

ceipt of the reports sent by us to the said states, but we have no advice from any of the other states, nor from any other territories, of the receipt of the reports sent to each of them. One set directed to the governor of the state of Mississippi, was arrested in the mail, at Nashville, Tennessee, by an agent of the General Post Office, and sent back to the Post Office here, and we are apprehensive that other sets, intended for other States, have been, by like agency, stopped in their progress, and, by that means, withheld from their respective destinations.

The letter from the Clerk of the Council, to the Post Master General, (to which, we are informed, no reply has been received,) and the letters from the agent of the General Post Office, and from the assistant Post Master General to Jonas Green, Esquire, Post Master in this City, of which copies are herewith sent, explain the whole transaction. The assistant Post Master General's letter, instructing Mr. Green not to mail books, "until the backs are taken off," puts it out of our power to send, by the mail, any books without so mutilating them, as, materially to lessen their value. It has been the constant, practice uninterrupted, so far as we are advised, until the case we have spoken of, to send from, and receive at, this Department, by the mail, books and documents of every kind, bound and unbound, in reciprocal exchanges, with other States. Such exchanges of Laws, Judicial decisions, and other state papers, we consider highly interesting and valuable; and, between some of the states, can only be certainly and safely effected through the Post Offices.

You will receive, herewith, the annual report, from the directors of the Penitentiary, which has just been made to this Department as required by law: This is a subject of much importance, and is submitted to your consideration in the hope and confident expectation, that you will give it a thorough investigation, and if any defects or imperfections should be found in the System, or in the principles or details of its administration, that you will apply the proper corrective.

We submit for your consideration the several proposals for furnishing stationary for the public use, for the