

Enclosure No. 1.

The Atlantic Royal Mail Steam Navigation Company (Limited).

40, Cannon-street, London, E.C.

28 December 1858.

Sir,

As the postal contract with this Company for conveying the mails from Galway to Newfoundland comes into operation in January, I have the honour to request you will be so good as to inform me on what day it will be convenient for the Post-office Department to dispatch mail-bags for Newfoundland under the above contract.

The steam-ship "Circassian" is appointed to sail from Galway on Thursday the 6th January, and if it will not be inconvenient to your department to permit the bags to be dispatched, in this instance, on the day named, and which has been extensively advertised, the future departure of the steam-ships of the Galway line can be fixed by Saturday, if agreeable to the arrangements of Her Majesty's Post-office Department.

Rowland Hill, Esq., Secretary,
General Post-office.

I have, &c.
(signed) A. M. Weir.

Enclosure No. 2.

(No. 1143—I.)

Sir,

General Post-office, 29 December 1858.

In reply to your letter of the 28th instant, I am directed by the Postmaster-General to inform you that, as the mails for Newfoundland, forwarded *via* Halifax, are closed in London on Friday evening, and the public have become accustomed to the practice, it appears to his Lordship that the mails to be forwarded direct from Galway should also be made up at this office on Friday evening, that the mails should be forwarded to Dublin by the ordinary night-mail, and that the packets should sail as soon as possible after their arrival at Galway.

This is the arrangement which will be the most convenient to the public and the Post-office.

With regard to the particular Friday to be fixed for the dispatch of the mails, *via* Galway, I am to state that mails for Newfoundland, *via* Halifax, will be made up in London—

Friday	-	January	14	Friday	-	July	1
"	-	February	11	"	-	July	29
"	-	March	11	"	-	August	26
"	-	April	8	"	-	September	23
"	-	May	6	"	-	October	21
"	-	June	3	"	-	November	18

And it seems to the Postmaster-General desirable that the mails *via* Galway should be made up one week in advance of those dates.

The departure of the "Circassian" can doubtless be deferred to suit this arrangement, as there would be much difficulty in circulating a notice throughout the post-offices in the United Kingdom in time for the mails to reach Galway by the 6th January.

The Postmaster-General desires me to add that he has purposely confined himself to naming the days for the mails to be made up in London.

If the Atlantic Royal Mail Company follow the course which they have adopted on former occasions, by providing a special train to convey the bags as promptly as possible from Dublin to Galway, the packet can easily sail from Galway on the Saturday; but if this train be not provided, the mails must remain at Dublin until the departure of the night-mail, and the packet will not be able to sail until the following morning.

His Lordship will be glad of an immediate reply, stating that the Company concur in these suggestions.

A. M. Weir, Esq.,
Atlantic Royal Mail Steam Navigation Company
(Limited), 40, Cannon-street, E. C.

I am, &c.
(signed) F. Hill.