

letters sent by the president of the senate, and endorsed by the clerk of the senate for public service, and signed by him; all letters sent by the speaker of the house of delegates, and endorsed for public service, and signed by him; and all joint letters sent by the president and speaker, endorsed for the public service, and signed by them; all certificates of assessments, and books of proceedings of the commissioners of the tax, and endorsed by the clerks of the several counties on public service, and signed by them; all letters and packets sent by any judge of the general court, and endorsed on public service, and signed by him.—*ibid.* § 10.

8. If any person or persons hereafter shall wilfully break the seal of any letter or package belonging to the public, or directed to private persons, and the same can be proved against him or them by one credible witness, such person or persons so offending, shall, on conviction thereof, pay the sum of 100l. to be recovered and applied as aforesaid.—*ibid.* § 11.

9. Every sheriff, to whom such public letters or packets shall be delivered for any person or persons residing in the adjoining counties as aforesaid, shall within the space of 5 days after the receipt thereof, deliver, or cause to be delivered, the same to the sheriff of the proper county, according to the directions hereinbefore contained, or in default thereof, every such sheriff shall suffer the penalties hereinbefore prescribed for every refusal or neglect.—*ibid.* § 12.

10. If any sheriff shall be unable to perform his duties, by sickness or absence from the county at the time when any such public letters or packets shall be ready to be delivered, his deputy shall receive such public letters or packets, and execute and perform the several duties hereinbefore required of his principal, under penalty of 15l. current money for every neglect or refusal.—*ibid.* § 13.

11. The sheriff of Saint Mary's county, shall receive as a reward for his trouble the sum of 5l. 12s. 6d. *per annum*, which shall be paid out of the public treasury, in consideration whereof, the said sheriff shall defray all such charges as shall accrue by reason of the conveyance of all letters and packets by him conveyed in virtue of this act.—1791, c. 20, § 2. See *Governor and council*, 27.

## LETTERS PRIVATE.

**P**ERSONS breaking open any private letter, without special licence from the person to whom directed, shall suffer six days imprisonment, and forfeit 5l. sterling; one half to the support of government, the other to the informer.—1713, c. 2, § 8.

See *Letters Public*, 8.

LEVIES.