

The introduction in the repairs and embellishment of the public buildings of a new and beautiful material, inexhaustible in quantity, and conveniently situated in relation to the seat of Government, was thought to be an object of some importance; but to me the establishment has been a source of perpetual anxiety and vexation, which could have been rendered supportable only by the aid of a gentleman of probity and high standing in the county, Mr. Solomon Davis, who, from motives of friendship to me, undertook to superintend the whole. In his judgment, vigilance, and integrity I knew I ought to confide.

This short statement, it is hoped, will suffice to explain some items of a character not usual in public accounts.

I have the honor to be, with great respect, your obedient servant,

SAML. LANE, *Commissioner of the Public Buildings.*

HON. HENRY ST. GEORGE TUCKER.

15th CONGRESS.]

No. 455.

[1st SESSION.]

DISTRIBUTION OF THE JOURNALS AND OTHER PRINTED DOCUMENTS OF CONGRESS.

COMMUNICATED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, APRIL 8, 1818.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, *April 7, 1818.*

In compliance with a resolution of the House of Representatives of the 19th ultimo, requesting information whether a distribution has been made of the journals and documents published under the orders of the Senate and House of Representatives, respectively, pursuant to the joint resolution of the 27th December, 1813, and what further provision is necessary to insure the transmission of the said journals and documents according to the said resolution, the Secretary of State has the honor to report that the documents referred to have, up to the year 1817, been transmitted as prescribed, partly by mail, and partly by water and land carriage.

That, of the documents for the year 1817, twenty-five copies have been deposited in the library of Congress, and that a copy of the same has been forwarded by mail, under the frank of this Department, and in conformity to the fourth section of the act of the 18th of April, 1814, to each of the judges of the Supreme Court of the United States, of the district courts, and of the Territories of the United States, with the exception of the Mississippi Territory, which, during that year, was passing, in part, from the Territorial to the State form of government, whereby it became difficult to identify therein the particular judges who were entitled to the said documents.

That the remainder of the documents for the year 1817 were, as usual, and according to the plan adopted for the distribution of the laws of the United States, deposited in the hands of an agent convenient to navigation, with a view to their being shipped and conveyed, by water and land carriage, to the Executives of the several States and Territories, in the proportions that the acts of Congress are transmitted to the same, and according to the injunctions of the joint resolution of Congress of the 27th of December, 1813.

That none of the documents for the year 1817 have been shipped from this place, owing (as the agent states) to the late period at which they were delivered to him by the bookbinder, and to the want of an opportunity thereafter to ship them hence.

If further provision be necessary to insure the transmission of the journals and documents according to the said resolution, Congress may deem it expedient to make an application of supernumerary copies to be substituted for those which, by casualties and accidents unavoidable in the conveyance of packages so bulky and so liable to take damage to the most distant quarters of the Union, are occasionally prevented from reaching their destinations. Delays of several months must necessarily occur after the expiration of every session of Congress before the laws, journals, and documents of the session can be forwarded in the requisite numbers to all the States and Territories, respectively. By the employment of a greater number of printers and bookbinders these delays might, doubtless, to a certain extent, be abridged, but not, probably, without a considerable increase of expense.

All which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.

15th CONGRESS.]

No. 456.

[1st SESSION.]

DISPUTED BOUNDARY WITH GREAT BRITAIN.

COMMUNICATED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, APRIL 11, 1818.

Mr. P. P. BARBOUR made the following report:

The committee to whom, by a resolution of the House of Representatives of March 27, 1818, were referred the President's message and accompanying documents upon the subject of the expenses incurred under the fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh articles of the treaty of Ghent, with instructions to inquire into the nature and causes of said expenses, and into the principles upon which the commissioners under the sixth and seventh articles of said treaty have proceeded in the execution thereof, report:

That they have endeavored, as far as they have been able, to investigate the subjects which have been confided to them, and now beg leave to present to the House the result of their inquiries. They will begin with the sixth and