

any Person or Persons whatsoever shall hereafter presume to take and open the Seal or Seals of any Letter or Letters whatsoever, not being unto him or them directed, or not having especial Licence (from the person to whom the same are directed, their Executors or Administrators) so to do, shall upon due Conviction thereof, either in the Provincial or County Courts of this Province, *suffer Imprisonment* of his, her or their Bodies, for and during the space of Six Days, without Bail or Mainprize, and forfeit the Sum of *Five Pounds* Sterling, the one Moyety to her Majesty her Heirs and Successors, for the Support of Government, the other Moyety to him or them that shall Inform or sue for the same, to be Recovered in any Court of Record within this Province, by Action of Debt, Bill, Plaint or Information, wherein no Essoyn, Protection or Wager of Law to be allowed.

Prohibited.

On pain of Imprisonment. &c.

And in Case any Person or Persons shall break open any Letter or Letters directed to his Excellency, her Majesties Governour, or any of her Majesties Council of this Province, for the time being, or other publick Letter, subscribed or directed *For Her Majesty's Service*, and Signed by any Person having Authority so to do, and shall be thereof legally Convict, he, she or they so Offending shall suffer *Two Months Imprisonment* without Bail or Mainprize, and forfeit to our Sovereign Lady the Queen, her Heirs and Successors the Sum of *Twenty Pounds* Sterling, to be Recovered and Divided as aforesaid.

The Punishment for breaking open Publick Letters.

And Be it further Enacted by the Authority, Advice and Consent aforesaid, That one Act of Assembly of this Province, made at a Session of Assembly begun and held at the Port of *Annapolis* the *Twenty Sixth* Day of *March*, *Anno Domini*, *Seventeen Hundred and Seven*, Entituled *An Act to prevent the Abuse of Breaking open and Concealing publick and private Letters*, and every Article, Clause and Thing therein contained, be and is hereby Repealed, and made Null and Void.

A former Act repealed.

An Act for Relief of Debtors, and ascertaining the Manner of Tenders in Tobacco.

WHereas several honest Persons within this Province, being Indebted, in Tobacco, to Divers Persons, Merchants and others, and well disposed to pay the same, taking care therefore by providing the Tobacco, but often times it so happens, that because an Opportunity or Conveniency doth not Offer to the Creditor, to dispose thereof, they do frequently refuse, neglect and delay to receive the said Tobacco, in Discharge of the Debts, whereby the Debtor remains in Debt and the Tobacco by him procured to pay the said Debts, remains in his Hands Subject to all Casualty, on the Debtors Account, and which he dares not make use of, for fear of his Creditors demanding and suing after for the Debt. For Remedy whereof for the Future,

The honest Paymasters misfortune,

Be it Enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of her Majesty's President, Council and Assembly of this Province, and the Authority of the same, That any Person or Persons whatsoever Inhabiting within this Province, and now being, or that hereafter shall be Indebted to any Merchant or others, either Resident in, or Trading to this Province, that hath Tobacco ready, according to the Nature of the Debt he owes, and is willing to pay the same,

Remedied by.