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REPORTS
FROM
COMMISSIONERS:

THIRTEEN VOLUMES.

—(1.)—

BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES;
CHARITIES; DIVISION OF PARISHES;
EPISCOPAL AND CAPITULAR REVENUES;
MARRIAGES (EAST INDIA);
NATIONAL VACCINE ESTABLISHMENT;
NEW CHURCHES; POST OFFICE;
PUBLIC RECORDS; QUEEN'S PRINTERS (SCOTLAND);
TITHES.

Session

31 *January* — 15 *August* 1850.

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VOL. XX.

1850.

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REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

1850.

THIRTEEN VOLUMES:—CONTENTS OF THE FIRST VOLUME.

N.B.—*THE* Figures at the beginning of the line, correspond with the N° at the foot of each Report; and the Figures at the end of the line, refer to the MS. Paging of the Volumes arranged for *The House of Commons*.

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R E P O R T

OF

T H E C O M M I S S I O N E R S

APPOINTED TO INVESTIGATE THE QUESTION OF

SUNDAY LABOUR

IN

THE POST OFFICE.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY WILLIAM CLOWES AND SONS, STAMFORD STREET,
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

—
1850.

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R E P O R T.

TO THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF HER MAJESTY'S TREASURY.

My Lords,

10th August 1850.

IN compliance with the instructions contained in your Lordships' letter of the 18th ultimo, we have carefully investigated the question referred to us, viz., "whether the amount of Sunday labour in the Post Office might not be reduced, without completely putting an end to the collection and delivery of letters, &c., on Sundays," and we have the honour to report as follows.

Your Lordships are aware that this question has arisen out of a change in the Post Office arrangements, which was made by the Postmaster-General on the 23rd of June last, in consequence of an assurance given by Her Majesty, in answer to an address of the House of Commons, agreed to on the 30th May last, representing the great desire which exists in all parts of the United Kingdom, for an extension of that rest on the Lord's day, which is afforded in the London Post Office, to the Post Offices of the provincial towns, and praying Her Majesty to direct that the collection and delivery of letters shall in future entirely cease on Sunday in all parts of the kingdom. The nature and extent of this change will be best seen by referring to the "Notice" issued by the Postmaster-General for carrying it into effect; but we may state briefly, that it involved the suspension of the delivery, collection, and despatch of letters on the Sunday, throughout the United Kingdom.

Appendix A.

We understand that, by the reduction of Sunday labour referred to in your Lordships' instruction, is meant a reduction in the Sunday labour as it existed before the 23rd of June.

Prior to that date the state of the Post Office, as regards Sunday labour, was as follows. During the previous two years and a half, the Postmaster-General had been engaged in carrying into effect a series of carefully-considered measures, with the view "of affording to all connected with the Post Office the utmost amount of rest on the Sunday," which, in the opinion of his Lordship, "is consistent with a due regard to public convenience."

These measures are fully described in a Report to the Postmaster-General, of 28th January last, by Mr. Rowland Hill, which has been laid before Parliament; and a statement is there given of the amount of Sunday relief which had at that time been afforded.

Return to the
House of Commons,
1850, No. 185.

At the date of this Report, the relief was, for the most part, confined to England and Wales; but before the address of the 30th of May, it had been extended to Ireland and Scotland, and some other important improvements, described in the same Report as then in progress, had been completed.

We find that by these several measures, 8,424 persons had been relieved on Sunday to an average extent of nearly six hours each; that the Sunday transmission of numerous mails had been altogether stopped; that the ordinary rule in the provincial offices was for the office to close finally (except for the receipt and despatch of certain mails) at 10 A.M.; and that the Sunday deliveries had in all cases been reduced to one; while in the London office, by a transfer of duty to two travelling corps of 5 clerks each, working in the railway carriages—the one during Saturday night, and the other during Sunday night—the ordinary Sunday force, which was originally 27 men, and which, in October last, was temporarily increased to 52, had been reduced to 4, viz., 1 clerk and 3 messengers. These arrangements, we may add, by reducing to a minimum the letters for London itself brought in on the Sunday, are wholly inconsistent with the possibility of a Sunday delivery in London; a measure indeed, which, as your Lordships are aware, was never even contemplated.

Appendix B.

With the view of ascertaining the effects of the late change, which first came into operation on the 23rd June, the Postmaster-General, at our request, called for certain information from the Superintending President of the Inland Office,

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Appendix C. and issued certain queries to the Surveyors for England and Wales. These documents are given in the Appendix.

While the Surveyors concur generally in regarding the recent change as objectionable, they show considerable diversity of opinion on minor points, as might naturally be expected from a number of gentlemen pursuing independent inquiries, and guided by the varying circumstances and opinions of their respective districts. From this very diversity, one conclusion seems obvious, viz., that it is hazardous to make a general change, such as that recently introduced, without previous inquiry into the effects which it is likely to produce in the various districts over which its operation may extend, and such modification as the requirements of different localities may demand.

As regards the chief office in London, and the minor metropolitan offices within a radius of six miles, the change in question has left everything untouched.

As regards the provincial offices, we are enabled to state that the principal relief afforded is to the letter carriers, more especially those serving the rural districts.

Appendix F. But, whatever may be the amount of relief afforded to the servants of the Post Office, there can be no doubt that it has been obtained at a great sacrifice of convenience to the public; for though, amidst the numerous communications we have received on the subject, there are many urging the continuance of the arrangement, yet, having regard to their general tenor, and to the serious specific inconveniences complained of in many of them, as also to the results of our own inquiries, we have come to the conclusion that the evils attaching to the change press heavily on a large portion of the public (not excepting the poorer classes, who cannot bear the expense of secondary means of communication), and have excited in many quarters a strong feeling of dissatisfaction.

Among the evils adverted to above, the following may be specified, viz., delay and inconvenience in the correspondence, arising out of the transactions of the country markets, when they fall, as they frequently do, on the Saturday; increased risk of theft or loss arising from the detention during Sunday, of money letters (many of which contain large remittances); obstacles to the insurance of vessels, with delay in the announcement of their arrivals and departures; hinderance to the detection of crime, and to the general administration of the law; delay in the transmission of information and directions respecting legal and other sorts of business; inconvenience to travellers, and delay in procuring medical aid, and in summoning friends and relatives in case of sudden illness or approaching death.

Appendix D. In confirmation of these views we may refer to numerous petitions to Parliament complaining of the recent change.

Appendix E. Some idea of the extent to which these evils must exist is afforded by the following facts:—1st. The number of letters arriving on the Monday morning in London has been reduced by the recent change from about 212,000 to 127,000, being a reduction of about 85,000, or 40 per cent.; so that in London alone, at least that number of letters must be delayed every week, while the number is made up by an increase on Tuesday and the following days, though probably not to the full extent. 2nd. The number of letters leaving London on the Saturday night is about 140,000, the greater part of which reaching their destination on the Sunday are not delivered till Monday. Moreover, the number of letters despatched from London on Saturday night has, as was natural, been reduced by their non-delivery on Sunday. The extent of this reduction appears hitherto to have averaged nearly 15,000. 3rd. Whereas previous to the recent change, the correspondence between one provincial town and another was not interrupted at all; now all the letters posted on the Sunday, the greater part of those posted on the Saturday, and many posted on the Friday and even earlier, are delayed (either in despatch or delivery) throughout the United Kingdom. Taking these circumstances into account, we are of opinion that probably one-seventh of all the General Post letters distributed by the Post Office, or more than 700,000 a-week, are now delayed, or altogether suppressed in consequence of the recent change. This is exclusive of a very large number of newspapers.

Appendix C. The extent of these delays, and the manner in which they arise, are fully explained in an able report by Mr. William Johnson, the surveyor of the Home district.

The reasons which render a complete suspension of despatch and delivery on the Sunday expedient in London do not apply to the same measure when extended to other parts of the country. Residents in London can no longer despatch letters on Saturday night with the expectation of receiving answers on the Monday morning; while residents in the provincial towns, who previously suffered the same interruption in their correspondence with London on one day of the week, are now subjected to the additional inconvenience on a second day.

The truth therefore appears to be, that unless the suspension of Post Office action on the Sunday be limited to the metropolis, it must be productive of very serious inconvenience.

It must also be remembered that under the old arrangement it was possible for a resident in London to provide for the receipt or despatch of a letter on the Sunday, by sending to a post town beyond the twelve-mile circle. This expedient, so frequently resorted to in cases of emergency, prevented the people of London from ever before feeling in all its force the inconvenience arising from a total suspension of Sunday despatch.

Where the legitimate modes of conveyance are thus interrupted on every side, it is natural that other modes should be devised; and thus have arisen (as there is reason to apprehend) evasions of the law, or, at all events, substitutionary modes of conveyance; involving not only loss of revenue, but also Sunday labour in a new form. Looking further to the extensive arrangements now made for the Sunday distribution of newspapers, and to others waiting the decision of this question, as also to the recourse now had to special messengers, and to the economy of labour in the organized arrangements of the Post Office, we are not satisfied that the general effect of the measure would be to diminish Sunday labour.

The Sunday distribution of newspapers, referred to above, arises of course from the fact that so many of the weekly papers, whether in London or the country, are published on the Saturday. And the refusal of the Post Office to deliver these journals as usual, has been felt by both proprietors and readers as a great hardship.

For further information as to the effects of the recent change, we must refer to the Reports of the Surveyors.

Having regard to these various reasons, we consider the restriction established by the recent order not only as inexpedient, but ineffectual for its main purpose.

In exercising a monopoly of postal conveyance, the Government, as it appears to us, takes upon itself the duty of forwarding the public correspondence without any delay, which may not be demanded by reasons of the most cogent nature. We need not point out that the Post Office is not the only branch of the public service in which a certain amount of Sunday labour is required; and it may be added, that the general practice of delivering and despatching letters on the Sunday in all parts of the United Kingdom, except London (including even Dublin and Edinburgh), dates back, so far as we are aware, from the first regular establishment of a Post Office in this kingdom; while the non-delivery of letters in London on the same day appears to have an equally early origin.

With a view, therefore, of making a reduction in the amount of Sunday labour in the Post Office, as it existed immediately before the 23rd of June last, without completely putting an end to the collection and delivery of letters and other Post Office packets on Sundays, we recommend the adoption of the following arrangements:—

With regard to the London Post Office, we think that the system which was in force at the time specified, and which has not been affected by the recent order, should be continued.

With regard to the provincial Post Offices, we recommend that a delivery of letters on the Sunday should be resumed, subject to the following restrictions, many of which have been sanctioned by the previous practice of the department:—

1. That there be only one delivery and one collection.
2. That the delivery be made at such a time as shall not interfere with the hours of Divine service, especially of morning service.
3. That this delivery be made either by letter-carriers or at the window of the Post Office, according to the practice previously pursued on Sundays in

Appendix C.

each place. In Edinburgh, Glasgow, and most other towns of Scotland, it has been the practice to deliver letters only at the window on Sunday. The inhabitants of these towns have become habituated to the arrangement, and we do not therefore advise its discontinuance: but we do not propose its extension to other towns, where such a usage has never been introduced, because it affords less convenience and security to the public, while it produces no diminution of Sunday labour.

4. That, as far as possible, every Post Office be closed on a Sunday at 10 A.M. for the remainder of the day, with the necessary exceptions arising from the late arrival of mails which have heretofore existed.

5. That no money payments for inland letters be received at a Post Office on a Sunday; and that no such letters be received except such as are stamped or unpaid.

6. That whenever the letters, which were delivered on the Sunday morning, reach their destination by 8 o'clock on Saturday night (which is the case in some of the more remote parts of the kingdom), the delivery be made the same night instead of on the Sunday morning.

7. That where the duties are such as to prevent the rural letter-carrier from attending Divine service, an arrangement be made for providing a substitute at least on the alternate Sundays. We apprehend that the additional cost incurred by this arrangement would be justified by the importance of its object.

8. That in retaining a Sunday delivery of letters in a rural district the Postmaster-General be guided by the prevalent feeling of the locality; and that where the prevalent feeling of the district is opposed to such delivery, the Postmaster-General, after satisfying himself of the fact, take the requisite steps for suspending it. This principle has already been acted on to a considerable extent by the Department. The Postmaster-General, in the years 1848 and 1849, withdrew no less than 404 Sunday rural posts, 320 wholly and 84 partially. In some instances, however, the inhabitants, finding the withdrawal more inconvenient than they anticipated, subsequently requested that the post might be restored, which was accordingly done.

9. That an option be afforded to every householder to suspend the Sunday delivery of letters at his house, on his written application to the local Post Office. It would be necessary that this permission should be guarded by proper regulations of the Department, in order to prevent the inconvenience which would arise from frequent changes.

10. That the arrangements already made by the Postmaster-General for the withdrawal on the Sunday of comparatively useless mails be continued upon the same principles which have been already adopted, and that they be rendered as complete as possible.

We would also recommend to the attention of the Postmaster-General the suggestions made by the Surveyors, with a view to his considering hereafter how far it may be practicable to carry any of them into effect.

Appendix C.

(Signed)

CLANRICARDE.
H. LABOUCHERE.
G. CORNEWALL LEWIS.

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX A.

Instructions No. 21, 1850.

By Command of the Postmaster-General.

NOTICE to the PUBLIC, and INSTRUCTIONS to all POSTMASTERS, SUB-POSTMASTERS, and LETTER RECEIVERS.

General Post Office, June 1850.

ON and after the 23rd instant, there will be no delivery of letters throughout the United Kingdom on Sunday, nor will there be any collection of letters, whether by messengers, letter-carriers, receivers, &c., on that day.

A collection, however, by means of boxes will still be permitted on Sunday, as at present, at the receiving offices, whether in towns or in the country, and at the chief offices, in towns, &c., it being clearly understood, that letters deposited in the receiving boxes, shall remain unsorted and untouched until the Monday, and that there shall be no attendance of postmasters or their clerks at the window of the Post Office on Sunday.

The present practice of detaining letters addressed to the metropolis itself, when posted on Saturday, until the despatch on Sunday, will not be disturbed, with the exception that the bags containing such letters must be closed on Saturday night, and as the mails will be transmitted on Sunday in the usual manner, it will be necessary that some person shall attend to despatch the bags alluded to, as well as to receive or forward those bags that have arrived from other offices.

Postmasters taking upon themselves to deliver letters to any parties whatsoever, in contravention of these orders, will be most severely punished.

APPENDIX B.

STATEMENT showing the exact amount of SUNDAY POST OFFICE LABOUR in LONDON on an ordinary Sunday* previously to the 23rd June, the day on which Lord Ashley's motion was carried into effect.

Sunday, 9th June 1850.

Hours of attendance, 7 A.M. to 8 P.M.

Number of letters forwarded :—

Inland	.	.	.	1,206
Foreign	.	.	.	1,854

Number of persons employed, four (*i. e.*, one clerk and three messengers, *vide* Memorandum enclosed).

Length of time employed. Average attendance of each person 12 hours.

Inland Office, 26th June 1850.

MEMORANDUM.

THE messengers are included in the four stated to be the number of persons employed in the Inland Office on Sunday.

The number of clerks who take Sunday duty alternately is two; they attend every other Sunday.

Senior messengers, five; they attend every fifth Sunday.

Junior messengers, 65; they each attend in person or by substitute every 65th Sunday.

Ambassador's messenger attends every Sunday in preference to sharing the attendance with the other messengers.

W. BOKENHAM.

Inland Office, 5th August 1850.

* Upon the arrival of any extraordinary foreign or colonial mails extra persons are employed as heretofore, but in accordance with a defined scale.

SIR,

Dorking, 3rd August 1850.

I HAVE given my best attention to your letter of the 24th ultimo, requesting information as to the effect of the adoption of Lord Ashley's motion, by which the delivery and collection of letters has been suspended on Sunday. I will follow the different points to which you specially directed my attention.

1st. As to whether the measure is acceptable or otherwise to the public.

After as much inquiry as rests within my power on the subject, I am decidedly of opinion that with the majority of the public the change is not acceptable; no party to whom I have spoken about it is satisfied with it, and the large proportion of the postmasters whom I have seen since the alteration took place, whilst pleased with the comfort of the change to themselves, are obliged to admit that they do not consider the alteration generally acceptable in their respective districts.

2nd. As to its effect in delaying or suppressing correspondence (distinguishing as far as you can domestic from commercial correspondence), or in causing evasion of the law by diverting correspondence into improper channels; also as to its effect on the distribution of newspapers.

Delay of Correspondence.—Although, previous to the recent alteration, no person could write from the country to London on Saturday night, and obtain an answer from London on Monday, yet all the inhabitants of the metropolis could write to the country on Saturday, and obtain an answer on Monday. It therefore follows that the course of post from London on Saturday to the country and back again is now delayed from 6 to 24 hours; for in the most favourable case of a town having a day mail despatched on Monday sufficiently late to admit of a reply being forwarded by it, such reply is not delivered in London until late in the afternoon of that day, whilst from all towns without day mails, and from the *WHOLE of the rural districts attached to ALL my post towns* the answer cannot be received until Tuesday morning.

I have no means for discriminating with any accuracy the relative effect which such a delay of postal communication as I have above pointed out would produce on commercial and domestic correspondence separately. When, however, it is considered that the metropolis is the seat of the Legislature and Government, of the Courts of Law, as well as the great centre of all the monetary transactions of the kingdom, it is obvious that letters of the *greatest urgency* on business subjects must be most numerous on every night in the week, and consequently on Saturday, from which it results that the delay now entailed on the reply of the correspondence of Saturday must in many cases be productive of the most serious inconvenience and loss.

In a domestic point of view, the metropolis embraces more than two millions of inhabitants having connexions in every part of the kingdom. Prior to the late change, any relative could be summoned by a letter on Saturday, and in most cases reach London in the course of Sunday; now, in the most favourable case he can only do so in the course of Monday, and if he reside at any considerable distance from his post town he cannot arrive before Tuesday morning. A regulation like this applying to the seventh part of every year must, in the aggregate, be productive of a large amount of misery and distress.

Such is the case as regards the recent alteration to the towns in my district in their connexion with London. It is very far worse with each other.

The cross posts throughout the country, previous to the late alteration, proceeded uninterruptedly *every night*, and all towns embraced within the respective lines of communication could not only write to each other on Saturday night, receiving the letters on Sunday morning and the replies on Monday morning, but they could write on Sunday, receiving the letters on Monday and the replies on Tuesday.

Under the new regulation, letters written on Friday were delivered on Saturday, but the replies cannot be received until Monday. Letters written on Saturday cannot be received until Monday, nor the replies before Tuesday. Letters written on Sunday cannot be received before Tuesday, nor the replies before Wednesday, thus entailing a loss of 24 hours in the course of post between country towns for three days out of every week, to which they were not before subjected.

The case applies still more strongly to the intercourse between the villages attached to the same post town. The rural messenger leaves a village distant seven or eight miles from the post town at 5.30 P.M. Under the new regulation, after his departure on Saturday afternoon, at half-past 5, no communication by post can be had with any neighbouring village before Tuesday morning, being an interval of more than 60 hours, or two days and a half.

Evasion of the Law.—I am not aware of any systematic arrangement having been organized to provide for the transmission or delivery of letters on Sunday, but I believe such will eventually exist if the present system is persevered in, for the newspaper dealers are gradually providing for the distribution of their papers. The South Western Railway openly placard the conveyance and distribution of newspapers, on prepayment of 1d., at all the stations on their line, as well as the receiving-houses in London, where they may be deposited; and Kennett's Parcel Company advertise the collection up to 6 P.M. on Saturday of *small parcels*, to be delivered on Sunday in the country, and that newspapers will be conveyed for 1d.

A system like this, with so many parties interested in it, will at least become so organized as to be capable of being converted into an instrument for distributing letters, as well as anything else.

The effect on the distribution of newspapers I have adverted to in my answer to the next point of inquiry.

3rd. Its effect in calling into employment, whether for the conveyance and delivery of letters or newspapers, persons not in the service of the Post Office, and the probable amount of Sunday labour thus created compared with that released.

I believe the injury to newspaper proprietors to be very great, much greater than I have the means of either ascertaining or accurately describing. I arrive at this conclusion from such facts as reach my knowledge: at Canterbury the day of publication of one of the papers has been changed; at Portsmouth the "Telegraph" is obliged to go to press on Friday evening, in place of Saturday evening. At Portsmouth, also, both carts and messengers are employed on Sunday in delivering newspapers. At Reading messengers are now employed to deliver some of the local papers, and the result of the official inquiry is only awaited before larger arrangements are made. Now these arrangements would not be entered into, and all this expense incurred, unless it were required to *mitigate* the injury done to these parties by the suspension of postal delivery on Sunday.

Some thousands of newspapers lie in the offices in my district until the Monday, as the day mails of Saturday are not available to rural parts, in which the great circulation of them lies.

I have no means whatever of arriving at the extent to which this is carried, not at the number of persons so engaged, but from the rapid extension of such arrangements I have no doubt a large body will eventually be employed in such duties.

4th. The amount of Sunday relief which it has afforded to the Post Office servants as compared with that given by the previous measure of Sunday relief.

Further relief given beyond that shown in the return annexed to the printed papers on the subject.

Postmasters, Clerks, and others engaged in the office.—197; average relief, each 5 hours.

Letter Carriers.—226; average relief, each 3½ hours.

Rural Messengers.—477; average relief, each 6½ hours.

Sub-Officers and Receivers.—896; average relief, each 3 hours.

5th. The probable influence on the revenue.

I always feared that the cessation of the Sunday post would be attended with a large loss to the revenue; and from the best inquiries I can institute, I have arrived at the following estimate:—

London Letters.—After allowing for the increase in the number posted on Saturday and Monday, I believe there is a loss of 15 per cent. of the number of London letters that were posted on Sunday.

Bye or Cross Post Letters.—On Saturday there are LESS posted than heretofore.

On Monday the increase may average 20 to 25 per cent.

The average loss, therefore, on the bye letters is about 75 per cent.

To corroborate these views I would state that the letters brought in by the rural messengers on Saturday night are LESS than formerly, and the increase in their collection on Monday night does not exceed 30 per cent.

The proportion of letters deposited in the London bags from the towns in my district as compared to those sent in bye bags is about—

London	3-5ths.
Bye	2-5ths.

Therefore out of every 1,000 letters formerly posted on Sunday—

There would be for London	600
Bye bags	400
Loss on the London 15 per cent.	90
Loss on the bye 75 per cent.	300

Showing an average loss of 39 per cent. on the number of letters formerly posted on Sunday. I ought to observe that previous to the late alterations the posting on Sunday was rather larger than any other day in the week.

I am deeply sensible of the value and obligations of Sunday, and the importance of making it a day of rest, as far as practicable, to all parties. But when I regard the Post Office in its national point of view,—that its organization and ramifications extend to every town and village in the kingdom,—that it is the *sole medium* of communication, either as regards *certainty* or *cost*, which is available to the great mass of the inhabitants of this country, in all the varied emergencies of hourly occurrence in life, and that these universal communications are effected under the combinations of the Post Office by the employment of fewer individuals than ever could be arrived at under any other organization, I do believe that one delivery of letters and one collection and transmission of them on Sunday are alike justifiable either as a work of necessity or mercy.

I am of opinion, as far as my district is concerned, that if one delivery and one collection of letters were made on the Sunday, that the following regulations might be adopted for curtailing the labours beyond those which had been carried out previous to the 13th June.

Post Towns.—That where there is more than one despatch from the town the collection from the receiving houses should be made for the first despatch only, and that the box at the chief office should, on closing for that despatch, be closed for all subsequent ones, receiving no

late letters and all the bags at once made up: this would concentrate the business within a much narrower space of time, so far as the office duties were concerned, and I have no doubt the curtailment of time for the subsequent despatches, as compared with the closing on other days, would be readily acquiesced in by the public.

Rural Post Messengers.—That after finishing their deliveries the return of these messengers should be so arranged in each case as to bring them all back at one time to the post time, say 1.30 P. M., this would give them all the afternoon and evening with their own families, whilst a sufficient interval would be afforded for replying to all urgent correspondence.

I believe these measures would materially abridge the amount of duty necessary to be performed on Sunday, if a delivery and collection on that day be again resumed.

I am, Sir,
Your most obedient faithful servant,
WILLIAM JOHNSON.

APPENDIX C, No. 2.

SIR,

Exeter, 6th August 1850.

IN reply to your letter of the 24th ultimo, relative to the effect in this district, arising from the adoption of Lord Ashley's motion, I beg to offer the following observations:—

If a public feeling of acquiescence on the subject is to be inferred from the absence of any formal manifestations of dissatisfaction I think I may be justified, as far as this district is concerned, in stating that the measure, as a whole, is acceptable to the public. I have not been able to discover any evidence tending to show that its operation has, in any instance, been found to act so prejudicially on the comfort or interests of any town or district as to provoke anything resembling a general expression of adverse opinion. I collect that a general tone of disapproval prevails in the legal profession, among commercial travellers, and innkeepers; but I hear, on the other hand, that an extensive exceptional feeling exists even amongst those classes, many hailing it as a great relief not to possess letters on a Sunday, which, if received, would require attention. As far as I can judge, an unfavourable feeling towards the measure prevails more generally at Plymouth than at any other town in my district, arising I believe from the commercial interest there being so decidedly and generally concerned in possessing the means of promptly advising the arrivals and sailing of vessels. The only instance which has come within my knowledge of a resort, under a case of special urgency, to a transmission otherwise than by post, occurred here, and related to the movements of a ship.

With respect to the very few complaints, arising out of the measure which have reached me officially, they have arisen in Cornwall, relative to the late delivery on Monday. A leading firm at Penzance asked the privilege of being allowed to obtain their letters from the Post Office at five o'clock on Monday morning, so as to reply, in urgent cases, by the mail, which leaves at seven, alleging that their rivals in business residing in Truro could obtain their letters on Monday in time for the return mail, and were thus in possession of a very important advantage over themselves. In another case, a Member of Parliament, residing in a rural district, although acquiescing in the suspension of the Sunday delivery and collection, remonstrated against the non-transmission on the Sunday to a neighbouring receiving-house, in order that he might obtain his letters early on Monday morning, instead of waiting the ordinary arrival on Monday afternoon. Two or three other similar complaints have reached me; but in no instance, I believe, has any direct remonstrance against the non-delivery on Sunday been expressed.

Adverting to the points enumerated in your letter of the 24th ultimo, I would beg to offer the following specific replies:—

1st. "As to whether the measure is acceptable or otherwise to the public?"

Without affirming that the measure is generally acceptable, I am of opinion that as regards this district it commands a widely extended and growing feeling of acquiescence and satisfaction.

2nd and 3rd. As to its effect in delaying or suppressing correspondence, &c.

I question whether the effect of the measure in delaying correspondence operates materially, if at all, in causing its suppression; I am disposed to think that by far the greater proportion of letters on Sundays consisted and still consists of domestic letters, or of such business letters as can be conveniently postponed during the active vocations of the week to a day of leisure; a large portion of the Sunday correspondence of commercial travellers I should judge to be of this description, and will consequently not be affected by the measure. The number of letters heretofore posted for the Sunday despatch, arising out of the Sunday receipt, which may be taken to imply matters of urgency, I should judge to be comparatively few indeed, and if a modification of the existing restrictions should be deemed expedient, I would suggest that a delivery of registered letters in post towns, and a despatch of all letters posted at the principal offices in post towns up to a given period, say one hour previous to the Divine service preceding the despatch, would obviate the only serious objection to which the measure seems liable, at the expense of a very trifling amount of labour on the part of the Post Office. I cannot discover, as far as this district is concerned, that any arrangements have been organized for the transmission of letters on Sundays otherwise than by post, or for the distribution of Sunday newspapers, the latter inconvenience being met to a great extent by arrangements on the part of newspaper publishers for transmitting country editions of their papers by Friday's post from London.

4th. The amount of Sunday relief which has been afforded to the Post-Office servants as compared with that given by the previous measures of Sunday relief.

It is impossible upon this point to give anything more than a very rough general approximation.

I find at Bristol and Exeter the following results :—

BRISTOL.				
—	Previous to 23rd June.	At present.	Total Personal Relief.	Relief in Hours to each.
Total Number of Persons on the Establishment, including Postmaster, Clerks, and Stampers	26	26
Greatest Number of Persons employed at one time on Sunday	13	5
Total Number of Hours' attendance for one Person	122·5	43·30	78·35	3
EXETER.				
—	Previous to 23rd June.	At present.	Total Personal Relief.	Relief in Hours to each.
Total Number of Persons on the Establishment, including Postmaster, Clerks, and Stampers	11	11
Greatest Number of Persons employed at one time on Sunday	6	4
Total Number of Hours' Attendance for one Person	45·50	16·15	29·35	2·41

Considering that the above are large forward offices, I should estimate the results as below the average of the district generally; and confining myself to postmasters, clerks, assistants, and stampers, am of opinion that four hours would represent the average relief derived by each individual belonging to the above classes from the total suspension of the delivery and collection of letters on Sunday, which is, of course, exclusive of letter-carriers and rural post-messengers.

5th. Its probable influence on the revenue.

It appears to me that the monthly returns of letters delivered furnish the only reliable data upon which to found any conclusion on this point. As far as I have had an opportunity of inspecting these returns in this district, I find nothing to indicate a diminution of the number of letters, nor can I find that, at any office where I have been able to make inquiry, there has been a perceptible falling off in the number of letters posted. The presumption is undoubtedly that the tendency of the measure is unfavourable to the revenue; but I have not in the course of my inquiries elicited any facts tending to confirm such an anticipation.

With respect to the concluding paragraph, it appears to me that if recurrence be had to one delivery and one collection of letters, as before the 23rd June, that it will be advisable to arrange the duties of rural post-messengers and letter-carriers in a manner calculated to afford them the greatest amount of relief consistent with the reasonable convenience of the public, and I also think that as regards postmasters, and their clerks, and assistants, it would be desirable to close the bags for despatch, so as not to interfere with their attendance upon Divine service. In a case, for instance, where the despatch occurred at 7½ P.M., I would propose to close the bags at 6 P.M. with this object.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient, humble Servant,

G. H. CRESWELL.

Lieut.-Colonel Maberley,
 &c. &c.

[APPENDIX C, No. 3.

SIR,

Birmingham, 1st August 1850.

ON the receipt of your Circular of the 24th ultimo, I was anxious to obtain the effect of Lord Ashley's motion in regard to the Sunday Post Office duty at some of the larger towns in my district, and I requested the respective postmasters of such towns to favour me with their ideas upon the measure generally; but I have not yet had the benefit of their replies. I however, in reference to your further Circular received this morning, shall beg to state my own views of the working of the present arrangement by annexing answers to the various questions, viz. :—

1st. As to the effect of Lord Ashley's motion, and whether the measure is acceptable or otherwise to the public?

I have no doubt that inconvenience is at present experienced by some parties, but not to any great extent; yet the feeling, perhaps, of the majority is against the measure in its entirety.

2nd. As to its effect in delaying or suppressing correspondence, or in causing evasion of the law ; also its effect on the distribution of newspapers ?

I have little doubt that both domestic and commercial correspondence is in some degree diverted from its legitimate channel by reason of the delay or suppression by the measure in question ; but in my own opinion it has more seriously affected the distribution of newspapers, especially the weekly Sunday papers, many having already been stopped in consequence of the delay, but which might be prevented if the day of publication were Friday instead of Saturday.

3rd. Its effect on calling into employment persons not in the service, and the probable amount of Sunday labour thus created as compared with that released ?

No doubt it has had the effect of calling into employment persons not in the service, but in my opinion to very inconsiderable amount as compared with that released.

4th. The amount of Sunday relief afforded as compared with that given by the previous measure of Sunday relief ?

In some of the towns in my district, and other *forward offices*, the relief afforded beyond that given by the previous measure is but very little to the clerks, as they are employed in the transmission ; but to the letter-carriers and rural post-messengers a whole day's rest is afforded.

5th. The probable influence on the revenue ?

No doubt the revenue, for reasons assigned in answer to question No. 2, is deteriorated by the present measure, but to a very trifling extent.

In reference to the last paragraph of your Circular, I will venture to offer a few suggestions upon the subject generally :—

1st. I would propose that transmission should be carried on as in operation previous to the measure of Lord Ashley's motion coming into effect, and that all letters, even those posted on Sunday under the restriction of bearing postage stamps, should be forwarded by the regular despatches of that day.

2nd. I would suggest that every chief and sub-office throughout the United Kingdom should be kept open for one hour after the letters brought by the London or morning mails are prepared for delivery.

3rd. I would suggest that recurrence should be had to one delivery of the letters by letter-carriers, as was the case previously to the 23rd June, and with which I think the public was fully satisfied.

4th. I would also suggest that the Post Office should be closed to the public on Sundays one hour after the commencement of the delivery for the remainder of the day.

I believe that such arrangements would be accepted by the public with satisfaction, and I feel assured that proper and sufficient relief for the practical purposes both of religion and recreation would be thereby afforded to the officers of the department.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient, faithful servant,

B. CHURCHILL.

To Lieut.-Colonel Maberly,
&c. &c.

APPENDIX C, No. 4.

SIR,

Cambridge, 1st August 1850.

WITH reference to your letter of the 24th ultimo, I beg to state that I do not feel that I am able to furnish any correct information upon the subject referred to therein, namely, the effect in my district of the adoption of Lord Ashley's motion ; but I proceed to give the best answers to the several questions submitted in your letter, which my own observations and the limited inquiries which I have had an opportunity of making enable me to supply.

1. As to whether the measure is acceptable to the public or otherwise, my opinion is, that it is not generally acceptable to the public. Indeed, I have spoken to no single individual upon the subject who is satisfied with the present arrangement.

2. As to its effect in delaying or suppressing correspondence : there can be no doubt, I conceive, that the effect of the present arrangement is to delay an immense body of correspondence, both domestic and commercial, and I apprehend that a necessary result of that delay has been to suppress correspondence and divert it into improper channels ; but to what extent this has been the case I cannot possibly surmise. I have no doubt, however, that the longer the present arrangement continues, the more will irregular and improper means of transmission be adopted. It is, I believe, notorious that it interferes most injuriously as regards the distribution of newspapers.

3. As to its effect in calling into employment persons not in the service of the Post Office. That such is the effect of the measure to a very great extent cannot, I think, be doubted ; but what comparison the amount of such employment bears to that released, I have no means of forming a judgment.

4. As to the amount of Sunday relief, &c. : the relief which the measure has afforded to Post Office servants has doubtless been considerable, especially to letter-carriers and rural post-messengers, who have been entirely relieved from all Sunday employment. With regard to other servants of the department, the additional relief afforded would, perhaps, average about four or five hours.

5. As to its probable influence on the revenue, I cannot doubt that the effect of the measure will be most injurious to the revenue. It is, I believe, a well-established fact, that every withdrawal of the means of communication is found to be attended with the effect of suppressing correspondence; and bearing in mind that, by the present arrangement, the communication by post between places intimately connected with each other in various ways, and only a few miles from each other, is stopped for so long a period, I cannot doubt that the revenue will be seriously affected.

I am not able to suggest any measure of Sunday relief that could be adopted upon a recurrence to one delivery and one collection of letters on that day, except that perhaps the time for keeping open the country post offices for delivery, &c., might be further curtailed: it is probably not important that they should be kept open after 9 A.M. instead of 10 A.M.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient, faithful servant,
GEO. NEAL.

Lieut.-Col. Maberly,
&c. &c.

P.S.—I am not able to reply to your letter of the 27th ult. at present, but I will lose no time in doing so as soon as I can obtain the information required.

APPENDIX C, No. 5.

SIR,

Preston, 2nd August 1850.

IN obedience to your letters of the 24th and 31st ultimo, I beg to report as to the effect in my district of the adoption of Lord Ashley's motion, observing, however, that the early date at which my report is required must render any information I have to offer of less weight than if I had been enabled to ascertain in detail the effects of the alteration when more fully developed.

1st. A great portion of the public appear to me to treat the subject with indifference, partly because the instances of individual annoyance caused by the late alteration are as yet comparatively too few to affect the community at large, and partly because it is generally looked upon as an experiment and not likely to become permanent. I find, however, that a large majority of business men, and indeed of all who choose to give the matter their serious consideration, unless carried away by a religious party-feeling, are opposed to the alteration. The public are now beginning to perceive the fallacy of the argument which has been so often pressed upon them, that the inhabitants of the *country* can endure inconveniences which are not complained of in the metropolis, and to understand that the new measure doubles the inconvenience which each have hitherto felt as regards their London letters, besides adding a blank day to their correspondence with any other parts of the country.

2nd. Many instances have been related to me of inconvenience and loss from delay of domestic and commercial correspondence, of which I cannot now furnish the precise details; but the early results of a measure so suddenly adopted, and so entirely unexpected, cannot be taken as a criterion of those which might be produced under a more general adaptation to the change of system, and with the improved arrangements which a more mature consideration would enable the department to carry out. The delay of domestic correspondence will, I think, eventually prove more irksome to the public and productive of more inconvenience than that of business or commercial letters, for the latter may in time be accommodated to an arrangement which practically reduces the writing days of the week, but no foresight can provide against the daily occurrences in domestic life in which immediate communication is of the last importance. I have heard of no instances as yet of the deviation of correspondence into improper channels, nor do I apprehend that this will take place to any extent in my district.

Newspapers are in some of the larger towns sent out for delivery by agents, but the persons so employed are comparatively very few, especially since the publication of some of the weekly papers in time for the despatch of the day mails on Saturday. It seems to be the general opinion that, if the new measure were to be made permanent, newspaper proprietors would take steps to ensure the despatch of early editions of their papers by the night mails of Friday or the day mail of Saturday, as the case might require. Much the larger proportion of the weekly papers would not be read until Sunday at whatever hour of Saturday they might arrive, and their value therefore varies with the date of publication. The non-receipt of any of the weekly papers immediately after the change caused great dissatisfaction, which is still felt at places having no day mail nor newspaper agent, as they now arrive on Monday morning, when the labouring people have no time to read them.

3rd. I am quite unable, without a considerable delay for the purpose of inquiry, to state the exact number of persons employed in the delivery of newspapers on Sunday; but in my district they are comparatively very few, and the amount of labour bears no proportion to that from which the letter-carriers have been relieved.

4th. For the above reasons I am unable to furnish an exact statement of the amount of relief afforded in each office as compared with the previous measures. In "forward" offices the relief is comparatively very small, and but of little value, except to the letter-carriers, as the mails have to be sorted in the same routine as on other days. In most cases of this description some of the letter-carriers also have to attend to sort the papers, or the clerks would have additional instead of diminished duty imposed on them.

As far as the postmasters are concerned, I have no hesitation in saying that the majority of

them would greatly prefer a return to the regulations in force previously to the 23rd June; many of them, especially those who have to open their bags for "forward" purposes, complain of the additional responsibility of having so large a number of letters lying in their offices for 24 hours, and very many postmasters who are not required to open their bags, and are gainers by the measure, object strongly to it, as one likely to be very prejudicial to the public, of whose interests in that respect they may be taken as competent judges, where they are men of intelligence. The relief to clerks of course varies with the nature of the office, being very trifling in "forward" offices, and in some small country offices amounting to a total release from duty. Letter-carriers, as a class, have gained more than any other officers of the Post Office, a great number of rural messengers having been previously discontinued on Sundays; but I have not the slightest doubt that both clerks and letter-carriers would, with very few exceptions indeed, prefer the continuance of the former system to the present relief accompanied by any reduction of their salaries, and as their benefit is made a great argument for the new system, it seems inconsistent to compel them to a measure which must eventually tend to a reduction of their means of living, for the sake of scruples which they do not profess to feel.

The previous measures of Sunday relief afforded great satisfaction to all officers of the Post Office, which was the more appreciated by them on account of its affording the public no grounds of complaint, and I am persuaded that a recurrence to those measures will be beneficial to the public, and will not be considered a grievance by the officers of the department.

5th. It is not possible to form a correct estimate of the loss to the revenue which will result from the present system, without having accounts kept of the letters for several weeks, but I have no doubt whatever that the effect will be a considerable reduction, and it is already apparent at several towns in my district, the number of letters by the last monthly Return, instead of showing an increase according to the gradual progression which appears to be taking place, being actually smaller than the number for the corresponding month of last year.

The only additional measures which I would propose upon a recurrence to the former system are, first, the discontinuance of all rural post-messengers on Sunday, with the usual permission to the inhabitants of the rural districts to send for their letters to the post town during the hour appointed for delivery. The number and importance of those which were discontinued before the 23rd June without remonstrance (amounting to 220 in my district), are sufficient to prove that there can be no great objection to the rule becoming general. The exceptions might be peculiar cases, which could be brought specially before the Postmaster-General. Many lines of road are served by rides, merely because the distance is too far for a messenger, and if these rides should also be discontinued, no inconvenience would be caused, and a saving would be effected to the revenue, the contractor being saved the hire of a horse, and the actual wear and tear of a cart for a seventh portion of a year. Secondly, the discontinuance of all arrivals and despatches by day-mails on Sunday, which appear to be quite unnecessary. In this, as in all other statements which I have made, I allude only to my own district. This latter measure would reduce the periods of attendance during Sunday at most offices, to two only, namely, at the arrival and despatch of the night mail; and by thus leaving greater lengths of time at the disposal of the postmasters and their clerks, would be very acceptable to them.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient, faithful servant,
J. P. GOOD.

Lieut.-Col. Maberly,
&c. &c.

APPENDIX C, No. 6.

SIR,

Highworth, 3rd August 1850

WITH reference to your letter of the 24th instant, desiring I will state my opinion as to the effect of Lord Ashley's motion on certain points enumerated therein, I beg to observe,

1st. As to whether the measure is acceptable or otherwise to the public.

To a certain class of the public there is no question but that the cessation of delivery and collection on Sundays is approved of both as regards themselves individually, and as preventing all attendance to any portion of business on that day, but others feel deeply the deprivation, and I entertain no doubt but that if the feelings of the whole letter-writers in the South Wales District were fairly elicited, the latter class would be found to form a large and powerful majority. In the intercourse I have had with the public, travelling over many hundred miles by railways and coaches, I have met but three parties who approve of the measure.

2nd. As to the effect of delaying and suppressing correspondence, evasion of the law, and the distribution of newspapers.

Each town is now placed, in connexion with the larger portions of England, in a worse position than it formerly was as regards London. The cross post is reduced to six days a week; this must act injuriously on the revenue.

A considerable portion of the revenue arises from the local communication between towns situated within 10 or 20 miles of each other. Such towns have now no delivery of the Saturday's correspondence, and the consequence is that letters are either not written at all, or are forwarded through private channels; for, so far as my experience reaches, the increase on Saturdays and Mondays has not equalled the loss of the Sunday's post. Again, the Saturday's post from London has become comparatively useless to professional men; there are cases where answers to letters reaching the country on Sundays are absolutely necessary in London

on the Monday—such as the attendance of witnesses, causes in Chancery, &c. ; the present arrangement will, if it has not already done so, drive the London agent to send the communication by railway, knowing, as he well does, that all parcels of consequence are delivered by railway companies on the Sunday.

For such cases as these, the Monday day-mails are not available, the distribution on that day being too late.

There is another source of loss, an instance of which occurred a few days ago at Banbury :— On *Saturday night*, the 20th July, a robbery and attempt at murder was committed; on Sunday handbills were issued, and copies addressed to the different police in the neighbouring towns; they were taken to the Post Office, but the party being informed that they could not be sent from Banbury before Monday, they were withheld; the parties suspected, it was subsequently discovered, attempted at Buckingham, only 17 miles distant, to dispose of the stolen property on the Monday. Had these circulars been forwarded, the revenue would have benefited, and the ends of justice would not have been defeated; the parties have as yet escaped. On the *following Saturday* a communication from the Government was addressed to a party in the neighbourhood of Banbury, directing a reward of 50*l.* to be offered; this letter was not delivered until *Monday*; handbills were printed on that day, but not fully distributed until the Tuesday.

In the country, there are certain local papers published on Saturdays, the proprietors of which will, if the system be continued, be compelled to issue an edition on the Friday.

An editor of one local paper of extensive circulation informed me that, although as yet no additional expense in printing had arisen, it had occasioned an increased outlay on distribution, and even then a positive injury has been inflicted, as several subscribers have altogether discontinued the paper, assigning as the reason that they could not receive it on Sunday. The complaints he had received were so numerous, that if the present arrangements continue, he will be under the necessity of occasioning additional labour on the Sabbath for the mere purpose of distribution.

3rd. The effect of calling into employment, for delivery, of parties not in the service of the Post Office.

It would be difficult to form an opinion on the probable labour that may arise in consequence of parcels and other papers being conveyed and distributed on Sundays otherwise than by post, as I apprehend many of the local news-agents are waiting the result of the inquiry now instituted; if the present system be continued, they doubtless will adopt the conveyance by railway with a Sunday distribution, and thus enlarge their own local connexions to the injury, I apprehend, of the London vendors.

One gentleman of Banbury informed me he has had his papers on Sunday morning by railway, and delivered at his house; others will, no doubt, adopt the same means.

4th. The amount of relief in Sunday labour in the Post Office.

In this district there are 80 post towns, 44 of which are forward offices; the additional relief here is principally confined to the closing of the window from 7 A.M. to 10 A.M., and the hour's attendance previous to the despatch of each mail.

In the western portion of the district, the arrival of the mails takes place *after* 10 A.M., consequently there was an attendance at the window of *one hour* in addition to that from 7 A.M. to 10 A.M.

The clerks and sorters must attend on the arrival and departure of the different posts, to work out the forward duty, or the correspondence so sorted could not, in most cases, be delivered on the Monday morning.

At the other 36, and also at the sub-offices, the relief is great; they are certainly of small importance and limited correspondence; the deputies' duty is now simply to deliver out the bags made up on the Saturday night, and receive those arriving. The arrangement of the letters for delivery can be performed on the Monday morning.

The receivers have been wholly relieved, and the letter-carriers also, excepting where they are required to meet the mail trains to exchange the bags, and in some few cases to assist in sorting the forward newspapers.

Such rural post messengers as were not previously stopped on Sundays have also been entirely relieved.

5th. The probable influence on the revenue.

That the total cessation of delivery and collection one day in seven will have a serious effect on the revenue, none will venture to dispute, not fully to the extent perhaps of one-seventh of the week's revenue, but, I think, it may be fairly calculated at 50 *per cent.* on the Sunday letters; my conviction being that the loss on Sunday is not met by a proportionate increase in the letters on Saturday and Monday.

If it be decided to revert to the system previous to the 23rd June, viz., one distribution and one collection, I would venture to suggest the window delivery from 7 A.M. to 10 A.M. be discontinued, and that after the distribution by letter-carrier has commenced, at whatever hour it may occur, the office window should be opened for delivery, sale of stamps, and receipt of registered letters, *one hour*, or *one hour and half*.

That the boxes of the *town receiving houses* be wholly closed, in which case it may be necessary to collect the receiving-house bags on Saturday nights at 9.30 P.M. or 10 P.M., where they are now brought in earlier, and limit the Sunday collection to the principal office.

That *all* rural messengers shall proceed on their distribution on Sundays; that without waiting for the usual hour on other days, their return be so arranged as to reach the office at a

given hour, if practicable, between the morning and evening services; and that strict orders be given to every deputy to retain at the office all letters addressed to parties who may give a written authority to that effect.

In submitting this Report, I beg to observe that what I had stated is the best opinion I can at present form on the subject, the regulation having been in operation only *six Sundays*, and there being a general feeling on the part of the public, that the existing arrangements would sooner or later be rescinded.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient, faithful servant,

CH. RIDEOUT.

Lieut.-Col. Maberly,

&c. &c.

APPENDIX C, No. 7.

SIR,

Derby, 9th August 1850.

I BEG to report, in compliance with the directions contained in your letters of the 24th and 31st ultimo, as to the effect in my district of the adoption of Lord Ashley's motion for discontinuing the despatch and delivery of letters upon Sundays, and I propose to take the several points in the order in which they stand in your letter.

1st. From the introduction of this measure it has been most decidedly unpalatable to the public, and interfering as it does with the despatch, as well as the delivery of the mails, it has been productive of much inconvenience, not merely as it has affected the receipt and transmission of letters, but more particularly by the total stoppage which it caused in the receipt of all newspapers published on Saturday, and forwarded by that night's mails; this latter inconvenience has now been in a great degree remedied by the publication of most, if not all the Saturday's papers on Friday, or in time for despatch by the day mails on Saturday, and it is probable that if the existing Sunday arrangements were to be established permanently, such steps would be taken by the publishers and newsvendors as would throw all these papers into the Saturday's deliveries, and prevent the necessity for Sunday distribution, the expenses of which it is certain news-agents and publishers cannot continue to bear even where they may have commenced the practice.

Complaints are numerous and very general, of the annoying and injurious effects of the measure upon the transmission of letters, but I think they apply more to domestic than to commercial or business correspondence, and while every week's continuance of the present system will lessen the inconvenience to men of business, who, of course, in time will adapt their arrangements to the change, the sufferers from the delay of domestic letters will increase, as each person finds that he is not beyond its influence, and that he has no available remedy within his reach; for as he cannot foresee what may happen to a distant friend or member of his family, so neither can he make provision beforehand for the receipt or forwarding of intelligence on Sunday, the communication of which may be of most vital importance.

Many complaints have been made to me and in my presence, and many instances of distressing consequences which have arisen out of the non-receipt or inability to despatch letters on Sundays have been related to me, but not anticipating the present inquiry, I have not noted them sufficiently to be able to state particulars.

Looking generally at the effect of the change, I believe there is a very extensive and growing dislike to it, the public are beginning to perceive that in their agitation for the alteration, they did not allow themselves to consider the question dispassionately, and understand how it would really affect them, and that it by no means follows, because the inhabitants of London, who have never had a Sunday delivery or despatch, can do without Sunday mails, that throughout the country where no arrangements which have ever been made have contemplated the cessation of Sunday transmission of letters, so radical a change can be made without producing very inconvenient and injurious results.

2nd. The measure, so far as I have as yet been able to ascertain, does not appear to have occasioned much, if any, evasion of the law; but I am of opinion that if it were to be adopted as a permanent regulation, the public would avail themselves without hesitation of any channel which offered for the transmission of their letters, by which the delay caused by the Post Office system could be avoided, and it cannot be doubted that such channels would not be wanting if the increase of parcels held out a reasonable prospect of remuneration to Railway Companies and others for improving and expediting the system of delivery. As regards its effect on the distribution of newspapers, I am of opinion that it has not been to any serious extent permanently injurious, and that it is quite within the power of publishers and news-agents so to alter their arrangements and to accommodate them to the change that all objection to the measure on this ground could be removed.

3rd. The number of persons not connected with the Post Office, who, in consequence of this measure, are employed in the conveyance and delivery of letters and papers on Sunday, is very trifling as yet, and bears no proportion to the number of those servants of the office who have been released from duty, although I think they would increase considerably were not the inconveniences which are at present suffered looked upon as temporary; for the adoption of Lord Ashley's motion is everywhere viewed as an experiment, and a very decided opinion prevails that it will not continue.

4th. I cannot state with any degree of accuracy the amount of Sunday relief which has been afforded to the Post Office servants by the measure of the 23rd of June: there has not been time to obtain particulars which would enable me to afford precise information on this point, and it would delay my report for some weeks to procure accounts and complete the necessary inquiries. The parties most benefited are the letter-carriers and rural post messengers, to

whom the alteration has afforded a total cessation from labour on Sundays; and in all offices through which forward letters do not pass, the relief to postmasters and clerks is very nearly as great. In forward offices, however, there is still some duty to be performed, as the forward letters have to be sorted and despatched; the persons employed in such offices, therefore, obtain a smaller amount of relief. According to the extent of relief obtained so is the measure valued by postmasters, clerks, letter-carriers, &c., but I have no hesitation in saying that, with perhaps a few exceptions, all these parties would infinitely prefer a return to the regulations which were in operation up to the 23rd June to a continuance of the present arrangement, if accompanied by the reduction of pay which has been threatened.

5th. The influence of the measure on the revenue of the Post Office must be to a certain extent injurious; and in the absence of accounts which might be kept to prove this, but which time does not allow me to procure, I think a reference to the week's returns of letters for last month will show that the correspondence of the country has not maintained the progressive increase since the alteration was made, which was going on previously; and I know that in some instances a decided falling-off in the number of letters has taken place without any other assignable cause for the diminution.

I cannot entertain a doubt that a return to the regulations in operation previous to the 23rd June would be most acceptable to the public generally; and I am persuaded that very many of those who, when the question was in agitation, gave their voices for the change are now among the most anxious for a return to the former arrangements.

Among the measures which might be adopted upon a recurrence to one delivery and collection of letters on Sundays, there is one which I would strongly recommend, and which I think might be introduced with advantage, and which will relieve a large number of persons connected with the department without injury to the public, viz., the discontinuance of all rural posts. Upwards of 100 of these posts have ceased in my district on the application, and with the voluntary consent, of the persons interested, and that their cessation has produced no evil result is abundantly evident from the absence of all complaint or attempt to obtain their re-establishment.

I am also of opinion that all cross posts might cease where the towns served or connected with them have reasonably late means of communication by the mails of Saturday; and it is most desirable to reduce the arrivals and despatches on Sundays to one, wherever such an arrangement may be found practicable.

The effect of such a measure would be to reduce the duties of postmasters and clerks at almost every office in my district to a short attendance morning and evening, which would interfere very triflingly indeed with the day's occupations, and could form no excuse for the neglect of religious duties.

Lieut.-Col. Maberly,
&c. &c.

I am, Sir,
 Your obedient humble servant,
 WM. J. GODBY.

APPENDIX D.

LIST of PETITIONS *against* the Abolition of Sunday Labour, presented to the House of Commons subsequent to the 23rd June, 1850.

Nottingham.	Members and Subscribers to Lloyd's.
Kingston-upon-Hull.	Bath.
Leith.	Public meeting held at the London
Arundel.	Tavern.
Torquay.	Sunderland.
Hereford.	E. Smith and Son, agents for the
Barristers attending Quarter Sessions	"Shipping and Mercantile Gazette."
at Durham.	Gateshead.
Coventry.	Bridport.
Birmingham.	Proprietors &c., of London News-
Richmond, Yorkshire.	papers.
Lyme Regis.	Sandwich.
Burntisland.	Canterbury.
Ashburton.	Birmingham.
Liverpool.	Durham.
Reform Association, Exeter.	Lymington.
Hurworth-upon-Tees.	Drogheda.
Southwold.	Chester.
Falmouth.	Chichester.
Alloa.	Hull.
Newcastle, Tyne.	Deal.
Ditto Corporation of.	Aberdeen.
Worcester.	New Sarum.
Northampton.	Ashton-under-Lyne.
Sunderland.	Ayr.
Parsonstown.	Eastern Reformed Presbyterian Synod
Burton, Trent.	of Ireland, August 2.
Derby.	

D

LIST of PETITIONS for the Abolition of Sunday Labour.

Glasgow, Ministers, &c. of Stockwell Free Church.	Glasgow, Citizens of.
Glasgow Letter Carriers of Post Office.	Arbroath.
Sherborne, Dorset.	Presbyterian Church, Ireland.
Edinburgh.	Bath.
Letter Carriers of Post Office at Darlington.	Kelso.
Lancaster.	Paisley, Middle Church.
Carlisle.	Taunton.
	Proprietors and others of London Newspapers.

APPENDIX E.

STATEMENT of the Number of Letters given for Six Monday Mornings * and Five Saturday Evenings before and after the 23rd June (the day upon which the present system commenced).

INWARDS.					
	Number.		Number.	Increase.	Decrease.
Monday Morning, May 13	224,250	Monday Morning, June 24	162,552	..	61,698
„ „ 20	248,909	„ „ July 1	152,466	..	96,443
„ „ 27	277,719	„ „ 8	164,933	..	112,786
„ June 3	233,683	„ „ 15	144,873	..	88,810
„ „ 10	225,535	„ „ 22	160,591	..	64,944
„ „ 17	252,170	„ „ 29	153,880	..	98,290
Total . . .	1,462,266	Total . . .	939,295	..	522,971
Average . . .	243,711*	Average . . .	156,549*	..	87,161*

OUTWARDS.					
	Number.		Number.	Increase.	Decrease.
Saturday Evening, May 25	150,880	Saturday Evening, June 29	147,259	..	3,621
„ „ June 1	162,410	„ „ July 6	133,251	..	29,159
„ „ 8	160,630	„ „ 13	137,120	..	13,510
„ „ 15	157,316	„ „ 20	135,422	..	21,894
„ „ 22	150,877	„ „ 27	145,414	..	5,463
Total . . .	772,113	Total . . .	698,466	..	73,647
Average . . .	154,422	Average . . .	139,693	..	14,729

* The letters received by the day-mail of the previous day (about 31,000 before and 29,000 since the alteration) are in every instance included with those of the following morning, and they cannot, without considerable trouble, be separated.

Inland Office, 29th July 1850.

W. BOKENHAM.

STATEMENT of the Number of Letters given for Six Tuesday Mornings * and Five Friday Evenings before and after the 23rd June (the day upon which the present system commenced).

INWARDS.					
	Number.		Number.	Increase.	Decrease.
1850		1850			
May 14	215,075	June 25	239,634	24,559	..
„ 21	195,391	July 2	265,076	69,685	..
„ 28	215,634	„ 9	243,859	28,225	..
June 4	223,525	„ 16	231,086	7,561	..
„ 11	215,123	„ 23	233,824	18,701	..
„ 18	211,395	„ 30	243,587	32,192	..
Total .	1,276,143	Total .	1,457,066	180,923	..
Average	212,690	Average	242,844	30,153	..

OUTWARDS.					
	Number.		Number.	Increase.	Decrease.
May 24	159,952	June 28	175,394	15,442	..
„ 31	159,179	July 5	173,407	14,228	..
June 7	167,655	„ 12	166,997	..	658
„ 14	171,835	„ 19	176,498	4,663	..
„ 21	157,167	„ 26	167,917	10,750	..
Total .	815,788	Total .	860,213	44,425	
Average	163,157	Average	172,042	8,885	

* The letters received by the day-mail of the previous day (about 23,000 before and 39,000 since the alteration) are in every instance included with those of the following morning, and they cannot, without considerable trouble, be separated.

Inland Office, 2nd August 1850.

W. BOKENHAM.

APPENDIX F.

PRECIS of the LETTERS on the subject of the late alteration in the SUNDAY POST DELIVERY.

1. Letters from Mr. J. Gilbert asking if he and other practical men may give evidence at the inquiry, relative to the transit of letters and newspapers.

Answered on the 24th July, that the Committee will be ready to receive any written communications or suggestions he may think fit to make on the subject; but the Committee do not at present intend to take any oral evidence.

2. Letters from Sir Thomas Birch, dated 21st July, enclosing a letter from Mr. Horsfall, late Mayor of Liverpool, and now Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce in that town, offering to supply information on the subject of closing the Post Office on the Sunday to the Committee appointed to investigate the subject, and suggesting, with a view of getting a dispassionate opinion on the working of the present system at Liverpool, to have the Postmaster before the Committee, to obtain a practical opinion as to the best mode of carrying out whatever plan they should ultimately consider best.

Answer sent to Sir T. Birch on the 24th to the same effect as above.

3. Letter from Mr. W. Brown, dated 15th July, enclosing a letter from Mr. J. B. Moore, also a late Mayor of Liverpool, requesting to know in what way the Committee for inquiring into the subject of the Sunday delivery of letters, receive information relating to the Post Office question, whether *viva voce* or written, and the points to which the evidence should be particularly directed, and what would be the best means to put an end to the present system.

Answer sent to Mr. W. Brown on the 24th July to the same effect as above.

4. Post Office petitions for rescinding resolution from various corporations, chief magistrates, Chambers of Commerce, and from Lloyds.

Nil.

5. Letter from Mr. Redington, dated Dublin Castle, 20th July, stating that although letters are delivered to him on Sundays, yet that those sent by him or other officials to the county will not be delivered to the parties to whom they are directed. The Crown Solicitor requested Sir T. R. to forward his communications (that being Saturday), but they would not, most probably, be delivered till the Court opened on Monday.

An order sent for cavalry to proceed for a distant part of the County Mayo, will in like manner not be delivered on Sunday, and may make the troops be late at their destination.

The circular about letters to Cabinet Ministers, official prisons, &c., does not meet the exigencies of the public service, as although Sir T. R. receives on a Sunday, the officials he addresses will not receive the letters he addresses to them on a Sunday.

No answer sent. Laid before Committee.

6. Letter from Mr. Green, dated 20th July, stating that instead of 38 hours as formerly in Framlingham, a delay of 62 hours takes place in the transmission of letters to London; a still greater delay, if the letters are sent to Cumberland or other more remote counties, distressingly at variance with the certainty and rapidity of communication hitherto enjoyed. Mr. G. trusts the inquiry will result in directing the country post offices to be again opened for Sunday delivery and transmission, in accordance with the order issued in October last.

The Postmaster at Framlingham is employed above three-quarters of an hour at 8 A. M., and a lull until mail-bag is made up at 7 P. M.. The Postmaster, therefore, has full liberty on Sundays from 9 till half-past 6.

Mr. Green suggests with respect to the walking class of postmen going to and returning from the rural villages on the Sunday with letters, that they could be dispensed with on the Sunday, by leaving the inhabitants of those places, if they anticipated or had any important communication to make from or to any quarter, to send to the Post Office within the district, or otherwise to remain in the Postmaster's possession till the Monday.

Answer sent to Mr. R. Green on the 25th July. Laid before Committee.

7. Letter from Sir John Hall, dated 17th July, stating that he has some information from his steward in Scotland which he wishes to communicate to the Committee of Inquiry into Sunday Labour in the Post Office.

Letter written to Sir J. Hall on the 24th July. Laid before Committee.

8. Letter from Sir John Hall, dated 25th July, in answer to the letter of the 24th, inclosing an extract from his steward's letter, dated Dungleigh near Cockburnspath, 13th July. "It is certainly a very great inconvenience to the poor people in the neighbourhood, such as Redheugh, Oldcambus, and places of like distance. They have always been in the habit of getting their letters after they come out of church, Sunday being the only day they are at Cockburnspath, and I should think this would be a general thing in the country. The Postmaster used to give out the letters, which took him about half an hour after the service; at present he has to be there for the purpose of sending off the bags both south and to Edinburgh, so he gains little by the change." Sir John Hall adds that in the Highlands of Scotland the argument would apply still more strongly. (Vide letter to the Times from Mr. Chambers, of the 19th June, on this subject.)

9. Letter from the Metropolitan Committee for promoting the total cessation of Sunday

labour in the Post Office Department, with a resolution that application be made to the Treasury to be allowed, previous to any final decision being adopted by the Government, to see the Report made by the Board appointed to conduct the inquiry, and to offer such suggestions as may be deemed expedient on its contents.

10. Also another letter from same Committee addressed to Lord John Russell.

An answer was sent on the 26th July to the effect that it is not usual to communicate reports previous to their presentation to Government; but the Committee will be ready to receive any written suggestions they may think proper to offer to them while the subject of their intended Report is under consideration.

11. Letter from Mr. C. Pountney, dated Manchester, 16th July, pointing out the peculiar inconvenience inflicted on the manufacturing districts in the north of England, by the existing Sunday postal arrangements, in their correspondence with the west and south of England. Letters arrive at Birmingham Post Office on their way to the north at a little before midnight; and there wait one hour for the London mail. That hour throws them into Sunday, and they remain in Birmingham 48 hours. Bristol letters, for instance, (only nine hours distant) posted on Saturday in Bristol, only reach Manchester on Tuesday morning. The loss of time thus entailed is a matter deserving the earliest attention.

Letter sent on the 27th July to Mr. Pountney stating the readiness of the Committee to receive suggestions on the subject. Laid before Committee.

12. Letter from Mr. Thomas, the station-master at Theale (near Reading), suggesting a means of meeting the difficulty of stopping letters, referring to illness and other extreme cases, sent on Sundays. The suggestion he offers to meet such extreme cases, without otherwise disturbing the present Sunday arrangement is the following:—

Suppose illness, sudden death, &c., to have occurred within the time when Post Offices are now closed, a letter describing such case, to be written, let it be carried open to the Post Office; be read by the postmaster, who then affixes thereupon a particular seal, who then sends it, with other similar letters, labelled "Letters of emergency, in a special bag," to the nearest railway station; such letters are then to be delivered immediately either by ordinary carriers or special messengers. To meet this extra trouble he suggests that an extra fee of 1s. or more be prepaid. Thus only no work, save "works of necessity, mercy, and charity" would be performed on Sundays.

Mr. Thomas also suggests that to remedy the inconvenience of detaining letters from six on Saturday evening until six on Monday morning, the letter-box be left open for one hour and a half longer on Saturdays at least, and a collection and delivery be made on Monday mornings at all villages near day-mail post towns.

Letter sent to Mr. Thomas on the 26th July stating the readiness of the Committee to receive suggestions from him or other practical men on the subject. Laid before Committee.

13. Letter from Mr. H. Wright, of Trunch, near North Walsham, Norfolk, dated 20th July, stating that he is largely connected with the corn trade both with London and the North Country houses, and that the late alteration is likely seriously to affect the position of all parties in the country districts. Mr. Wright is 18 miles from Norwich, the nearest railway to London or the northern districts, and it is impossible with the present arrangement, without sending a messenger to Norwich with a parcel containing the letters thence by railway, to have them delivered in time for Mark Lane on Monday, and Newcastle and Liverpool markets on Tuesday. The Norwich market being on a Saturday it is impossible during the height of the corn season to write to the various correspondents previous to leaving Norwich, and then to drive 18 miles; then to write on his return from Norwich from 10 to 15 letters, which have hitherto been sent by local mail from North Walsham to Norwich, and then by mail train to London, and delivered on Monday morning, and those to the north are forwarded and delivered on the Tuesday morning, before business hours. In cases of sudden death or illness occurring on Saturday evening or Sunday, no intelligence can be forwarded without sending to Norwich a parcel and thence by rail, with an order to send it on immediately at great expense, impossible to those who are not in affluent circumstances.

Letter written to Mr. Wright on the 27th July that Committee are ready to receive communications from him or others afflicted by late alterations, &c. Laid before Committee.

14. Letter from Mr. Buck, dated 19th July, enclosing an account of wheat, 800l., to be acknowledged by return of post, in which Mr. Buck urges on Lord John Russell the risk of not delivering or sending letters on Sundays in small country villages, Wakefield market, &c. On Friday a remittance is sent to him of 800l. on that day; it arrives in London on Saturday; to Colchester on the same day; to Stratford, on Sunday; it lies in the bag under the care of two old women all Sunday till seven o'clock on Monday morning. He can send no answer to any letter from Friday till Monday evening, nearly three days. He can send no orders to Monday's corn market or cattle market; all letters lying in the bags on Saturday, Sunday, till Monday evening seven o'clock. The risk and delay a great stoppage to business.

Letter written to Mr. Buck on the 27th July. Laid before Committee.

15. Letter from Mr. Mansfield, dated 17th July, forwarding a memorial from the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Corporation of Swansea, stating that a discontinuance of the Post Office delivery on Sundays will seriously and injuriously affect Swansea as a commercial and maritime town.

Letters containing intelligence of injury or damage to vessels in going down Channel, if posted at Milford Haven, or any other port on the west coast on Saturday, will not be delivered

in Swansea until Monday morning, and that delivery will in many cases be too late to reply by return of post; and thus an answer from an owner or agent at Swansea will not be received by the master of the vessel under Wednesday.

Letters containing intelligence of vessels from Cuba or South America, reaching the Land's End on Friday, and wishing to get a pilot or provisions from Swansea (a case of frequent occurrence), will not, under present regulations, be delivered at Swansea till Monday, and the delay of one day's post may occasion the loss of a fair wind for the pilot vessel intended to relieve the crew from a scarcity of provisions.

Charter-parties and insurances will be seriously affected by the suspension of the accustomed Sunday delivery. A charter-party sent from Swansea to London usually comes back by return of post, but will not now be delivered till Monday, and thus a serious loss may be occasioned to the shipowner or master, who may lose the chance of obtaining other freights.

The memorialists therefore pray that the new postal regulations be rescinded.

Letter written on the 27th July to the effect that Committee will be ready to receive any communication. Laid before Committee.

16. Letter from the Committee of the Sabbath Alliance, dated 24th July, stating that memorials are preparing in all parts of the country, praying that the new postal regulation may have a full and fair trial, and that such alterations be made in the arrangements of the Post Office as shall be found necessary for that purpose.

Further, that deputations from larger towns are anxious to wait on Lord John Russell on the subject, and place memorials in his hands, and requesting a day to be named when an audience can be granted.

Letter written on the 29th July, that the Committee will receive written communications, &c., but do not intend at present to take oral evidence.

17. Letter from the Society for Promoting due Observance of the Lord's Day, dated 26th July, stating that memorials are being prepared in all parts of the country, praying for the continuance of the present postal arrangement on the Lord's day, and soliciting that a day be appointed when a conjoint deputation from different parts of the country may be received, in order that they may express personally the great desire there exists in various localities that the first address of the House of Commons to the Queen, and Her Majesty's answer thereto, be fully carried out, and hinting that there will be a similar application from Scotland, suggesting whether the two deputations might not be received together.

Letter written on the 29th July, to effect that Committee will be ready to receive any written communication, but do not intend to take oral evidence.

18. Letter from the Wesleyan Sabbath Committee, dated 24th July, stating that a memorial from the ministers composing the Wesleyan Conference is preparing, in reference to the late postal changes, and requesting to know on what day a deputation can be received from the Conference in order to present the said memorial.

Letter written on the 29th July, to effect that the Committee will be ready to receive any written communication, but do not intend to take oral evidence.

19. Letter from Mr. C. D. Broughton, stating inconvenience felt from new postal arrangement in a case of sickness; and hoping that if these regulations continue, the penalty for sending letters by private hand will not be enforced, and some arrangement be made for receiving letters.

Letter acknowledged on 30th July. Laid before Committee.

20. Letter from Mr. C. Pountney, dated 29th July, Manchester, in which he corrects some statements made in his letter to Lord John Russell of the 16th instant (No. 11), relative to the length of time required to convey letters from the west to the north of England when posted on Sundays. The fault attributed to the new postal arrangement seems to lie with Mr. Pountney's own correspondent.

Nil.

21. Letter from Mr. Green, bookseller of Framlingham, dated 29th July, further on the subject of the inconvenience of the present postal arrangements.

Mr. Green also, on reconsideration, thinks the plan for relieving the rural walking messengers by leaving it to individuals, expecting letters, to send to the Post Office in their district for them, would be very objectionable. This plan he suggested in his letter of the 20th July (No. 6).

Nil.

21. Letter from Mr. Brown, M.P., for Liverpool, dated 30th July, with a letter from Mr. J. Bramley Moore, late mayor of Liverpool, adverting again to the Sunday postal question, and drawing attention to the case of those connected, like himself, with foreign countries, where they are entirely dependent on casualties for advices.

Mr. Moore states that he was staying at Newton for the health of one of his children; he had been a long time without advices from Brazil, and had left word to forward all foreign letters to him received on the Sunday by railroad. He received a parcel containing letters with bills to a large amount,—bills of lading and original letters of credit, with advice at the same time of three vessels having sailed with the produce against which the bills were drawn. A French frigate sailed 14 days before with the first of four, and duplicates of advices were forwarded by another vessel, but neither had arrived.

Mr. Moore was therefore, with bills, &c., and advice of three ships having sailed, bills not

accepted, and the produce insured, the loss of which might have reached him by the same post.

To add to this critical state of things, Mr. Moore received by same mail the news of the stoppage of the drawers of part of the bills. Nothing remained for Mr. Moore but to proceed at once to London.

Another case. By special agreement in Rio, bills were to be drawn against produce to be accepted to Mr. Moore's satisfaction. Mr. Moore declined to take the bills without a guarantee.

On the Sunday Mr. Moore received a legal notice of an injunction to embargo three cargoes at Falmouth, and to force him to give them up for their acceptance. Mr. Moore went to London, got a hearing on the Tuesday, and the injunction was dissolved.

The parties alluded to failed two months afterwards, and Mr. Moore would have been creditor for about 25,000*l*.

Mr. Moore's foreign postage is very heavy, and he never refuses the duplicates, though many houses do refuse them when they have received the originals. The Post Office may fairly enforce the payment on all foreign letters, or amend the present system.

Letter acknowledged. Laid before Committee.

22. Letter dated 22nd July, from Mr. Stanton, a manufacturer of cloth at Stafford Mills, near Stroud, on the working of the new postal Sunday delivery.

Mr. Stanton states he invested many thousand pounds in mills and machinery, and he employs 500 men.

He points out the value of a Sunday delivery to himself. It enables his agent in London—his great mart—or any of his connexions there, to communicate with him without loss of commercial time; *i. e.*, as the commercial day ceases in town on Saturday at 4 or 5 P.M., and commences again on Monday at 9, Mr. Stanton's answer to his agent or correspondents on any point of emergency, would be as quickly and as certainly given as though he resided in town. This desirable and important facility he has now enjoyed for 35 years, and he respectfully protests against its being taken away from him.

Again, he has commercial connexions on the continent of Europe, in Asia and America. His foreign letters—up to the late change—which reached England on Saturday, were delivered to him on Sunday morning. They now reach him 30 hours later.

Under the old system, if important information arrived affecting prices, he was enabled to operate on equal terms with the London houses on Monday morning.

Mr. Stanton leaves to others the social and religious view of the subject. As a commercial man, he claims at the hands of the Government a continuance of the facilities he has hitherto enjoyed in the conduct of his trade, which does not militate against the general good.

Letter written to Mr. Stanton on 31st July, to effect that the subject will have the Committee's most serious consideration. Laid before Committee.

23. Letter dated 28th July, from the Rev. Mr. Baglee, Secretary to the Lord's-day Society, enclosing copies of correspondence relating to the late postal changes, selected from many others of the same character, and calculated to show the acceptableness of the change to the country generally, and the futility of the allegations adduced against it.

Letter acknowledged by Post Office on the 25th July. Laid before Committee.

24. Letter from the Rev. Mr. Tolley, dated Manchester, 9th July, referring to one written by himself in October last, under the painful sensation felt by himself and others who regarded the Sunday as a day of rest, at the order suddenly issued for opening to a limited extent the London Post Office on Sundays.

Mr. Tolley submits that the public commotion is the natural consequence of such sudden changes in the measures of the Government.

Mr. Tolley refers to the collect of June, "That the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered by God's governance, that his church may joyfully serve him in all godly quietness." He asks how this quietness of mind is to prevail unless the rulers of a state will, in the exercise of the power entrusted to them, conform to the pattern of the Divine government, in which nothing is ever done abruptly. He adverts to Christianity which was gradually introduced, &c.

He again draws attention generally to the injurious effect of sudden changes in the order of Government. He forbears to give an opinion on the complex question submitted to the House of Commons, and laments any public disputation on the subject of the Sabbath. He notices the conflicting claims of religion and of the world arising from the mixed constitution of mind and body involved in it, which can be adjusted only by much calm consideration—the subject not one for popular discussion.

Letter acknowledged on 17th July by the Post Office. Laid before Committee.

25. Letter from the deputy postmistress of Lyme, dated 29th July, stating that those persons who at first loudly declaimed against the late postal alterations are now, to all appearance, fully reconciled, while the relief to the Post Office servants is very great.

She then enters into detail of the number employed previous to the new regulation of 23rd June and now.

Letter acknowledged on 1st August. Laid before Committee.

26. Letter dated Burnham, the 20th July, from Mr. Roberts, M.D., calling attention to the order to postmasters, directing them to "forward all letters to Cabinet Ministers and Government offices," and submitting whether it would not be common humanity on the part of the authorities to extend that order to all letters written to or by medical men.

If the cholera should appear, this senseless edict would be quickly swept away, or people would find channels for themselves.

Letter acknowledged on 1st August. Laid before Committee.

27. Letter from Mr. Mackenzie, Editor of the "Scotch Reformer's Gazette," dated 13th July, Glasgow, calling attention to an article (enclosed by him) in the "Scotch Reformer's Gazette," headed "Good News for the Sabbatarian Letter-carriers."

Letter acknowledged by the Post Office on 17th July. Laid before Committee.

28. Letter from Mr. Musgrave, dated Post Office, Bath, 6th July, enclosing extract from a local paper regarding the two petitions—one for and the other against the new postal arrangement—lying for signature at Bath.

Nil.

29. Letter from Mr. Moore, dated Lyme Regis, 27th July, enclosing a document for the consideration of the Committee appointed to inquire into Sunday labour in the Post Office.

(The document is long, but goes to the effect that the inhabitants of Lyme Regis, especially the poor, are content with the present regulation.)

Letter acknowledged on 1st August. Laid before Committee.

30. Letter from Mr. Stanford, near Hinton, and several others, representing the great inconvenience they are now put to by the recent alterations in the Post Office.

They assure the Committee that the non-delivery of Letters on Sundays has, on several occasions, been attended with serious inconvenience and loss.

They consider the delivery of letters on the Lord's-day a work of necessity.

They state that such employment need not interfere with the religious duties of the letter-carriers in that district, as they may attend Divine service at Dunwich.

They end by begging that the same advantages lately enjoyed be restored to them.

Answered on 1st August. Laid before Committee.

31. Letter from Mr. J. D. Broughton, dated 28th July, Plymouth, respecting the inconvenience caused by the late postal arrangements in respect to sickness. His wife's mother sick at Boulogne.

Answered on the 31st July. Laid before Committee.

32. Letter from Mr. Davies, dated 27th July, Coalford, Broxly. He has a brick-work, and sends bricks down the Severn in barges of his own. Sometimes they are weeks without a navigable water, and then comes a freshet which passes by in the course of two or three hours, leaving the river as low as before. They get intimation of these visitations by letter, a day before the freshet comes,—say from Shrewsbury; the barges are then loaded ready beside his wharf. By the new arrangements, Mr. Davies would lose this arrangement on Sundays, when the freshet frequently comes. He hopes the vexatious change will speedily be revised.

Answered by the Post Office. Laid before Committee.

33. Memorial from the merchants, bankers, &c., of Kingston-upon-Hull, requesting that a fair trial be given to the new postal arrangements for at least 12 months.

Memorial acknowledged by the Post Office. Laid before Committee.

34. Letter from Mr. Leeds, enclosing from Mr. Brown, M. P., for Liverpool, a letter from Mr. Reay on the subject of the new postal arrangements. Mr. Reay belongs to the Liverpool Guardian Society for the protection of trade. Valuable information he knows may be obtained from police offices as to the bad effect the new arrangements have upon their operations, with regard to transmission of information and detection of fugitive felons.

Letter acknowledged, and will be laid before the Committee.

35. Letter from Mr. T. Hill, of Peterborough, dated 24th June, calling attention to inconvenience of closing the Peterborough Post Office so early as half-past 9. This inconvenience much aggravated by late postal arrangements, and suggesting alterations.

Letter acknowledged by Post Office on 4th July. Laid before Committee.

36. Letter from Mr. Pratt, dated Stokesby, 24th June, complaining of the vote of the House of Commons respecting postal arrangements, by which his letters posted on Saturday remained 43 hours in the Post Office, by which an acceptance of his will be dishonoured. He hopes the obnoxious course may be discontinued.

Letters acknowledged by the Post Office;—the case arose from misconception at Northallerton. Laid before Committee.

37. Letter from Mr. W. S. Bland, dated Haverfordwest, 24th June, complaining of the cruel hardship of stopping the mail on Sunday.

Letter acknowledged by Post Office. Laid before Committee.

38. Letter from Mr. Porter, of the Board of Trade, respecting the delivery of letters at Putney, &c., on Sunday mornings.

Letter acknowledged by Post Office. Laid before Committee.

39. Letter from Mr. Hunt, dated Aylesbury, 1st July, on the subject of the late Post Office regulations, relating to non-delivery of letters on Sunday, with particular reference to bankers' letters, which in a majority of cases contain remittances in cheques or bills, or cash notes of value.

The risk is great of retaining such letters in the Post Office all Sunday, and suggesting certain alterations.

Answer sent from Post Office. Laid before Committee.

40. Letter from Mr. Beeby respecting delivery of letters at Coningsby. Letters posted on Saturday not delivered till Tuesday.

Letter sent from Post Office that Mr. Beeby is incorrect in his surmise.

41. Letter from Mr. Ogle, of Woking, respecting the last regulations issued by Post Office.

Letter acknowledged by Post Office.

42. Letter from Mr. O. Gore, complaining of the new regulations. Letters posted on Saturday evening not delivered in town till Tuesday.

Letter acknowledged by Post Office.

43. Letter from Rev. H. Hall, dated 16th July, Derby, stating that the mail-cart still runs on Sundays.

Letter answered by Post Office.

44. Letter from some anonymous correspondent at Dundee, dated 17th July, enclosing a printed paper on the subject of the late postal arrangements.

Nil.

45. Letter from Mr. Fox, of Plymouth, dated 18th July, stating the loss and inconvenience they, as merchants, have received by the non-delivery of letters on Sunday, and by not being permitted to post or forward them on that day. As agents for ships arriving and leaving it is essential they should receive and forward letters on Sundays as heretofore.

Letter acknowledged on 25th July by Post Office. Laid before Committee.

46. Letter from Mr. Macfie, of Liverpool, dated 18th July, with a copy of a letter addressed to Lord John on the subject of the new postal arrangement.

Mr. Macfie forwards suggestions calculated to mitigate the evils of a partial resumption of the suspended labours, should such be decided.

- (1.) Let no letter be delivered or despatched which is not franked with 12 extra stamps.
- (2.) Let none be delivered or despatched which involve any money payment.
- (3.) Let there be no out-door delivery; parties requiring letters must call for them.
- (4.) Attendance at the office limited to one hour.

If out-door delivery be resumed,—

- (1.) Let the delivery be restricted to houses provided with letter-boxes.
- (2.) Let the public be aware that delivery of letters is restricted to cases of necessity.

Letter acknowledged by Post Office 25th July. Laid before Committee.

47. Letter from W. D. Bromley, Esq., dated 19th July, stating that 140 miles from London, near Ashham, London correspondence suffers an extra blank day. A letter posted at Ellaston after 4 o'clock on Saturday is not forwarded until 4 o'clock on Monday, consequently it is not delivered in London till Tuesday.

Letter acknowledged by Post Office 22nd July. Laid before Committee.

48. Letter from Mr. Hamilton, dated Bunbury, enclosing a hand-bill offering a reward for capture of certain highway robbers, which was not allowed to be forwarded on Sunday. The murderers may therefore escape owing to the Post Office regulation. Mr. Hamilton remarks upon the empty bags going, leaving boxes of letters behind.

Letter acknowledged by Post Office. Laid before Committee.

49. Letter from Messrs. G. Eastlake and Co., with memorial from attorneys practising at Plymouth, praying in effect that the recent postal regulations, restricting the reception and delivery of letters on Sunday, be rescinded.

Letter acknowledged on 27th July by the Post Office. Laid before Committee.

50. Letter from Mr. John Cree, dated 20th July, near Weymouth, stating how petitions are got up in the country:—

A form is sent down by the society in London to the vicar, which he brought to a vestry and could not obtain a single signature but his own. He then sent it to the Post Office, where it lay some days without success. The postmaster and postman were then employed to take it round the village, and obtained about 20 signatures, &c.

Letter acknowledged by Post Office 27th July. Laid before Committee.

51. Letter from Mr. Harris, dated 23rd July, enclosing a memorial from his constituents at Leicester, expressing their satisfaction that the postal arrangements as to the non-delivery of letters on Sundays will receive further consideration.

The stoppage of letters on Sundays has given great and general dissatisfaction, and occasioned much inconvenience, &c.

Acknowledged by Post Office on 25th July. Laid before Committee.

52. Letter from Thomas Hawker, dated 25th July, enclosing a memorial from the attorneys of Devonport respecting the recent change in the Post Office, and complaining of the great inconvenience and injury to their clients.

Acknowledged by Post Office on 30th July. Laid before Committee.

53. Letter from Mr. Downman, dated 1st July, stating inconvenience he suffers through the recent most absurd and iniquitous arrangement of the Post Office in detaining letters on Sunday, and complaining of the postmaster at Llanelly for detaining letters there all Sunday.

Letter written on 12th July by Post Office, and complaint attended to respecting detention of letters on Sunday at Llanelly Post Office.

54. Letter from Mr. Roberts, M.D., dated 2nd July, denouncing the present postal arrangements on Sunday.

Letter acknowledged 5th July by Post Office. Laid before Committee.

55. Letter from Mr. May, dated 1st July, Maldon, hoping that another and retrograde movement will speedily be made, or the present system will lead to awful desecration of the Sabbath.

Letter acknowledged by Post Office 3rd July. Laid before Committee.

56. Letter from Messrs. Iglar and Co., dated 1st July, Nuneaton, stating they are put to great inconvenience by late alterations, and trust the former system will be restored.

Letter acknowledged. Laid before Committee.

57. Letter from an anonymous correspondent at Worcester, dated 4th July, stating that the Town Council are about to memorialize for a return to the old system, but that this is against the wish of the majority.

Nil. Laid before Committee.

58. Read letter from Messrs. Paul, nursery gardeners, near Cheshunt, Herts, complaining of the present regulations, and suggesting that they may receive their letters, &c., on Saturday evening, by applying between 10 and 11.

Application refused by Post Office.

59. Letter from Mr. Simmonds, dated 4th July, Maidstone, calling attention to the great inconvenience experienced by himself and others from the recent alterations in the Post Office, by non-delivery of letters on Sundays.

Before the alteration the letters were delivered on Sunday morning at 8, and Mr. Simmonds had time to read and write answers before leaving Maidstone early on Monday morning for town.

He alludes to the greater desecration of the Sabbath that must ensue from sending men and horses all over the country; whereas a few men did in a few hours satisfy the wants of all, rich and poor.

He requests a return to former system.

Acknowledged by Post Office. Laid before Committee.

60. Letter from Mr. Kell, Town Clerk, Gateshead, dated 5th July, transmitting a petition from the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the borough of Gateshead, in the county of Durham, protesting against the recent regulations, by which the Sunday delivery has been stopped.

Stating that the consequences of the new regulation will be a greater desecration of the Sabbath—a contraband conveyance of letters to the injury of the revenue—a Sunday attendance at news-rooms and public-houses, for the purpose of procuring intelligence hitherto obtained at home—and possibly a belief that the Legislature cares nothing for the inconveniences entailed upon the poor so long as the privileges of the wealthier classes are inviolate.

They, therefore, pray that the recent regulations—by which the delivery of letters received and the forwarding of letters posted on Sunday were stopped—may be immediately repealed.

Acknowledged by Post Office. Laid before Committee.

61. Letter from the Post Office, Dublin, enclosing a resolution come to by the grand jury of Ennis, that the late regulation in pursuance of which the forwarding and delivery of letters on Sundays have been prohibited, is most detrimental to the public interest, and calculated, in many instances, to cause irreparable loss.

Acknowledged by Post Office. Laid before Committee.

62. Letter from Mr. Gilpin, High Sheriff of Beds, dated 30th June, suggesting that, during the present inconvenient regulations respecting Sunday, an opportunity could be afforded of receiving letters on Saturday night beyond the usual hour of closing by persons sending to the office for letters.

Acknowledged by Post Office. Laid before Committee.

63. Letter from Mr. Williams, Old Bank, Dorchester, dated 8th July, stating inconvenience of present arrangement, by which letters to reach London on Monday morning must be put into post on Saturday, and lie there all Saturday night and Sunday.

Saturday being market-day, more business is done on that day, and the letters, therefore, contain very considerable sums of money.

Mr. Williams points out the great insecurity of the Post Office; no place where letters of value may be safely deposited; and requests that he may be allowed to give his letters on Sunday night to postmaster for transmission by that night's post.

Acknowledged by Post Office. Laid before Committee.

64. Letter from Mr. Stone, of Eastbourne, dated 8th July, stating the very serious delay

and inconvenience to business caused by the recent alteration made by Government in the closing of the Post Office on Sundays.

If the present system is to continue, Mr. Stone suggests various alterations—two mails daily instead of one, &c. Frequently letters have to be written after the mail has left on Saturday night; in which case letters don't reach their destination till Tuesday.

Letter answered by Post Office. Laid before Committee.

65. Letter from Messrs. Gronock, requesting to know to whom petitions on subject of Post Office alterations are to be addressed.

Letter answered by Post Office.

66. Letter from Mr. Thomas, of Pembroke Dock, dated 24th June, respecting Post Office arrangements.

Letter answered by Post Office.

67. Anonymous letter from Weymouth, dated —, stating that the inconvenience in such a county as Devon, of the new postal arrangement, is most severe.

Should the present postal interruption continue, other means, however insecure and inconvenient and much to be deprecated, will be resorted to, to thwart a measure of cant and bigotry, so loudly complained of, and producing such universal discontent.

Nil. Laid before Committee.

68. Letter from Mrs. F. S. Barlee, dated 13th July, Bungay, Suffolk, stating that her progenitors, generation after generation, received their post letters on Sunday, and much mental torture is inflicted upon Mrs. Barlee by the detention of her letters on Sundays. Post letters are not only of immense importance to her in her affairs, but a consolation in her affliction; and she asks for a special delivery to herself, if a general one cannot be given.

She suggests the Jews for Sunday letter-carriers; and asks if the Government has any regard for women's feelings.

She ends by trusting that the provincial Sunday delivery be resumed without delay.

Acknowledged by Post Office. Laid before Committee.

69. Letter from Mr. C. Blair, dated Ilfracombe, 16th July, suggesting whether the abridgment of Sunday labour in the Post Office may not be obtained in the following ways:—

(1.) By allowing persons to send to the Post Office for letters on Sunday, between certain hours, as in Edinburgh, before the recent alteration.

(2.) By some arrangement, securing the delivery of letters an hour or two earlier on Sunday than on other days, so as to let the carriers and other servants of Post Office free in time to attend Divine service.

Few persons would, he thinks, be found to object to despatching mails to London on Sunday night.

Acknowledged by Post Office. Laid before Committee.

70. Letter from Mr. G. Bagnall, dated Carmarthen, 11th July, stating the inconveniences entailed on commercial men by the late regulations. He hopes the Sunday delivery will be again restored to them.

Letter acknowledged by Post Office. Laid before Committee.

71. Letter from Mr. J. Carrick, dated 29th July, Kingston-on-Hull, with memorial from Hull Lay Committee, for procuring the cessation of the Sunday delivery of letters.

They allege that if the recent measure be tried 12 months, a very great majority in the provincial towns will be in that time as averse to return to the former plan as the inhabitants of London are to any change.

Acknowledged by Post Office. Laid before Committee.

72. Letter from J. Clephan, dated Gateshead, 29th July, stating that owing to late regulations, and at a time, when, from the illness of a relation, he is most anxious for news, he is two days, from Saturday to Monday, without intelligence; for ought he knows his mother may be no more, and the resolution of the House of Commons may have deprived him of the mournful satisfaction of seeing her again before her departure.

What is occurring at Gateshead may be afflicting thousands of others, and ought to serve as an inducement to the Commons to relax the present cruel Post Office regulations.

Acknowledged by Post Office. Laid before Committee.

73. Letter from Mr. Joseph Wilson, Secretary to the Committee for promoting the due observance of the Lord's-day, dated 30th July, requesting to know whether the Committee appointed to inquire into Sunday labour in the Post Office, will receive a deputation on the subject of the late postal regulations, and against their being rescinded: and asking for some day to be fixed after the 15th August.

Acknowledged; and told that the Committee is ready to receive any written communication or suggestion, but do not intend at present to take oral evidence.

74. Letter from Mr. Peachey, dated Glasgow, 2nd August, requesting to know if a deputation of working-men could be received, and when, on the subject of the recent salutary change adopted in the Post Office Department on the Sabbath.

Same answer as above.

75. Letter from the Moderator of the Presbytery of Dunkald, in connexion with the Free

Church of Scotland, dated 16th July, stating that they rejoice in the opportunity of rest afforded by the Sabbath; that they are satisfied that all labour in the Post Office Department on the Lord's-day is wholly unnecessary, and therefore sinful; grievously oppressive to thousands of Post Office servants, and incalculably demoralizing to vast numbers of people. That they are grateful for the order lately issued for a partial cessation from Sabbath labour in Post Office, and are persuaded that if fair trial be given, its beneficial effects will be manifest to others who now regard Post Office work on Lord's-day as indispensable to welfare of community.

They hear with concern the attempts made to induce Her Majesty to reverse the order without sufficient trial, and request it may not be recalled.

Answered—that it shall be submitted to Committee for their serious consideration.

76. Letter from Mr. Horsfall, late Mayor of Liverpool, dated 1st August, stating, that as Chairman of a Committee at Liverpool, on the subject of Sunday labour in the Post Office, and speaking the sentiments of that Committee, Mr. Horsfall is extremely anxious that the present system should have a full and fair trial before any alteration is consented to, on the alleged ground of commercial inconvenience, or that of social anxiety with respect to absent friends and relations.

Both these grounds Mr. Horsfall maintains, have been already tested. London is no way different to any other large town in the kingdom, except, that as its population is larger, so its communications are necessarily more important and extensive.

The inhabitants of London will not have a Sunday delivery, and Mr. Horsfall argues that the necessity or anxiety for intelligence in smaller towns cannot exist to a degree which should render the delivery of letters on Sunday necessary, when that necessity or anxiety do not exist among population of the metropolis.

The more plausible objection to present system is the increase to Sunday labour. This fact Mr. Horsfall controverts.

Much has been said about private posts, and the increase of labour by systematic delivery of newspapers on Sundays. But Mr. Horsfall maintains, that if this takes place at all, it will only be for a very short time, and the measure will be accepted in all the large towns as in London, as a great boon to the community.

In Liverpool, for instance, one newsvendor advertised his intention of having a staff for the express purpose of delivering newspapers on Sunday morning. The first Sunday after the change he sent one man out on horseback for this purpose; since which, however, the man has been discontinued.

Mr. Horsfall states, that so far from the change having increased the labour of the servants of this newsvendor on Sunday, it has materially diminished it; the newspapers being now delivered on Saturday night. All the other newsvendors in Liverpool now deliver them on Saturday evening.

If these views are supported by other testimony from other principal towns, the Committee need not sanction any change from the present system until it has had a longer trial than it can possibly have had during the short period which has elapsed since the change came into operation.

Acknowledged 3rd August. Laid before Committee.

77. Letter from Mr. J. Childs, dated Bungay, 25th June, enclosing a petition presented to Parliament against the late change in the Sunday delivery of letters. Among other points, the petitioners call attention to the danger from fire and robbery to letters containing valuable property which may lie 24 hours in insecure rooms in country towns.

Acknowledged by Post Office. Laid before Committee.

78. Letter from Mr. Osler, dated 30th July, giving cases of individual hardship to himself, arising from the late postal arrangements.

Letter acknowledged by Post Office. Laid before Committee.

79. Letter from Mr. E. Hearn, dated Hunt-green Parsonage, Blackburn, August 3, stating some facts with regard to the postmaster of that village, and respecting the Sunday newspapers.

Acknowledged on 5th August. Laid before Committee.

80. Letter from Mr. Lock, dated 2nd August, forwarding several complaints, addressed to himself, against the recent closing of the Post Office on Sundays, and requesting that the same be laid before the Committee of Inquiry.

He also encloses copy of a report made by a Committee of the United States Legislature, to whom memorials for stopping the mails on Sundays had been referred—a document which Mr. Lock states to be so ample and able as to render it unnecessary for him to recommend it to the serious consideration of the Committee.

Letter acknowledged on 3rd August. Laid before Committee.

81. Letter from Mr. Forster, dated New City Chambers, 31st July, transmitting two petitions on the subject of the Sunday postage arrangements.

The one from the merchants, magistrates, &c. of Plymouth, enumerating the inconveniences to which they are subjected by the late arrangement, viz. :—The detention of vessels calling at Plymouth for orders, on their return from foreign voyages or otherwise; the maintenance of a crew for one day, being no small loss to merchants or their correspondents, who are ship-owners; and the loss of a market occasioned by the non receipt of advices—a still more serious injury. These objections apply with equal force to vessels about to sail for foreign

ports, especially Australian colonies, where steam communication is not regular, and latest advices a great object. Also the diminished means of effecting assurances; any impediment to which most prejudicial to merchants.

The interference with regular advices in money transactions a peculiar hardship to merchants, bankers, and tradesmen.

The increased delay in all matters connected with proceedings of law. The obstruction in the transmission of intelligence in case of war, especially prejudicial to inhabitants of Plymouth, as there is no electric telegraph. A variety of other objections of a public, mercantile, and private nature may be urged against the present restrictions.

They therefore request that the Sunday Post Office delivery be renewed as speedily as possible.

The second petition is from Lloyd's, dated 31st July, calling attention to their petition to the House of Commons of 4th July, setting forth the grounds on which they apprehended serious inconvenience to insurance business and commerce of the country from stoppage of usual means of communication, and reiterating the statements contained in the petition, which the short experience of the closing of the Post Offices in the outports on Sundays fully confirms. Information may and will be very extensively conveyed by rail, as information is indispensable to commerce of the country; but by this, Sunday labour will be rather increased than diminished; and the remedy partial and inadequate when compared with more efficient and less laborious communication by post.

They therefore express an earnest desire that the postal communication with the outports on Sundays be restored.

Acknowledged on 3rd August. The Committee will give it their serious attention.

82. Letter from Mr. Hugh Allan, rector of Cricklade, dated August 7th, 1850, bearing testimony to the great satisfaction which the late postal arrangements have given to the inhabitants of Cricklade, and the neighbourhood. He has only heard of two instances where the new arrangement was objected to; and that in one at least, of these cases the dissatisfaction arose from a misconception. On enquiry of our postmaster whether he had heard any complaints, he very decidedly answered that he had not received one complaint. For the last 10 or 12 years he has been in the habit of allowing all his letters which came on Sunday morning to remain at the Post Office till Monday, and he never found any inconvenience from the practice.

Acknowledged on the 8th August. Laid before Committee.

83. Letter from Mr. Yardley, vicar of St. Chads, Shrewsbury, dated August 1850, testifying that the new postal arrangements are generally acceptable, and most beneficial in a moral, a spiritual, and likewise in a physical point of view. The regular attendance in St. Chad's church, every Sunday, of persons belonging to the Post Office, who were heretofore precluded from such attendance is one most pleasing fact in favour of the present new system.

Acknowledged on the 8th August 1850. Laid before Committee.

84. Letter from Mr. Page, incumbent of St. Matthew, Rugby, dated 7th August 1850, stating that the new postal arrangements has been most acceptable to the far greater part of the respectable inhabitants within his district; that he has forwarded petitions to the First Lord of the Treasury, praying that such a step might be taken, and that for several years many members of his congregation have forbidden any letters to be brought to their houses on the Lord's day, who all affirm that they have never suffered any inconvenience from doing so. He therefore fervently hopes that the order for the non-delivery of letters on the Lord's day will not be rescinded.

Acknowledged on the 8th August 1850. Laid before Committee.

85. Letter from Mr. Brooks, vicar of St. Mary's, Nottingham, dated 6th August, 1850, stating that after making enquiry in various directions relative to the effect of the new postal arrangements, he finds they have been generally acceptable to the community at Nottingham. He has heard of only two instances to the contrary; the one being a manufacturer, a foreigner and a Jew, who complained that he could not obtain his letters on the Sunday, as that was the day on which he gave his entire attention to his correspondence; the other being an eccentric tradesman, who said he was always closely engaged in business every day of his life until midnight, and that the new arrangement deprived him of his chief luxury on the Sunday, which was to lie in bed until he had spelt through his weekly newspaper. Great misapprehension, he considers, exists with regard to persons being deprived of the opportunity of hearing of the serious illness of a relative or friend. This inconvenience ever has been experienced by the population of London, and to a great extent by the population of the country, only on the Saturday instead of on the Sunday. At Nottingham, *e. g.* no mails were despatched on the evening of the former day *previous* to the new arrangement. Consequently, if it was desirable to apprise a distant relative on the Saturday of the dangerous illness of any party here, the thing was impracticable by post on that day. Or if intelligence of an urgent nature and requiring an immediate reply was received here on the Saturday, the answer would not leave the town, even though posted, until the following evening.

He would nevertheless respectfully suggest that a very slight relaxation of the new arrangements would remove the great mass of the objections made, *viz.*, to allow one hour at every Post Office in the country in which letters should be delivered at the *windows* only on Sundays; in towns where the mail arrives during or near divine service the hour for delivery to be immediately *after* divine service.

Acknowledged on the 8th August 1850. Laid before Committee.

86. Letter from Mr. Watson King, incumbent of Batley, Dewsbury, stating that for some few years past they have dispensed with a Sunday delivery altogether; that the inhabitants, consisting in a great measure of merchants, small clothing manufacturers, and artizans, have petitioned more than once of late for the cessation of postal labour on Sundays; and that there can be no doubt that such a final arrangement will be very thankfully accepted here.

Acknowledged on the 8th August 1850. Laid before Committee.

87. Letter from Mr. Cheap, vicar of Knaresbrough, dated 7th August 1850, stating the contentment that has been evinced here by the new postal arrangements.

1st. By the *removal* of an offensive sight to the congregations proceeding to worship in their respective places of public assemblage, in the postman employed in delivering letters throughout the town.

2nd. In the satisfaction expressed by that individual and others connected with the Post Office on their *release* from an oppressive duty, with freedom of enjoyment of religious services, finding it "good and pleasant" to unite with the great congregation.

3rd. The public *demonstration* thus afforded by Government to the solemnity of the Lord's day of rest, and the check given thereby to a growing disposition of desecrating the sacred day, and *lamentably affecting the rising generation*.

Acknowledged on the 8th August 1850. Laid before Committee.

88. Letter from Mr. Simpson, of Hadleigh, Secretary to the local Association of the Lord's Day Society, dated 7th August 1850, stating, that having made personal inquiry of the postmaster of Hadleigh, as to whether complaints have been made or any inconvenience expressed from any persons by the cessation of postal work on the Lord's day in this town and neighbourhood, also of the clergymen, rector, &c., also of bankers, private individuals, &c., whether they have suffered inconvenience, and that all are agreed, even those who at first opposed the measure, that there appears no necessity whatever for receiving and delivering of letters on the Lord's day, but rather receive it as a great boon.

Acknowledged on the 8th August 1850. Laid before Committee.

89. Letter from the Rev. Sir George Glyn, dated Ewell, 7th August 1850, stating, as regards the feelings of the greater number of the inhabitants of Ewell on the postal question, that there have been two petitions to the House of Commons and a memorial to Lord John Russell in favour of the recent order—these were all numerously signed, including a majority of the constituency and all the parish officers.

Sir George submits, for the information of the Committee, that if the following reasonable accommodation were conceded by the Post Office authorities there would not, he believes, be a dissentient voice or a wish to return to Sunday delivery, viz.—

At present the Saturday-night mail from London reaches Epsom, the post town (one mile and a-half from Ewell), at 2 o'clock A.M., Sunday; if this mail left London a few hours earlier on Saturday afternoon a delivery might easily be effected on Saturday night, and no further occasion exist for a morning delivery on Sunday. Thus the Sabbath would remain untouched, all reasonable ground of complaint be removed, and the country postmasters, clerks, and letter-carriers continue to enjoy that Sabbath rest which as a body they have so highly appreciated and thankfully received at the hands of Her Majesty's Government.

Acknowledged on the 8th August 1850. Laid before Committee.

90. Letter from Mr. Twells, dealer in metals, of Birmingham, dated 7th August 1850, stating the acceptableness, as far as regards himself, of the new postal arrangements, having found no inconvenience at all in his business, and what delay he occasionally experienced in hearing from different members of his family who have been scattered about, he very cheerfully put up with, and he earnestly entreats that these arrangements may not be disturbed.

Acknowledged on the 8th August 1850. Laid before Committee.

91. Letter from Mr. Pugh, M.P., dated 6th August 1850, stating, that as he voted with my Lord Ashley for the cessation of the Sunday labour in the Post Office, he deems it right to communicate the great inconvenience and annoyance the public are now suffering under; during the last fortnight his wife has been dangerously ill in London, part of his family are in town, the remainder at his seat in Montgomeryshire, the latter could receive no information by post from Saturday morning until Monday, in consequence of the stopping of the delivery of letters on Sunday. He considers this alteration of the Post Office arrangements has had a trial, and subjects the public to the greatest possible inconvenience, particularly the humbler classes.

Acknowledged on the 8th August 1850. Laid before Committee.

92. Memorial from the Metropolitan Committee for promoting the total cessation of Sunday labour in the Post Office, submitting—

(1.) That there is, in fact, very little dissatisfaction with the system which has now been in force for several weeks past.

(2.) That whatever dissatisfaction does exist is chiefly to be attributed to the suddenness of the change, to the want of understanding the new regulations, and to the want of those facilities which, had more time been given, might have been afforded by the Post Office authorities.

(3.) That there is every reason to believe that the system which would be most acceptable to the people at large, would be such a modification of that now in force as should increase the facilities already existing on Saturday evenings and on Monday mornings, leaving Sunday, as it now is, almost wholly free from Post Office labour.

On these points,—that very little dissatisfaction at present exists with reference to the recent

cessation of Sunday labour,—the Committee refer to the several statements which they enclose.

With reference to the three points they suggest that a decision once arrived at and made public, that newspapers would not be transmitted on Sundays, would immediately lead to such an adjustment of the hours of publication of the weekly journals as would at once obviate all the difficulties of this part of the case.

That the extension of the morning mails to many important towns which at present have only one delivery daily, would remove all ground of complaint on the part of the readers of weekly newspapers.

And that in exchange for the relief granted on Sunday, the provincial postmasters, clerks, and messengers might fairly be called on for some extra labour, both on Saturday evenings and Monday mornings.

With some adjustments of this kind the Committee are convinced that the present system would work so as to give universal satisfaction.

But on the other hand they are well assured that anything like a return to the former practice will excite a feeling of disappointment and irritation, which will produce a new and augmented expression of public discontent.

Acknowledged on the 7th August 1850. Laid before Committee.

93. Letter from Mr. T. Simcox Lea and others, dated Astley Hall, Stourport, 7th August 1850, stating that having been until very lately, and during a period of 45 years, engaged in the largest manufactory of Kidderminster, and never having allowed the opening or answering of business letters on the Sunday, there has never been *the slightest damage or inconvenience resulting from it.*

He further states that, having originated, and obtained through the district surveyor, deliveries from the Stourport Post Office, both to Hartlebury (his former residence) and to Astley (his present residence), the use of such district messengers on the Sunday is quite unnecessary, and *ought not to be revived.*

He feels it his duty, however, to add, that the views expressed by Lord John Russell in the House of Commons as to the private inconvenience felt in the *total stoppage* of transit, and the impossibility of obtaining (under any circumstances) a letter at a country Post Office on a Sunday, would be responded to by a *majority* of the leading persons in his locality.

Individually, he is content and thankful; the moral benefit he believes to be involved in our present position makes him earnestly hope that every effort will be used to preserve the utmost possible amount of it, and he is sure that an entire return to the old system is by no means necessary or *desired.*

Acknowledged on the 8th August 1850. Laid before Committee.

94. Letter from Mr. H. Willyams, M.P. for Truro, stating, the large and increasing village of Newquay, in the county of Cornwall, distant from the town of St. Columb about seven miles; containing a population of from 800 to 1,000 persons; having a large pier and basin for the convenience of vessels trading to and from the port in corn, coals, copper, and lead ores; connected with a mining district by a line of railway of some miles in length; carrying on a general traffic of some importance, and receiving during the summer a large number of visitors, who use it as a watering place; and where also the pilchard fishery is carried on to a considerable extent; is served from the Post Office at St. Columb by a postman, who travels on foot over this distance twice a-day, delivering bags and letters at different intermediate places. By the late postal arrangements, the course of this postman is suspended on Sunday, in consequence of which, Newquay, and the whole of this district, is deprived of communication with London and places to the east, *up and down*, during *three* days in the week, *e. g.*—

The postman leaves Newquay at 7 o'clock in the morning; therefore any letters posted on Saturday, at any time between 7 in the morning and midnight of that day, though usually transmitted in other cases by the Sunday mail, lie in the Post Office of this place until Monday morning, and thus not being delivered even at Exeter, as well as London and places beyond, until Tuesday morning. Thus the cessation of communication continues upwards for *two* days. The loss of the post downwards for one day, *i. e.*, from London on Monday, arising from the cessation of labour in the London Post Office on Sunday, is not complained of; but the loss of the second post upwards is of the greatest inconvenience to our commercial, domestic, official, and general interests.

Acknowledged on the 8th August 1850. Laid before Committee.

95. Memorial from certain Attorneys-at-law practising at Penzance, stating that they find that the recent postal regulations prohibiting the delivery and transmission of letters on Sundays entails great inconvenience on them, and are positively injurious to their clients' interests, inasmuch as communications between them and their London agents are materially delayed. That these regulations are peculiarly injurious, inasmuch as the delivery of the Sunday's mail on Monday morning does not take place until after the despatch of the London mail; the consequence is, that answers to letters written on Saturday in London, for Penzance, cannot be received in London before Wednesday morning.

They therefore pray that the Post Office order in question may be rescinded, and that the postal regulations in existence previous to the recent change may be again established.

Acknowledged by the Post Office on the 5th August 1850. Laid before Committee.

96. Letter from L. Bankes, dated Tattenhall, near Boston, 4th August 1850, pointing out

the serious inconvenience he experiences in consequence of the recent Sunday postal regulation. Letters for this place arriving at Boston on Sunday are detained there until Monday, and not delivered then until between 10 and 11 o'clock on that morning. He is obliged to go every Monday to Spilsby before the arrival of the post, and the consequence is that letters remain unanswered until the following day, Tuesday, so that from Saturday to Tuesday his correspondence is at a stand. He trusts, from the general feeling there is against the recent change, that the Sunday delivery will be speedily re-imposed.

Acknowledged by the Post Office on 7th August 1850. Laid before Committee.

97. Memorial of Attorneys-at-law practising in the city of Exeter, stating that they find that the recent postal regulations prohibiting the delivery and transmitting of letters on Sunday entails great inconvenience on them, and are positively injurious to their clients' interests, inasmuch as communications between them and their London agents are materially delayed, which are often of the greatest importance.

They are fully impressed with the necessity of avoiding, as far as practicable, Sunday labour in the Post Office, and they thankfully acknowledge the efforts which have of late been made by the authorities to prevent the desecration of the Sabbath; but they fear that the entire prohibition of the delivery or sending of letters by post on Sundays must lead to other arrangements of a far more objectionable character.

Acknowledged by the Post Office on 1st August 1850. Laid before Committee.

98. Letter from Mr. James Irving Scott, dated Peele's Coffee House, Fleet-street, 5th August 1850, transmitting several important documents upon the postal question. The first is from the proprietors of newspapers, whose circulation is not much less than 200,000 a-week, and the other from the largest newsvendors in London. He further states, that two large meetings have been recently held at the London Tavern and the Freemasons' Hall, at which resolutions, approving of a return to the former system of postal delivery, were carried in meetings of some 2,000 each, with not more than a dozen dissentient voices.

He hopes that before another week has passed away the proprietors of the London newspapers will be enabled to deliver their papers on Sunday through the post, instead of, as at present, through another channel, creating tenfold the amount of Sunday labour, and that the public will have restored to them the inestimable blessing of a Sunday delivery of letters.

Acknowledged on 7th August 1850. Laid before Committee.

99. Letter from Mr. Allen, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, dated 23rd July 1850, calling attention to the true position in which the great metropolis of the north stands by the present postal regulations.

For instance, the reception of letters at the window of the Post Office ceases precisely at 10 P.M. All letters, &c., dropped into the receiving-box after that hour, on a Saturday night, are not despatched until 4 o'clock P.M. on the Monday, thus embracing a period of nearly 60 hours (12 being the usual time occupied in the transit) before the letters of merchants in Newcastle are received by their correspondents in London, and a lapse of time too over which 2,000 miles may be traversed now-a-days. Hence the mischief which arises from the delay in our colonial and other speculations may be incalculable; and this too altogether irrespective of the consideration of the loudly and universally complained of interruption to family communication and correspondence all over the United Kingdom.

Acknowledged by the Post Office on 24th July 1850. Laid before Committee.

100. Letter from Mr. Ingram, editor of "The Illustrated London News," dated 22nd July 1850, stating, that as some of the "postal derangement" people will very likely urge the possibility of the weekly newspapers publishing *early editions*, and thus receive no injury by the closing of the country Post Office on Sundays; he begs to say that this newspaper, "The Illustrated London News," now goes to press on *Thursday evening*, and cannot possibly get to press earlier; the number required to be printed every week averages 70,000 copies, and these cannot all be printed until *Saturday afternoon*. The present postal obstructions prevent them getting thousands of copies in the country on the Sunday morning to their great injury; they therefore request that the present "disarrangement" be altered as soon as possible, as great injustice is at present done to the weekly press.

Acknowledged on the 8th August 1850. Laid before Committee.

101. Letter from Mr. Neville Wood, M.D., of Brompton, dated 7th August 1850, stating his opinion that the facilities for postal communication cannot be too great, and that letters ought to be delivered all over the kingdom on Sundays; at the same time he thinks that as much rest should be secured to all the servants of the Post Office as may be compatible with public convenience. Thus, in London and other great cities the *district* delivery is unnecessary on Sundays, because even the poorest person has no difficulty in communicating with all parts of the town in which he lives without a Sunday delivery; but the case is far otherwise with postal communication between one town and another. Innumerable instances occur in every week in which both rich and poor are urgently impelled on the Sunday to write to distant friends upon domestic, medical, legal, commercial, literary, and scientific matters of the highest importance. The Sunday labour might be rendered very small in amount, and would be exceedingly trifling when it is considered that, under the present absurd arrangements, letters to Cabinet Ministers are to be delivered as heretofore. Rich men may also fly to the electric telegraph; but what are the poor to do? Professionally he has found the present system highly inconvenient to his patients in the country and himself. In one instance a letter of importance, posted at Burton-on-Trent on a Thursday, did not (owing to a mistake at the

General Post Office) reach him until after country post-time on Friday evening. Hence, his correspondent (who was anxiously awaiting his reply) could not hear from him till the following Monday! Believes that three-fourths of the medical profession, and of the public at large, are anxiously expecting the restoration of the Sunday delivery.

He begs to add, that the public will be apt to contrast, with some bitterness, the conduct upon the postal question of our own Parliament (elected by a fraction of the nation) and irresponsible Government with that of the Congress of the great American Republic, elected by the entire nation.

Acknowledged on the 8th August 1850. Laid before Committee.

102. Further letter from Mr. Wm. Roberts, dated Burnham, Bucks, 5th August 1850, communicating two cases that have come under his notice in the last 48 hours:—

A young woman, after attending three weeks on her only brother (aged 13) with effusion on the brain, at Hedgerley (Gerrard's Cross), left him on Tuesday apparently recovering. On Thursday a change occurred, and on Friday evening, after post, he died. He called at the house on Monday, not knowing the event. The family were in great distress, which was much increased by their not being able to get a letter to their daughter, whose husband is in Woolwich Arsenal, until Tuesday morning, the father (a worthy man) having been absent as a carrier to London.

Again, on Saturday evening, Mr. John Rolfe, an eminent surveyor of Beaconsfield, had an apoplectic seizure while passing through *Farnham Royal*, where he now lies. He had arranged to meet other valuers and arbitrators in Oxfordshire at 10 this day, but there were no means excepting by especial messengers YESTERDAY (*Sunday*) of communicating with the respective parties.

Now let the authorities be pleased to look at these two cases, and consider what numbers of such may happen in the provinces.

He has a married daughter resident near Exeter, and a son a clergyman in Sussex: happen what may on Saturday or Sunday, he cannot hear until Tuesday from the former and Wednesday from the latter!

Finally, why are the medical men of England to be employed for the public as they are every Sunday, and a few Post Office carriers, who have full time left for worship, to be exempted from duties of paramount importance to the community?

Nil. Laid before Committee.

103. Letter from Mr. Nesbitt, M.D., dated Hospital for the Insane, Northampton, 5th August 1850, stating that the present Sunday postal arrangements are inimical to the interests and affections of the public.

In this institution there are 269 patients, the majority of whom are received and belong to a district comprising a radius of 50 miles, but there is a large number whose relatives are scattered over the different counties of England, and are without local ties.

Invalids of this class are peculiarly prone to sudden aggravations of their malady, and death is consequently a frequent result. To communicate these changes in the speediest manner is an act of humanity, the obstruction now offered is often a violation to the strongest feelings of our nature, because the arrangements, consequent on death, must be occasionally carried out by strangers rather than by the nearest relatives. In this way the feelings no less than the interests of the public are outraged.

The number of the mentally afflicted in confinement in England and Wales is estimated to be little short of 20,000, and it is not unfair to suppose that the relatives, representatives of these numbers are not less than 100,000, who must be personally desirous of receiving the earliest intelligence of the fate of their afflicted relations.

The circumstances which create this desire at the termination operate no less strongly at the commencement of the malady; a place of safety on an outbreak of mania is demanded for the welfare of the patient no less than for protection for the relations. If an asylum existed in every village the disposal of the invalid might be made irrespective of the post, but as it is, inquiries and arrangements must be made in order that his admissibility may be learnt, and the post therefore becomes almost a necessary medium of acquiring this preliminary knowledge.

A reply to a letter cannot be received from many parts of England under the fourth day, if it be written on the Saturday, owing to the Sunday intervening.

He trusts that if it is deemed inadvisable to return to a Sunday delivery, that at least some modification of the existing arrangement may be made, so that the *vital* interests of the public may not be sacrificed at the shrine of a *mere* external observance of the Lord's day.

Acknowledged by Post Office on 6th August 1850. Laid before Committee.

104. Further letter from Mr. Forster, dated Reform Club, Monday, submitting a letter from Dr. Elmore, giving an instance of the mischievous working of the present restrictions; he refers them to a case of "distressing suicide" in the "*Times*" of to-day at Shipston-on-Stour, occasioned by the stoppage of Sunday letters.

Acknowledged on 7th August, 1850. Laid before Committee.

105. Letters from the editors or proprietors of the "*Weekly Dispatch*," the "*Sunday Times*," the "*Illustrated London News*," the "*Courier de l'Europe*," the "*Weekly Times*," the "*Weekly Chronicle*," the "*Era*," the "*Lady's Newspaper*," "*Lloyd's Sunday Newspaper*," the "*Mining Journal*," "*News of the World*," and the "*Magnet*," calling the attention of the Commission to the names of the papers which they respectively appear for, and to the amount of circulation which is enjoyed by the body. They deem it the more necessary to do so, because a truly insignificant minority, in the belief that they can pick up a few crumbs from the dropped circulation of the greater papers, are taking every means to propound their

views as to postal arrangements, falsely representing themselves as a considerable and influential portion of the newspaper press, and devising plans professedly for the benefit of the whole body, which the majority viewed with, not only dissatisfaction, but contempt.

The papers represented by the undersigned are, in fact, seventh day as well as weekly journals. By appliances carefully arranged and liberally paid for, they collect intelligence to the very moment of publication, and frequently stop the press for the record of fresh events. To omit any lengthened reference to foreign news, which they often give from their own sources of information 24 hours before it would else be published. The universal and equal distribution of important intelligence is a matter of so much concern in a commercial and civilized country, and those who are considering the nature of our postal arrangements are so sure to be fully impressed with it, that it cannot be necessary to do more than mention these facts.

It must be perfectly obvious that to give the provincial towns the benefit of the last information on one day in the week some Sunday postal communication is necessary. If this be not effected in the regular manner through the department of the Government Post Office, clumsy expedients, involving tenfold labour, as well as tenfold expense, must necessarily be resorted to. Such expedients are at present substituted for the regular and legitimate means.

Newspapers, taxed threefold—in the paper on which they are printed, in advertisements, and by a stamp duty on each copy—have but one compensation, as frequently and effectually urged in Parliament, free transmission by post; but to give this privilege to daily papers when it is most useful to them, and to withhold it from the weekly newspapers when it is absolutely necessary for their circulation, is a fiscal inequality which amounts to an oppressive injustice. The evening papers, whose Saturday's number cannot be received before Monday morning, are even more capriciously and effectually damaged in their interests, inasmuch as a direct preference is thereby given to the morning papers.

An examination of the circumstances must lead to the fair and legitimate conclusion of restoring the Post Office to its full efficiency. They are ready and anxious to be examined, and to produce documentary proof on any subject on which doubt can arise; but in the very feeling of the justice of their case they are unaware of objections which seem worthy of reply. They have raised large properties, in obedience to the law, under what may be called severe fiscal exactions; they are still burthened with an unequal share of taxation, and they feel that they are entitled to the full consideration of a Government which declares all respect for the liberty of the press, and which is yet obliged to tax so seriously its resources, as well as its profits.

They, therefore, respectfully solicit the opportunity of being heard in any question of doubt, and of answering any misrepresentation; and they fully trust to the information and justice of the tribunal to which the matter has been referred for the verdict in favour of the right which is all they desire.

Acknowledged on 8th August. Laid before Committee.

106. Letter from Mr. W. L. Newton, dated Leylands, near Derby, 8th August 1850, stating that the complaints, which at first were made at the Post Office in Derby against the recent postal arrangements, have entirely ceased.

He feels little doubt that a short perseverance in the establishment of the present non-delivery of letters on Sunday would be soon acquiesced in by the opponents of that measure, whilst it would give the greatest satisfaction to the majority of the inhabitants of the town of Derby, who petitioned for it.

Acknowledged on 9th August 1850. Laid before Committee.

107. Letter from Mr. G. P. Arden, dated Halstead, Essex, 8th August 1850, stating that he believes that the new postal arrangements would be *very generally acceptable*, if suitable alterations could be made in the Post Offices, and the running of mail trains, &c., so as to prevent the present unnecessary delay and inconvenience of letters and papers posted after the mail has left on Saturday evening remaining in the Post Office until *Monday evening*, not reaching their destination until Tuesday. This is now the case with all letters and papers posted *HERE* after 10 o'clock on Saturday evening, (except such as are intended for Halstead or the immediate neighbourhood, and these are delivered on the Monday morning.)

Mr. Arden suggests several means by which the sacredness of the Lord's day would not be interfered with, and the Post Office servants relieved.

With respect to a *Sunday delivery*, the fact of London, the greatest city in the world, never having had, and never having *desired*, a Sunday delivery is a most unanswerable argument against it either in town or country; neither is it at all necessary or at all desired (except by *a few*.)

Mr. Arden is a man of business, and states that, before the late postal arrangements, he had refused to receive his letters until the Monday morning.

Acknowledged on 9th August 1850. Laid before Committee.

108. Letter from Mr. W. R. Stokes, dated Shrewsbury, 8th August, 1850, expressing his thanks for the order to suspend labour in the Post Office on Sunday, and testifying that many of his friends feel with him; and adding that he has heard of but few persons here who are dissatisfied with it.

From long residence in London, he is well aware of the advantage of freedom from correspondence on Sunday; and his experience leads him to suppose that, what is felt to be beneficial there, will be found to be so in the country, particularly when the needful regulations consequent on a change are matured.

Acknowledged on 9th August 1850. Laid before Committee.

109. Letter from Mr. J. H. Gurney, dated Norwich, 8th August 1850, communicating his experience as to the working of the system of non-delivery of letters on the Sunday; he

has taken some pains to ascertain the working of the present system of non-delivery, with respect to the *banking business* of Norfolk, and is of opinion that the absence of the letters which were formerly received and opened on the Sunday is felt to be a great relief and saving of trouble to those who are engaged in the banking business, and that no practical inconvenience arises on the other hand from the non-delivery, or is likely to do so while the non-delivery is universal and complete.

The above observations are only offered with reference to the banking business of the county of Norfolk.

Acknowledged on 9th August 1850. Laid before Committee.

110. Letter from the Rev. J. R. Stratten, vicar of Ewell, near Epsom, dated 8th August 1850, assuring the Committee of the satisfaction and pleasure with which the recent postal arrangements have been received, and of the strong desire for their continuance which prevails in the parish of Ewell. He is persuaded that while great and important benefits have been secured by those arrangements, very little comparative inconvenience has been experienced; and persons possessed of considerable influence in the parish, who manifested some hesitation to support the arrangements previously to their completion, state that they have felt the cessation of the delivery of letters on Sunday to have proved, upon trial, extremely beneficial, and are now prepared decidedly to advocate the permanency of that cessation. Mr. Stratten begs leave respectfully to suggest, in his own name and in those of several of the influential parishioners of Ewell; that if a delivery of letters and newspapers were general on Saturday evening, leaving the metropolis at mid-day or later, no possible inconvenience could remain within 200 miles of London, and no further necessity for any Sunday delivery. He ventures to express his anxious hope, that with a view of securing this object, the machinery of the Post Office may be so altered as to be adapted to the recent regulations, and also that a sufficient time may be given to test this operation.

Acknowledged on 9th August 1850. Laid before Committee.

111. Letter from Mr. W. Leeke, secretary of the Derbyshire Lord's-day Society, dated Holbrook, near Derby, 8th August 1850, forwarding the copy of a letter addressed to Lord John Russell on the 22nd of July, and also a printed paper, containing a copy of a declaration signed by about 30 of the medical men and solicitors of Derby in the year 1839. In that year about 1,500 of the *principal* inhabitants of the Derby district signed a request to the postmaster of Derby that their letters might not be forwarded to them on the Lord's-day, except in cases of emergency. Although these persons wished, so long as their letters should arrive at Derby on the Sunday, to be permitted to receive those containing intelligence relating to the dangerous illness of their friends and to other cases of great emergency, it was fully understood that they desired the total abolition of the transmission and delivery of letters during the 24 hours of that day; for these same persons, together with many thousands of others in various parts of the county of Derby, petitioned Parliament year after year to that effect. He likewise encloses a document put forth by the Committee of the Derbyshire Lord's-day Society in 1845.

In the years 1833 and 1834, and in subsequent years, large public meetings were held in great numbers of the parishes of Derbyshire, at which the subject of the entire stoppage of the Sunday mails and of the delivery of letters was always received with the greatest approbation.

He mentions other facts as evidencing the strong feeling which has been manifested on the subject for many years in this county.

Acknowledged on 9th August 1850. Laid before Committee.

112. Letter from the Venerable the Archdeacon of Stafford, dated the Close, Lichfield, 8th August 1850, stating that the dissatisfaction with which the first announcement of the suspension of Sunday labour in the Post Office was received by some of the inhabitants of this city has in a great measure subsided, and that no serious amount of practical inconvenience has been caused by the change.

The manager of one of the banking establishments assures him that he highly approves the regulation for closing the Post Office on Sunday, and earnestly wishes its continuance. The leading partner in the other frankly acknowledges that the inconvenience sustained by the bank is of small amount, and might easily be obviated by one or other of the three following arrangements:—

(1.) Allowing *registered letters* (containing money, bills, remittances, &c.), to be returned to the parties registering them on *Saturday* evenings only, and to remain in their custody till the following evening, and put into the letter-box *then*, instead of lying all Saturday night and the whole of Sunday in the Post Office, exposed to risk of fire or depredation.

(2.) Allowing the Post Office to be open for *an hour* on *Sunday* evening (say from 9 to 10, or 10 to 11), for the purpose of *registering letters*.

(3.) Requiring country postmasters to provide, in their several offices, *iron safes* or other secure places of deposit for the preservation of registered letters during the 24 hours of the Sabbath.

He begs to be understood as conveying not his own sentiments and wishes on this subject, but those of the highly respectable banker with whom he conferred on the general question of keeping the Post Office closed on Sundays.

The opinion of several respectable tradesmen is decidedly in favour of the *continuance* of the present restrictions, which are thought likely to be productive of much and substantial relief to the Post Office employés, without any countervailing disadvantage other than that of depriving the Sunday readers of newspapers of the facility of receiving their news by *post* on Sunday mornings.

Acknowledged on 9th August 1850. Laid before Committee.

113. Letter from Mr. John Pyne, dated Somerton, 8th August 1850, on the subject of the desecration of the Sabbath, by the Sunday labour in the Post Office, especially of that part of it which applies more immediately to the country as distinguished from the metropolis, and which consists in the delivery of newspapers and letters, on the Lord's day. The question ought by this time, in fairness, to be left at rest, and would have been so, but for the discontent of that portion of the community, a large portion who know not how to value the Christian Sabbath as they ought, but endeavour to eke out its dull and wearisome hours, by the reading of newspapers. The reasons assigned by them for stirring up the question afresh, are the interruptions to secular business, and to the intercourse between distant relatives and friends, which the existing postal regulation occasions; but these are mere pretexs; he has been practising as an attorney and solicitor in this country, for more than 40 years. He has two sons and two daughters, all married, having families, and residing in four different counties. He is in the practice of occasional correspondence with them all. For upwards of three years last past he has forbidden all letters and newspapers from being sent from the Post Office to his house on the Sunday, and the very few and far between inconveniencies which have been occasioned by that prohibition, have been mere feathers and trifles, and not worthy to be mentioned in comparison with the comforts which he derives from the enjoyment of the Sabbath uninterrupted by worldly business and worldly cares.

Acknowledged on 9th August 1850. Laid before Committee.

114. Letter from Mr. Melmoth Walters, Barrister, dated 8th August 1850, stating that the new arrangements are most satisfactory to his mind, not only on account of their general effect, but because he can now avail himself of the Saturday night post, having previously, for many years, lost the use of that post as well as Sunday's post; and because the letters intended for delivery on Sunday, had previously been left in the custody of the letter carrier, whereas at present they remain in the Post Office itself.

The only objection he has heard as to the non-delivery of a letter, was from a banker's clerk, whose late principal, Mr. Mackenzie, probably the best man of business in this city, signed more than ten years ago, a memorial for the total stoppage of the Sunday mail. He submits that complaints respecting newspapers might be obviated by an attention, on the part of Government, to Mr. Gilbert's suggestions.

Acknowledged on 9th August 1850. Laid before Committee.

115. Letter from Mr. Kidman, grocer, dated Hounslow, 8th August, 1850, stating that in the way of business, he receives a number of letters, sometimes on Sunday morning receiving two or three; he begs leave to state, that since the non-delivery on that day (Sunday), he has not experienced the least inconvenience; he hopes that the proper observance of the Sabbath, at the Post Office, may continue without interruption.

Acknowledged on 9th August 1850. Laid before Committee.

116. Letter from Mr. J. S. Austin, dated Wootton-under-Edge, in the county of Gloucester, forwarding a memorial from the inhabitants of Wootton-under-Edge, and respectfully inviting attentive consideration to its contents. He adds, that the memorial embodies the real sentiments and feelings of the greater portion of the most respectable inhabitants of the town and parish of Wootton-under-Edge.

The memorialists state, that the delivery of letters and newspapers throughout the country on the Lord's Day is unnecessary; they pray that the recent postal arrangements to that effect may have a full and fair trial, and that with a view to securing that object, the machinery of the Post Office may be so altered and adapted as to afford the greatest facility for carrying out those regulations, and also that a sufficient time may be given to test their operation under an improved system.

The memorialists likewise state, that it is their firm conviction that the cessation of the delivery of letters on the Lord's-day will have a beneficial influence on the community at large, and enable multitudes before engaged in almost unceasing labour, to enjoy that day of rest so mercifully set apart by the All-wise Creator for the benefit of all his creatures.

Acknowledged on 9th August 1850. Laid before Committee.

120. Letter from Mr. Jeffs, dated Bath, 8th August 1850, forwarding a copy of the petition from Bath, which was presented by Mr. Forster on the 9th ult., when Mr. Lock's motion was brought forward.

Lord Ashley proposed his measure on the 30th May; the petition from Bath against it was three weeks at the Guildhall for signature, and was signed by 310 persons only; the petition now enclosed was down only *one* week, and received 1016 signatures, including 8 admirals and general officers, 5 clergymen of the Church of England, 3 bankers, &c.

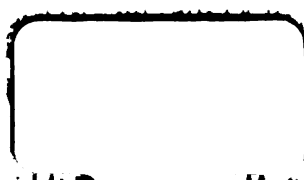
The additional 706 names very plainly show *that* alteration of public opinion on Lord Ashley's measure which has taken place since its working has been witnessed; but the leading feature of this petition is the fact, that it was signed by 9 physicians and 11 surgeons.

There are no men who are better judges of what are really and truly cases of necessity—cases in which it is "lawful to do well on the Sabbath days" than *medical men*, who see the importance of immediate information being given, to afford relief for a writhing patient's agony.

He hears from surgeons that no Sunday passes without showing the absolute necessity of one Sunday delivery at the least.

Acknowledged on 9th August 1850. Laid before Committee.

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