

Union Office 29th Janry 1846

Dear Sir,

I herewith give you a statement of the cost of the President's Message, and the Message & accompanying documents ordered and printed for the present session of Congress, at the prices of 1819, at the 20 per cent reduction in accordance of an act which passed at the close of the last session, and at the reduction of $33\frac{1}{3}$ as proposed by Mr. Niles of the Senate.

20,000 Copies of the Message and 16,335 Copies of the Message and accompanying documents at the prices of 1819 amount to 26,228.95

Deduct 20 percent from the prices of 1819 according to an act passed during the last session of Congress, and they amount to 20,983.16

Deduct $33\frac{1}{3}$ per cent from the prices of 1819, as the resolution of Mr. Niles proposes, and they amount to 17,483.97

By this, it will be seen, that the resolutions as they passed the Senate, and are now before the House, reduce the price on the Message & accompanying documents alone \$8,742.96 below the cost under the resolutions of 1819 and \$3,497.17 below the

20 per cent reduction established by an act of Congress passed during the last session.

It is doubtful whether we can continue as public printers, if the Senate's resolutions are carried in the House.

We are, under the resolution or act of the last session of Congress, doing the printing ordered by Congress - 5 per cent lower than Blair & Rice ever done it, and 20 per cent below the prices paid Gales & Seaton.

We are paying journeymen printers 20 per cent more than they were paid in 1819; and, in fact, from 10 to 20 per cent more than printers receive in Philadelphia, New York or Boston.

We are paying from 25 to 50 cts more per ream for paper than was paid at this time last year - the quantity used for Congressional printing having advanced that much.

We have consulted those who have had experience in Congressional printing, and we are satisfied from our own experience and from the knowledge we have received from others, that at the 20 per cent reduction below the prices of 1819, there is loss to the public printer on all "short documents" or documents ordered of the regular number, and that only upon the long documents or documents ordered of an extra number, say 10,000 there is a reasonable profit.

On the composition of every document of solid printing, we pay journeymen more than we receive in return for the same, from

Congress. What will be the effect if prices are cut down $3\frac{3}{4}$ per cent? Taking all these things into consideration, you will perceive that the printing, in fact, cannot be done on as favorable terms for the "Congressional Printer," as it was at the last session of Congress, when the Senate printers received 20 per cent more, and the House printers 5 per cent, above what the present printers would get under the 20 per cent reduction made by the 28th Congress. As I before remarked it is doubtful whether we can execute the printing of Congress at the prices proposed in the Senate's resolutions; and, as they are framed to take effect from the beginning of the session, it is very important to us, to have this question settled at an early day. If they are delayed any great length of time, we may be so pecuniarily involved by the passage of the Senate's resolutions that neither energy perseverance or time will relieve us. I have taken the liberty, to respectfully call your attention to this subject, of such vast importance to the present printers to Congress, and remain

Very Respectfully &
John P. Weiss Jr
Printer & Chief