

DECISIONS UNDER THE NEW POSTAGE ACT MADE BY THE P. M. GENERAL.

Post Office Department, July 25, 1851.

The postage on all bound books and on all other printed matter, except newspapers and periodicals, published at intervals not exceeding three months, and sent from the office of publication to actual and bona fide subscribers, is required by law to be prepaid.

If the amount paid and marked on such printed matter is not sufficient to pay the whole postage due, the excess of weight beyond that paid for is to be charged with double the rate which would have been charged if prepaid, and the postage on such excess collected at the office of delivery.

If by the neglect of a postmaster such matter is sent without any payment, the double prepaid rate must be collected on the delivery.

Postage must be charged on all letters and other matter according to the distance or the route by which they are conveyed; and this unless otherwise directed by the sender, must be the route by which they will soonest reach their destination, although that may not be the shortest route.

Postage should be charged by postmasters according to the tabular statements of the rates of postage, both foreign and inland, which have been lately forwarded to every postmaster in the United States.

Subscribers to periodicals, to obtain the benefit of the provision in regard to prepayment, must pay the full quarter's postage before the delivery of the first number, when there are several numbers to be delivered during the quarter. If, by reason of any increase in the size of the periodicals or otherwise, it shall appear that the whole quarter's postage was not paid in advance, the subscriber will lose the benefit of prepayment, and the numbers received during the whole quarter will be charged with the double or unpaid rate, and the subscriber will be credited with only the amount paid in advance.

Under the provision of the 2d section of the new postage act, no newspapers, other than those published weekly only are entitled to circulate free of postage in the counties where published. The office of publication is the office where the newspaper is printed, and there can be no other office of publication in another county for the purpose of securing an additional free circulation.

In determining newspaper postages, the distances are to be computed from the office of publication and not from the county line in which the paper is published; and the distance is also to be computed over the route on which it is carried.

Newspapers published weekly only in a county adjoining the Canada line may be sent free to Canada provided they do not leave the county of publication until they cross the line into Canada.

When such papers are sent out of the county where published, to be delivered from a post office in an adjoining county in the United States no matter how short the distance, full postage must be charged.

Newspaper publishers may send and receive their exchange newspapers to and from Canada free of charge.

Publishers of newspapers, pamphlets, periodicals, and magazines, under the provisions of the second section of the new law, may interchange their publications reciprocally free of postage, provided such publications do not exceed sixteen ounces in weight. Such interchange must be confined to a single copy of each publication; but is not limited to an exchange of newspaper for newspaper and periodical for periodical; but publishers of newspapers have the right to exchange with publishers of periodicals under the late act of Congress. Such publishers may also enclose in their publications the bills for subscriptions thereto without any additional charge for postage; and this privilege extends also to the transmission of a receipted bill after the same has been paid.

A newspaper is not a periodical within the meaning and intent of the provision which requires the postage on periodicals to be paid in advance, and declares that the postage thereon shall be one-half of the rates previously specified in the second section of the act; but all subscribers to newspapers were and still are required by the provisions of the thirtieth section of the act of March, 1825, to pay one quarter's postage in advance; by so doing, however they are not entitled to have the postage reduced below the established rates.

The postage on newspapers weighing less than three ounces, "sent from the office of publication to actual and bona fide subscribers," is fixed by law by the quarter only, and is required to be paid in advance. Hence, no person can be considered an actual and bona fide subscriber to a newspaper, and entitled to pay postage on at the quarterly rates, who shall only take a newspaper for a less time than three months.—Actual bona fide subscribers to papers for three months or more, who change their residences temporarily, may have their papers sent without prepayment, but must pay a quarter's postage in advance at the office of delivery or else pay the unpaid transient rate.

Publishers cannot send specimen numbers of their papers to postmasters and others (as has been much practised heretofore under the old law) without prepaying the postage thereon.

Publications borrowing the name, having the form and some of the characteristics of a newspaper, printed for gratuitous circulation and depending on their advertisements for support, cannot be sent by mail gratuitously to persons not actual and bona fide subscribers upon the footing of newspapers "sent from the office of publication to actual and bona fide subscribers;" but must be charged with the transient rates, which must be collected at the mailing office.—To entitle actual and bona fide subscribers to a reduction in the rate of postage on periodicals sent them from the office of publication, payments must be made by them in advance at the post office where such publications are to be delivered.

The United States postage on newspapers, periodicals, and other matter not chargeable with letter postage, when sent out of the United States must be prepaid at the full rate.

Publishers of periodicals may prepay the postage on their issues, but can have no deduction of postage on account of such prepayment.—When a periodical is published only quarterly, the actual and bona fide subscribers for such periodical may pay in advance and have the benefit of the advance payment, provided he pays to the postmaster at the office where he is to receive the periodical before its delivery. If a periodical is published less frequently, the postage must be prepaid, and at the full rate.

Postmasters are not bound to receive from the publishers weekly newspapers published in the city, town, or village where the post office is kept, and deliver them to subscribers calling at the office for them. The right to "circulate in the mail within the county where published," does not impose on postmasters the duty of receiving and delivering papers which do not go into the mail; and where a publisher seeks to throw upon the postmaster the labor of delivering his papers, for the purpose of relieving him from the expense of their delivery, the postmaster will be justified in refusing to deliver them. He should, in such cases, inform the publishers of his determination not to receive such papers.

If a postmaster receives and delivers such papers for the convenience of the publisher or subscriber, he cannot charge any postage thereon; and the Department desires that postmasters should act with courtesy in this respect, and deliver such few papers as may be sent to their offices for the convenience of the subscriber; but they are not expected to receive them when the number is such as to indicate that it is the intention to throw upon the postmaster a labor which the publisher should perform.

Foreign newspapers re-mailed, or first mailed in this country, must be charged with the rate for transient papers, which must be prepaid. It has been decided by the Attorney General, on a reference from this Department, that members elected to the Congress to assemble in December next are now entitled to the franking privilege; and the law of Congress gives this right in express terms to the members of the last Congress until the first Monday in December, 1851. Postmasters will therefore recognise this privilege in such cases.

N. K. HALL, Postmaster Gen.

CRYSTAL PALACE & THE NATIONAL DEBT. All accounts agree in representing the Crystal Palace as decidedly successful—as a happy discovery—a capital hit—an excellent thing—a first-rate speculation. It pays. Prince Albert has, then proved himself something more than the poor German cousin of Victoria pensioned upon the tax-paying people of England. As the inventor, the projector, and the chief director of the Crystal Palace, H. R. H. the Prince may congratulate himself and his royal consort. He has done something for himself, something for John Bull, and not a little for the attractive Paris and Parisians over the Channel. It appears that the Crystal Palace, after having paid all expenses, yields a daily revenue of some £3,000 sterling, more or less, or from 12,000 to 15,000 dollars. Now, as every little helps, why not keep this exhibition in active operation to aid in the liquidation of the national debt? Even 2,000 pounds a day for 300 days would be equivalent to £600,000. That would be considerable as an auxiliary sinking fund. Besides, we wish the Exhibition prolonged, in order that the "vast unoccupied area given up to the United States," may be filled up, if possible, with Yankee notions—not with baby jumpers, papers, patent churns, straw cutters and such like specimens of the fine arts, but with such handicraft articles as would be calculated to leave a better impression of the skill, taste and genius of this great country. We would suggest another thing to the commissioners of this World's exhibition: Barnum has in his museum in this city a collection of owls, mice, cats, rats, hawks, small birds, monkeys, foxes, hedgehogs, snapping turtles, a dog and a bear, and what not, all in one cage, living harmoniously together, and happily denominated the "happy family." The commissioners should apply to Barnum to make this cage his contribution to the Crystal Palace, in order to show to the wisecracks of Hyde Park, and Punch and the Times, that "some things can be done as well as others." But we trust, meantime, that her Majesty's advisers will not lose sight of the importance of continuing the exhibition of the Crystal Palace, and declaring it by act of Parliament, in order to aid in the liquidation of the national debt, a permanent institution as long as it will pay. After which a sale at auction of all the disposable effects, including the Koh-i-noor and a large lot of such trash and trumpery, would relieve the treasury somewhat of the expenses of civilizing the Kafirs. Let the Prince hold fast to the Crystal Palace. It is the Prince's feather.

[N. Y. Herald.]

STATE FAIR.—The annual exhibition of the Michigan State Agricultural Society, will be held in this city on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, the 24th, 25th, and 26th of September next.

It is expected that it will be the most varied and extensive show that has ever been attempted west of Lake Erie. The abundant harvest which our agriculturists are reaping in this state, will we doubt not, inspire them to increased exertion to make this annual festival the pride and boast of the State for the year 1851. Arrangements the most complete and satisfactory, are already on the tapis for the comfort and convenience of man and beast, as well as for the proper display of all the myriad articles which the ingenuity of our artizans, and the industry of our fair countrywomen will offer for competition on this interesting occasion. We understand that the different lines of conveyance in the State, have with commendable liberality, offered to transport freight and agents in charge of it, and from the Fair free, and passengers on "Fair trips" at half price.

The Central and Southern Rail Roads have already assented to this arrangement, and the Pontine will undoubtedly concur. The Detroit and Saline, Howell and Birmingham Plank roads will also pass articles for exhibition free of toll, over their routes. It is hardly necessary to say that our good people will not allow their proverbial reputation for abundant and generous hospitality to be gainsayed, at this juncture, and that the "latchstring," as heretofore, will be "out" for the accommodation of their fellow citizens of the interior.

[Det. Free Press.]

U. S. MINT.—The total coinage from January to June inclusive amounts to \$24,269,465, and the precious metals deposited, to \$20,493,300, which California contributed \$19,995,500.

A learned German Astrologer is said to have ascertained that in twenty-two millions of years, this earth will be destroyed by a comet!

THE GRAND RIVER TIMES.

HENRY PENNOVER, EDITOR.

GRAND HAVEN, MICH.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, AUGUST 30, 1851.

State Democratic Convention.

A Democratic State Convention for the nomination of Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, and the transaction of such other business as may properly be brought before the same, will convene on Wednesday, the first day of October next, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, at the City Hall, in the city of Detroit. Ottawa County, is entitled to two delegates. GEO. E. HAND, JOHN P. COOK, CHAUNCEY JOSLIN, JOHN P. COOK, JAMES L. GLEN, CHAS. E. STEWART, ALFRED WILLIAMS, CHAS. H. TAYLOR. Democratic State Central Committee. Detroit, July 30, 1851.

We notice by the Whig papers that the several factions of the whig party of the State of New York, have counselled together and have united in a call for a State Convention, to be held at Syracuse, on the seventeenth day of September next. The address and call, is signed by the committees of three different factions, being the fictitious ends of what was once known (in the zenith of Henry Clay's hey-day of glory,) as the great whig party. One of the other ends we believe to be the flag end, and latter end of Abolitionism. The last end has several smaller branches leading from it, all factious in their nature, such as Anti-rent-ism, Sewardism and the higher law principles, Fillmoreism, strongly wedded to Galphism, Scottism wedded to the great Native American partyism, (not including hasty soup or fire in the rear, or any thing of that sort,) and many more isms might be set out here as the legitimate floating property of the great whig party of New York, and the Union if we had space.

The Detroit Tribune says the address does not endorse the Compromise measures directly or indirectly, if anything it repudiates them.—And further, that the important positions assumed, are the same as the old whig platform that they have fought under for many years.

Oh, Tribune, what a whopper! Look back to the Harrisburgh Convention where "Tippecanoe and Tyler too"

were nominated, and where it was gravely asserted, that no declaration of principles were necessary for the public eye, and see how the history of hard cider and coon skin principles agree with the following principles laid down as a platform upon which all the factions of the great State of New York, and of the Union may unite. So say the trumpeters that have sounded the call for the convention on the seventeenth day of September next. Here comes the declaration of principles that according to the Tribune, have so long been the sheet anchor and foundation hope of the Whig party:

"Economic administration of Government. Strict accountability of public officers. Rigid adherence to Constitutional limitations of power.

Faithful performance of obligations with foreign nations. Prudent and enlightened appropriations for internal improvement of Rivers and Harbors by the Federal Government.

A Tariff for revenue, constructed with reference to protecting American labor. Inflexible opposition to the extension of slavery.

The undeniable right of every citizen to discuss the expediency and propriety of all laws, and to seek their repeal or modification by constitutional means. Devotion to the Constitution in all its parts, and the preservation of the Union unimpaired at all hazards.

The right of the majority in the State and Federal Legislatures to control." To the first sub-division of this platform, which is an economical administration of Government, with strict accountability of public officers. Every honest whig will secretly pray the shade of Galphin not to rise and give the lie to this gull trap, and good enough Morgan, until after election. For recollect, Mr. Tribune man, that a whig Administration now wields the press and sword of this nation, and that Galphism has had its sway; and that many a fair and more than liberal allowance is now being made to Texas and Mexican claimants that favor the Administration. That rusty rat-trap will not spring.

The second sub-division of the platform, is rigid adherence to constitutional limitation of power. This part of the platform is calculated for the rigid Constructionists of the whig party, there is none such in that party; the whigs are all loose with none other than floating principles, that can be better sung, than spoken, or written.

The third sub-division is as follows: Faithful performance of obligations with foreign power. Now let us see how well this will be acted upon by the whig party, who have all the power at present; and upon the presumption that the conduct of the Administration for the future, will be of the same piece of the past. Let us inquire what has been done by the present Administration in performing faithfully their obligations with foreign Nations. We answer, that the treaty obligations of the United States with Mexico, made just at the close of Mr. Polk's Administration, at Guadalupe Hidalgo, binds the former power to protect the latter against the depredations of the Indians of the United States territories. Now, has anything been done by the powers that be at the present time, to carry out by way of a faithful observance, this most solemn treaty stipulation, in protecting the Mexican people, and saving them perfectly harmless from the depredations here spoken of? We answer, no! and that in consequence of the non-observance on the part of

the United States authorities of this most sacred obligation, the Treasury of the United States will yet have to pay millions of dollars, for losses already sustained, in the loss of stock, Ranch, buildings and all sorts of property, that can be destroyed by fire or driven off by the Indians from, and living within the territories of the United States. We presume that we are rightly informed upon this subject, and that claims are now being pressed, by and through the Mexican Minister, resident in Washington, to our Government, from losses already sustained by the Mexican people, exceeding one and one half millions of dollars; honesty requires its payment—one half of this amount of money would have protected the whole Mexican frontier, in the hands of a vigilant Administration. Again, Spain and all the powers of the earth, may justly complain of the United States, for violations of treaty obligations, in allowing emigrants to arm on and depart from our shores with the known design of assisting the Revolutionists of the Government of Cuba. If Spain was on a par with England, France or Russia, in power, the United States would be yet made willing to indemnify that Government for protecting itself against the lawless bands from the United States. With a due degree of vigilance at home, two or three well equipped War Steamers, stationed by our Government, at or near the Island of Cuba would be enough to save what little, if any honor there may be left in the United States Government, and to prevent the lawless from obtaining a foothold upon that Island.

Just in this way would every obligation of a whig Administration be discharged, whether it be an obligation to our own citizens, or to a foreign Government; there is not now, and never was, any honesty in whig pretences.

4th. Prudent and enlightened appropriations for internal improvement of Rivers and Harbors by the Federal Government. Yes, we thoroughly understand the whig creed upon this article of their platform. They are in favor of improving Harbors upon the Atlantic coast only; they have always considered it very imprudent to make an appropriation for any of the inland Lakes of the United States. This part of the pretended platform of the many factions, will not hold up its own weight.

5th. We have not room to notice. 6th. Inflexible opposition to the extension of slavery. This is intended as a bait for the Abolition minnows to nibble at.

Two small boys named HENRY GRANT and JOSEPH FRENCH, residents of this village, were missing on Friday evening last. Some believed them to be drowned, others thought them to be in the woods. A very thorough search was made on Saturday and Sunday, in dragging the River and scouring the woods.—The only hopes now entertained of their being alive, is that they might have been picked up and carried to the other side of the Lake, by some vessel outward bound. The parents are frantic, and there is not much of consolation for them.

The Grand Rapids Enquirer is one of the best papers in the State, from a small size at its commencement it has grown to a semi-mammoth stature; it has ever been ably conducted by the several gentlemen that have succeeded each other in the charge of its columns; its editorial and selected matter, has always been unexceptionable, it is generally worked off on the day of its publication, but hold! enough—this we find is all we can say in its favor, for this reason; when the paper is worked off it is suffered to lay until the N. Y. Herald and Tribune, published on the same day, can come up with it by the tardy mails, to bear it company down the River and in the various directions through the country, to its distant subscribers. The Enquirer is published on Wednesday—Thursday, there is a mail coming down the River, but the Enquirer never comes on that day, to say nothing of the boat that leaves on the day of publication. Saturday's mail sometimes brings that paper, and not unfrequently it is delayed until Tuesday, of the following week. Subscribers here, have sometimes complained of this indolence, as they have a good right to—this paper the Enquirer, is taken by many that take no other, who are desirous of being placed in possession of the news of the day at the earliest possible moment after its publication. All concerned in that establishment, appears to work hard enough to get off a good paper—here the merit ceases—a lack of energy pervades and permeates the entire establishment for too long a time each week. We are forced into the necessity of acknowledging much more promptness on the part of the Eagle. Perhaps their promptness may be attributed to city patronage and mail facility favoritism; if the latter, (which we cannot believe,) we would like to know it through the columns of the Enquirer. We have however, to good an opinion of the gentleman in charge of the Post Office at Grand Rapids, although a political opponent, to believe there is, or can be any fault there.

Enquirer! correct your habits, or we fear you will find some of your patronage withdrawn and you will save us the necessity of touching you lightly again in behalf of your many subscribers in this region.

We have received from JOHN S. TAYLOR, Publisher of the Ladies' Keepsake, a full length portrait of Washington, beautifully engraved—price one dollar, and richly worth the money. Address JOHN S. TAYLOR, 143 Nassau street, New York, who you desire one of the nicest parlor embellishments.

Mr. Editor:—At your request, I give you some account of the practical workings of the present Postal Arrangements, for the Post Offices on Grand River, between Grand Rapids and Grand Haven. On this route there are seven Post Offices, viz: One at Grandville, Tallmadge, Steel's Landing, Polkton, Crockery Creek, Nortonville and Mill Point, and to accommodate the people, there should be at least two more established—one in Georgetown and another in Ailendale. From these offices, most of the 6,500 inhabitants of Ottawa, and some of those of Kent County, receive their mail—a sufficient number surely, to deserve pretty good accommodations from the Post Office Department, and to pay well for such accommodations. But how stands this matter of accommodation? You, at Grand Haven, are better off than your "side" neighbors, in this respect; having your mail three times per week during the season of navigation—but only having one per week during the long winter season, you can somewhat sympathize with us, who have only one mail per week, and that in summer but one way, from Grand Rapids down to us and back again; but none at all from us to Grand Haven, except by the circuitous route via Grand Rapids; thus a letter mailed at Nortonville, must travel seventy-four miles, and occupy two days time (after leaving,) to get to Grand Haven, a distance of three miles, and the same distance to return an answer, both occupying from eight to fourteen days in doing what could and should be done in thirty minutes each way, down at evening, and back by boat next morning. Also, a letter deposited in this office yesterday, (Tuesday,) for Steel's Landing, four miles distant, or any other place above named, would leave here for Grand Rapids next Monday, and the following Saturday (twelve days after,) if it went direct, would reach the place of its destination! I need not add taking time enough to send to New York or Boston and get returns. Now sir, is it at all wonderful that under such circumstances business men among us should almost entirely abandon the mail for the more expeditious mode of communication by private conveyance; (though this is not done from choice, but from necessity,) that the master of our river mail steamer refuses to take the usual oath of a mail carrier, and leaves the official charge of the U. S. Mail, to the pilot, or some one else; that without exaggeration, there are more letters carried by these officers daily, out of the mail, than is brought to them weekly, in the mail bags; that Post Masters are so poorly compensated;—yea, that Post Masters themselves, must sometimes carry "mailable matter" over what is once a week a mail route, or say plainly to their friends that their official obligations prevent their discharging this duty of common courtesy in life, and despite their utmost vigilance, that but little revenue is brought to Department? I do not write these things to indulge in a spirit of complaint. Both you and the Department, know me to be a Whig, and an officer under the present Administration; but if these facts were fairly brought before our enlightened and enterprising Postmaster General, would he not speedily apply a remedy to this state of things?

I suggest the following: 1st, let us have the mail three times per week, regularly on the whole route, both winter and summer. 2d, let the Department furnish each office with an additional bag, in which to discharge, as well as to receive the mail; both of which can be done in the same moment, without detention of the boat, and with little or no additional expense to the contractor. Have we not the assurance that this will soon be done, in the recent establishment of a special route across Lake Michigan, which would seem only to mock and torture us under the present arrangement?

Yours, &c., WM. C. COMFORT, P. M. Polkton, August 13, 1851.

NEW YORK, AUG. 12. The following news reached Liverpool just before the departure of the Arctic: ENGLAND.—The Queen will, on the 9th of August, dissolve the Parliament in person. Gold is one per cent dearer in Paris than London, and 29 per cent dearer in London than in Hamburg. The exchange between England and America 64 per cent in favor of England.—Leaving a profit on the importation of gold from the United States.

The London Times states that the fall of 1-8 in the funds was occasioned by the announcement that the Austrian loan of 8,000,000 sterling had been taken at Vienna.

The Hartford bank case, which has been nearly 3 months pending before Justice Mountford, charging Miles A. Brady with having obtained \$9,000 on a false representation, was yesterday terminated, holding Mr. Brady. The complainant in the case was required to give bail in the sum of \$1,000 to appear and prosecute. It is thought that the case will never be brought to trial.

The emigrant runners, forwarders, &c., at their meeting last night, organized themselves into a Mutual Protection Benevolent Society, and appointed a committee to report proceedings, &c.

Another murder it is thought has been committed on a French lady named Gennisse, by her husband, and a woman with whom he has been living, named Margaret Lawrence. An investigation is being had, there being little doubt that Madame G. was poisoned.

The Tribune states on good authority that Jenny Lind will give a number of concerts in this country next winter, commencing in November. The same paper also says that it is rumored that Benedict and Beletti have gone to Europe to procure an opera troupe, of which Jenny is to be prima donna.

An Irishman received a challenge to fight a duel, but declined. On being asked the reason, "Och," said Pat, "would you have me lave my mother an orphan?"