

gave instructions for a reply  
to <sup>be sent to</sup> the same, but by a  
mistake the correspondence  
was laid aside and consequently  
~~overlooked~~ in the Registry  
Branch of the Dept. and  
~~therefore was pushed the~~  
~~sides of the Corresponding~~  
~~clock~~ consequently was  
overlooked until the  
receipt of your letter of  
the 10<sup>th</sup> Inst <sup>which</sup> ~~drawing~~ called  
to the delay in reply.

I am, &c.