The following interesting clippings were kindly sent us by an esteemed correspondent.

May 25th 1861.

The New Orleans Picayune, says:

“One week hence, there will not be any available mode of letter or newspaper express, or telegraphic communication between the Confederate and the United States. Our postmaster has announced his determination to assume the discharge of the duties of his office, on the first day of June. From that date all existing U.S. Mail contracts so far as we are concerned, will have been annulled. Meantime the Washington administration adopt the same policy, and to make intercourse thoroughly impossible, prohibit express companies from carrying express matters, inclusive of letters across the Potomac River.”

May 27, 1861.

The Boston Transcript of this date publishes the following:

“Post Master General Blair has issued the following order. ‘All postal service in the Southern States will be suspended from and after the 31st just. Letters for office temporarily closed by this order, will be forwarded to the dead letter office, except those for Western Virginia which will be sent to Wheeling.”

June 7th, 1861.

The New York Herald of this date publishers the following order, of the Post-Master General of the Southern Confederacy, by which the post-masters through the Rebel States, are ordered to retain the stamps, locks, etc., of the various offices, the property of the United States.

Circ. No. 4.

Confederate States of America,
P.O. Department,
Montgomery.

May 20th, 1861.

SIR: - You are hereby instructed, as the postal service of the United States, within the Confederate States, will be suspended on and after the first day of June next, to retain in your possession; subject to the further order of this department, for the benefit of the Confederate States, all mail bags, locks, keys, marking and other stamps, and all other property belonging to, or connected with, the postal service, and to return, forthwith, to the chief of the appointment bureau of this department, a full inventory of the same.

I am, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

To ---------------, Esq.
P.M. at -------------.

JOHN H. REAGAN,
P.M. Gen.
The following order was made by the Post Office department for the execution of the law respecting soldiers letters.

"Post-Masters, at or near any camp or point occupied by the United States forces, will mail without prepayment of postage, any letter written by a soldier in the service of the United States, and certified to be such by the Major or acting Major of the regiment to which the writer is attached. The envelope should have plainly stamped or written on its face this certificate “Soldier’s Letter,” signed in writing by the Major or acting Major of the regiment, describing his regiment by its number and its State. The postage due on such letters will be collected at the office of delivery. Commissioned officers will prepay their letters as heretofore."

JOHN A. KASSON, 1ST Ass. P.M. Gen.

June 22d, 1861

The Buffalo Express of this date published the following:

"Mail communication with the South. Arrangements have been made, by which letters can be safely forwarded to, and received from the Southern States. The following is the plan to get a letter to New Orleans, it must put in a U.S. stamped envelope (an ordinary three cent stamp on a plain envelope will not do, because the law of congress prevents express companies from carrying letters in any other way than when enclosed in a stamped envelope.) The letter should then be directed in the following manner.

Mr. ----------------- -----------------
New Orleans,
Louisiana.

Enclose the letter in another envelope with 20 cents worth of United States government stamps, and direct as follows:

American Letter Express Co.,
Louisville,
Kentucky.

This must be paid with one or two three-cent stamps, according to weight. The twenty cents worth of postage stamps pays ten cents to the express company for their trouble, and enables them to pay to bogus Confederate postage, which is 10 cents from Louisville to New Orleans, the distance being over 500 miles; but if the letter be intended for a point distant of Louisville by less than 500 miles, than the Confederate postage will be but five cents. It is understood this arrangement has been entered into with the knowledge and consent of Post-Master General Blair, and if properly carried out, as we have no doubt it will be, must prove a great benefit to the people of both sections of the Union.

August 26, 1861.

At this date the following order was issued by P.M. Gen. Blair, which prohibited express companies from forwarding letters to the Confederate States.

P.O.D.

"The President of the United States directs that his proclamation of the 16th inst., interdicting commercial intercourse with the so-called Confederate States, shall be applied to correspondence with these states, and has devoted upon this department, the enforcement (sic) of so much of his interdict, as relates to such correspondence. The officers and agents of this department will, therefore, without further
notice, lose no time in putting an end to written intercourse with the Confederate States, by causing the arrest of any express agents or other persons, who shall, after the promulgation of this order, receive letters to be carried to or from these states, and will seize all such letters and forward them to this department.”


The *Richmond Examiner* of this date published the following

“The first of the new Confederate postal stamps were issued on the 18th of October, and were eagerly bought up. The new stamp is green, with a lithographic likeness of President Davis, within a double oval border, surmounted with the inscription ‘Confederate States of America.’ Outside the circle and at the head of the stamp is the word ‘postage,’ and at the lower edge is denomination, ‘Five cents.”

In the “Memphis Appeal” for the same day, is an announcement that “a private post, under the superintendent of Mr. Antonio Costa, will take charge of letters for Europe and places out of the United States. The mails will leave every two weeks on the 10th and 25th of each month, and the postage will be, to Mexico, 50 cents, to Cuba, 75 cents, and to Europe, one dollar.”

The *Washington Republican* gives the following as a plan resorted to, with success to the rebels in lower Maryland, in communication with their friends across the Potomac.

“A large kite is made, and instead of paper, is covered with oiled silk, so as to render it impervious to water. The tail is formed by folding letters or newspapers together, and tying them with a loop knot. When the tail is as heavy as the kite can bear conveniently, a cord, long enough to reach about two-thirds of the way across the river, is attached and the kite raised in the air. After the kite has exhausted the string, or has reached a sufficient height, the cord is cut, and the concern gradually descending, is borne by the breeze to the Virginian shore, where the letters are taken off by those in waiting, and new ones tied on in their stead. With the first favorable wind, back comes the kite to the Maryland shore and *vice-versa*.

The following is the superscription of a letter that passed through the Louisville post office:

“Feds. and Confeds., let this go free,
Down to Nashville, Tennessee:
This three cents stamp will pay the cost,
Until you find Sophia Yost,
Postmasters, north or even south,
May open and find the truth
I merely say my wife’s got well,
And has a baby, cross as _____

The *New York World* of July 15th, 1862, has the following:

In consequence of the difficulty of procuring small change, caused by the premium on specie, postage stamps are spoken of as a substitute.