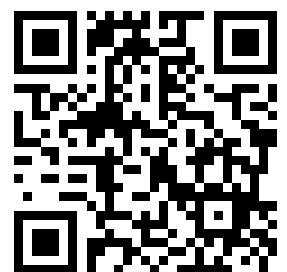
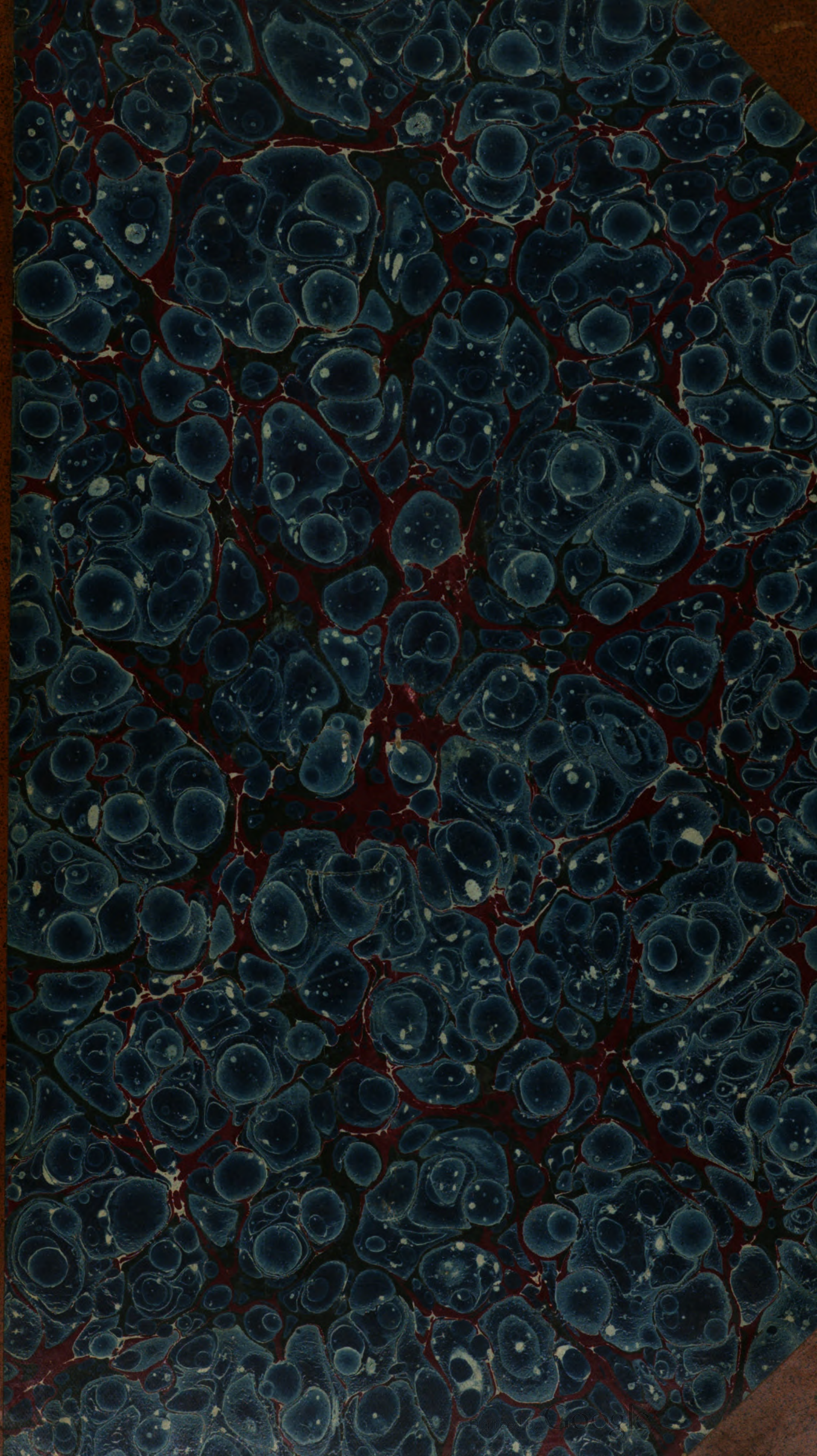

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P. Eng. $\frac{1818-9}{18}$

FIFTEENTH REPORT

OF

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL,

ON

THE POST OFFICE.

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



LONDON:
PRINTED BY GEORGE E. EYRE AND WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE.
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.
1869.

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FIFTEENTH REPORT.

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF HER MAJESTY'S TREASURY.

MY LORDS,

IN presenting to your Lordships the Fifteenth Annual Report upon the Post Office, I am desirous, at the outset, of removing what appears to be a very general misconception. It consists in the idea, the origin of which is no doubt to be sought in the Returns of Revenue and Expenditure as published quarterly, that the year 1868 as compared with 1867 shows a decrease in the receipts of the Post Office. Your Lordships are aware that the apparent falling off is nothing more than a matter of account, the result of a new arrangement, by virtue of which the Post Office no longer receives postage upon the letters of public departments. In the receipts of the year 1867 this postage was set down at 232,461*l.*, whilst in 1868 only 14,797*l.* had been credited to this head at the time of the change; if the respective amounts be deducted from the receipts of the years to which they apply, the result will be as follows, viz. :—

RECEIPTS.			
	1867.		1868.
	4,548,129	- - -	4,566,882
Deduct postage of public departments }	232,461	- - -	14,797
	£4,315,668		4,552,085 4,315,668
	Increase in 1868 - £236,417		

A more detailed statement of the revenue of the department for 1868 and the preceding years will be found in the Appendix Table I.

The facts I proceed to record show in almost every branch of Post Office business an uninterrupted course of prosperity such as is altogether inconsistent with the notion of diminished receipts.

General Progress of Business.

	Number of Letters delivered.		Number of Inhabited Houses.		Population.		Number of Book Packets, Newspapers, and Pattern Packets delivered.		Amount of Money Orders issued.		POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK.				Total Number of Depositors in Post Office Savings Bank and old Savings Banks combined.	
	1867.		1868.		1867.		1868.		1867.		1867.		1868.		1867.	
	1867.	1868.	1867.	1868.	1867.	1868.	1867.	1868.	1867.	1868.	Number of Depositors.	Balance due to Depositors on December 31st.	1867.	1868.	1867.	1868.
ENGLAND AND WALES -	640,235,400	670,046,000	4,017,233	4,058,190	21,577,519	21,766,805	78,137,891	80,878,000	16,463,487	16,311,463	798,156	903,511	9,290,529	11,402,147	1,953,768	2,038,945
SCOTLAND -	75,649,300	77,812,000	407,149	409,373	3,176,769	3,183,125	11,475,563	11,847,000	1,557,303	1,599,790	31,645	33,089	192,554	229,876	200,214	211,109
IRELAND -	53,897,300	60,260,000	953,713	951,326	5,557,193	5,543,285	12,659,842	13,120,000	1,261,319	1,267,904	27,132	30,554	327,146	434,332	30,365	36,702
UNITED KINGDOM -	774,831,000	808,118,000	5,378,100	5,418,894	30,305,284	30,593,215	102,273,201	105,845,000	19,282,109	19,079,162	854,933	965,164	9,746,529	11,666,555	2,239,347	2,336,854
GOVERNMENT INSURANCES.																
GOVERNMENT ANNUITIES.																
Immediate.																
Deferred.																
	1867.		1868.		1867.		1868.		1867.		1868.		1867.		1868.	
	Number of Policies.	Annual Premium.	Amount Insured.	Number of Policies.	Annual Premium.	Amount Insured.	Number.	Purchase Money.	Amount.	Number.	Purchase Money.	Amount.	Number.	Purchase Money.	Amount.	Amount.
	1,396	3,261	104,354	1,673	4,369	123,336	490	121,576	10,353	763	150,665	16,321	129	4,536	2,409	2,763
ENGLAND AND WALES -	56	116	3,960	73	146	4,996	41	10,270	935	79	14,991	1,349	4	40	102	155
SCOTLAND -	84	81	2,633	44	110	3,440	30	5,391	526	41	11,756	1,119	4	33	63	51
IRELAND -	1,465	3,453	111,487	1,739	5,237	134,334	551	136,697	12,366	874	267,412	18,799	137	5,366	2,574	2,971

As will be seen from the foregoing table, the number of letters delivered in the United Kingdom in 1868 was in round numbers 808,118,000, an increase of 4·29 per cent. over the number in 1867. This gives an average of 26 letters to each person, 149 to each house; in England 30 letters to each person, in Scotland 24, in Ireland 10. The number of book packets, newspapers, and pattern packets delivered by post in the United Kingdom in 1868 advanced to 105,845,000, an increase of 3·49 per cent. over the number in the previous year. The depositors in Post Office Savings Banks at the end of the year 1868 were 965,154, an increase of 12·8 per cent. over the preceding year, 13·3 per cent. in England, 3·6 per cent. in Scotland, 8·7 per cent. in Ireland. The balance due to depositors 11,666,655*l.* showed an increase of 19·6 per cent. 19·2 per cent. in England, 19·2 per cent. in Scotland, 33 per cent. in Ireland. The total number of depositors in Post Office Savings Banks and the old Savings Banks 2,336,654, or one to every 13 persons, showed an increase of 97,307. The number of policies effected with the Government through the Post Office increased from 1,485 at the close of 1867 to 1,789 at the close of 1868; the amount insured from 111,437*l.* to 134,824*l.* The number of immediate annuities from 551 to 874; the amount from 12,393*l.* a year to 18,789*l.* The number of deferred annuities from 137 to 160; and the amount from 2,574*l.* to 2,971*l.* On the other hand, the amount for which money orders were issued fell from 19,282,109*l.* in 1867 to 19,079,162*l.* in 1868, a decrease of about one per cent., due to the distribution of the Parliamentary Grant for Education by the Privy Council Office being no longer made by means of money orders. Only 115,827*l.* of this grant was thus distributed in 1868, as against 502,960*l.* in 1867.

Of the Post Office Savings Bank and the Government Insurances and Annuities further particulars are given in the Appendix, Tables Nos. III., IV., and V.; and Table No. II. shows the force and expenditure of the office for 1868 and nine previous years.

Home Service.

In 1868, letters coming from France by the night mails were for the first time delivered in London at half past seven in the morning instead of at nine. During the four busiest hours of the day half-hourly collections began to be made from sixty additional Receiving Houses and Pillar Boxes in the City. Paddington was placed on the same footing as other parts of the metropolis in regard to the frequency of its collections and deliveries. Direct communication was established between some of the District Post Offices and others, instead of the letters being massed at one central point and thence distributed; thus still further extending the advantages of the District Postal system. The Letter Boxes at Receiving Houses began to be closed at night and on Sundays,

with a view to divert letters into the Pillar Boxes from which, they can be collected in time for the first delivery in London or for the morning mails into the country. Advantage was taken of the railway to carry letters to Mitcham, Sutton, Carshalton, Catford, Eltham, and Streatham : whilst to other suburban places, such as Richmond, Kingston, and Staines, supplementary mails were established, leaving London about midnight so as to admit of letters posted too late for the ordinary night mails being included in the first delivery in the morning. Two of the Morning Mail Trains from London were appointed to start earlier, viz.—

The South Western Mail Train at 8·15 a.m. instead of at 9·15.
The Great Eastern } „ at 8·0 a.m. „ 11·0.
Ely Line

To 36 other towns the day mails from London began leaving sooner in 1868 by no less than 4 hours in one case and in none by less than 30 minutes.

In the Report for 1867 it was stated that the District System, which had already proved of the greatest advantage in London, was about to be introduced into Manchester. This has now been done and Manchester is divided into 8 Postal Districts, with a corresponding number of Sorting Offices, between which and the Head Office communication is maintained by Mail Cart. The Collections have at the same time been increased in number from 3 to 5, and the Deliveries from 3 to 4 in the outer Districts, and from 3 to 5 in the Central District.

In the matter of Day Mails to and from London and other parts of England and Wales, the comparison between 1867 and 1868 stands as follows, viz. :—

YEAR.	Towns having a Night and Day Mail.		Towns having three Mails daily.		Towns having four Mails daily.		Towns having five Mails daily.		Towns having six Mails daily.		Towns having seven Mails daily.		Total Number of Post Towns in England and Wales.
	From London.	To London.	From London.	To London.	From London.	To London.	From London.	To London.	From London.	To London.	From London.	To London.	
1867	404	230	86	88	13	48	4	21	3	5	2	2	539
1868	397	238	88	89	23	61	5	20	3	6	3	2	537

In Scotland the Sutherland Railway from Bonar Bridge to Golspie was opened in 1868, and now for many months places along the line to Thurso and Wick have had their letters sooner and been able to despatch them later. Under a new contract, entered into in the course of the year, the mail packet between Thurso and Stromness was replaced by a vessel of superior build

and power. The passage is now performed in about two hours less than formerly, and instead of a mail six times a week only in summer and thrice a week in winter, Orkney now gets one daily (Sundays excepted) all the year round. In 1868 five additional towns were provided with a Day Mail from Edinburgh; the railway between Dumfries and Lockerbie began to be used for postal purposes; increased accommodation was given at Dundee, Broughty Ferry, Fort George, Lochee, and other places; and from Banff, Aberdeen, and other towns on the eastern coast, improved communication was established to Inverness and the north.

In Ireland an important extension took place in 1868 in the time of closing the letter boxes at the General Post Office in Dublin. The hours and conditions of posting before and after the 24th of April, the date of the change, being as follows, viz. :—

Before April 24.

To 5.30 p.m., without a fee.
 From 5.30 to 6.15 p.m., on payment of a fee of 1*d.*
 From 6.15 to 6.30 p.m., on " " 3*d.*
 6.30 being the latest moment for posting letters to go by the mails of the same evening.

On and after April 24.

To 6.0 p.m., without a fee.
 From 6.0 to 6.30 p.m., on payment of a fee of 1*d.*
 From 6.30 to 6.40 p.m., on " " 3*d.*
 6.40 being the latest moment for posting letters to go by the mails of the same evening.

As the mails for England leave the Dublin Post Office at 6.50 p.m. or 10 minutes after the final closing of the letter boxes, it will be seen that no room has been left for extending any further the hours for posting.

In 1868 the fee on letters posted on board the Holyhead and Kingstown mail packets was reduced from 2*d.* to 1*d.* Postal communication between Belfast and Dublin was greatly improved by the establishment of a limited mail train to run the distance in three hours and a half, arriving in Belfast at 11.30 a.m., and leaving at 3 in the afternoon. The Day Mail letters, which include the bulk of the correspondence from England, can thus be answered by return of post. The Day Mail Service to Londonderry was accelerated, and the mails now arrive at 3.10 p.m. instead of 4.25 p.m., and leave at 11.10 a.m. instead of 10. In 1868 the use of the Bundoran Railway and of the West Cork Railway between Bandon and Dunmanway was obtained for postal purposes; and nine additional towns were provided with a Day Mail to, and twelve with a Day Mail from, Dublin.

In 1868, 516 additional receptacles for letters were opened in

the United Kingdom,—463 in England, 21 in Scotland, and 32 in Ireland,—raising the total number in England from 13,592, as it stood at the close of 1867, to 14,055, or one to every 288 inhabited houses; in Scotland from 1,618 to 1,639, or one to every 250 inhabited houses; in Ireland from 2,015 to 2,047, or one to every 464 inhabited houses; and in the United Kingdom from 17,225 to 17,741, or one to every 305 inhabited houses.

In 1868, as compared with 1867, free deliveries were established and extended as follows; viz.:

			Number of Places (excluding single houses) in which Free Deliveries for the first time were established.	Number of Places (excluding single houses) in which additional Free Deliveries were established.	Number of Places in which the Boundaries of the Free Deliveries were extended.
In 1867	-	-	434	161	217
1868	-	-	287	156	252

Foreign Service.

In 1868 postal conventions were for the first time entered into with Switzerland and with Greece.

Under the convention with Switzerland, a system of International Money Orders has been established at the same rates of commission as are chargeable in this country; the postage upon letters for Switzerland has virtually been reduced from 5*d.* per $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. to 3*d.* per $\frac{1}{4}$ oz., and the old scale of progression by $\frac{1}{4}$ ounces has given place to one by $\frac{1}{4}$ ounces. Letters for Switzerland *viâ* France are still subject to the rate of 5*d.* per $\frac{1}{4}$ oz.; but unless specially addressed to go by this route, or prepaid at the higher rate, they are now sent *viâ* Belgium and Germany, and are charged at the reduced rate only.

Under the convention with Greece, so soon as it shall come into operation, and upon this point I await the convenience of the Greek Government, the unit for a single rate of postage will be raised from a $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ an oz. This, which is the only form of reduction yet feasible in consequence of the heavy intermediate charges to which letters between this country and Greece are subject, will admit of double the present weight of matter being sent for the present amount of postage.

In 1868 the book and pattern posts were extended to China and Japan. The postage upon newspapers to the United States, not exceeding 4 oz. in weight, was reduced from 2*d.* to 1*d.*; and the postage upon printed papers, books, and trade patterns, not exceeding 2 oz. in weight, to a minimum rate of 1*d.* per oz. A similar reduction was made upon printed papers and trade patterns between this country and all the countries in Europe with which we have a book and pattern post. The postage on

letters between Egypt on the one hand and India, China, and Australia on the other was reduced from 1s. to 6d. per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., and on letters between all the places in the Mediterranean at which there are British Post Offices to one uniform rate of 4d. per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.

On the other hand, the department felt itself constrained to raise the postage upon letters from the United Kingdom to India and Ceylon by 3d. per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., making the rate 9d. instead of 6d. via Southampton, and 13d. instead of 10d. via Marseilles. Even at these enhanced rates postal communication is maintained only at heavy cost to the Imperial and Indian Governments.

New contracts have been entered into for the conveyance of mails, to the West Indies and Brazil with the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company; to the Cape of Good Hope with the Union Steam Ship Company; to the United States of America with the Messrs. Cunard, with Mr. Inman and with the North German Lloyd; to Brazil and the River Plate with the Liverpool and River Plate Steam Navigation Company; and to Mexico, Venezuela, Santa Martha and Port au Prince with the West India and Pacific Steam Ship Company.

The old contracts with the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company had not long to run when the company sustained almost unparalleled losses through the hurricane and earthquake which occurred at St. Thomas in the autumn of 1867. Unwilling at such a moment to invite competition, or to withhold a concession without which the Company might have succumbed to their losses, the late Government, after much consideration, renewed the contracts, in the case of the West India service for five years, and in the case of the Brazil service for four years, appending however, the following conditions, viz.:

1st. That in the event of the company in any year earning sufficient to pay a dividend exceeding 8 per cent. per annum, a moiety of such excess should be allowed to Her Majesty's Government in diminution of the subsidies payable for that year.

2d. That the company, on receiving reasonable notice, should remove their station from St. Thomas to such other port in the West Indies as Her Majesty's Government might select.

The payments for these two services are, for the West India service 172,914*l.* a year with an additional 2,000*l.* for calling at Plymouth on the homeward voyage, and for the Brazil service 33,500*l.* a year. After 1872 both contracts are terminable on two years' notice.

The contract with the Union Steam Ship Company provides for a packet service from Devonport to the Cape of Good Hope twice every month instead of only once as formerly; and whereas an annual subsidy of 19,700*l.* used to be paid for the single service, the company now performs the double one for the postage alone.

The contract with the Messrs. Cunard provides for two services in each week, and that with Mr. Inman for one service in each week, from Liverpool to America *viâ* Queenstown. The payments made for these services are 70,000*l.* a year to the Messrs. Cunard, and 35,000*l.* a year to Mr. Inman, being a material reduction upon the terms originally demanded. In both instances the contracts are for seven years, terminable thereafter upon 12 months' notice.

The contract with the North German Lloyd provides for a service to New York every Tuesday afternoon from Southampton. This service is performed for the sea postage alone, and the contract is terminable upon six months' notice.

The contract with the Liverpool, Brazil, and River Plate Steam Navigation Company provides for a packet service once in each month, from Liverpool to Brazil and the River Plate, the Company receiving in payment the estimated sea postage at the rate of 2*s.* 6*d.* per oz. for letters, 3*d.* per lb. for newspapers, and 5*d.* per lb. for book packets and trade patterns. This contract is for one year.

The contract with the West India and Pacific Steam Ship Company for a packet service from Liverpool to Mexico, Venezuela, Santa Martha, and Port au Prince is subject to similar conditions as to payment and duration of contract.

New contracts have also been entered into for a packet service between this country and Halifax, Nova Scotia; between Halifax and St. John's, Newfoundland; between New Orleans and Belize, British Honduras; and between New York and the Bahamas; but the negotiations of all these contracts has been left to the several local governments, the Imperial government merely pledging itself to defray in each case one half of the cost of the service.

In order to obviate the inconvenience which was found to arise from the Mail Packets between Marseilles and Alexandria ceasing under the conditions of the new contract to call at Malta, arrangements have been made with the French Post Office for a direct communication with that island four times in each month, *viâ* Marseilles, and also for sending frequent mails *viâ* Messina.

The service to Penang, the cessation of which under the new contract with the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company had also given rise to remonstrance, has been resumed; the company undertaking to call at Penang as before, upon payment to them of 4,000*l.* a year, coupled with an adequate extension of time for performing the voyage between Point de Galle and Hong Kong.

It has already been stated that under the new convention with Switzerland the Money Order System has been extended to that country. It was also extended in 1868 to the Falkland Islands, to St. Helena, to Natal, and to Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Yokohama. In 1868, as compared with 1867, the whole of

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the Money Order transactions between this country and abroad were as follows; viz. :—

YEAR.	Money Orders issued in the United Kingdom for Payment abroad.		Money Orders issued abroad for payment in United Kingdom.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
1867 - - - -	18,967	£ 74,621	104,816	£ 490,227
1868 - - - -	14,904	58,532	105,639	499,566
	4,063	16,089	823	9,339
	Decrease.		Increase.	

It will hence be seen that in 1868, while there was an increase of 1·9 per cent. in the amount of Foreign Money Orders paid in this country, there was a decrease of more than 27 per cent. in the amount of British Money Orders paid abroad. This large difference is explained by the fact that 1867 was the year of the French Exhibition, during the existence of which money orders could be drawn in this country upon Paris.

Returned Letters.

In comparing the operations of the Returned Letter Office during the years 1867 and 1868, it must not be forgotten, as explaining no small part of the increase, that a general election took place in the Autumn.

	Total Number of Returned Letters.		Number restored to the Writers.		Number reissued to corrected Addresses.		Number returned unopened to Foreign Countries.		Number destroyed or in hand.	
	1867.	1868.	1867.	1868.	1867.	1868.	1867.	1868.	1867.	1868.
England and Wales	3,088,233	3,258,207	2,570,347	2,790,285	108,118	117,684	109,185	109,754	300,583	240,484
Scotland - -	247,858	274,283	217,779	235,183	12,170	15,962	7,093	5,869	10,816	17,279
Ireland - -	282,797	282,819	154,993	170,576	18,471	18,164	24,506	20,016	84,827	74,063
United Kingdom -	3,618,888	3,815,309	2,943,119	3,196,044	138,759	151,810	140,784	135,639	396,226	331,826
		Increase 196,421		Increase 252,925		Increase 13,051		De-crease 5,155		De-crease 64,400

Of these letters, no less than 13,833 were posted without any address at all, and of these 13,833 letters 281 were found to contain money to the amount of 6,375*l*.

In the last annual report it was stated that the Post Office, which had already undertaken the distribution of forms of applications for dog licences, was about to undertake the distribution of the licences themselves. This it has now done for some months, and the arrangement has worked admirably. During the first quarter of the present year 381,476 licences were issued by the Post Office; 340,613 in England and Wales, and 40,863 in Scotland.

As regards a reduction of postage upon newspapers and other printed matter, respecting which there was a debate in the House of Commons only the other day, it will be my duty carefully to consider the question before the next meeting of Parliament.

I have the honour to be,
My Lords,
Your obedient Servant,
HARTINGTON.

General Post Office,
June 1, 1869.

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APPENDIX.

TABLE I.
Gross and Net Revenue.

Year.	Gross Revenue from Letters, Books, Packets, &c.	Money Order Commission.	Gross Revenue collected by the Post Office.	Produce of the Impressed Stamp on Newspapers collected by the Inland Revenue Office.	Total Postal Revenue.	Total Cost of Post Office Service.	Net Revenue.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1859 -	3,197,353	116,417	3,313,675	146,949	3,461,924	2,907,100	554,764
1860 -	3,267,662	121,683	3,389,355	141,510	3,531,165	2,831,137	700,028
1861 -	3,402,691	127,866	3,530,557	134,571	3,665,128	3,161,411	503,717
1862 -	3,498,635	136,954	3,635,589	130,415	3,764,004	2,983,095	881,909
1863 -	3,730,073	144,326	3,874,399	125,156	3,999,455	2,963,051	1,037,404
1864 -	3,937,047	151,979	4,109,026	122,532	4,231,558	3,075,297	1,155,861
1865 -	4,142,033	157,113	4,309,199	124,409	4,433,608	2,941,066	1,492,522
1866 -	4,311,457	166,430	4,477,887	121,780	4,599,667	3,201,631	1,397,996
1867 -	4,576,044	175,085	4,751,129	120,085	4,871,214	3,246,850	1,424,364
1868 -	*4,391,270	175,612	*4,566,882	116,764	*4,683,646	3,266,724	*1,416,922
Average Net Revenue of first Five Years							
	Ditto	second ditto	-	-	-	-	725,564
			-	-	-	-	1,374,411

* In comparing the Revenue for the year 1868 with the Revenue for the year 1867, 217,664*l.* should be added, that being the difference arising out of a change in the system of accounts between the amounts charged in those two years as Postage of Public Departments.

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TABLE II.
Force and Expenditure.

Date.	Force.		Cost of Collection and Delivery, of Management, and of Money Order Business.										Cost of Conveyance of Mails.										Total Cost of Post Office Service.	
	Effective.	Non-Effective.	Staff Officers, Postmasters, Clerks, Sorters, Stampers, Guards, Letter Carriers, Messengers.	Pensioners.	Salaries, Wages, Pensions, Travelling Allowances, Foundation on Sale of Stamps, Commission on Money Order Business, Cost of Uniform Clothing, Medical Expenses, and Cost of Substitutes during annual Holidays or Sickness of Officers and Men, Official Postage, Law Charges, and incidental Expenses.	Manufacture of Postage Stamps, i.e., Printing, Paper, and Miscellaneous Charges.	Stationery.	Buildings and Repairs, Rents, Rates, Taxes, Fuel, and Light.	Total Cost of Collection, Delivery, and Management, and of Money Order Business.	Conveyance by Coaches, Carts, and Omnibuses.	Conveyance by Railways.	Cost of Supply and Repair of Mail Bags and Boxes, Tolls, and Postage, Cost of Apparatus for Exchange of Bags conveyed by Railway, and Miscellaneous Expenses.	Conveyance of Mails by private Ships and by Packets under Contract with Admiralty or Post Office.	Conveyance of Mails over Isthmus of Suez and Isthmus of Panama, and in other Foreign Ports, and Salaries of Admiralty Agents and other Officers in charge of Foreign and Colonial Mails.	Total Cost of Conveyance.	£	¢							
1889	24,008			589	1,167,656	20,094	35,353	104,478	1,329,580	147,905	485,647	24,330	946,038	23,780	1,577,600	2,907,160								
1890	25,192			765	1,140,396	19,177	42,174	68,315	1,968,962	150,368	490,333	26,985	869,853	29,647	1,567,175	2,881,137								
1891	25,376			862	1,214,303	19,414	34,781	85,702	1,354,900	152,508	655,046	25,989	940,857	33,071	1,807,311	3,161,411								
1892	25,285			927	1,240,268	19,261	31,365	84,795	1,384,689	153,230	593,966	23,393	821,067	24,700	1,547,406	2,933,095								
1893	25,402			1,017	1,254,605	18,435	32,182	81,548	1,388,820	140,333	538,512	20,189	837,665	26,548	1,575,231	2,968,051								
1894	25,637			1,131	1,322,945	19,750	32,561	39,780	1,414,986	145,089	565,352	21,807	900,610	29,363	1,663,311	3,073,297								
1895	25,082			1,274	1,295,163	22,064	32,396	75,331	1,484,944	140,517	538,320	22,230	796,399	23,796	1,510,142	2,941,066								
1896	25,594			1,423	1,308,157	23,254	34,969	182,827	1,606,007	139,868	596,085	21,536	817,467	27,898	1,592,674	3,201,681*								
1897	25,902			1,559	1,421,854	23,684	33,033	236,592	1,715,163	140,069	569,575	23,454	785,845	26,764	1,531,687	3,246,850†								
1898	26,203			1,766	1,440,144	25,000	39,014	214,623	1,718,680	139,533	578,927	18,769	777,097	33,698	1,546,044	3,296,724‡								

* Including £73,267 paid under the Post Office Extension Act, the greater portion of which has been charged to Buildings, &c.
† Including £188,121 ditto.
‡ Including £106,202 ditto.

TABLE III.
Post Office Savings Bank.

Period.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Number of Post Office Savings Banks at close of Period.	Number of Deposits received during Period.	Total Amount of Deposits received during Period.	Average Amount of each Deposit received during Period.	Number of Withdrawals during Period.	Total Amount of Withdrawals during Period.	Average Amount of each Withdrawal during Period.	Charges of Management during Period.	Average Cost of each Transaction, viz., of each Deposit or Withdrawal.	Number of Accounts opened during Period.	Number of Accounts closed during Period.	Number of Accounts remaining open at close of Period.	Total Amount standing to credit of all open Accounts, inclusive of Interest, to close of Period.	Average Amount standing to credit of each open Account at close of Period.	Total Sum standing to credit of Post Office Savings Banks on Books of National Debt Commissioners at close of Period.	Balance in hands of Postmaster-General, after allowing for Charges of Management, at close of Period.	Total Balance in hand, applicable to payment of Depositors, at close of Period.	Number of Old Savings Banks and Post Office Savings Banks combined, at close of Period.	Number of the Depositors in Old Savings Banks combined, at close of Period.
From 16th Sept. 1861 to 31st Dec. 1862.	2,535	639,516	2,114,669	£ s. d. 3 6 2	97,294	438,637	£ s. d. 4 10 2	20,591	6½	205,928	27,433	173,495	1,698,321	£ s. d. 9 10 8	1,659,083*	£ s. d. 33,698	1,694,724*	£ s. d. 3,157	1,733,555
Year 1863	2,991	842,848	2,651,209	£ s. d. 3 2 11	107,451	1,027,154	£ s. d. 5 4 0	25,401	7½	185,384	44,760	319,690	3,377,431	£ s. d. 10 11 4	3,323,183*	£ s. d. 44,413	3,373,595*	£ s. d. 3,594	1,876,359
" 1864	3,081	1,110,763	3,350,084	£ s. d. 3 0 8	809,942	1,834,849	£ s. d. 5 18 8	46,566	7½	296,183	74,964	470,393	4,908,163	£ s. d. 10 12 1	4,906,603*	£ s. d. 5,523	5,001,126*	£ s. d. 3,639	1,967,603
" 1865	3,321	1,303,309	3,715,017	£ s. d. 2 17 1	407,412	2,318,610	£ s. d. 5 13 9	49,827	6½	239,686	99,160	611,519	6,536,400	£ s. d. 10 13 4	6,532,359*	£ s. d. 4,527	6,536,883*	£ s. d. 3,833	2,078,946
" 1866	3,507	1,525,871	4,400,637	£ s. d. 2 19 0	515,346	2,975,004	£ s. d. 5 15 4	59,461	6½	296,548	131,672	764,398	8,121,176	£ s. d. 10 15 4	8,351,176*	£ s. d. 26,791	8,356,967*	£ s. d. 4,063	2,156,390
" 1867	3,629	1,592,344	4,645,906	£ s. d. 2 18 4	531,972	3,222,800	£ s. d. 5 10 9	63,700	7½	264,241	155,613	854,963	9,749,299	£ s. d. 11 8 0	9,967,703*	£ s. d. 47,690	9,915,393*	£ s. d. 4,363	2,359,347
" 1868	3,813	1,757,303	5,235,638	£ s. d. 3 0 8	637,144	3,698,509	£ s. d. 5 15 5	61,990	6½	289,396	179,196	965,154	11,496,605	£ s. d. 13 1 9	11,663,068	£ s. d. NIL	11,599,400	£ s. d. 4,381	2,396,654

* These sums do not include the dividends accruing to the Post Office Savings Banks on the 5th January, that is, five days after the close of the account in each year.
† The falling off in the cost per transaction during 1865 and the increase in that cost during 1864 are attributable to one and the same cause, viz., to the payment during 1864 of various charges properly belonging to 1863.

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TABLE IV.
Post Office Savings Bank.

BALANCE SHEET.

The following statements, which have been prepared by order of the House of Commons, on the motion of Sir F. Goldsmid, show in detail the receipt and disposal of moneys on account of Post Office Savings Banks, the surplus of funds to meet liabilities, and a detailed return of the securities standing to the credit of the Post Office Savings Banks fund:—

RETURN of the BALANCE SHEET of the POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANKS for the Year 1868, showing the Balance due to Depositors, the Amount of Expenses remaining Unpaid, the Value of Securities at the Cost Price less depreciation of those which are Terminable by Lapse of Time, Amount of Cash in hand and Dividends accrued but not received at the end of the Year, and the Surplus or Deficiency of Funds to meet Liabilities.

LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Balance due to Depositors on the 31st December 1868 (including interest) -	11,666,655	8 5	Value of Securities at the Cost Price less depreciation of those which are terminable by Lapse of Time -	11,627,147	8 11
Amount of Expenses remaining unpaid (partly estimated) -	25,000	0 0	Amount of Cash in hands of Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt -	160,583	6 10
Surplus of Funds to meet Liabilities -	207,745	2 7	Dividends accrued but not received at the end of the year -	175,322	6 0
			Total Amount in the hands of the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt -	-	11,963,053 1 9
			Less,—Balance due to the Postmaster General -	45,776	4 6
			and Amount required to meet the Payment of Warrants issued, but not cashed on 31st December 1868 -	17,876	6 3
				63,652	10 9
	£ 11,899,400	11 0		£ 11,899,400	11 0
Total Amount received from Depositors, including Interest, to 31 December 1868			27,153,571 5 1		
Total Amount repaid to Depositors, to 31 December 1868			15,436,915 16 8		

Number of Transactions.		Number of Accounts.		
Deposits.	Withdrawals.	Opened.	Closed.	Remaining open.
8,770,653	2,745,843	1,677,950	712,796	965,154

The total cost of the Post Office Savings Banks from their establishment to the 31st December 1868, including the sum of 25,000*l.* charged as above, was 332,078*l.* 7*s.* 4*d.*

The total number of Transactions, i.e., Deposits and Withdrawals, in the period was 11,516,496.

The average cost of each Transaction was 6*s.* 9*d.*

Prior to the passing of the Post Office Savings Bank Act in 1861 it was estimated (*see* Parliamentary Paper, No. 523, 1861) that the average cost of each transaction would be 7*d.*

General Post Office,
9 April 1869.

23870.

GEO. CHETWYND,
Receiver and Accountant General.

B

Balance Sheet—*continued.*

RETURN of the BALANCE SHEET of the POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANKS for the Year 1868, showing the Balance due to Depositors, the Amount of Expenses remaining Unpaid, the Value of Securities at the Cost Price less depreciation of those which are Terminable by Lapse of Time; Amount of Cash in Hand, and Dividends accrued but not received at the end of the Year, and the Surplus or Deficiency of Funds to meet Liabilities. So far as relates to the NATIONAL DEBT OFFICE.

Securities standing in the Names of the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt on account of the Post Office Savings Banks Fund.	Value of such Securities at the Cost Price, less Depreciation of those which are Terminable by Lapse of Time.	Dividends accrued but not received at the end of the Year.
<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>
Consolidated £3 per Cents. - - -	1,882,462 0 10	1,700,462 0 7
Reduced £3 per Cents. - - -	435,000 0 0	401,925 2 6
New £3 per Cents. - - -	2,595,091 4 0	2,361,846 5 10
New £2½ per Cents. - - -	1,000,000 0 0	765,000 0 0
Exchequer Bonds - - -	472,000 0 0	472,000 0 0
Turkish Guaranteed £4 per Cent. Bonds	98,200 0 0	98,000 0 0
Bonds of Metropolitan Board of Works	850,000 0 0	850,000 0 0
Annuities for Terms of years ending } 5th April 1885 - - - }	393,549 15 3 } per annum }	4,915,519 0 0
Red Sea and India Telegraph Annuities, expire 4th August 1908 - - }	3,100 0 0 } per annum }	62,395 0 0
	<i>£</i> 11,627,147 8 11	175,322 6 0
Add Value of Securities - - -		11,627,147 8 11
Cash Balance in Bank of England -		160,583 6 10
		<i>£</i> 11,963,053 1 9

National Debt Office,
24 March 1869.

A. Y. SPEARMAN,
Comptroller General.

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TABLE V.
GOVERNMENT ANNUITIES AND INSURANCES GRANTED UNDER ACT 27 & 28 VICT. CAP. 43.
An Account showing the Number and Amount of Sums received and paid, and the Number and Amount of Contracts granted by Her Majesty's Postmaster General, under authority of the Act 27 & 28 Vict. c. 43., from the Commencement of Business on the 17th April 1865 to the 31st December 1868, together with the Number and Amount of Contracts in existence on the 31st December 1868, and the Amount paid for Charges of Management.
(1.) An Account showing the Number and Amount of Sums received and paid on Account of Government Annuity and Insurance Contracts from the Commencement of Business on the 17th April 1865 to the 31st December 1868.

	Receipts.					Payments.			
	From 17 April 1865 to 31 December 1867.		From 1 January to 31 December 1868.			From 17 April 1868 to 31 December 1868.		From 1 January to 31 December 1868.	
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.		No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
To Cash received for the purchase of Annuities, viz.:— For Immediate Annuities and For Deferred Annuities and Monthly Allowances, Money not returned on Annuities and For Immediate Annuities and Monthly Allowances, Money returned. To Cash received for Fees on Annuity Contracts (the Charges for Monthly Allowances being included in the Premium). To Cash received from the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt for payment to Annuity, viz.:— <div><div>£ s. d.</div><div>11,968 5 8</div><div>14,468 0 11</div></div> <div><div>£ s. d.</div><div>40 16 2</div><div>78 9 7</div></div> Gross - 11,968 5 8 Less Income Tax - 40 16 2 To Cash received on account of Contracts for the payment of Sums at Death - 11,925 9 6 To Cash received from the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt, for the Payment of Annuity due under Contracts for Sums payable at Death - 288 9 10	552	136,687 2 6	333	70,775 2 0	875	207,412 5 6	5	6	
	129	3,893 2 6	81	635 16 3	210	4,528 18 9			
	548	2,687 3 8	229	1,809 15 3	777	4,556 18 11			
	-	738 12 7	-	345 16 0	-	1,051 8 7			
	-	11,925 9 6	-	14,419 11 4	-	26,245 0 10			
	0 26	7,584 13 6	6 46	4,192 5 8	16,724	11,776 19 4			
	-	288 9 10	-	701 8 11	-	989 18 9			
	-	£ 163,751 15 3	-	£ 98,939 15 5	-	£ 256,691 10 8			
By Cash paid to the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt, for investment on account of Sums received for the purchase of Annuities -					-	140,267 8 5	-	74,173 2 11	-
By Annuities paid -					1,087	11,050 0 11	-	14,112 7 7	2,323
By Premiums on Deferred Annuity Contracts, Money returned, repaid to Contractors -					16	228 17 4	16	243 12 0	82
By Cash paid to the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt for investment on account of premiums received on Contracts for Sums payable at Death -					-	7,441 12 1	-	4,063 1 5	-
By Cash paid under Contracts for Sums payable at Death -					6	388 9 10	11	734 7 6	17
By Balance remaining in the hands of the Postmaster General on 31 December 1868, viz.:— On account of Annuity Contracts, including Fees - 3,246 3 5 On account of Contracts for Sums payable at Death - 139 7 3					-	-	-	3,385 16 8	-
					-	£ 159,074 8 7	-	£ 96,717 1	-
					-	-	-	-	3,385 10 8
					-	-	-	-	£ 256,691 10 8

(II.) AN ACCOUNT showing the Number and Amount of CONTRACTS entered into by Her Majesty's Postmaster-General from the Commencement of Business on the 17th April 1865 to the 31st December 1868, and the Number and Amount of Contracts in existence on the 31st December 1868.

	CONTRACTS GRANTED.				TOTAL.	
	From 17 April 1865 to 31 December 1867.		From 1 January to 31 December 1868.			
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Contracts for Annuities granted from the commencement of business on 17th April 1865 to the 31st December 1868, viz. :-						
Immediate Annuities - - -	551	12,393 17 2	323	6,896 0 0	874	18,789 17 2
Deferred Annuities and Monthly Allowances, Money not returnable - - -	57	1,125 11 0	11	165 0 0	68	1,290 11 0
Deferred Annuities and Monthly Allowances, Money returnable - - -	101	1,917 18 0	29	503 5 0	130	2,421 3 0
Contracts for Sums payable at Death, granted from the commencement of business on 17th April 1865 to the 31st December 1868 - - -	1,532	114,900 4 7	350	28,781 5 3	1,882	141,681 9 10
Contracts for Annuities in existence on the 31st December, 1868, viz. :-						
Immediate Annuities - - -	-	-	-	-	860	18,527 17 2
Deferred Annuities and Monthly Allowances, Money not returnable - - -	-	-	-	-	62	1,161 3 0
Deferred Annuities and Monthly Allowances, Money returnable - - -	-	-	-	-	98	1,810 6 0
Contracts for Sums payable at Death in existence on the 31st December 1868 - - -	-	-	-	-	1,789	134,823 17 2

(III.) AN ACCOUNT showing the Amount paid for the CHARGES of MANAGEMENT from the Commencement of Business on the 17th April 1865 to the 31st December 1868.

	From 17 April 1865 to 31 December 1867.	From 1 January to 31 December 1868.	TOTAL.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Salaries and Allowances - - -	753 1 8	233 11 9	989 13 5
Stationery - - -	1,405 3 5	8 15 11	1,413 19 4
Stamps on Policies - - -	90 0 0	-	90 0 0
Fees to Medical Officers - - -	188 5 0	56 15 0	240 0 0
Incidental Disbursements, including Travelling Charges - - -	11 18 10	1 5 9	13 4 7
Works executed and Furniture supplied - - -	250 5 10	-	250 5 10
Postage - - -	214 5 4	9 4 2	223 9 6
TOTAL AMOUNT paid for charges of management, including furniture, books, stationery, and preliminary expenses - - -	2,911 0 1	309 12 7	3,220 12 8
Fees received on the grant of certain Annuities - - -	735 12 7	345 16 0	1,081 8 7

General Post Office,
March 1869.

GEO. CHETWYND,
Receiver and Accountant General.

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