

Annual amount of transportation changed from horses to stages, 278,656 miles, at 8 cents per mile, (the mean difference,) - - - - -	\$22,292 48
To be added for increased number of trips on the same, amounting, annually, to 118,456 miles, at 5 cents per mile, - - - - -	5,922 80
Increased number of trips on former stage routes, amounting, annually, to 138,358 miles, at 13 cents per mile, - - - - -	17,986 54
Increased number of trips on horse and sulkey routes, amounting, annually, to 31,824 miles, at 5 cents per mile, - - - - -	1,591 20
Making the total annual value of the improvements - - - - -	\$47,793 02

The contracts have been made for the ensuing four years from the 1st of January next, including all these improvements, at a sum less than the amount now paid for transporting the mails in that division by - \$25,047 87
 To this sum add the estimated value of the improvements, as before stated, - 47,793 02

And the actual saving to the Department in the renewing of the contracts will amount, annually, to - 72,840 89

besides the very considerable amount gained in the increased expedition of the mails on many routes of great interest to the community, the value of which cannot be well estimated.

In this saving in the expense of the contracts, and the additional revenue which may be anticipated from the improvements they secure, together with the general increase of postages, which is still progressive, will be seen a foundation for the belief which has been expressed, that the current revenue of the Department for the succeeding year will be sufficient for its disbursements.

The rules that have been adopted in relation to the conduct of postmasters, placing the investigation of all official delinquencies under the immediate superintendence of an assistant, and subjecting them to the strict scrutiny of an able and vigilant officer, have been productive of the happiest results. There are, at the present time, in the United States, 8,401 post offices; and, among that number, scattered over the whole Union, it is not possible to prevent disorders, to the great loss of individuals, and sometimes of the Department, without the unremitting and undivided attention of a competent officer. The duties of this branch of the Department, under its present organization, have, however, been so discharged as to secure as great a degree of confidence in the fidelity of its officers, generally, as could have existed in any former period, when the number was comparatively small.

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

W. T. BARRY.

To the PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

21st CONGRESS.]

No. 97.

[2d Session.

DEFALCATION OF A DEPUTY POSTMASTER, OCCASIONED BY THE BURNING OF HIS OFFICE.

COMMUNICATED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, DECEMBER 17, 1830.

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

The Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads, to whom was referred the petition of Barnard Kelley, of Elbert county, in the State of Georgia, have had the subject under consideration, and report:

That the petitioner, in the year 1805, was postmaster in the town of Washington, Wilkes county, in the State of Georgia; that, during that year, the house of the petitioner, in which the post office was kept, together with the vouchers of payments made to the Post Office Department, money belonging to the office, all the records belonging to the office, and all of the property which the petitioner possessed, was, with a trifling exception, consumed by fire; that, at the time of that conflagration, there was a balance standing charged against the petitioner in the Post Office Department of \$173 82; that the vouchers of payments made to the Department, for which the petitioner did not receive credit, added to the money belonging to the office, and which was so destroyed, were more than equal to the balance then standing against him in the Post Office Department; that judgment was recovered in the district court for the district of Georgia, in favor of the Postmaster General of the United States, against the petitioner, for the said balance of \$173 82 principal, \$218 20 interest, and \$43 80 costs, making, in the aggregate, the sum of \$435 82, all of which was paid by the petitioner. Satisfied, by the evidence submitted, that the material facts set forth by the petitioner are substantially true, your committee are of opinion that the petitioner is entitled to relief: they, therefore, report a bill.

To the Congress of the United States: The petition of Barnard Kelley sheweth:

That he was many years, previous to 1805, postmaster at Washington, in Wilkes county, State of Georgia, and conducted himself with fidelity, always accounting regularly for his receipts of postage; that, in the aforesaid year, his house, which constituted the principal part of his property, and in which the post office was kept, was destroyed by fire, whereby he lost every thing appertaining to his office, what money he had then on hand, and all his own effects—he and family having saved only their clothes and some trifling effects; that, being reduced to very indigent circumstances by this accident, the Government did not press the judgment which they recovered against him for \$173 82 for a number of years, but left him to struggle for the support of his family, without the additional pressure of their claim; that, a few years since, by the death of his wife's father, he acquired one negro man, who, with a small piece of poor land, constitutes his whole property; that your petitioner is infirm and unable to work, and his family consists of a wife and seven daughters, (one of whom is insane,) and he is entirely dependant for subsistence on the labor of these, who are unable to work in the field; that the execution of the Government has been levied on his property, and your petitioner will be reduced to absolute want if it is pressed; that he considers himself entitled to relief, because, by the destruction of his office, he was unable to settle his accounts with the Government, having been thereby deprived of his vouchers, and lost the amount of money which he had then on hand; and that, by the loss of vouchers, he was charged with an amount greater than he was really liable for: wherefore, he prays Congress will afford him such relief as they may deem proper.

BARNARD KELLEY.

August 15, 1828.

The undersigned having been residents of Washington, in Wilkes county, in the State of Georgia, in the year 1805, say that they have been well acquainted with Barnard Kelley, in the year 1805, and that they know that his dwelling-house, in which he kept the post office, was destroyed by fire in that year, and every thing burnt except some trifling effects. Having read his petition hereunto annexed, they verily believe the facts therein stated to be true.

WILLIAM WILKINS, A. M. CHARLTON,
 THOMAS WOOTTEN, FELIX G. HAY,
 JOHN DYSON, THOMAS TALBOT.
 CH. R. CARTER,

GEORGIA, WILKES COUNTY : August 22, 1828.

William G. Gilbert personally came before me, and made oath that he knew Barnard Kelley; that he was many years postmaster in this place, and that he lost his house by fire, and, as this deponent then understood, almost all his property; that he always supported the character of an honest, worthy man, and at the time he removed from this place was in very indigent circumstances, and had a large family to support.

WM. G. GILBERT.

Sworn to before me, this 22d of August, 1828.

WM. H. CRAWFORD, J. S. C. N. C.

GEORGIA, WILKES COUNTY :

Thomas Terrell personally came before me, and made oath that he knew Barnard Kelley as postmaster for many years in this place; and that he lost his house by fire, where said office was kept. I was present and saw the house burn, and, it was said, all that he had. Said Kelley supported the character of an honest man; and, when he removed from this place, was in quite indigent circumstances, and I believe he remains with a large family to support.

THOMAS TERRELL.

Sworn to before me, this 22d of August, 1828.

WM. H. CRAWFORD, J. S. C. N. C.

GEORGIA, WILKES COUNTY:

I hereby certify that I have been long acquainted with William G. Gilbert and Thomas Terrell, the persons who have subscribed the within depositions, and know them to be men of unimpeachable character, and entitled to the fullest credit.

Given under my hand and seal this 21st August, 1828.

WM. H. CRAWFORD, J. S. C. N. C.

GEORGIA, ELBERT COUNTY:

Before me, Benjamin Smith, a justice of the inferior court for said county, personally appeared Barnard Kelley, of the county and State aforesaid, who, being duly sworn, deposeth and saith, that the *material* facts set forth in his petition addressed to Congress, bearing date the 15th August, 1828, which is hereunto annexed, are true. That since that date he has paid to the marshal for the district of said State (or to his deputy) the whole amount claimed of this deponent by the Post Office Department, including interest and costs, with the principal, which he, this deponent, supposes appears of record in said Department.

And said deponent further saith, that the vouchers of payments made by him to the Post Office Department, for which he *did not* receive credit, added to the money which was with said vouchers destroyed by fire when his house was consumed, was equal to the amount of the principal for which judgment was recovered against him by said Department.

BARNARD KELLEY.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 20th October, 1830.

BENJAMIN SMITH, J. I. C.

POSTMASTER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES

vs.

BARNARD KELLEY.

} *Fi. Fa. from the District Court of Georgia.*

Received of the defendant, Barnard Kelley, the principal and interest, and forty-three dollars and eighty cents costs, in full of said execution, this 12th of August, 1826.

LINDSAY JOHNSON, Deputy Marshal Dist. Georgia.

Test: JOHN A. HEARD.

Principal,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$173	82
Interest,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	218	20
Costs,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	43	80
								<u>\$435</u>	<u>82</u>

FURTHER CREDITS CLAIMED BY A DEFAULTING DEPUTY POSTMASTER.

COMMUNICATED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, DECEMBER 29, 1830.

Mr. McCREERY, from the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads, to whom was referred the petition of William Neusum, reported:

That they have given the subject due consideration, and find that the petitioner claims compensation for clerk hire, house rent, fuel, and candles, for the space of fifteen years, during which he held the office of deputy postmaster in Norfolk, Virginia. The petitioner further states that, a short time before he resigned his said office, a suit was instituted against him by order of the then Postmaster General, and a judgment obtained for the sum of \$13,000, which reduced him to bankruptcy; that he could not avail himself of the credits which he alleges he was entitled to, which, if allowed, would have given a balance in his favor of more than \$5,000.

Your committee have carefully examined the law in relation to the Post Office Department, and are unable to find any provision that would justify the allowances claimed by the petitioner. By a reference to two letters from the late Postmaster General, it appears that the petitioner has received the full amount of commissions allowed by law,