

Wm. Office Apr 2^d 47

Dear Sir,

Dr. Gurney at Portsmouth has his paper sent him regularly. Why he does not get it I cannot tell, and it is impossible for us to answer all the complaints, for it would take two clerks to do so. Although our paper is always deposited in the city P.O. in time for the mails, and always in time to go out 24 hours in advance of the National Intelligencer, yet our subscribers inform us the Intelligencer gets to them first. Col. Sargent informed me last week that the Intelligencer is always 24 hours behind the mails.

Last week I found out that our weekly paper sent to ~~the~~ city Post Office on Saturday was not sent away from that office before the Monday following. This was delightful to reflect upon when I had persevered so much to get the mails off regularly.

Last week I had our weekly paper made up - printed and sent to the Office in this city, on Friday - one day in advance of the regular publication day, and the whole mail was delivered to the city Post Office before 9 o'clock P. M. The following day - Saturday I addressed a note to Col. Gardner asking him if our papers deposited in his Office the day previous in time for the mails had been distributed and sent off. He called ~~to see~~ me and said he was sorry to inform me that they had not been sent away from his Office. He pledged me his honor it should not occur any more. I sometimes think he has some casually clerks in his office who either keep the Union back ^{until the Intelligencer gets off} or send it off in a wrong mail. It is really provoking to think that our paper (and the weekly always) has lain in this Office 24 hours before sent off. I have used my best endeavours to have our subscribers receive the papers early but it has been of no avail.

Yours Truly
T. Ritchie Jr. Press