

# POSTAL CONVENTIONS.

*Convention between the United States of America and her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, for the Improvement of the Communication by Post between their respective Territories. Concluded and signed at London on the 15th December, 1848; Ratified by the President of the United States on the 6th January, 1849; Exchanged at London on the 26th January, 1849; Proclaimed by the President of the United States on the 15th February, 1849.*

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: Dec. 15, 1848.

[Obsolete.  
See post, p. 886.]

## PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS a convention between the United States of America and her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland was concluded and signed at London, on the fifteenth day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-eight, which convention is, word for word, as follows:—

Preamble.

The United States of America and her Majesty, the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, being desirous to promote the friendly relations existing between their respective citizens and subjects, by placing the communications by post between the territories of the United States and those of her Britannic Majesty upon a more liberal and advantageous footing, have resolved to conclude a convention for this purpose, and have named as their plenipotentiaries, that is to say:—

Contracting parties.

The President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate thereof, George Bancroft, a citizen of the United States, their envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to her Britannic Majesty:—

And her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, the Right Honorable Henry John Viscount Palmerston, Baron Temple, a Peer of Ireland, a member of her Britannic Majesty's most honorable Privy Council, a member of Parliament, Knight Grand Cross of the most honorable Order of the Bath, and her Britannic Majesty's principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs:—

Who, after having communicated to each other their respective full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed upon and concluded the following articles:—

ARTICLE I. There shall be charged upon all letters not exceeding half an ounce in weight, conveyed either by United States or by British packets, between a port in the United States and a port in the United Kingdom, an uniform sea rate of eight pence, or sixteen cents; and such postage shall belong to the country by which the packet conveying the letters is furnished.

Letter postage;

sea rate;

ARTICLE II. There shall be charged by the Post-Office of the United Kingdom, upon all letters not exceeding half an ounce in weight, posted in the United Kingdom, and forwarded to the United States, or brought

Letter postage, inland rate. from the United States and delivered in the United Kingdom, whether such letters shall be conveyed by British or by United States packets, an inland postage rate of one penny half penny.

There shall be charged by the Post-Office of the United States, upon all letters not exceeding half an ounce in weight, posted in the United States and forwarded to the United Kingdom, or brought from the United Kingdom, and delivered in the United States, whether such letters shall be conveyed by United States or by British packets, an inland postage rate of five cents.

Both rates combined in one on certain letters. Prepayment optional.

ARTICLE III. Upon all letters posted in one country and delivered in the other, these rates of postage, both sea and inland, shall be combined into one rate, of which payment in advance shall be optional in either country. It shall, however, not be permitted to pay less than the whole combined rate.

Letters above the weight of half an ounce.

ARTICLE IV. With respect to letters above the weight of half an ounce, each country shall be at liberty to employ, as regards the collection of the whole combined rate, the scale of progression in operation in its own territory for charging inland rates of postage.

Transit in closed mails through the United States;

ARTICLE V. The United States engage to grant to the United Kingdom the transit in closed mails, through the territory of the United States, of the correspondence and newspapers from the United Kingdom to the British North American provinces, and from those provinces to the United Kingdom, at the rate of inland postage to be charged under this convention for letters and newspapers between the United Kingdom and the United States.

Post, p. 790.

A British officer shall be permitted to accompany the closed mails during their transit.

the British North American provinces.

ARTICLE VI. On the other hand, her Britannic Majesty engages to grant to the United States the transit in closed mails, through the British North American provinces, of the correspondence and newspapers from one part of the territory of the United States to any other part of the territory of the United States, at rates not exceeding the rates of inland postage now charged, or to be hereafter charged, in the North American provinces, according to the distance such closed mails may be conveyed within the North American provinces.

An officer of the United States shall be permitted to accompany the closed mails during their transit.

Same subject.

ARTICLE VII. The United States further engage to grant to the United Kingdom the transit in closed mails, through the United States, or through any country where the post communication may be under the control or management of the United States, of letters and newspapers forwarded from the United Kingdom, its colonies, or possessions, to any other British colony or possession, or to any foreign country, and from any foreign country or British colony or possession, to the United Kingdom, its colonies or possessions.

Same subject.

ARTICLE VIII. Her Britannic Majesty engages, on her part, to grant to the United States the transit in closed mails, through the United Kingdom, or through any country where the post communication may be under the control or management of the United Kingdom, of letters and newspapers forwarded from the United States, their colonies, or possessions, to any other colony or possession of the United States, or to any foreign country, and from any foreign country, or from any colony or possession of the United States, to the United States, their colonies or possessions.

Payment on letters in closed mails how made.

Post, p. 829.

ARTICLE IX. When letters shall be forwarded in closed mails under the stipulations of Articles V., VI., VII., or VIII. of the present convention, the payment to be made to the Post-Office of the United Kingdom or of the United States, as the case may be, shall be made by the ounce, according to the net weight of the letters, at two rates to the ounce, with the addi-

tion of twenty-five per cent on the amount of postage, to compensate the loss that would otherwise be sustained by this mode of computation.

ARTICLE X. The country which sends or receives closed mails through the other is to render an account of the letters and newspapers sent or received in such closed mails, and to account to such country for the postage due thereon.

Account of letters and newspapers by closed mails.

ARTICLE XI. Letters posted in the United States, addressed to foreign countries, and intended to pass in transit through the United Kingdom, shall be delivered to the British Post-Office free of all United States postage, whether packet or inland; and letters from foreign countries addressed to the United States, passing in transit through the United Kingdom, shall be delivered to the United States Post-Office free of all British postage, whether packet or inland.

Letters posted in either country addressed to foreign countries, and to pass in transit through the other.

In the case of those countries to which letters cannot be forwarded unless the British postage be paid in advance, such British postage shall be collected in the United States, (in addition to the United States rates of postage,) and accounted for to the British Post-Office.

In the case of those countries to which letters cannot be forwarded unless the United States postage be paid in advance, such United States postage shall be collected in the United Kingdom, (in addition to the British postage,) and accounted for to the United States Post-Office.

ARTICLE XII. The rate of postage to be taken by the British Post-Office upon letters arriving in the United Kingdom from the United States, either by British or by United States packets, and to be forwarded through the United Kingdom to colonies or possessions of the United Kingdom, or of the United States, or to foreign countries, and *vice versa*, shall be the same as the rate which is now, or which may hereafter be, taken by the British Post-Office upon letters to or from such colonies or possessions, or foreign countries respectively, when posted at the port of arrival or delivered at the port of departure of the packets conveying the mails between the United Kingdom and the United States.

Postage on letters received and to be forwarded, &c.

Post, p. 829.

The above postage is irrespective of and beyond the inland rate to be taken in the United States upon such letters, if posted or delivered therein, according to the stipulations of Article II. of this convention, and also irrespective of and beyond the sea rate upon such letters payable according to the stipulations of Article I.

The rate of postage to be taken by the United States Post-Office upon letters arriving in the United States, either by British or by United States packets, from the United Kingdom, and to be forwarded through the United States to the colonies or possessions of the United States, or of the United Kingdom, or to those territories which, according to the law of the United States, are beyond the limit of their established post-routes, or to foreign countries, and *vice versa*, shall be the same as the rate which is now, or which may hereafter be, taken by the United States Post-Office upon letters conveyed, whether by sea or land, to or from such colonies, possessions, territories, or foreign countries, respectively, when posted at the port of arrival, or delivered at the port of departure of the packets conveying the mails between the United States and the United Kingdom.

The above postage is irrespective of and beyond the inland rate to be taken in the United Kingdom upon such letters, if posted or delivered therein, according to the stipulations of Article II. of this convention, and also irrespective of and beyond the sea rate upon such letters payable according to the stipulations of Article I.

There shall be excepted from the above stipulations, letters and newspapers passing through the United Kingdom, to and from France, as to which certain rates are fixed by the postal convention existing between that country and the United Kingdom. But the two contracting parties agree to invite France to enter into communication with them, without

Certain letters and newspapers excepted.

loss of time, in order to effect such arrangements for the conveyance of letters and newspapers, and closed mails, through the territories of the United States, of the United Kingdom, and of France, respectively, as may be most conducive to the interests of the three countries.

Letters posted  
in the United  
States to British  
N. A. provinces.  
*Post*, pp. 791,  
792.

ARTICLE XIII. Letters posted in the United States, addressed to the British North American provinces, or *vice versa*, when not conveyed by sea, shall be charged according to the rates of postage which are now, or which shall hereafter be, in operation in the United States, and in the British North American provinces, for inland letters.

Same subject.

ARTICLE XIV. Upon all letters posted in the United States, and addressed to the British North American provinces, or *vice versa*, the rates of postage fixed by the preceding article shall be combined into one rate, of which payment in advance shall be optional, both in the United States and in the British North American provinces. It shall, however, not be permitted to pay less than the whole rate.

English news-  
papers in the  
United States.

ARTICLE XV. The rates to be taken on newspapers published in the United Kingdom, when conveyed between the United Kingdom and the United States, either by British or by United States packets, shall be one penny for each newspaper in the United Kingdom, and two cents in the United States. Conversely, no higher charges than those above stated shall be made by the British or by the United States Post-Office, on newspapers published in the United States, either when despatched from that country, or when delivered in the United Kingdom.

No accounts  
for newspapers.

There shall be no accounts between the two offices for the transmission of newspapers; each office shall retain the postage it shall have charged, according to the preceding stipulations.

American  
newspapers in  
Great Britain.

ARTICLE XVI. The rate of postage to be charged in the United Kingdom upon newspapers to and from the United States, passing in transit through the United Kingdom, shall be one penny for each newspaper, except where a lower rate is provided by any treaty between the United Kingdom and a foreign country; and the rate of postage to be charged in the United States upon newspapers to and from the United Kingdom, passing in transit through the United States, shall be two cents for each newspaper.

Periodicals;

ARTICLE XVII. Periodical works, not of daily publication, posted in the United Kingdom or in the United States, may be forwarded from one country to the other, either by British or by United States packets, by means of the two offices, under the following conditions, namely:—

accounts;

1st. There shall be no accounts between the two offices for the transmission of such works; each office shall retain the postage it shall have charged.

how sent;

2dly. They must be sent in bands or covers open at the sides or end, so that they may be easily examined.

3dly. They shall be in every respect subject to the conditions prescribed by the laws and regulations of both countries.

rates.

The rates to be levied in Great Britain, as well on the above-mentioned works addressed to the United States, as on those from the United States addressed to Great Britain, shall be as follows:—

1st. For every work not exceeding two ounces in weight, one penny.

2dly. For every work above two ounces in weight, and not exceeding three ounces, six pence.

3dly. For every work above three ounces in weight, and not exceeding four ounces, eight pence.

4thly. And for every ounce above four up to sixteen ounces, (the limit imposed on the transmission of such articles by the British office,) two pence additional, every fraction of an ounce being reckoned as a full ounce.

The rates to be levied by the Post-Office of the United States on similar works, addressed to or coming from the United States, shall not exceed the rates to be charged in the United Kingdom.

ARTICLE XVIII. Printed pamphlets not exceeding the weight of eight ounces, posted in the United Kingdom or in the United States, may be forwarded from one country to the other, either by British or United States packets, by means of the two offices, at the same rates and under the same conditions as those fixed for periodical works by Article XVII.

Printed pamphlets.

ARTICLE XIX. In consideration of two cents United States currency not being precisely equivalent to one penny sterling, the British Post-Office shall account to the United States Post-Office at the rate of four hundred and eighty-four cents to the pound sterling; and the United States Post-Office shall account to the British Post-Office at the rate of four hundred and eighty cents to the pound sterling.

Rate of pound sterling in the accounts.

ARTICLE XX. In case of war between the two nations, the mail packets of the two offices shall continue their navigation without impediment or molestation until six weeks after a notification shall have been made on the part of either of the two governments, and delivered to the other, that the service is to be discontinued; in which case they shall be permitted to return freely and under special protection to their respective ports.

Provision as to mail packets in case of war.

ARTICLE XXI. The forms in which the accounts between the respective Post-Offices for the transmission and conveyance of letters are to be made out, the time and mode in which payment shall be made by either Post-Office to the other, together with all other measures of detail arising out of the stipulations of the present convention, shall be settled between the Post-Office of the United States and the British Post-Office, as soon as possible after the exchange of the ratifications of the present convention.

Forms of accounts, &c.

It is also agreed that the measures of detail mentioned in the present article may be modified by the two Post-Offices whenever, by mutual consent, those offices shall have decided that such modification would be beneficial to the Post-Office service of the two countries.

Measures of detail may be modified.

ARTICLE XXII. The present convention is concluded for an indefinite period. It cannot be annulled by either of the two governments, except after the expiration of a year's notice given to the other government.

Convention for what time;

ARTICLE XXIII. The present convention shall be ratified by the President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate thereof, and by her Britannic Majesty; and the ratifications shall be exchanged at London within three months from the date hereof. It shall come into operation as soon as possible after the exchange of the ratifications.

when to be ratified.

In witness whereof, the respective plenipotentiaries have signed the same, and have affixed thereto the seals of their arms.

Done at London the fifteenth day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-eight.

GEORGE BANCROFT. [L. S.]  
PALMERSTON. [L. S.]

And whereas the said convention has been duly ratified on both parts, and the respective ratifications of the same were exchanged at London, on the 26th day of January last, by George Bancroft, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States of America at the Court of St. James, and the Right Honorable Henry John Viscount Palmerston, her Britannic Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, on the part of their respective governments:

Now, therefore, be it known that I, JAMES K. POLK, President of the United States of America, have caused the said convention to be made public, to the end that the same, and every clause and article thereof, may be observed and fulfilled with good faith by the United States and the citizens thereof.

Proclaimed.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the city of Washington; this fifteenth day of February, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-nine, [SEAL.] and in the seventy-third of the independence of the United States.

JAMES K. POLK.

By the President:

JAMES BUCHANAN, *Secretary of State.*

### *Settlement of Details under the Postal Treaty with Great Britain.*

## ARTICLES

May 14, 1849. *Agreed upon between the Post-Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and the Post-Office of the United States of America for carrying into Execution the Convention of December 15, 1848.*  
[Obsolete.  
See post, p. 841.]

Regulations as  
to details.

*Ante*, p. 787.

IN pursuance of Article XXI. of the Convention of December 15, 1848, between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and the United States of America, which leaves to the two Post-Offices the regulation, as soon as possible after the exchange of the ratifications of the said convention, of the form in which the accounts for the transmission of correspondence are to be made up, as well as of all other matters of detail, which are to be arranged by mutual consent, for ensuring the execution of the stipulations contained in the said convention, the undersigned, duly authorized for that purpose by their respective offices, have agreed upon the following articles:—

### CHAPTER I.—*Regulations between the respective Offices of Exchange.*

Exchange of  
mails.

ARTICLE I. The following shall be the regulations for the exchange of mails between the United Kingdom and the United States:—

There shall be an exchange of mails between the following offices:—

1. Between London and Boston, by way of Liverpool and Boston direct, and also by way of Liverpool and New York.
2. Between London and New York, by way of Liverpool and New York direct, and also by way of Liverpool and Boston.
3. Between Liverpool and Boston direct, and also by way of New York.
4. Between Liverpool and New York direct, and also by way of Boston.
5. Between London and New York, by way of Southampton.
6. Between Southampton and New York direct.

Mails by pack-  
ets from Liver-  
pool to Boston  
to contain what;

ARTICLE II. When the packets are despatched from Liverpool to Boston direct, the mails forwarded from the offices of London and Liverpool to the office of Boston shall comprise the correspondence for all parts of the United States (with the exception of New York), and for countries in transit through the United States.

The mails for New York shall comprise all the correspondence for that city.

to New York to  
contain what.

ARTICLE III. When the packets are despatched from Liverpool to New York direct, the mails forwarded from the offices of London and Liverpool to the office of New York shall comprise the correspondence for all parts of the United States (with the exception of Boston), and for countries in transit through the United States.