - - - -	28	16
Stealing newspapers, &c., shall, on conviction thereof, be imprisoned, &c. - - - - -	30	17
All pecuniary penalties, &c., under this act, one-half to go to the informer, and the other half to the United States - - - - -	33	19
Any person buying, receiving, or concealing any letter, packet, bag or mail of letters, knowing the same to be stolen, shall be fined and imprisoned to hard labor - - - - -	45	23
Penalty for detaining letters, &c., in a Post Office, \$500, and imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months - - - - -	32	39
For stealing or taking letters, &c., from the mail of the United States—every person so offending, as accessory, to pay a fine not exceeding \$1000, and be imprisoned for a term not exceeding five years - - - - -	38	40
Any person who shall procure and advise, or assist, in the doing or perpetration of any of the acts or crimes by this act forbidden,		

	<i>Section.</i>	<i>Page.</i>
shall be subject to the same penalties and punishments as the persons are subject to, who shall actually do or perpetrate any of the said acts or crimes, &c. - - - -	24	14
For counterfeiting post office stamps - - - -	5	56
For false endorsement of a letter by a postmaster - - - -	6	61
For establishing private expresses for letters, &c., on mail routes - - - -	9	63
For transporting persons engaged in carrying mail matter over any mail route - - - - - - - - - -	11	64
For transmitting by private express mailable matter - - - -	12	64
Penalties and forfeitures under act of March 3, 1845, one-half to go to the informer, the other half to the United States - - - -	17	67
Penalties for using or loaning money belonging to Post Office Department - - - - - - - - - -	16	79
For forging postage stamps - - - - - - - - - -	11	89
For depositing in any post office two or more letters to different persons under one envelope - - - - - - - - - -	13	90

### *Perjury.*

Swearing or affirming falsely touching the expenditures of the Post Office Department, or in relation to any account of, or claim against, or in favor of the said Department - - - -	19	33
---	----	----

### *Portmanteaus and Mail Bags.*

If any person shall rip, cut, tear, or otherwise injure, any valise, portmanteau, or other bag, used, or designed to be used, by any person acting under the authority of the Postmaster General, upon conviction for every such offence, shall pay a sum not less than \$100, nor exceeding \$500, and be imprisoned not less than one year, nor exceeding three years - - - - - - - - - -	23	14
---	----	----

### *Postmaster General's Powers.*

His powers and duty - - - - - - - - - -	1	3
Authorized to appoint two assistants, and such clerks as may be necessary for the performance of the business of the Department - - - -	1	3
Authorized to appoint a third assistant - - - - - - - - - -	20	33
He is required to give his Assistants, Postmasters, and all others whom he shall employ, instructions relative to their duty - - - -	1	3
He may direct the route or road, when there are more than one between places designated by law for a post road; which route shall be considered the post road - - - - - - - - - -	1	4

	<i>Section.</i>	<i>Page.</i>
He shall obtain from Postmasters their accounts, vouchers, &c., once in three months - - - - -	1	4
He shall defray all expenses that may arise in conducting the Post Office, and in the collection of the revenue - - - - -	1	4
He shall render to the Secretary of the Treasury, quarterly, an ac- count of receipts and expenditures - - - - -	1	4
He shall prosecute offences against the Post Office Department - - - - -	1	4
Postmaster General, &c. to take and subscribe an oath, &c. - - - - -	2	4
Postmaster General to require bond and security of postmasters, conditioned for faithful performance of duty - - - - -	3	5
Postmaster General may discharge from imprisonment - - - - -	38	21
Postmaster General to report annually to Congress, &c , every post road not producing one-third of the expense of carrying the mail	39	21
Postmaster General to submit to Congress specific estimates of the sums of money expected to be required for the service of the Department - - - - -	2	26
The Postmaster General required to report to Congress, at each an- nual session thereof, all contracts made for the transportation of the mail, stating date and duration, the name of the contractor, the route or routes embraced in the contract, &c. - - - - -	22	34
Postmaster General to report, also, the land and water mails that may have been established, or ordered by the Department within the year preceding, other than those let to contract at the annual lettings of mail contracts - - - - -	22	34
To report all allowances made to contractors - - - - -	22	34
To report all incidental expenses of the Department - - - - -	22	34
To report the condition of the finances of the Department - - - - -	22	35
To report all fines enforced, and deductions made from the pay of contractors, &c. - - - - -	22	35
The Postmaster General, in any contract he may enter into for the conveyance of the mail, may authorize the person with whom such contract is to be made, to carry newspapers, magazines and pamphlets, other than those conveyed in the mail: <i>Provided,</i> That no preference shall be given to the publisher of one news- paper over that of another, in the same place - - - - -	30	18
To report to Congress at the beginning of each year, the names of the clerks and other persons that have been employed during the preceding year, or any part thereof, in the Department - - - - -	11	47
Authorized to contract with any railroad company for transmission of mail without advertising for bids on such railroads - - - - -	1	54

	<i>Section.</i>	<i>Page.</i>
Authorized to make contracts for transportation of the mail between ports of the United States and foreign ports, when, in his opinion the public interest will be promoted thereby - -	1	55
To report contracts for foreign mail service to Congress - -	1	55
Authorized to contract for transportation of the mail in the Gulf of Mexico in steamers - - - - -	8	57
Authorized to contract with owners of steamboats for conveying the mail without previous advertisement - - -	14	65
Authorized to continue existing mail service in Texas - -	2	70
Authorized to make transfers of money belonging to Post Office Department - - - - -	10	76
Postmaster General shall not make any allowance or compensation to any postmaster in addition to his commissions, except the special allowances made by law - - -	1	84
Postmaster General may employ the Assistant Postmasters General as special agents, when the service may require it - -	1	84
Postmaster General authorized to cause a mail to be transported from New Orleans to Tampico - - -	3	87
And from Charleston to Chagres, and from Panama to Astoria, in steamships - - - - -	6	87
Postmaster General may establish Branch Post Offices in cities -	10	88
Postmaster General authorized to prepare postage stamps, which, when attached to any letter or packet, shall be evidence of payment of postage - - - - -	11	89

### *Postmasters.*

Postmasters—commission on letter postage - - -	{ 14	9
	1	85
Limitation of commission - - -	14	9
Commission on newspapers, magazines and pamphlet postage -	14	10
Allowance for Free Letters - - -	14	10
Do. for Ship Letters - - -	{ 34	20
Do. for Box Letters - - -	2	24
	36	20
Exemption from military duty - - -	35	20
To observe instructions of Postmaster General - - -	1	3
To render accounts and pay balances quarterly - - -	32	19
To be furnished with a schedule specifying the times of arrival and departure of each mail - - -	31	38
To report to the Department every delinquency, neglect, or malpractice of the contractors - - -	31	39
Postmasters shall account for Way Letters - - -	20	11

	<i>Section.</i>	<i>Page.</i>
Postmasters detaining any letter, package, pamphlet, or newspaper, with intent to prevent the arrival or delivery of the same, giving preference, &c., by forwarding the one, or retaining the other— penalty - - - - -	32	39
Postmasters whose commissions amount to one thousand dollars, or upwards, to be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and to hold office for four years, unless sooner removed by the President - - - - -	33	39
Postmasters in Texas to pay over to Postmaster General all balances, &c. - - - - -	3	70
Postmasters whose compensation did not exceed \$200 for the year ending June 30, 1846, entitled to receive and send free, through the mail, all written communications on their own private business, not weighing over one-half ounce each - - - - -	1	84
All postmasters are authorized to send free through the mail letters and packets which relate exclusively to the business of the Post Office Department—to be endorsed “Post Office Business” - - - - -	6	61
Postmasters not to act as lottery agents - - - - -	6	26

### *Post Offices.*

Post Offices to be established by the Postmaster General - - - - -	1	3
Branch Post Offices may be established - - - - -	10	88

### *Post Riders.*

Post Riders and other carriers of the mail, receiving any way letter or letters, more than one mile from a Post Office, to deliver the same, with the postage, at the first Post Office at which they shall arrive - - - - -	20	12
--	----	----

### *Post Roads.*

The navigable canals of the several States - - - - -	42	42
Railroads of the several States. - - - - -	2	43
All waters on which steamboats regularly pass from port to port, are to be considered as post roads - - - - -	3	3
If post roads be obstructed by fences, gates, or bars, other than those lawfully used on turnpike roads to collect their toll, and be not kept in good repair, the Postmaster General is required to report the same to Congress - - - - -	8	7



	<i>Section.</i>	<i>Page.</i>
No stage, or other vehicle, which regularly performs trips on post roads, &c., to carry letters - - - -	19	11
Post roads which for three successive years fail to yield one-fourth of the expense, to be discontinued, unless to keep up a connection or a continuance of a route - - - -	2	24
Such post roads as do not produce one-third of their expense to be reported to Congress - - - -	39	21
The line of posts may be extended by contract - - - -	4	5
Private expresses for letters forbidden on mail routes - - - -	9	12
Transportation of books, magazines, pamphlets, or newspapers, intended for sale as merchandise, not prohibited - - - -	15	66

### *Postage.*

Postage on Letters—rates by land - - - -	Section 1 page 58 and	13	8
“    by sea - - - -	- - - -	15	10
“    by steamboats - - - -	- - - -	6	6
to or from Chagres - - - -	- - - -	7	88
to or from Havana - - - -	- - - -	7	88
to or from Panama - - - -	- - - -	7	88
to or from Astoria - - - -	- - - -	7	88
Any person receiving more, through fraud, than the legal postage of a letter, &c., to be fined for every offence, 100 dollars - - - -	- - - -	16	10
Postage on Newspapers—rates - - - -	- - - -	30	17
	- - - -	2	58
Postage to be charged on letters, packets, newspapers, &c., between the ports of United States and foreign ports - - - -	- - - -	3	55
Postage paid by Consuls in foreign countries on letters, &c., destined for United States to be refunded to said Consuls by United States, &c. - - - -	- - - -	6	57
Postage on printed circulars, handbills, or advertisements, &c. - - - -	- - - -	3	59
Postage to be required in gold and silver coin only, or in Treasury notes - - - -	- - - -	18	80
Postage stamps authorized, which, when attached to any letter or packet, to be evidence of the payment of postage on such letter or packet - - - -	- - - -	11	89
The act of March 3, 1845, sec. 6, requiring accounts to be kept of all matter passing free through the mail, repealed - - - -	- - - -	12	89

### *Postage on Newspapers.*

• Newspapers to be charged with postage - - - -	Section 2 page 58 and	30	17
---	-----------------------	----	----

	<i>Section.</i>	<i>Page.</i>
One quarter's postage to be paid in advance - - - - -	30	17
If not taken out of the Post Office, to be sold for postage - - - - -	30	17
What is understood by the term "newspaper" - - - - -	16	66
All newspapers, with certain exceptions, to be charged with postage - - - - -	13	90

*Postage on Periodicals, Magazines, and Pamphlets.*

Rates of postage to be charged by Postmasters for periodical magazines or pamphlets - - - - -	Section 3 and page 59 and 30	18
---	------------------------------	----

*Postage on printed Circulars, Handbills, or Advertisements.*

Rates of postage on printed circulars, handbills, or advertisements - - - - -	3	59
---	---	----

*President of the United States.*

Authorized to frank and to receive letters and packets, by mail, free of postage - - - - -	27	16
	23	69
Also each individual who has been President of the United States - - - - -	27	16
	23	69
To appoint Postmasters with consent of the Senate, whose commissions amount to one thousand dollars and upwards - - - - -	33	39

*Priority of the United States.*

Priority of payment to the United States - - - - -	13	30
When Postmasters or others, indebted to the Department, become insolvent, or when the estate of any deceased debtor is insufficient, &c., the debt due the United States to be first satisfied.—		
See note, pages 95, 96, 97 - - - - -	5	54

*Proposals for the Transportation of the Mail.*

Before making a contract for the transportation of the mail, the Postmaster General to cause advertisements to be made - - - - -	23	35
Regulations respecting the contracts entered into for the transportation of the mail - - - - -	23	35
Proposals to be published in one newspaper as near as may be to the route on which the services are to be performed, for at least four weeks before changing or making the contract - - - - -	23	36
Proposals for mail contracts to be delivered to the Department - - - - -	24	36
Proposals for carrying the mail to be recorded - - - - -	25	37
Postmaster General to report, at each session of Congress, a true copy from the record - - - - -	25	37

	<i>Section.</i>	<i>Page.</i>
Proposals for the transportation of the mail to be accompanied by a guaranty, &c	27	37
Persons proposing to contract for carrying the mail, and declared entitled to it, and failing or refusing to comply, &c., to pay the difference	44	22
If, after acceptance of proposals, and notification thereof to the bidder or bidders, he or they shall fail to enter obligation, &c., the Postmaster General shall proceed to contract with other person or persons	27	37

### *Public Documents.*

What publications shall be considered as "public documents," and may be franked as such	13	90
---	----	----

## **R**

### *Railroads.*

Postmaster General cannot allow more than three hundred dollars per mile per annum for the conveyance of mails on railroads	1	43
Postmaster General authorized to contract with any railroad company for transmission of mail without advertising for bids on such railroads	1	54
Railroad routes to be classified by the Postmaster General under certain restrictions	19	68

### *Robbing the Mail.*

Robbing the mail carrier, &c., punishable by imprisonment from five to ten years	22	13
Death for the second offence	22	13
An assault or shooting at the carrier, &c., where the robbery is not effected, punishable by imprisonment from two to ten years	22	13

## **S**

### *Salaries.*

Salaries of Assistant Postmasters General and others	43	42
Salaries of the Auditor and others	44	42

*Secretary of the Senate.*

	<i>Section.</i>	<i>Page.</i>
Authorized to frank and to receive letters and packages by mail, free	4	25
of postage - - - - -	8	62
Authorized also to transmit free of postage, documents printed by	4	86
order of either House of Congress - - - - -	7	62
	3	86

*Ship Letters.*

Every letter or packet brought into the United States or carried from one port to another in any private ship or vessel, to be charged with six cents postage, if delivered at the Post Office where the same shall arrive - - - - -	15	10
If destined to be conveyed by post to any place, with two cents added to the ordinary rates of postage - - - - -	15	10

*Steam Ships.*

Preference to be given to steam ships in making contracts for foreign mail service - - - - -	7	57
To be delivered to the United States on demand - - - - -	7	57
The owners to receive full value therefor—how to be ascertained - - - - -	7	57

*Suits instituted by the United States.*

All suits to be commenced for the recovery of debts or balances due by Postmasters or others upon bonds or otherwise, to be instituted in the name of the United States of America - - - - -	13	30
Suits to be instituted for the recovery of all sums wrongfully paid out of the funds of the Post Office Department - - - - -	17	32

*Sureties.*

Suits not instituted within two years after default sureties not liable	3	5
Sureties of a Postmaster may be relieved, upon notifying the Postmaster General of their desire to be discharged from their responsibilities—&c. &c. - - - - -	37	40
The conditions on which the releasement will be made - - - - -	37	40
All payments made subsequent to the execution of the new bond to be applied first to the discharge of any balance which may be due on the old bond - - - - -	37	40

**T***Treasurer of the United States.*

	<i>Section.</i>	<i>Page.</i>
Treasurer of the United States to give receipts for all moneys received by him to the credit of the appropriation for the service of the Post Office Department - - - - -	5	27
Payments for the service of the Post Office Department shall be disbursed by the Treasurer out of the moneys paid into the Treasury for the service of the Post Office Department - - - - -	6	27
Treasurer to render quarterly accounts to the Auditor of the Post Office Department - - - - -	7	28

**V***Vice President.*

Authorized to frank and to receive letters and packets by mail, free of postage - - - - -	27	16
Authorized to send and receive, free of postage, public documents, during his term of office - - - - -	3	86

**W***Way Letters.*

Postmasters, and other agents of the Post Office Department, shall account to the Postmaster General for all way letters which shall come to their hands - - - - -	20	11
Carriers of the mail, receiving any way letter, if presented more than one mile from a post office, shall deliver the same, with the postage, if paid - - - - -	20	12
The Postmaster shall enter the same, &c., &c., adding to the rate of each way letter one cent, which he shall pay to such mail carrier - - - - -	20	12

# INDEX

TO

## REGULATIONS FOR THE GOVERNMENT

OF THE

## POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

---

### A

	<i>Chapter.</i>	<i>Page.</i>
Abating and refunding postage - - -	- 22	26
Account current - - -	- 45	46
Account of unpaid newspapers, &c.—how to be kept -	- 38	38
Accounts and returns of postmasters - - -	- 42	44
Advertising letters - - -	- 29	30
Applications for payment and renewal of lost drafts or warrants -	- 49	53
Appointment office—Second Assistant Postmaster General -	- 1	4
Arrivals and departures of the mails, report of to be made by post- masters - - -	- 54	57
Attention to the manner of carrying the mails -	- 53	56
Auditor's Office of the Treasury for the Post Office Department -	- 1	5

### B

Blanks for accounts, post bills, &c. - - -	- 59	61
--	------	----

### C

Carriers of letters - - -	- 32	34
Change of the office - - -	- 7	11
Circulars and handbills, postage on - - -	- 18	22
Claims against the Department - - -	- 51	54
Collection of postage - - -	- 23	26
Collection of debts - - -	- 47	50

	Chapter.	Page.
Contract Office—First Assistant Postmaster General	1	3
Contractors	3	7

## D

Dead letters	30	31
Debts, collection of	47	50
Decedent's estates	50	54
Delivery of letters	24	27
Despatching and receiving mails	10	17
Despatch and receipt of foreign mails, post offices for, bordering on the British Provinces	65	66
Distribution, in what manner to be made up	13	19
Distributing offices, time allowed for closing mails at	14	20
Distribution of Foreign mails	62	64

## E

Emoluments of Postmasters	52	54
Expenses, private	67	67

## F

Failure to return quarterly accounts—penalties	43	44
Failures of mails	55	57
Finances—Third Assistant Postmaster General	1	4
Foreign Mails, distribution of	62	64
Foreign Mails, how made up	63	64
Foreign Mails, post offices for the despatch of, bordering on the British Provinces	65	66
Forfeitures and fines	56	58
Franking privilege	40	38
Franking privilege—general regulations concerning the	41	42

## G

General regulations concerning the franking privilege	41	42
General account	46	49

## H

Handbills and circulars, postage on	18	22
How the mails should be made up	9	16
How foreign mails should be made up	63	64

**I**

	<i>Chapter.</i>	<i>Page.</i>
Inspection Office—Chief Clerk	1	5

**L**

Letter carriers	32	34
Letters, postage on	15	28
ship and steamboat, postage on	16	20
way, postage on	17	22
delivery of	24	27
missent and to be forwarded	27	29
return of	28	30
advertising of	29	30
dead	30	31
lost, and mail depredations	31	32
&c. to foreign countries, transported in United States ves-		
sels, postage on	64	65
stamps for the pre-payment of postage on	68	69

**M**

Magazines, postage on pamphlets and	20	25
Magazines, pamphlets, and newspapers	35	36
Mail, proposals for carrying the	4	8
Mails, what may be admitted into the	8	15
how they should be made up	9	15
receiving and despatching them	10	17
opening the	11	17
time allowed for opening the	12	19
time allowed for closing, at distributing offices	14	20
depredations on, and lost letters	31	32
carriers and agents on railroad and steamboat routes	33	34
attention to the manner of carrying the	53	56
report of arrivals and departures of, to be made by postmasters	54	57
failures of	55	57
locks and keys	60	63
pouches and mail bags	61	63
Making up and forwarding the mails	8	15
Masters of steamboats to deliver letters and packets into post offices	25	28
Masters of every vessel from a foreign port to deliver letters and		
packets into post offices	26	28
Money for the use or for the service of the Post Office Department,		
how to be paid	48	51



	Chapter.	Page.
Contract Office—First Assistant Postmaster General	1	3
Contractors	3	7

**D**

Dead letters	30	31
Debts, collection of	47	50
Decedent's estates	50	54
Delivery of letters	24	27
Despatching and receiving mails	10	17
Despatch and receipt of foreign mails, post offices for, bordering on the British Provinces	65	66
Distribution, in what manner to be made up	13	19
Distributing offices, time allowed for closing mails at	14	20
Distribution of Foreign mails	62	64

**E**

Emoluments of Postmasters	52	54
Expresses, private	67	67

**F**

Failure to return quarterly accounts—penalties	43	44
Failures of mails	55	57
Finances—Third Assistant Postmaster General	1	4
Foreign Mails, distribution of	62	64
Foreign Mails, how made up	63	64
Foreign Mails, post offices for the despatch of, bordering on the British Provinces	65	66
Forfeitures and fines	56	58
Franking privilege	40	38
Franking privilege—general regulations concerning the	41	42

**G**

General regulations concerning the franking privilege	41	42
General account	46	49

**H**

Handbills and circulars, postage on	18	22
How the mails should be made up	9	16
How foreign mails should be made up	63	64

## I

	Chapter.	Page.
Inspection Office—Chief Clerk	1	5

## L

Letter carriers	32	34
Letters, postage on	15	20
ship and steamboat, postage on	16	20
way, postage on	17	22
delivery of	24	27
missent and to be forwarded	27	29
return of	28	30
advertising of	29	30
dead	30	31
lost, and mail depredations	31	32
&c. to foreign countries, transported in United States ves-		
sels, postage on	64	65
stamps for the pre-payment of postage on	68	69

## M

Magazines, postage on pamphlets and	20	25
Magazines, pamphlets, and newspapers	35	36
Mail, proposals for carrying the	4	8
Mails, what may be admitted into the	8	15
how they should be made up	9	15
receiving and despatching them	10	17
opening the	11	17
time allowed for opening the	12	19
time allowed for closing, at distributing offices	14	20
depredations on, and lost letters	31	32
carriers and agents on railroad and steamboat routes	33	34
attention to the manner of carrying the	53	56
report of arrivals and departures of, to be made by postmasters	54	57
failures of	55	57
locks and keys	60	63
pouches and mail bags	61	63
Making up and forwarding the mails	8	15
Masters of steamboats to deliver letters and packets into post offices	25	28
Masters of every vessel from a foreign port to deliver letters and packets into post offices	26	28
Money for the use or for the service of the Post Office Department, how to be paid	48	51

## N

	Chapter.	Page.
Newspapers, postage on - - - -	19	23
Newspapers pamphlets, and magazines - - -	35	36
Newspapers not to be read in the office - - -	36	37
Newspapers and pamphlets, when not taken out of the office, publishers of the same to be informed - - -	37	37
Newspapers, account of unpaid, how to be kept - - -	38	38
Newspapers, magazines, and pamphlets, foreign - - -	39	38

## O

Office of the Auditor of the Treasury for the Post Office Department	1	5
Office of the Treasurer of the United States for the Post Office Department - - - - -	1	6
Opening the mail - - - - -	11	17
time allowed for - - - - -	12	19
Organization of the Post Office Department - - - - -	1	3

## P

Paid letters, newspapers, and pamphlets - - - - -	21	25
Pamphlets, newspapers, and magazines - - - - -	35	36
Papers and accounts to be returned to the Post Office Department by postmasters - - - - -	44	45
Paying over money to the use or for the service of the Post Office Department - - - - -	48	51
Penalties - - - - -	57	58
Penalties for failure to return quarterly accounts - - - - -	43	44
Postage on letters - - - - -	15	20
on ship and steamboat letters - - - - -	16	20
on way letters - - - - -	17	22
on circulars and handbills - - - - -	18	22
on newspapers - - - - -	19	23
on pamphlets and magazines - - - - -	20	25
abating and refunding - - - - -	22	26
collection of - - - - -	23	26
on letters, &c. to foreign countries transported in United States mail vessels - - - - -	64	65
on letters, stamps for the pre-payment of - - - - -	68	69
Postmaster, who can hold the office of - - - - -	5	11
steps to be taken on receiving the appointment of - - - - -	6	11
accounts and returns of - - - - -	42	44

	<i>Chapter.</i>	<i>Page.</i>
Postmaster, emoluments of - - - -	62	54
by whom appointed - - - -	5	10
Post Office, charge of the - - - -	7	11
Post offices for the receipt and despatch of foreign mails bordering on the British Provinces - - - -	65	66
Post Office Department, organization of - - - -	1	3
operations on mail routes and in post offices - - - -	8	15
claims against the - - - -	51	54
Post Roads - - - -	2	7
Private expresses - - - -	67	67
Privilege of franking - - - -	40	38
Proposals for carrying the mail - - - -	4	8

### Q

Quarterly accounts, failure to return, penalties - - - -	43	44
--	----	----

### R

Receiving and despatching mails - - - -	10	17
Refunding and abating postage - - - -	22	26
Regulation 549 repealed - - - -	34	35
Renewal of lost drafts or warrants, applications for payment and - - - -	49	53
Return of letters - - - -	28	30
Report of the arrivals and departures of mails to be made by post- masters - - - -	54	57

### S

Stamps for the pre-payment of postage on letters - - - -	68	69
Steamboat and ship letters, postage on - - - -	16	20
Steps to be taken on receiving the appointment of postmaster - - - -	6	11

### T

Time allowed for opening the mail - - - -	12	19
Time allowed for closing mails at distributing offices - - - -	14	20
Treasurer of the United States for the service of the Post Office Department - - - -	1	6

### U

United States mail vessels, postage on letters, &c. transported to foreign countries in - - - -	64	65
--	----	----

V

Violations and evasions of laws

Chapter. Page.  
58 60

W

When newspapers and pamphlets are not taken out of the office, publishers of the same to be informed

37 37