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LETTERS SENT BY THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE:

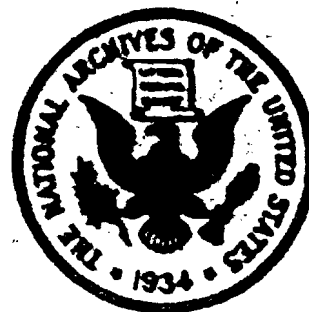
GENERAL AND MISCELLANEOUS

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THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES
NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

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INTRODUCTION

On the 81 rolls of this microfilm publication are reproduced 91 volumes (general and miscellaneous letter books) containing copies of letters sent by the Office of the Attorney General, 1818-70, and by its successor, the Department of Justice, 1870-1904. They are addressed to the President, officers and Members of Congress, Federal departments, judges, district attorneys, marshals, clerks of courts, State officials, and private citizens. The letters sent by the Office of the Attorney General are part of the series of Attorney General's Papers, 1790-1870 (only a few items earlier than 1818).

The Department of Justice was established by an act of Congress approved June 22, 1870. The act continued and expanded in the new Department the legal and administrative duties of the Office of the Attorney General, which had been created under the Judiciary Act of September 24, 1789, with the original duties of conducting suits in the Supreme Court and of giving opinions upon questions of law at the request of the President or heads of departments. To the Department was given general supervision of U.S. attorneys and marshals, and to it were transferred the Solicitor of the Treasury and the law officers of the State and Navy Departments and of the Bureau of Internal Revenue. To it were also transferred, from the Department of the Interior, the supervision of accounts of district attorneys, marshals, clerks, and officers of the courts, and the control of the judiciary fund from which the expenses of the courts and the safekeeping of prisoners were paid. The Department also inherited some other duties from the Office of the Attorney General, and additional duties were assigned to it from time to time by later legislation.

Until 1867 most letters sent were copied into the general letter books; the remainder were copied into Opinion Books, 1817-1934, and into a book of letters sent to the Solicitor of the Treasury, 1830-42. There are several gaps in the general letter books, and there are no letter books for the period between October 1, 1850, and May 25, 1857. Drafts of some of the missing letters, 1839, 1842-49, and 1851-70, are available in the series of Attorney General's Papers, 1790-1870. Between 1867 and 1874 the establishment of separate series of letter books for specific groups of correspondents led to the general series becoming limited to letters sent to private citizens and to its eventual designation as "Miscellaneous Letter Books."

The letters are arranged chronologically, but a few are out of order at the ends of volumes. Pages are numbered consecutively within each volume, but the blank numbered pages have not been filmed. The letters consist of fair copies through April 30, 1890, and of carbon copies thereafter. Beginning in May 1885 many copies show the file numbers of letters-received subject or case files of the Department

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,

D. D. C.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

*In correspondence on this subject quote
the above initials and file number.*

A. G.

January 12th, 1895.

Hon. Chas. M. Cooper,

Jacksonville, Fla.

*Assistant U. S. Attorney must be appointed at once. Buckner
recommended. Is there any objection to him. This is cor-
rection previous telegram of this date.*

Attorney-General.