

V. And the better to ascertain what Letters shall be accounted Public Letters, Be it Enacted, by the Authority, Advice and Consent aforesaid, That all Letters directed to the Governor of this Province, for the Time being, endorsed, For her Majesty's Service; and all Letters sent by the Governor, having his, or the Clerk of the Council's Name endorsed, and For her Majesty's Service, directed to any Person whatsoever; and all Letters sent by any Member of her Majesty's Council, with the Subscriber's Name endorsed, and For her Majesty's Service; all Letters sent by the Speaker, or Clerk of the House of Delegates, for the Time being, with the Subscriber's Name endorsed, and For her Majesty's Service; all Letters sent by a Justice of the Provincial Court, with the Subscriber's Name endorsed, and For her Majesty's Service; and all Letters sent by the Public Treasurers of each Shore, to any Naval Officer, with the Subscriber's Name endorsed, and For her Majesty's Service, shall be accounted, only, Public Letters.

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VI. And whereas, also, the Sheriffs of this Province, whose Duty it is to convey Letters for her Majesty's Service, are very much complained of for their Negligence therein; Be it Enacted, by the Authority, Advice and Consent aforesaid, That if any High-Sheriff, or his Deputies, receive any Public Letter, he shall, if required, give a Receipt for the same, shewing the Day and Hour when he received the same: And when he delivers the same Letter to the next Sheriff, or Party to whom directed, the Party that receives the same shall likewise, if required, give such like Receipt to the Sheriff that first received it. And if any High-Sheriff, or his Deputy or Deputies (for whom the High-Sheriff shall be answerable) shall refuse to give such Receipt, to be proved by the Oath of the Person demanding such Receipt; or, having received such Letter, shall wilfully neglect immediately to forward such Letter, as directed, so that such Letter is Stopped Twenty-four Hours longer than it reasonably need be, (respect being had to the Wind and Weather) the High-Sheriff shall forfeit the Sum of Two Thousand Pounds of Tobacco in Cask; the one Moiety thereof to our Sovereign Lady the Queen, her Heirs and Successors, for the Support of the Government of this Province, the other Moiety to him or them that will sue for the same; to be recovered by Action of Debt, in any Court of Record of this Province. And such Neglect of such Sheriffs shall be evidenced by the Dates of the Receipts.

VII. And whereas the Trade and Commerce of this Province is, in great Measure confined to England, and the Inhabitants of this Province of necessity are obliged to lodge their Effects, and wholly correspond with the Merchants in England, by which Means we have great Dependance upon their Advice