

be weakened. As appears from his late report, since the 1st July, 1823, the date of his connexion with the Department, there has been ingrafted on the establishment an amount of revenue, and accommodation in post offices and transportation of the mail, greater than the entire mail establishment in the Union in 1800. This is an increase unparalleled in the annals of the Department, and shows what industry and capacity may accomplish in this important branch of the public service. It is proposed to relieve the Treasury from the appropriations usually made to pay the officers of this Department, and that the same shall be drawn from its own funds. Should this suggestion be adopted, the salary of the Postmaster General, and his assistants and clerks, and the contingent fund, will no longer be a charge on the Treasury.

The great amount of additional mail accommodation and revenue is not the only advantage which the public have derived from a vigilant administration of the Department. There is a degree of regularity and energy in all its operations, which is highly beneficial to the country.

When the committee consider the rapid increase of this Department, the great responsibility of its head, the talents and labor required to manage its concerns, and the interest which all classes of the community have in its faithful administration, a sense of duty requires them to recommend that \$2,000 be added to the present salary of the Postmaster General; and they report a bill containing such a provision.

[19th CONGRESS.]

No. 65.

[2d SESSION.]

MONEY STOLEN FROM A DEPUTY POSTMASTER.

COMMUNICATED TO THE SENATE, JANUARY 19, 1827.

Mr. JOHNSON, of Kentucky, made the following report:

The Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads, to whom was referred the bill for the relief of Nathaniel Patten, reported:

That the petitioner sets forth that he was postmaster in the town of Franklin, in the State of Missouri, in and about the year 1820; in which year a considerable sum of money, amounting to about \$800, received for postage, accumulated upon his hands, and remained undrawn for, although he rendered his accounts regularly at the end of each quarter; that he kept the said money carefully, in a small trunk, which was enclosed in a large one, and placed in the room in which he slept; and that on the night of November 2, 1820, the room was entered by some thief or thieves, and the small trunk taken out of the large one, and carried away with its contents, and afterwards found in the woods, cut open, and rifled of the money which it had contained. This petition is supported by the sworn affidavit of the petitioner, and the like sworn affidavits of several witnesses, whose character and respectability are amply vouched for, and in some instances known to the committee, testifying to the good character of the petitioner for honesty, sobriety, prudence, and careful attention to business; stating, moreover, that he is hard of hearing, or considerably deaf; and detailing circumstances connected with the robbery which induce them to believe that it took place as stated. His case is further supported by a written statement, drawn up and signed on the spot, a few days after the robbery, by twelve of the principal inhabitants of the place; among whom may be named two gentlemen of high character, then in the service of the United States, to wit, General Thomas A. Smith, receiver of public money, and Charles Carroll, Esq., of Bellevue, register of the land office; in which they all voluntarily bear witness to the integrity of the petitioner's character, his careful habits, and declare their full belief that the robbery was committed upon him as stated.

Upon this evidence the committee consider the facts as satisfactorily proven that the petitioner exercised due care and diligence in keeping the aforesaid amount of money collected for postages; that he [was robbed] of the same as stated; and that, upon principles of equity, and the practice of Congress, especially in the case of John Hall, [vol. 6, p. 335, of the Laws of the United States,] he is entitled to relief. They therefore return to the Senate, without amendment, the bill which has been referred to them for his relief, and recommend that the same may be passed into a law.

[19th CONGRESS.]

No. 66.

[2d SESSION.]

TRANSFER OF CONTRACTS, AND THE COST OF TRANSPORTING THE MAIL ON CERTAIN ROUTES.

COMMUNICATED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, FEBRUARY 28, 1827.

SIR:

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, *February 27, 1827.*

In obedience to a resolution of the House of Representatives passed on the 23d instant, directing the Postmaster General to "inform the House whether the printer or editor of any newspaper in the District of Columbia was, or is, a party to any contract or contracts; and, if any assignment of such contract has been made, a copy of such assignment; and that he state to whom, and in what way, the money has been, or is to be, paid by the Department; and, also, inform the House of the sums now paid for carrying the mail between Washington City and Vincennes, Indiana, *via* Wheeling, Virginia, and Lexington, Kentucky, specifying how much is paid to each of the contractors for conveying the mail on said route; the distance carried by each contractor; and the amount paid, and to whom; stating how often per week, and what additional compensation is made to any contractor beyond the sum stipulated in the original contract;" I have the honor to state that, in December, 1823, Duff Green, then of Missouri, but now of this city, and who is editor of a paper called the "United States Telegraph," entered into three contracts, he being the lowest bidder, for the conveyance of the mail in small stages, one trip weekly, from St. Louis to Franklin, a distance of one hundred and seventy-six miles; and thence, on horseback, to Clay court-house, one hundred and nineteen miles.