

London District Offices. For more than half a century there were only two secretaries to the Post-office, Sir Francis Freeling and Colonel Maberly. Sir Francis was brought up in the Post-office, had performed the humblest as well as the highest duties of the department, and was a *protégé* of Mr. Palmer, the great Post-office reformer. He was succeeded by Lieut. Col. Maberly, M. P., who retired in 1854, when Mr. Rowland Hill, the originator of the penny-post, was appointed secretary; his services were rewarded in 1846 by a public testimonial of £13,360; Knighthood and grant. It is singular that all postal reformers have been unacquainted with the department which they have revolutionized.

The net Revenue of the Post-office to the end of the year 1865 was £1,482,522. The number of effective persons employed was twenty-five thousand and eighty-two; of pensioners, one thousand two hundred and seventy-four; salaries, wages, allowances, &c., £1,295,153; postage stamps, £22,064; stationery, £32,396; build-ings, repairs, etc., £75,331; conveyance by coaches, carts, etc., £140,517; by railways, £528,220; of mails by private ships and by packets, etc., £796,397; over the Isthmuses of Suez and Panama, with salaries of Admiralty agents, etc., £28,786; and for mail-bags and boxes, tolls, etc., £22,220; a total for conveyance of £1,516,442.

THE PENNY POST was originally projected by Robert Murray, a milliner, of the Company of Clothworkers; and William Dockwra, a sub-searcher in the Customs. It was commenced as a foot-post, in 1680, with four deliveries a day. These projectors, however, quarrelled: Murray set up his office at Hall's Coffee-house, in Wood-street; and Dockwra, at the Penny Post-house in Lime-street, formerly the mansion of Sir Robert Abdy. But this was considered an infringement on the right of the Duke of York, on whom the Post-office revenue had been settled; and in a suit to try the question, a verdict was given against Dockwra. He was compensated by a pension, and appointed Comptroller of the Penny Post, but was dismissed in 1698. The first office was in Cornhill, near the 'Change: parcels were received. In 1708, one Povey set up the "Half-penny Carriage" private post, which was soon suppressed by the Post-office authorities. They continued to convey parcels down to 1765, when the weight was limited to four ounces. The postage was paid in advance down to 1794. In 1801, the Penny Post became a Twopenny Post; and the postage was advanced to three-pence beyond the limits of London, Southwark, and Westminster; but in 1840 they were consolidated with the Penny General Post.

*The Money-Order Office*, a distinct branch of the Post-office, is a handsome new edifice on the west side of St. Martin's-le-Grand. Money-orders are issued by millions during the year, in numbers and amount, and have considerably added by commission to the Post-office revenue.