

ney-General for the Commonwealth, instituted a weekly conveyance of letters to all parts of the kingdom, and in 1657 the post-office was placed nearly on its present footing, the rate of postage then adopted continuing till the reign of Queen Anne. Even as late as 1735, the post was only transmitted three days a-week between Edinburgh and London, and on one occasion, the *metropolis only sent a single letter*, which was for a Scotch banker, named Ramsay.

Previous to the introduction of a uniform penny rate; the postage was charged on a sliding scale, increasing in proportion to the distance. Thus, a letter under eight miles was 2*d.*, under fifteen, 4*d.*, and so on, and differential rates were used for England, Scotland, and Ireland. However, in 1837, Sir Rowland Hill broached his plan of "Penny Postage," which was adopted after investigation by a Committee of the House of Commons. The new Postage Law, by which a uniform rate of 4*d.* per letter, was tried as an experiment, came into operation December 5th, 1839; and the uniform rate of 1*d.* per letter of $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. weight, commenced in January, 1840.