

appropriation. This has met with the approbation of the Legislature, and I have no doubt that such a course will be approved by it, if no doubt is entertained as to the necessity of the expenditure.

There are now several individuals employed temporarily in the office, and their services cannot be dispensed with, without great loss to the public. I would, therefore, recommend to you the continuance of the persons thus employed, under the full belief that an appropriation will be made to cover the expense at the next session of Congress.

Mr. Bradley, the senior Assistant Postmaster General, will fully explain to you the necessity which exists for the services referred to, and will inform you of the names of the persons employed, and the sums paid to each.

With great respect, your obedient servant,

JOHN McLEAN.

Hon. Wm. T. BARRY, *Postmaster General*.

[21st CONGRESS.]

No. 32.

[1st SESSION.]

REWARD FOR APPREHENDING THE ROBBER OF THE POST OFFICE AT FLORENCE, IN ALABAMA.

COMMUNICATED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, FEBRUARY 1, 1830.

Mr. JOHNSON, of Kentucky, from the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads, to whom was referred the claim of Fielding L. White, of Madison county, Alabama, reported:

That it appears that said Fielding L. White was jailer of the said county of Madison, in January, 1828, when David H. Dyer, who had been previously committed on a charge of robbing the post office at Florence, Alabama, escaped from said jail; that said White offered a reward of fifty dollars for the apprehension of said Dyer; that said Dyer was subsequently arrested, and recommitted, tried, and convicted of said offence, and upon that conviction is now under sentence of the court. It also sufficiently appears that said White paid the said reward of fifty dollars, and has applied to the Postmaster General to be refunded, and been refused, "because it does not come within the legal power of that Department;" although the Postmaster General says "the reward ought to be paid." It further appears, to the satisfaction of the committee, that the claimant is "an honest man, and has always been a vigilant, faithful, and efficient officer." The committee, therefore, beg leave to report a bill for his relief.

[21st CONGRESS.]

No. 83.

[1st SESSION.]

SURETY OF A DEFAULTING DEPUTY POSTMASTER.

COMMUNICATED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, FEBRUARY 5, 1830.

Mr. CONNER, from the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads, to whom was referred the petition of Joseph Young, reported:

That the petition and papers of Mr. Young were referred to the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads at the first session of the last Congress, and a report favorably made; which report the committee beg leave to adopt: That the petitioner became surety for John Garretson, postmaster in Concord, North Carolina, in the year 1815; that said Garretson died in September of the same year, and, shortly after, a successor was appointed. In the fall of the year 1821, suit was instituted by the Postmaster General against the petitioner for the sum of \$53 55, due to the Department at the decease of Garretson, which, together with the cost incurred by the suit, amounts to \$100 21, and was paid over to the clerk of the circuit court of the United States in 1822; which sum the petitioner asks to be refunded to him. The committee are persuaded that it would be inexpedient, in ordinary cases, and within a reasonable time after the death or resignation of a postmaster, to absolve the security from the responsibility which he, himself, in the first instance, voluntarily assumed. But, in this case, six years had been, by the Department, permitted to elapse before the institution of a suit; a new appointment of a postmaster made; a bond, and other and new security taken; the administrator, widow, and heirs had, three years after the decease of Garretson, removed out of the State where (if any balance of the estate of Garretson remained) he is advised he could not sustain a suit, from the fact of his having paid the money before final judgment was taken against him. The committee therefore believe that, in equity and justice, the above sum should be refunded; and, for that purpose, report a bill.