Private

Foreign Office
March 7. 1829.

Mon cher Vicomte,

I have delayed my answer to your Letter of the 3d instant until the dispatch of another Bag to Sir Charles Bagot (yesterday evening) should have furnished me an opportunity of hearing from personal inquiry at the moment of making up the Bag, the possible cause of your packets for your Colleague at Brussels, having occasionally been received by him through the General Post of the Netherlands.

The Vicomte d'Abrantes

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I was informed, however, that no packet from you to your Colleague, was sent to this Office on Friday evening to be forwarded.

Nevertheless, I have discovered from the Gentleman whose duty it is to make up the Bag, that any packets from Members of the Corps Diplomatique which happen to arrive after the closing & sealing of the Bag, – are still sent to the Post Office, as part of Despatches entitled to the Secretary of State's privilege; in which case such Despatches are forwarded free of postage, through outside the Bag.

If such has been the lot of any of those to which your letter refers, I trust that

that at least no charge for postage has been made to your Colleague in those instances.

I trust, in any case, that the recurrence of such accidents will be effectually prevented hereafter: and I think I can safely promise that no packet from your Division sent to this Office before the regulated hour for closing the Bag, (5 o'clock), shall be omitted to be inclosed in the Bag itself.

I can only renew on this occasion, the expression of my regret that any irregularity should have occurred; though I cannot discover any instance of the kind attributable to culpable neglect.

I have the honour to be Your Lordship's
Your very faithful & obedient
Servant
C. Backhouse

Lord Bacon