

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 never reached the~~  
~~hands of the corresponding~~  
~~branch~~ consequently was  
overlooked until the  
receipt of your letter of  
the 10<sup>th</sup> Inst <sup>which</sup> called  
drawing attention  
to the delay in reply.

I am, &c.