

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE

For the year ending 31st December 1900

LONDON: H.M.S.O. 1901

The Commission has the pleasure to announce that the Report of the

Commissioner for the year ending 31st December 1900 has been prepared

and is now ready for publication. It contains a full and complete

account of the work done during the year, and of the progress of the

various branches of the Commission's business. It also contains a

summary of the financial position of the Commission at the end of the

year, and of the amount of the funds available for the service of the

Commission during the year. The Report is published in two parts, the

first part containing the Report of the Commissioner, and the second

part containing the Report of the various Committees and Sub-Committees

of the Commission. The Report is published in two parts, the first

part containing the Report of the Commissioner, and the second part

containing the Report of the various Committees and Sub-Committees

of the Commission. The Report is published in two parts, the first

part containing the Report of the Commissioner, and the second part

POSTAGE LABELS.

COPIES of any AGREEMENT entered into between the Commissioners of Inland Revenue and Messrs. *Bacon and Petch* for Engraving, Printing, and Gumming the POSTAGE LABELS subsequent to the 1st day of May 1851; and, of any REPORT made by the Postmaster-General, or *Rowland Hill*, Esquire, in December 1851, as to the Utility and Advantage to the Public of the PERFORATED POSTAGE LABELS.

(*Mr. Grogan.*)

*Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
15 March 1852.*

Crawford 1870 (23)

STAMPED PUBLICATIONS.

RETURN to an Address of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 20 June 1854 ;—for,

“ COPIES of CORRESPONDENCE between the Post Office and Treasury and Proprietors of Stamped Publications, not being Newspapers, in reference to the FREE TRANSMISSION of such Publications through the Post :”

“ And, of the TREASURY ORDERS relative thereto.”

General Post Office, }
26 July 1854. }

FREDERIC HILL,
Assistant Secretary to the Postmaster-General.

COPIES of CORRESPONDENCE between the Post Office and Treasury and Proprietors of Stamped Publications, not being Newspapers, in reference to the FREE TRANSMISSION of such Publications through the Post ; and, of the TREASURY ORDERS relative thereto.

No. 1.

The Postmaster-General to the Treasury.

My Lords, General Post Office, 17 August 1838.

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Lordships a publication, entitled the “ Essex Literary Journal,” which the Commissioners of Stamps are of opinion may legally be published without a stamp. I submit, therefore, that it ought not to be allowed the privilege of a newspaper, although it may be stamped ; and I request your Lordships will be pleased to favour me with your decision on the case for my guidance.

To the Right Honourable the Lords
Commissioners of Her Majesty’s Treasury.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Lichfield.*

No. 2.

F. Baring, Esq., to the Postmaster-General.

My Lord, Treasury Chambers, 22 August 1838.

THE Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty’s Treasury having considered your Lordship’s letter of the 17th instant, requesting directions in regard to allowing the “ Essex Literary Journal ” to circulate free of postage, I am directed by their Lordships to acquaint you, that they consider that the indulgence of passing free of postage, if duly stamped, may be conceded to the paper in question, unless your Lordship is of opinion that it would produce serious inconvenience to the public service.

The Postmaster-General,
&c. &c. &c.

I am, &c.
(signed) *F. Baring.*

No. 3.

The Postmaster-General to the Treasury.

My Lords,

General Post Office, 10 September 1838.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Baring's letter of 22d ultimo, on the subject of the conveyance by post of a publication, entitled the "Essex Literary Journal," and I beg to state to your Lordships, that the Office of Stamps and Taxes having given their opinion that this publication is not liable to the stamp-duty as a newspaper, it appears to me that it would be decidedly objectionable to allow it to pass free by post as a newspaper, as, if the indulgence was granted in this instance, it could not fail to lead to similar applications from the publishers of magazines, reviews, and other literary periodicals, which, although not liable to the stamp-duty, might have a stamp affixed to them for the purpose of procuring a privilege which, if granted, would seriously increase the duties of this department, and the difficulties now experienced in providing for the conveyance of the correspondence, together with the immense number of newspapers.

To the Right Honourable the Lords
Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Lichfield.*

No. 4.

The Postmaster-General to the Treasury.

My Lords,

General Post Office, 18 September 1838.

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Lordships the enclosed French publication, which has been charged with the rates of postage as a letter on delivery in this country; and I beg to state that the solicitor to the department is of opinion that this publication is not entitled to the newspaper privilege, as it bears none of the characteristics of a newspaper, properly so called, in which opinion I fully coincide; and I request therefore your Lordships will be pleased to favour me with your decision on the case.

I beg your Lordships will have the goodness to cause the enclosed to be returned to me, as the party to whom it was addressed has requested that it may be sent back to him.

To the Right Honourable the
Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Lichfield.*

No. 5.

The Postmaster-General to the Treasury.

My Lords,

General Post Office, 9 October 1838.

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Lordships a publication, entitled the "Scottish Jurist," which has been charged on delivery with the rates of postage as a letter, and I beg to state that the solicitor to the department is of opinion that this publication is not entitled to the newspaper privilege, as it bears none of the characteristics of a newspaper, properly so called, in which opinion I fully coincide; and I request therefore your Lordships will be pleased to favour me with your decision on the case.

I beg your Lordships will have the goodness to cause the enclosed to be returned to me, as the party to whom it was addressed has requested that it may be sent back to him.

To the Right Honourable the
Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Lichfield.*

No. 6.

No. 6.

The Postmaster-General to the Treasury.

My Lords, General Post Office, 16 October 1838.

WITH reference to Mr. Baring's letter of 31st July last, conveying to me your Lordships' authority for allowing a French publication, entitled "La France Musicale," to pass free by post in this country as a newspaper; I have the honour to inform you, that I have received an application from the proprietors to allow this publication to be accompanied by an enclosure in the shape of a piece of music; and I beg to state to your Lordships that the solicitor to the department is of opinion, in which I fully coincide, that if the paper in question be accompanied by such an enclosure, it must cease to have the privileges of a newspaper. It appears to me that "La France Musicale" is of a very different character from the publication entitled "L'Exposition," which is permitted, under your Lordships' authority, to pass as a newspaper, on the ground of its "value to the manufacturers of this country," although containing an enclosure; and under these circumstances I beg to be favoured with your Lordships' decision on the case.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Lichfield.*

To the Right Honourable the
Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury.

No. 7.

The Postmaster-General to the Treasury.

My Lords, General Post Office, 19 November 1838.

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Lordships a publication, entitled the "Musical World," and I beg to state that the Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes are of opinion that this publication is not liable to the stamp-duty, as it has none of the characteristics of a newspaper, properly so called. I am, therefore, of opinion that it ought not to be allowed to pass free by the post as a newspaper; but I request that your Lordships will be pleased to favour me with your decision in this case.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Lichfield.*

To the Right Honourable the
Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury.

No. 8.

A. Spearman, Esq., to the Postmaster-General.

My Lord, Treasury Chambers, 30 November 1838.

WITH reference to your Lordship's letters, specified in the margin, transmitting certain stamped papers, and requesting the decision of this Board, how far such stamped papers should be permitted to pass as newspapers free of postage;

10 Sept. 1838.
18 Sept. "
9 Oct. "
16 Oct. "
19 Nov. "

I have it in command from the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to transmit to you herewith, for your information and guidance, copy of the minute of this Board of the 28th instant on the subject in question.

I have, &c.
(signed) *A. Spearman.*

To the Right Honourable the
Postmaster-General.

No. 9.

(Enclosure in No. 8.)

COPY of TREASURY MINUTE, dated 28 November 1838.

(21,355.) READ a letter from the Postmaster-general, dated 9th of October last, respecting the postage chargeable on a publication, entitled the "Scottish Jurist."

4 CORRESPONDENCE, &c., RELATING TO FREE TRANSMISSION

(19,954.) Read also a letter from the Postmaster-general, dated 18th September last, transmitting a French publication which is not entitled to newspaper privileges.

(19,466.) Read also a further letter from the same, dated 10th September last, on the subject of the conveyance by post of the "Essex Journal."

(21,796.) Read also a letter from the same, dated 16th October last, on the subject of allowing a French publication, entitled "La France Musicale," to pass free of postage with an enclosure.

(24,341.) Read also a letter from the same, dated 19th instant, respecting the circulation by post of a publication, entitled the "Musical World."

My Lords have before them the several stamped papers transmitted by the Postmaster-general in the above-mentioned letters, in which his Lordship requests the decision of this Board how far such stamped papers should be permitted to pass as newspapers free of postage.

It appears that these papers, though stamped as newspapers, are not according to law newspapers, and consequently need not have been stamped, but that the proprietors have caused them to be stamped for the purpose, probably, of obtaining the facility of passing them free of postage.

My Lords consider that all publications which are in the construction of the law newspapers, and are compelled to be stamped, are in equity entitled to the privilege of passing free of postage; but with respect to publications which, like these now under consideration, are not properly newspapers or necessarily stamped, they are of opinion that they are not in equity entitled to the privilege, and that my Lords must take into consideration the convenience of the public service, and the other circumstances of the case. My Lords are desirous of affording every fair facility which may not be inconsistent with the proper despatch of the mails, and in this view they consider that a limit of weight may be properly applied; and, adverting to the average weight of a large newspaper, they are of opinion that the limit may be properly fixed at two ounces.

They are pleased therefore to direct, that for the future, in all cases where applications are made for the transmission of any stamped publication through the Post Office free of postage, if it shall appear that such publication is legally a newspaper and compelled to be stamped, such paper shall pass postage-free, whatever may be its weight; and that when such publication may not appear to be strictly a newspaper, still it should be permitted the indulgence, in case the weight shall not exceed two ounces.

No. 10.

The Postmaster-General to the Treasury.

My Lords,

General Post Office, 11 January 1839.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Minute of the 28th November last, enclosed in Mr. Spearman's letter of the 30th of that month, authorising the free transmission by post of stamped publications which "may not appear to be strictly newspapers," provided the weight of any such publication shall not exceed two ounces.

The indulgence thus granted to the publications in question does not appear to be limited to their circulation within the United Kingdom, but would rather seem intended to place them upon the same footing as regular newspapers, in every respect, except as to weight, allowing them to be forwarded as such to the colonies and parts abroad, both by packets and private ships; but before I issue instructions on this subject to the proper officers, I have thought it right to ascertain whether this construction is in accordance with your Lordships' views, and I request to be favoured with your decision on the subject.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Lichfield.*

To the Right Honourable the
Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury.

No. 11.

No. 11.

F. Baring, Esq., to the Postmaster-General.

My Lord, Treasury Chambers, 18 January 1839.

I HAVE laid before the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury your Lordship's report of the 11th instant, in which you refer to the Minute of this Board of 28th November last, authorising the free transmission by post of stamped publications which may not appear to be strictly newspapers, provided the weight of any such publication shall not exceed two ounces, and state that this indulgence thus granted to the publications in question does not appear to be limited to their circulation within the United Kingdom, but would rather seem intended to place them upon the same footing as regular newspapers, in every respect except as to weight, allowing them to be forwarded as such to the colonies and parts abroad, both by packets and private ships; and I am commanded by my Lords to acquaint you that the construction which your Lordship proposes to put upon the order of my Lords is in accordance with their views.

I am, &c.
(signed) *F. Baring.*

To the Right Honourable the Postmaster-General.

No. 12.

The Postmaster-General to the Treasury.

My Lords, General Post Office, 27 March 1839.

WITH reference to your Lordships' Minute, dated 30 November last, I have the honour to submit to you the following publications, "not strictly newspapers," but bearing or intended to bear a stamp, respecting which applications have been made for permission to circulate free by post.

No. 1, a tea circular report, entitled "John Teasdale's Sale List," bearing that person's name and address.

No. 2, a paper published by Messrs. Jerram & Wood, nearly similar to the preceding, bearing a stamp, and designated as "Jerram & Wood's Quarterly Tea Price Current and Report of the Market." In this circular it is announced that Mr. Wood will wait upon the correspondents to whom the circular is addressed "about the usual period."

No. 3 is a copy of a memorial from Mr. Thomas Smith, of Mincing-lane, requesting, as publisher of the "Daily Commercial List," to be informed whether he may affix the title and stamp of that publication to the circulars and prices current of his customers, "disencumbered with other matter," and by that means give free circulation by post to the circulars and prices current of such private firms or individuals as may think proper to hire his publication for that purpose.

Mr. Smith, in support of his claim, encloses a copy of the "Public Ledger" of 26th ultimo, No. 4, herewith transmitted, with a separate sheet of the same date, No. 5, bearing a penny stamp, described as "Public Ledger" "(Advertisement) No. 59," and headed "Price List of all Teas sold by Public Auction in London, &c. &c., published periodically by Moffat & Co.," which appears to have passed post-free. Mr. Smith also endorses his own publication, the "Daily Commercial List," of 27th ultimo, No. 6, containing a circular described as "Messrs. Franks & Williams' Tea List," as well as another publication, No. 7, bearing the title of the "Tea Market," established by Mr. S. F. Hooper, a tea broker, but which purports to be published for the general information of the tea trade, and which, bearing a penny stamp, has already been permitted to pass through this office free of postage.

Mr. Baring will probably recollect that when the superintending president of the Inland Office lately waited on him from this department, he expressed his opinion that the "Daily Commercial List," containing Messrs. Franks & Williams' circular, and which the Post Office considered to be in the nature of a letter, should pass free, as it was duly stamped, and did not exceed two ounces

6 CORRESPONDENCE, &c., RELATING TO FREE TRANSMISSION

in weight, and therefore appeared to come within the scope of your Lordships' Minute of 30th November last.

Although the words of that Minute are very comprehensive and refer to "any stamped publication," directing that when such publication "may not appear to be strictly a newspaper, still it should be permitted the indulgence, in case the weight shall not exceed two ounces;" I nevertheless feel it my duty to submit the above-mentioned cases to your Lordships, and request to be informed whether the Minute alluded to is intended to embrace publications of this description, as, if such is the case, I presume I may in future feel myself authorised to allow the privileges of a newspaper, so far as respects their circulation by post, to any printed document bearing a penny stamp, whatever its character may be, whether published *bonâ fide* for general information or not, commercial circulars, catalogues, &c. &c., provided its weight does not exceed two ounces, and it is made up and forwarded in conformity with the official regulations.

I consider it necessary to obtain your Lordships' decision upon this point, as I apprehend it will no longer be possible for me, under a liberal construction of the Minute referred to, to draw the line between documents of a private nature and bearing the character of a letter, and those intended to circulate for public information, provided they are printed and stamped, and within the limited weight of two ounces, as prescribed by your Lordships' Minute.

As the parties are very pressing, I request to have an early decision on the subject.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Lichfield.*

To the Right Honourable the
Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury.

No. 13.

The Postmaster-General to the Treasury.

My Lords,

General Post Office, 9 May 1839.

WITH reference to my former letter to your Lordships of 27th March last, I beg to inform you that I have received many further applications from merchants desirous of forwarding their trade circulars by post as newspapers when stamped.

I now enclose copies of the circulars which have been submitted to me by Messrs. Miller & Locock, Joseph Travers & Sons, Messrs. Hancock & Harvey, as well as a sheet of the supplement to the "Public Ledger," already in circulation, and published as a vehicle for the circular of any house of business disposed to engage it.

As the above-mentioned firms, as well as those whose circulars were enclosed in my former letters, are desirous of obtaining an answer as soon as possible, I request that your Lordships will have the goodness to favour me with your early decision.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Lichfield.*

To the Right Honourable the
Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury.

No. 14.

F. Baring, Esq., to the Postmaster-General.

My Lord,

Treasury Chambers, 14 May 1839.

HAVING laid before the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury your letter, dated 27th March last, endorsing sundry publications, "not strictly newspapers," but bearing or intended to bear a stamp, respecting which applications have been made for permission to circulate free by post, I have it in command to acquaint your Lordship that my Lords are of opinion that the publications in question, being duly stamped, should pass postage free.

I am, &c.
(signed) *F. Baring.*

The Postmaster-General,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 15.

F. Baring, Esq., to the Postmaster-General.

My Lord, Treasury Chambers, 18 May 1839.

WITH reference to your Lordship's report of the 9th instant, transmitting applications from sundry merchants desirous of forwarding their trade circulars by post, as newspapers when stamped, I am commanded by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to acquaint you that my Lords consider these publications should pass postage free as newspapers, if duly stamped.

To the Right Honourable the Postmaster-General. I am, &c.
(signed) *F. Baring*.

No. 16.

The Postmaster-General to the Treasury.

My Lords, General Post Office, 5 July 1839.

WITH reference to your Lordships' minute of the 30th November last, granting free circulation by post to printed publications not strictly newspapers, provided they bear a stamp, and to your more recent decision, by which any printed document, public or private, under two ounces in weight, is to enjoy this privilege, if stamped, I request to be informed whether it is intended to allow printed papers of the description alluded to to be forwarded to the colonies, and parts abroad, upon the same terms as British stamped newspapers, in those cases where these latter publications are in possession of this privilege.

It is my duty to point out that a further question will shortly arise, whether the same liberal construction as to printed publications, not strictly newspapers, should be extended to such as arrive by post in this country from France, where the privilege is already granted to printed prices current, and also how far, if granted to France, it should be extended to other countries.

To the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury. I have, &c.
(signed) *Lichfield*.

No. 17.

F. Baring, Esq., to the Postmaster-General.

My Lord, Treasury Chambers, 2 August 1839.

WITH reference to your Lordship's representation of the 5th ultimo, respecting the extension of the circulation by post of stamped publications, not strictly newspapers, I am commanded by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to acquaint you that my Lords consider that it will be most advisable not to make any new order with respect to printed publications in the present state of the Post-office question.

To the Right Honourable the Postmaster-General. I am, &c.
(signed) *F. Baring*.

No. 18.

R. Gordon, Esq., to the Postmaster-General.

My Lord, Treasury Chambers, 15 January 1840.

I AM commanded by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury herewith to transmit for your Lordship's information and guidance a copy of a minute of this Board, of the 14th instant, restricting the privilege of free transmission by post to newspapers only, according to the provisions of the 28th section of the Act 1 Vict. c. 34.

The Right Honourable the Postmaster-General. I am, &c.
(signed) *R. Gordon*.

No. 19.

(Enclosure in No. 18.)

COPY of TREASURY MINUTE, dated 14 January 1840.

MY Lords refer to the 28th section of the 1st Vict. c. 34, which enacts that, under certain restrictions, newspapers shall be conveyed free of postage, and to the 32d section of the same Act, which provides, "That in all cases in which a question shall arise whether a printed paper is entitled to the privileges of a newspaper or other publication hereby privileged, so far as respects the transmission thereof by the post under the Post-office Acts, the question shall be referred to the determination of the Postmaster-general, whose decision, with the concurrence of the Lords of the Treasury, shall be final."

In the exercise of the discretion vested in them by the Legislature, my Lords, in consideration of the high rates of postage which have till recently been established, have permitted certain printed papers, as catalogues, prices current, &c., which parties have had stamped for the sake of the privilege of free transmission by post, to be considered as newspapers, and treated accordingly.

Now, however, that papers of every kind may be transmitted by post at an exceedingly low rate of postage, my Lords are of opinion that the indulgence hitherto granted shall cease, and they are therefore pleased to direct that the privilege of free transmission by post shall hereafter be strictly confined to newspapers, meaning thereby such papers only as are required by the law to be stamped.

No. 20.

The Postmaster-General to the Treasury.

My Lords,

General Post Office, 26 February 1840.

WITH reference to your Lordships' two letters, the first of the 30th November 1838, authorising the free transmission by post of publications not strictly newspapers, when duly stamped, and under two ounces in weight, and the other of the 15th January 1840, rescinding that privilege in consequence of the exceedingly low rate of postage at which all papers may now be transmitted by post, I have the honour to forward to your Lordships a list of those publications which appear to me not strictly newspapers, so far as the same can be made out, which have been allowed to circulate free, and which are now enjoying that privilege in accordance with the former of the two letters above alluded to, and to request to be favoured with your instructions whether that indulgence is to be immediately withdrawn from the whole or any part of them.

With reference to future applications which may be made to this department respecting the free circulation by post of stamped publications, I beg to submit to your Lordships that the greatest difficulty has always been felt here from constituting the Post Office the judge of what is a newspaper, *i. e.*, "a paper required by law to be stamped."

I wish, therefore, strongly to represent to your Lordships the necessity of relieving this department from this duty, which it is almost impossible it should perform properly, and to request that the Stamp Office may be directed to exercise such control and judgment in stamping all publications as may be necessary, so that the stamp may be the full authority of the Postmaster-general for their free transmission by post.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Lichfield.*

To the Right Honourable the
Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury.

No. 21.

No. 21.

(Enclosure in No. 20.)

A LIST of STAMPED PUBLICATIONS, not being NEWSPAPERS, and under 2 oz. Weight, which have been allowed to circulate Free through the General Post Office, since 28th November 1838.

Dublin Medical Press.	Tea Circular (Green, Wilson, Burton).
Strangers' Guide.	Ditto - (James Wylie & Co.)
Musical World.	Ditto - (W. Nash & Co.)
Scottish Jurist.	Commercial Daily List.
Art Union.	Hancock & Harvey's Tea Circular.
Tea Protector.	Joseph Travers & Son's - ditto.
Ulster Missionary Journal.	Miller & Lowcock's - ditto.
Political Summary.	Cousens & Kemp's - ditto.
The Vindicator.	John Teasdale's Sale List.
Christian Spectator.	Jerram & Wood's ditto.
Foreign Weekly Review.	Quarterly Tea Price Current.
Hooper's Tea Market.	Bible Society Reporter.
The Tea List.	Sanderson & Co.'s Tea Circular.
Home and Foreign Missionary Record.	Warner, Sons & Co.'s ditto.
Monthly Advertiser.	Thomas Miller & Co.'s ditto.
Journal of British and Foreign Temperance Society.	Inventors' Advocate.
Scottish Temperance Journal.	Tea Circular (Warner's).
Hop Circular.	Ditto - (Fixen & Co.)
Lumley's Bibliographical Advertiser.	Ditto - (Shuttleworth & Co.)
Stock Circular.	Ditto - (James Allan).
Sewell & Wholley's Tea Circular.	Ditto - (Edwards & Short).
Bedwell & Yates' - ditto.	Ditto - (Beeman).
Baldwin & Watts' Circular.	Ditto - (Palmer & Co.)
Trade Circular (A. B. Savory).	Ditto - (Ryder & Lloyd).
Forbes' Circular.	Ditto - (Smith & Morphett).
Grant, Balfour & Co.'s Price Current.	Ditto - (Downes & Hill).
Heale's Price Current.	Ditto - (John Edwards & Co.)
Tea Circular (Clarke & Rowe).	Ditto - (Hodgkinson & Co.)

6 February 1840.

F. Kelly.

No. 22.

R. Gordon, Esq., to the Postmaster-General.

My Lord, Treasury Chambers, 21 March 1840.

I HAVE laid before the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury your Lordship's representation of the 26th ultimo, requesting instructions from this Board in respect of the transmission by post of stamped publications.

Their Lordships have directed me to transmit to you a copy of a report from the Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes on this subject, and to state that, upon consideration, it would appear to my Lords equitable that these publications which stamp all their copies, as they consider themselves newspapers, should obtain the privilege attached to newspapers so far as the Post Office is concerned; but my Lords do not consider that parties who stamp such part of the publication as is intended for country circulation only, but not that part which is distributed in London, should continue to receive the benefit of a newspaper.

Previous to their Lordships making any final order on this subject, they would wish to have the benefit of your Lordship's opinion.

The Right Hon.
the Postmaster-General.

I am, &c.
(signed) R. Gordon.

No. 23.

(Enclosure in No. 22.)

REPORT to the TREASURY by the Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes.

Stamps and Taxes, 12 March 1840.

May it please your Lordships,

WE have had the honour to receive your Lordships' reference, dated the 1st instant, of a letter from the Postmaster-general, adverting to two letters from your Lordships, dated respectively the 30th November 1838, and 15th January 1840, the former of which authorised the free transmission by post of publications not strictly newspapers when duly stamped, and under two ounces in weight, and the latter rescinded that privilege in consequence of the reduction in the rate of postage, and enclosing a list of those publications appearing to him not strictly newspapers, which have been allowed to circulate free, and which are now enjoying that privilege, with a view to its being determined whether that indulgence is to be withdrawn from the whole or any part of them; also submitting that, as great difficulty had been felt by his department from its being constituted the judge of what is a newspaper required by law to be stamped, the Post Office should be relieved from that duty, and that this department should be directed to exercise such control and judgment in stamping all publications as may be necessary, so that the stamp may be the full authority of the Postmaster-general for their free transmission by post.

In reply, we have to observe, with regard to the list of publications enclosed in the Postmaster-general's letter, that a great number of them are merely trade circulars, which have been registered at the office as newspapers, *pro formá*, for the sole purpose of entitling the parties to obtain newspaper stamps, and thereby enable them to avail themselves of the free transmission by post authorised by your Lordships' letter of the 30th November 1838. The remainder are for the most part of a very doubtful character, containing, in a greater or less degree, public news, intelligence or occurrences, or remarks or observations thereon, and therefore strictly within the definition of a newspaper given by the Stamp Act, but not newspapers in the ordinary acceptation of the term. With respect to such publications, it would be very impolitic for us to pronounce an opinion that they were not liable to stamp-duty, because we should not only be deciding adversely to the interests of the stamp revenue, which it is our duty to protect and increase by all lawful means, but such an opinion would be used as a colour for further evasions of the newspaper stamp-duty, and set up as a defence or excuse in every case in which recourse was had to a court of law for penalties incurred by the printing and publishing of unstamped newspapers; and we are convinced that, in many cases, such an excuse would prevail in favour of a defendant before a justice or jury.

Moreover, it would be perfectly useless for us to express an opinion, as a guide to the Post-office authorities, as to the non-liability to stamp-duty of any of these publications, because such opinion can have reference only to a particular impression already published, and would not justify the Post Office in refusing to carry postage-free any future number of the same publication, the contents of which might be such as clearly to render it liable to duty.

In reference to the suggestion of the Postmaster-general, that the Stamp Office should be directed to exercise such control and judgment in stamping all publications as may be necessary, so that the stamp may be the full authority of the Postmaster-general for their free transmission by post, we beg to observe, that it appears to us that the suggestion is founded on erroneous information as to the law and practice with regard to the stamping of paper with the newspaper stamp-duties; the fact being, that the Stamp Office does not stamp newspapers or other printed publications, but blank sheets of paper, on which newspapers or other matters are afterwards printed, so that it is impossible for us to discover at the time of stamping what the contents of the paper may afterwards be. The law upon the point is, that any person who registers at this office the title of a publication as that of a newspaper, and gives the requisite securities for payment of the duties on the advertisements to be inserted in such publication, and
against

against the printing of libels therein, is entitled to demand that the paper which he sends in to this office shall be stamped, on payment of the duties, with newspaper stamps applicable to the title of the publication which he has registered; and having obtained the paper so stamped, he is at liberty to print upon it any matter he may think proper, and is in no way accountable to us for the use he may make of such stamped paper. It is, therefore, obvious that we have neither the means nor the right of exercising any such control or judgment in the matter in question, as is suggested by the Postmaster-general.

In conclusion, we beg to call your Lordships' attention to the 26th section of the 6 & 7 Will. 4, c. 54, entitled "An Act to consolidate and amend the Laws relating to the Conveyance of Newspapers by Post," which expressly gives the Postmaster-general power to decide what shall be deemed a newspaper entitled to the privilege of free transmission by post, and declares that his decision, sanctioned by your Lordships, shall be final and conclusive on all persons.

We are not aware of the nature of the difficulty which the Postmaster-general states to have resulted from constituting him the judge in these cases; but we are of opinion that the power of deciding is properly vested in him, because the printed publication necessarily comes under his cognisance previously to its transmission by post, and because, for the reasons above stated, it is not in our power to exercise such an authority.

We have, &c.
(signed) *H. L. Wickham.*
John Thornton.
Edward Saurin.

The Lords of the Treasury,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 24.

The Postmaster-General to the Treasury.

My Lords,

General Post Office, 30 April 1840.

I BEG to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordships' letter of the 21st ultimo, enclosing a copy of the Report of the Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes on the subject of the transmission by post of stamped publications, stating their inability to comply with the suggestion contained in my letter of the 26th February, that the newspaper stamp should be affixed only to such papers as may be *bonâ fide* newspapers.

Under these circumstances, as I can obtain no assistance from the Board of Stamps and Taxes, I beg to point out that what appears to me to be the best course to be adopted, is that I may receive authority from your Lordships to forward free all publications bearing the newspaper stamp, provided they contain matter or intelligence of general interest and public information, published periodically for open sale; in other words, that this department may revert to the system and regulations, as nearly as possible, which prevailed prior to your Minute of the 28th November 1838, with the understanding that, in any case of doubt whether the publication can be considered to come within the regulation, the case shall be referred to your Lordships for decision.

If your Lordships acquiesce in the measure I have now submitted, I presume the tea circulars, catalogues, and other printed papers of this class, now passing free under a newspaper stamp, must be deprived of this privilege. This will be of little consequence to trade circulars intended to pass within the United Kingdom, if under half an ounce weight; but those for India and parts abroad will be most seriously affected by becoming again subject to the full ship and packet rates of postage, from which they are now exempted by the stamp; and as those are so high as to be prohibitory, the strongest remonstrances may be expected. I think it right to point out also, that if the periodical papers, such as the "Athenæum," the "Literary Gazette," &c., which now publish a London edition unstamped and a country edition stamped, are deprived of the advantage of sending their country edition free by the post, unless the town edition be also stamped, your Lordships must be prepared to expect great complaints of what will certainly be considered a hardship, after they have so long been permitted to enjoy the privilege without question as to its legality.

I enclose for your Lordships' information a list of stamped publications, not

being strictly newspapers, which have been allowed to pass free through the Post Office since 28th November 1838; and if you approve the arrangement now submitted, I shall procure copies of each of them, and if upon examination I shall find any to be of that character which would have had the benefit of the newspaper privilege previously to your Minute of the 28th November, I shall allow them to pass free of postage; the others I shall submit to your Lordships, to be decided on according to their merits, in conformity with the provisions of the Act of Parliament.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Lichfield.*

To the Right Honourable the
Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury.

[*Note.*—Enclosure same as No. 21.]

No. 25.

The Postmaster-General to the Treasury.

My Lords,

General Post Office, 4 May 1840.

I HAVE the honour to transmit for your Lordships' consideration and decision the enclosed Irish publication, entitled the "Christian Examiner" (application having been made to my department for permission to pass it through the post as a newspaper), with copy of a Report from the Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes, to whom I applied, requesting their opinion whether the publication could be considered strictly as a newspaper, and liable to the stamp-duty.

Your Lordships will perceive, by the reply from the Board of Stamps and Taxes, that the Commissioners express a doubt whether the particular number of the publication which was transmitted to them can be regarded in every respect as a newspaper, while at the same time they are unable to decide whether the editions published hereafter may not be of such a character as will render them liable to the stamp-duty.

Under these circumstances, and with reference to my letter of the 30th April, I have considered it better to submit the matter for your Lordships' consideration, and I request you will favour me with your decision, whether this publication, if duly stamped, may be permitted to pass through the office under the newspaper privilege.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Lichfield.*

To the Right Honourable the Lords
Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury.

[*Note.*—Enclosure the same as No. 23.]

No. 26.

C. E. Trevelyan, Esq., to the Postmaster-General.

My Lord,

Treasury Chambers, 9 June 1840.

With reference to your Lordship's report of the 4th ultimo, on the subject of the postage to be charged on certain stamped publications, I am commanded by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury herewith to transmit, for your Lordship's guidance, a copy of a Minute of the 5th instant on this subject, with reference to the several cases now under consideration.

I have, &c.
(signed) *C. E. Trevelyan.*

The Right Honourable the
Postmaster-general.

No. 27.

No. 27.

(Enclosure in No. 26.)

COPY of TREASURY MINUTE, dated 5 June 1840.

MY LORDS read their Minute of the 14th January last, directing that, in consideration of the low rates of postage then recently established, the privilege of free transmission by post, which had previously been enjoyed by certain printed publications bearing the newspaper stamp (although not strictly newspapers), should be withdrawn.

Referring to the reports from the Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes and from the Postmaster-general in connexion with this subject, and taking into consideration, first, the inconvenience which, as pointed out by the Postmaster-general, is likely to be felt by those who have been so long permitted to enjoy the privilege without question as to its legality ;

Second, the great difficulty of laying down any general rule not open to evasion, by which a newspaper shall be distinguished from other periodical publications ; and,

Third, the high probability that since the establishment of the penny postage the parties issuing the publications now under consideration have, of their own accord, forwarded them as letters ; for although the minute of 14th January has not been carried into effect, it appears by a return of the newspaper stamps issued in January, February, and March last, that out of 56 publications enumerated in the Postmaster-general's letter of the 2d ultimo, stamps for 15 only were applied for during that period ;—My Lords are pleased to direct that the arrangements which existed previously to the Minute of the 14th January shall continue in force.

No. 28.

The Postmaster-General to the Treasury.

My Lords, General Post Office, 10 December 1842.

YOUR Lordships are probably aware that by a Treasury Minute, dated 5th June 1840, copy of which I beg to transmit herewith, your predecessors permitted publications, not strictly newspapers, to pass by post under the newspaper privilege, provided they were duly stamped, and did not exceed the weight of two ounces.

No. 1.

This privilege was previously granted, in 1838, by a Minute, dated 28th November in that year, which was rescinded upon the New Postage Act coming into operation, for the reasons assigned by their Lordships in a subsequent Minute, dated 14th January 1840, copy of which I also enclose, and again put in force by the Minute of June 1840, to which I have alluded.

No. 2.

No. 3.

As, however, by the Act 3 & 4 Vict. c. 96, which passed subsequently to that date, all newspapers transmitted through the Post-office are subject to the regulations of that statute, it will be necessary that this Minute of November 1838, by which the practice of the Post-office is at present regulated, should be confirmed by your Lordships, and I request your confirmation accordingly.

I regret that from inadvertence the subject was omitted to be brought before your Lordships at an earlier period.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Lowther.*

To the Right Honourable the Lords
Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury.

[Note.—Enclosures referred to, same as Nos. 27, 9, and 19.]

No. 29.

G. J. Pennington, Esq., to the Postmaster-General.

My Lord, Treasury Chambers, 21 December 1842.

IN reference to your Lordship's letter of the 10th instant, requesting confirmation of the minute of this Board authorising publications not strictly newspapers to pass under the newspaper privilege ;

I am directed by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to acquaint your Lordship, that they are pleased to sanction the continuance of the regulations adopted by your department, in conformity with the Treasury Minute of the 28th November 1838.

The Right Honourable the
Postmaster-General.

I am, &c.
(signed) *G. J. Pennington.*

No. 30.

J. P. Godby, Esq., to the Board of Inland Revenue.

Gentlemen, General Post Office, 14 August 1852.

I HAVE the honour to forward to you the accompanying printed publication, "The Dial of Love," and to request that you will have the goodness to inform me whether there is any objection to the "stamp" being placed on the cover instead of on the publication itself.

The Commissioners
of the Board of Inland Revenue.

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. P. Godby.*

No. 31.

Thomas Keogh, Esq., to *J. P. Godby, Esq.*Inland Revenue, Somerset House, London,
21 August 1852.

Sir,

WITH reference to your letter of the 14th instant, enclosing a publication called the "Dial of Love," and requesting to be informed whether there is any objection to the stamp being placed on the cover instead of the publication itself; I am directed to observe, that the newspaper duty being charged in respect of every sheet or piece of paper whereon a newspaper is printed, the cover in this case would be liable to the duty of 1 *d.*, and the sheet of paper on which the letter-press is contained would, assuming it to be only one sheet, be liable to another duty of 1 *d.* The Board think it right, however, to submit to the Postmaster-general whether the permission of transmission of this publication through the post, under the pretence of its being a newspaper, be not a great abuse.

To *J. P. Godby, Esq.*,
&c. &c. &c.

I am, &c.
(signed) *Thomas Keogh.*

No. 32.

J. Tilley, Esq., to *Thomas Keogh, Esq.*

Sir, General Post Office, 3 September 1852.

WITH reference to your communication of the 21st ultimo, returning a pamphlet, entitled the "Dial of Love," and submitting whether the transmission of this publication through the Post Office as a newspaper is not an abuse of the newspaper privilege; I am directed by the Postmaster-general to forward to

to you a copy of a minute from the Treasury Board, dated the 28th of November 1838, on this subject, and to explain that, in conformity with the authority conveyed in this minute, it is the practice of this department to allow all printed publications, whether of a private or public character, to pass through the post under the newspaper privilege, provided they are stamped with the newspaper stamp, and do not exceed the limited weight of two ounces.

Thomas Keogh, Esq.,
Inland Revenue Office, Somerset House.

I am, &c.
(signed) *J. Tilley.*

No. 33.

The Postmaster-General to the Treasury.

My Lords, General Post Office, 16 October 1852.

WITH reference to the Treasury Minute of 28th November 1838, in which authority is given to this department for allowing publications, not strictly newspapers, to pass through the post under the newspaper privilege, provided they bear a newspaper stamp, and do not exceed the weight of two ounces; I beg leave to inform your Lordships that it has hitherto been the practice, in acting upon this authority, to consider a stamp upon the cover of a privileged publication as entitling it equally with a stamp upon the document itself to the newspaper privilege.

As it appears, however, from a recent letter from the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, dated 21st August last, a copy of which is enclosed, that it is necessary, whenever a cover is used, for both the cover and the letter-press to bear a newspaper stamp; I have no alternative but to request your Lordships' authority for restricting the privilege in question, for the future, to stamped publications without covers, or with covers also stamped.

With regard to the general question raised in the latter part of Mr. Keogh's letter, it is only necessary for me to forward to your Lordships copies of the Minute already referred to of 28th November 1838, and of Lord Lichfield's explanatory memorandum of 27th May 1839, written by his Lordship after a personal interview with Mr. Baring upon the subject, which documents convey a very comprehensive authority with reference to stamped publications not exceeding two ounces in weight, and to request your Lordships to furnish me with any further instructions you may have to give respecting this matter.

To the Right Honourable the Lords
Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Hardwicke.*

[*Note.*—Enclosures referred to, same as Nos. 31, 9, and 34.]

No. 34.

(Enclosure in No. 33.)

MEMORANDUM by the Postmaster-General.

27 May 1839.

I HAVE seen Mr. Baring on this subject, and he has explained to me that it was the intention of the Treasury, in the first letter from that Board, to convey an authority for all printed documents, whether of a private or public character, to go free by post, provided they are stamped, and within the limited weight.

(signed) *Lichfield.*

No. 35.

G. A. Hamilton, Esq., to the Postmaster-General.

My Lords,

Treasury Chambers, 7 December 1852.

I AM directed by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to acquaint you, in reply to your Lordships' letter of 16th October last, upon the subject of the Treasury Minute of 28th November 1838, in which authority was given by this Board to the Postmaster-general to permit printed documents to go free by post, provided they were stamped as newspapers, and not exceeding two ounces in weight, that my Lords are of opinion that the Minute referred to must be understood to mean that such printed papers, in order to pass free of postage, must be stamped as a newspaper, must not exceed two ounces in weight, must consist of one sheet, and if in a cover, that the cover must be either of blank paper, except the direction, or must bear an additional stamp.

To the Postmaster-General,
&c. &c. &c.

I am, &c.
(signed) *Geo. A. Hamilton.*

No. 36.

The Postmaster-General to the Treasury.

My Lords,

General Post Office, 6 January 1853.

WITH reference to your Lordships' letter of 7th ultimo, in reply to mine of 16th October last, respecting stamped publications forwarded through the post, under the Treasury Minute of 28th November 1838, I think it right to point out to you, that there seems to have been some misapprehension on the part of your Lordships as to the sense in which the word "cover" is employed by me in the communication above referred to.

In Mr. Keogh's letter of 21st August last, a copy of which I forwarded to your Lordships, the term is used to describe the outside cover of a privileged publication, covering by a separate sheet the publication itself; and my object was to obtain your Lordships' authority, in accordance with Mr. Keogh's letter, for restricting the privilege in question to stamped publications printed without such covers, or, in case of their bearing such covers, for conceding the privilege to them only in the event of the covers also being stamped.

With a view to explain more clearly the point alluded to in Mr. Keogh's letter, I beg leave to enclose a copy of the "Dial of Love," the publication named by him, enclosed in a green cover.

In this particular instance the cover only is stamped, and not the sheet containing the letter-press, while it is understood that Mr. Keogh contends that such publications, in order to be entitled to pass free by the post as newspapers, under the privilege accorded by your Lordships, ought properly to bear two stamps, one on the green cover, and another on the letter-press itself, which is a distinct and separate sheet.

Under these circumstances, therefore, I must request to be furnished with the decision of your Lordships on the question now raised by Mr. Keogh, in order to enable me to carry into effect the regulation required by the letter of the Office of Inland Revenue; a regulation, it is right I should mention, which is contrary to the practice that has hitherto been pursued in this department.

To the Right Honourable the
Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Hardwicke.*

[*Note.*—Enclosure same as No. 31.]

No. 37.

No. 37.

Sir *C. E. Trevelyan* to the Postmaster-General.

My Lord, Treasury Chambers, 26 January 1853.

THE Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury having had before them Lord Hardwicke's letter of 6th instant, respecting stamped publications, not strictly newspapers, passing through the post as newspapers, I am directed to state to your Lordship that, my Lords having referred to the Treasury Minute of 28th November 1838, find that a distinction is clearly made between a newspaper strictly so termed, and a publication that is not entitled to that name, and that the privilege of passing through the post-office free is conceded to stamped publications, with only one condition, viz., that they do not exceed two ounces in weight.

My Lords, therefore, do not desire that any distinction should be made, whether the cover containing the title-page of the publication be of the same colour as the paper containing the letter-press, or of any other colour, and they are of opinion that in the Minute of 1838, the only restriction as to such publications contemplated was that of weight.

My Lords are therefore of opinion that all publications, whether with cover or not, provided the whole weight is under two ounces, should pass free with a single stamp.

The Postmaster-General,
&c. &c. &c.

I am, &c.
(signed) *C. E. Trevelyan.*

No. 38.

J. Tilley, Esq., to Mr. *Novello*.

Sir, General Post Office, 31 December 1851.

WITH reference to your personal applications to this Office respecting the publication entitled "The Musical Times," I beg to inform you, that as it exceeds two ounces in weight, it cannot pass by post under the newspaper privilege, the Treasury having fixed that weight as the limit for such publications.

I am, &c.
(signed) *J. Tilley,*
Assistant Secretary.

Mr. J. A. Novello,
69, Dean-street, Soho.

No. 39.

Mr. *Novello* to *J. Tilley, Esq.*

Sir, 69, Dean-street, Soho-square, 1 January 1852.

I HAVE to acknowledge your letter of 31st December 1851, informing me that the "Musical Times, extra number and two supplements," stitched together, cannot pass through the post-office under the newspaper privilege.

I beg to direct your attention to the following considerations :

1st. To the fact that neither of the three parts exceeds two ounces in weight.

2d. To the practice of your office, in two instances, to my knowledge, of allowing the privilege to newspapers individually under two ounces, but which are stitched together, and collectively exceed two ounces ; for instance, W. S. Burton's Price Current Newspaper and supplement, and others.

3d. To the Minutes of Evidence taken before the Select Committee on Newspaper Stamps, 1851, Rowland Hill, Esq.'s Evidence, 1750, who answered, "There is no limit, that I am aware of, to the number of papers, each bearing a stamp, put together ;" also 1756, *et passim*.

4th. To the same Minutes, J. Timm, Esq.'s Evidence, Question 133, "What I ask you is this: do you consider that putting a pasteboard cover upon a publication destroys its character as a newspaper?"—"No; I would not say but that

that the 'Times' would be just as much a newspaper to-morrow morning with a pasteboard back as it is now."

5th. That the Post Office in the case of their being able to insist on my posting separately the "Musical Times," and two supplements, will have three addresses to read instead of one, thus unnecessarily increasing the work of the Office.

From these five considerations, I would respectfully urge, that the "Musical Times," and two supplements, in its present form, is entitled to pass by post under the newspaper privilege; and in the hope that the matter will be reconsidered,

J. Tilley, Esq.,
Assistant Secretary, Post Office.

I am, &c.
(signed) J. A. Novello.

No. 40.

J. Tilley, Esq., to Mr. Novello.

Sir, General Post Office, 8 January 1852.

IN answer to your letter of the 1st instant, I beg to acquaint you, that as the catalogue of music published by you exceeds the weight of two ounces, it is not entitled to pass free of postage under the newspaper privilege.

Mr. J. Alfred Novello,
69, Dean-street, Soho-square.

I am, &c.
(signed) J. Tilley,
Assistant Secretary.

No. 41.

Mr. Novello to Lieutenant-Colonel Maberly.

Sir, 69, Dean-street, Soho-square, 7 January 1853.

THE packet to which your letter of the 6th January refers, directed to "Mr. William Craven, Dockroyd, near Keighley, Yorkshire," contains stamped* matter, properly printed according to law, for free transmission by the Post Office; and such as has been frequently transmitted by your Office after due consideration.

I regret the delay which has occurred, and request it may be forwarded to the party to whom it is directed, with as little further delay as possible.

Lieutenant-Colonel Maberly,
&c. &c. &c.

I am, &c.
(signed) J. A. Novello.

Note.—The letter of 6th January, referred to above, was a printed form from the Dead Letter Office.

No. 42.

J. Tilley, Esq., to Mr. Novello.

Sir, General Post Office, 20 January 1853.

IN reply to your application of the 7th instant, I have to inform you that I can only refer you to the letters addressed to you from hence on the 31st of December 1851, and 8th of January 1852, in which it was distinctly stated to you

* "The packet is open at the ends for the necessary verification by your Office."

you that, as the "Musical Times," published by you, exceeded two ounces, it was not entitled to the privilege of a free transmission through the post as a newspaper.

The copy of the "Musical Times," now in this office, is above the prescribed weight.

Mr. J. A. Novello,
69, Dean-street, Soho-square,

I am, &c.
(signed) *J. Tilley,*
Assistant Secretary.

No. 43.

Mr. *Novello* to Lieutenant-Colonel *Maberly*.

Sir, 69, Dean-street, Soho-square, 14 January 1853.
I HAVE a complaint to-day (dated 13 January 1853) from Mr. William Craven, of Dockroyd, near Keighley, Yorkshire, of the non-arrival of the "Musical Times," extra number and supplements, posted to him about the 3d of January. I have already had some correspondence with your office in regard to this packet, which was duly stamped for free transmission through the post (I refer you to my letter of 7th January in answer to P. B. 106 ³⁰⁰/₃ Dead Letter Office), and therefore request to know the cause of so unusual a delay.

Lieutenant-Colonel Maberly,
&c. &c. &c.

I am, &c.
(signed) *J. A. Novello.*

No. 44.

Mr. *Novello* to Lieutenant-Colonel *Maberly*.

Sir, 69, Dean-street, Soho-square, 27 January 1853.
IN reference to your letter of 20th January, numbered 1058, I have again to repeat, that neither the "Musical Times" nor any of its supplements exceed two ounces in weight. This is a matter of fact, and you have the means of proof, in the copies of the "Musical Times," and its two supplements, which are comprised in the packet *you have detained; and it will be found that neither of them exceeds two ounces in weight. The detention has been inconvenient to me, and it is the more unaccountable, as your office has carried safely and free of charge another copy to the same party at Keighley, and numerous copies to other persons both before and since.

I have laboured hard to have carried into practice the equitable proposal which Mr. Rowland Hill made to the Newspaper Stamp Parliamentary Committee, viz., "to have a postage stamp to carry two ounces of any printed matter once," and your office already carries to the United States for these terms. But as long as the present disgraceful Newspaper Stamp Act is in force, I have a right to avail myself of its only advantageous provision.

I shall be glad to hear that you have weighed and found my statement correct.

Lieutenant-Colonel Maberly,
&c. &c. &c.

I am, &c.
(signed) *J. A. Novello.*

No. 45.

J. Tilley, Esq., to Mr. *Novello*.

Sir, General Post Office, 8 February 1853.
WITH reference to your communication of the 27th ultimo, I beg leave to inform you, that although each part of the publication entitled "Catalogue of Music"

* "I enclose you a cover under which precisely the same matter was conveyed free by your office within this few days."

Music" bears a separate newspaper stamp, yet as the several parts are bound together in one book, which weighs more than two ounces, it is not in the power of the Postmaster-general to accord to this publication the newspaper privilege.

I beg to point out, at the same time, that the "Catalogue of Music," now published by you, is altogether a different publication from the "Musical Times," which was authorised to pass through the post, under the newspaper privilege, in the year 1847.

Mr. J. A. Novello,
69, Dean-street, Soho-square.

I am, &c.
(signed) *J. Tilley*,
Assistant Secretary.

No. 46.

Mr. *Novello* to Lieutenant-Colonel *Maberly*.

Sir, 69, Dean-street, Soho-square, 3 March 1854.

I HAVE to inform you that the packet directed to Miss Isabella Bradshaw Training College, Derby, consists of a newspaper and its two supplements, each of which are duly stamped, and are under two ounces weight each, and therefore it should not be surcharged 2s. I have had complaints of its non-arrival in due course.

Lieutenant-Colonel Maberly,
&c. &c. &c.

I am, &c.
(signed) *J. A. Novello*.

No. 47.

J. P. Godby, Esq., to Mr. *Novello*.

Sir, General Post Office, 22 March 1854.

I BEG leave to inform you, with reference to your letter of the 3d instant, that you are under an entire misapprehension in describing the packet now in this office, addressed to "Miss Isabella Bradshaw," as a "newspaper with its two supplements;" nor can you properly claim for it the newspaper privilege, upon the plea of its bearing newspaper stamps, inasmuch as the Treasury Minute, under which alone this department is authorised to transmit through the post, under the newspaper privilege, stamped publications, not being strictly newspapers, expressly limits the weight to two ounces.

The "Catalogue of Music" is unquestionably a single book, exceeding the prescribed weight of two ounces, and cannot be treated as three separate numbers, each individually entitled to the newspaper privilege.

This was fully explained to you in my letter of the 8th February 1853.

Mr. J. A. Novello,
69, Dean-street, Soho-square.

I am, &c.
(signed) *J. P. Godby*,
pro Secretary.

No. 48.

Mr. *Farnham* to the Secretary, General Post Office.

Trinity District Schools, Buckingham-street,
St. Marylebone, 29 March 1854.

Sir,
I SHOULD be greatly obliged to you if you would inform me whether stamped publications may have bills, similar to the enclosed, stitched up with them, to pass through the post; and if not, what is the regulation.

To the Secretary, General Post Office.

I am, &c.
(signed) *J. J. Farnham*.

No. 49.

No. 49.

J. P. Godby, Esq., to Mr. Farnham.

Sir,

General Post Office, 3 May 1854.

IN reply to your application of the 29th March last, I beg leave to inform you that stamped publications passing through the post, under the newspaper privilege, may not have bills like the enclosed stitched up with them.

I am, &c.

(signed) *J. P. Godby,*
for the Secretary.

Mr. Farnham, Trinity District Schools,
Buckingham-street, St. Marylebone.

No. 50.

W. Hemings, Esq., to the Solicitor of the Post Office.

Sir,

13, Carey-street, Lincoln's Inn,
10 March 1854.

I AM the proprietor (and editor) of the "Law Students' Magazine," and I understand from Mr. Day, my publisher, that you have threatened to stop the passing of it through the post, though it is a stamped publication. This is a matter of some importance to me, and the threat is the more unaccountable, as the publication has now for several years passed through the post without objection, and indeed with the approbation of the Postmaster-general, or the Secretary, to whom a copy was sent, and from whom permission was obtained for its passing through the post as a newspaper.

I understand from my publisher that your objection is, that the paper weighs more than two ounces. This is no doubt true; but how it can form an objection, I am at loss to divine. All the daily and weekly papers exceed that weight, and so do many other publications which, like mine, are of a class character, namely, the "Athenæum," the "Builder," &c., which all pass through the post; that is, so far as concerns their stamped copies, for they have also un-stamped copies. I think, therefore, there must be a mistake on my publisher's part, and that the objection must be very different, and one that applies in some way peculiarly to my publication, and not to any of those which are allowed to pass through the post. If such be the case, I shall be glad to hear what it is, so that I may put myself in a similar position to the "Athenæum," &c., whose paper I may mention is the same, both in size and weight, as that used in my publication.

I understand that the publication is properly stamped, and indeed that you admit this to be the case; and this being so, I am at a loss to conceive what the objection can be.

The publication contains news of importance to articted clerks and even solicitors, such as the examinations, the Statutes of the Session as they pass, and notices of recent decisions of the courts, &c.

I ought to mention that I am seeking the information with a view (should it be necessary) to state the facts in a petition to Parliament, and I am therefore desirous that nothing should be introduced (by me) but what will bear investigation; but I am somewhat apprehensive that my publisher has mistaken your reasons, and on explanation the difficulty will easily be cleared up. Requesting the favour of an early reply,

I am, &c.

(signed) *Wm. Hemings.*

To the Solicitor to H. M.'s Post Office,
M. B. Peacock, Esq.

P.S.—As I am closing this letter, a brother barrister has suggested to me that it is probably because the publication is a class one that it is refused passage through the post; but I can hardly think this, as there are other legal publications circulating through the post, and the "Athenæum" and "Builder," &c., are just as much class publications.

No. 51.

J. P. Godby, Esq., to W. Hemings, Esq.

Sir,

General Post Office, 22 March 1854.

I am directed by the Postmaster general to inform you, with reference to your communications upon the subject, that the application recently made to Mr. Day, the publisher of the "Law Students' Magazine," arose from a misapprehension on the part of the Post Office, it having been erroneously supposed that the magazine had not been authorised in the usual manner to pass through the post under the newspaper privilege.

W. Hemings, Esq.,
13, Carey-street, Lincoln's Inn.

I am, &c.
(signed) *J. P. Godby,*
pro Secretary.

STAMPED PUBLICATIONS.

COPIES OF CORRESPONDENCE between the
Post Office and Treasury and Proprietors of
Stamped Publications, not being Newspapers,
in reference to the FREE TRANSMISSION of such
Publications through the Post, &c.

(*Mr. Milner Gibson.*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
28 July 1854.

426.

Under 3 oz.