

The Penalty on the
Owners and
Masters.

foever, from and after the first Day of *December* now next ensuing, shall carry and transport, or cause or endeavour to be carried and transported out of this Province, by Land or Water, to any other of her Majesty's Plantations, any Skins, or Hides, of any Neat-Cattle, Tanned or Untanned, or any Old Iron whatsoever, it shall and may be lawful for any Officer of her Majesty's Customs to make Seizure thereof, and the Master, Merchant or owner of any Ship or Vessel, or other Person being convict of shipping or Lading on Board any Ship or Vessel or transporting by Land out of this Province any such Hides or Old Iron, as aforesaid, shall not only forfeit the same, but also the Sum of *Fifty Pounds* current Money of this Province, to her most Sacred Majesty, her Heirs and Successors, the one half thereof towards the defraying the Publick Charge of this Province, and the other half to such Person or Persons as shall Inform or sue for the same, to be recovered in any Court within this Province, by Action of Debt, Plaint or Information, wherein no Essoyn, Protection or Wager of Law to be allowed.

Naval Officers to
publish this Act.

And Collectors to
have a strict regard
thereto.

And for the better Publication of this Act, *Be it likewise Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, by and with the Advice and Consent aforesaid,* That every Naval Officer and Collector within this Province shall procure a fair Copy of this Act, to be put up at the most Publick Place within their respective Offices, before or at the aforesaid first Day of *December* at farthest; and the said Naval Officers, Collectors, or other Custom-House Officers of Her Majesty's Customs, are hereby required to have a strict Regard to the due Execution of this Act, and so far as in them lie to detect and Protecute, or Cause to be detected and Protecuted all Offenders against the Tenor thereof.

At a Sessions of Assembly begun and held at the City of *Annapolis*, in the County of *Ann-Arundel*, the Twenty Seventh Day of *October*, in the Eleventh Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lady *Anne*, Queen of *Great Britain, France and Ireland*, Defender of the Faith, &c. *Annoq; Domini* One Thousand seven Hundred and Thirteen; The Honourable *Edward Lloyd*, Esq; being President of her Majesties Council of the Province aforesaid; were Enacted these *Laws following, Viz.*

An Act for the more speedy Conveying publick Letters and Pacquets of this Province, and defraying the Charge thereof, and to prevent the abuses of breaking open and concealing any Letters whatsoever.

Forasmuch as several of the Inhabitants of this Province have been formerly Subject to Great and Manifest Inconveniences, by Pressing of Horses (under Pretext of carrying and conveying Publick Letters and Pacquets) for Prevention whereof, and that due Care may be taken for the future that all Publick Letters and Pacquets, relating to her Majesty's