

Post Office Circular Letter No. 2
1861

(Circular Letter, No. 2.)

Confederate States of America,
Post Office Department.

Montgomery,-----1861.

Sir:

The Government of the Confederate States will not interfere with any existing contracts, entered into between the government of the United States and the present contractors, until it assumes the entire control of its postal affairs. This course is rendered necessary by the utter impracticability of mixing the employees of the two governments in the same service.

The question as to whether the Government of the Confederate States will assume any liability to present contractors before it assumes the control of our postal affairs, involves the idea of liability, on the part of this Government, for the obligations of the United States, which cannot be entertained by this Department. But if the government of the United States should abandon the mail service in the Confederate States, before the Department shall be organized and ready to enter into new contracts, I am authorized to continue existing contracts, provisionally, by proclamation, until new contracts can be entered into.

Very Respectfully,

JOHN H. REAGAN,
Postmaster-General.

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