

ANNUAL REPORT.

To His Excellency, the Right Honourable JAMES, Earl of Elgin and Kincardine,
K. T., Governor General of British North America, &c. &c. &c.

May it please your Excellency,—

I have the honor to submit, for the purpose of being laid before the Provincial Parliament in conformity to Law, the accompanying Reports numbered from 1 to 9 inclusive, shewing the operation and progress of the Post Office Department of this Province for the year ended the 31st March, 1853.

With a view to greater simplicity in the record of the business transactions of the Department, the dates of the Quarterly periods, which formerly commenced somewhat inconveniently on the 6th Jany, 6th April, 6th July, and 6th Oct. of each year, have during the past twelvemonth been altered, and the Quarters now date from the 1st of Jany, to 31st March, 1st April, to 30th June, 1st July, to 30th Sept, and from the 1st of October, to 31st December, respectively, and this will explain why the Reports herewith submitted have necessarily been made up to the 31st March, leaving the following year to commence on the 1st April, and curtailing the past fiscal year five days.

The business and Revenue of the Department have continued steadily to increase since the last Annual Report. During the past year 176 new offices have been established, 504 miles of new Post Route have been put in operation, and greater frequency has been given to the travel of the Mail over many of the older Routes. The augmentation in the total annual Mail transportation provided for has been 499,101 miles.

An account taken of the number of letters and papers passing thro' the Post shewed that in the week ended 31st March, 1853 there were,

81,896 Letters
116,500 Newspapers.

The following comparative statement of the items of Post Office Statistics above noticed will perhaps more clearly shew the rate of yearly improvement

Dates.	Number of Offices in Operation.	Miles of Post Route.	Miles of Annual Mail Transportation.	No. of Letters and Newspapers passing through the Post Office in a Week.	
				Letters.	Newspapers.
6th April, 1851.	601	7595	2,487,000	41,000	90,000
5th April, 1852.	840	8618	2,931,373	*71,726	101,000
31st March, 1853.	1016	9122	3,430,474	81,896	116,500

Note.—By a clerical error this number was put down in the Report of last year as 86,051.

The Postage Revenue of the year, including £1089.16.2 of letters and balances remaining in the hands of Post Masters at the close of the preceding year, amounted to £84.866.6.11½ and of this sum £1005.0.0½ remained temporarily with Post Masters, representing the Postage on letters undelivered on the last day of the year. The disbursements of the year were £74.680.17.16 as the aggregate expenditure for the maintenance of the Post Office service, and £14.348.18.4