Attorney Generals Office
June 5, 1838

Sir

Your communication ~~letter~~, on the subject of the letter carriers at Brooklyn was at first laid aside for more pressing engagements. But ~~yesterday~~ your note of ~~yesterday~~ this morning recalls my attention to it as a question still pending before your Department.

The business of carrying letters & [redacted] other mail matter belongs exclusively to the government. It ought to be and must be so for ~~reasons~~ very obvious reasons which do not need to be repeated. ~~Letters from to~~ In every large town, letter carriers to and from the Offices are a part of the system as much as the transportation of the

Attorney General's Office

June 6, 1878.

Sir

Communication

Your letter of the 5th inst. with the letter of Mr. Wm. Wardlaw was duly received. Mr. Wardlaw was advised that his case was not within the provisions of the act of February 18th 1878 providing for the payment of certain claims of citizens of Texas for property taken by the United States Military authorities during the late war between the States. This opinion was based upon the fact that the property was taken by the United States Military authorities for the use of the United States Army, and not by the Confederate States Army.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

[illegible]

Asst. Atty. Gen.

Hon. R. B. Hubbard,
Governor.

mails from one office to another. These carriers are ~~legally~~ appointed by the Post Master General; they are required to give bond; they may collect a custom fixed and uniform stamp upon each letter and pay it over to the Post Master; they act under the supervision of the Department; ~~and~~ may be removed if they prove unfaithful and are subject to special penalties for a violation of duty. To all intents and purposes they are public officers.

But it seems that a portion of the citizens of Brooklyn unwilling to be served by the legal carriers and desirous to ~~have~~ appoint one of their own ~~selection~~ associated themselves together and choice have given a standing order to the Post Master that he shall deliver all their letters and papers to a person by them designated; that person being one who was heretofore a legal carrier but discharged from

the Service. The Post Master refuses ~~to acquiesce in the arrangement thus~~ to deliver mail matter agreeably to the order and the question I am to advise you upon is whether you are bound to acquiesce in the arrangement of these gentlemen to substitute their own agents for yours.

It seems to me a palpable effort to evade the law and punish us from the purpose it was made for. ~~Letter carriers, &c.~~ A letter carrier is appointed for the benefit of ~~the Posts all the inhabitants of the Post who live to~~ the whole District he serves, to the end that all who live there may be served alike, with the same regularity and at the same cost — the distant as well as the near and those who get receive one letter a week or well as those who get a large number every

Thy Service; Or Poor Martin Luther
to colporteur to the Correspondent Office
to deliver Small Quantities especially
to Thy order and Thy Pastors
or to advise upon Ways & Matters
Pro one Journal to colporteur in Thy
country-work of Thine Apostleship
to substitute Thine own colporteur for
Ours.

Or seems to One a Problem
often to work the Love and Power
of Pure Thy Providence in Poor Needs
& Petty Cares?
Pro, Petty Cares over Opportunity for Thy
Benefit of the Lack of the Industrious
Poor Publishing Work Thy Glorious Per
Servers; 1.st Thirst will the Live Thine Own
In Servers obliquity with Thy Pure Regulat
and of the Pure Work — The Glorious
or Valley Thy Pain and Tears-Talk
Pro Desire our Letter & Work or Small
or Three who Sit & Large Quantity Every

day. If a part of the people can have a carrier of their own they can break down the system and deprive others of its benefit. You are not authorised to ~~let~~ pay the carriers in any city more than the aggregate sum which they collect ~~from~~ for their services. ~~A private carriers may demunish it so~~ If private competition be ~~allowed~~ voluntarily ~~that~~ the income may be so reduced that you must discontinue it altogether. ~~and let be~~ In that event every man in the city must go ~~to~~ a send to the office whether he will or not for his own letters or else submit to be bleeded and ~~by~~ neglected at the pleasure of unregulated and irresponsible carriers. Those citizens who make the demand in question should remember that they are not required to pay two cents

dear, If a part of this paper is
here & cause of this our stay
our heart does the system could
depend after of it heart's. Our
we not cutting ~~to~~ to pay this
carries is any city more than this
aggregate some which they other
~~from~~ for this service. Reports
~~the number~~ Many observed it so If
Parents complaints he ~~observed~~ to=
tatal ~~that~~ the ~~Indians~~ may be so
observed that ~~upon~~ Mrs ~~Mrs~~ ~~Mrs~~ ~~Mrs~~

on a letter and half a cent on a newspaper merely for the delivery of their own letters and papers but for the further purpose of accommodating their neighbors also. It is a light tax laid upon them to raise revenue for a beneficent public purpose. They ought to pay it cheerfully and leave the management of it where the law puts it in the hands of their own public authorities.

But they must not that no citizen has a right under the law to order his letters to remain in the office and not is bound by the law to receive his letters from the public carrier. It is true that any man may direct the Post Master to return his mail matter and he may call for it himself or have it brought

away by one whom he authorises
to get it. This provision fits the
case of ~~an individual~~ person who
in good faith from motives of economy
convenience or interest prefers that
his letters should be delivered at
the office to himself his family clerk
servant or friend. But that does
not prove that a large number
may unite themselves ~~together~~ away ~~for the purpose~~
~~of~~ ~~at~~ to take the ~~general~~ regular business
of carrying letters ~~away~~ in whole or in part from the ~~Post~~
~~Office Department~~ government. Any
man ~~who~~ who has occasion to do so may
send a letter ~~by his friend as part of~~
~~the~~ ~~cassday~~ to a or on a mail route by
his own special messenger. ~~or by a~~
~~casual traveller~~ But it does not
follow that the merchants of New
York and Philadelphia may therefore

~~agree to~~ establish a daily mail on private account between those ~~the two~~ cities. Two persons may lawfully agree ~~to~~ that one shall leave a letter for the other at a private house but this is not done on any principle which would justify five hundred or a thousand men in appointing a separate Post Master for themselves in opposition to the legal Officers.

The Statute like this must be construed according to its spirit and in such a manner as to carry out its main design. Every true rule of interpretation ~~requires~~ forbids you to ~~carry~~ reason from particular and exceptional provisions so as to defeat its general intent ~~and destroy it~~ The great object of

Report established a daily Mail on
Puerto Rican between Ponce
City. The Ponce Post hopefully
hopes that an Mail boat is
later by the 4th of March
Puerto Rico will provide postage
two hundred & Thousand men
to apportion & Puerto Rico
Ports practicable in Proportion
to the legal Voters.

The Public Health Office
would be continued according to
it Report and in such a manner
as to carry out it design. Every
rule of interpretation should
guide you to keep Puerto Rican
institution and organized powers
so as to adapt it Present virtual
and Material to the Spanish Civil

the law ~~establishment~~ establish
ing a system of public letter carriers
was to prevent the ~~mischiefs of a~~ inconvenience
which attended the delivery of letters
by persons who were not responsible
to your Department. It would be
trifling with the sense of language
to ~~allow that~~ the same mischiefs would be
on any pretext whatsoever.

My opinion in short is that
any attempt to ~~establish~~ have letters
carried to & from the Post Office by a
private carrier in a town where a public
carrier has been appointed by you is
altogether unlawful; and no device
can be invented which will be plausi-
ble enough to excuse it. A person
who intends to make the carrying of letters
his regular
business or a part of his business
and to do it professedly for hire
in opposition to the public carrier

is legally incapable of receiving authority to take letters out of the Post Office for that purpose, no matter what credentials he may have; whether it be a joint order from all his employers or a separate ~~order~~ order from each; one ~~order~~ ~~order~~ per month and standing order or an order renewed every day.

I am very respectfully
Yours &c
P. St. Brink

Hon. A. V. Brown

Cl° — 61

Opinion

Letter Carriers

in Brooklyn

June 3. 1858.

A. V. Brown

Postmaster General

Recorded

S. Black

Reference N° 54.

BLACK (J. S. Attorney General under President Buchanan).
A. L. S. 9 pages. 4to. To Hon. A. O. Brown. Opinion
Brooklyn Letter Carriers. - The business of carrying
letters and other mail matter belongs exclusively to
the Government, etc. etc.