

Passed 14th of Nov 1713.

C H A P. II. An ACT for the more speedy conveying public letters and packets of this province, and defraying the charge thereof, and to prevent the abuses of breaking open and concealing any letters whatsoever. Lib. LL. No. 4. fol. 71.

The first seven clauses of this act have ceased to operate since the passage of the act of 1790, ch. 51, and are therefore omitted. The 8th and 9th clauses are inserted, on a presumption that they may still be in force, and the 10th as repealing a former act.

Persons breaking open private letters to be imprisoned, &c.

VIII. BE IT ENACTED, by the authority, advice and consent aforesaid, That if any person or persons whatsoever shall hereafter presume to take and break 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 persons 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 moiety to her majesty, her heirs and successors, for the support of government, the other moiety 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 essoin, protection or wager of law to be allowed.

Penalty for breaking open public letters.

IX. AND, In case any person or persons shall break open any letter or letters directed to his excellency, her majesty's governor, or any of her majesty's council of this province, for the time being, or other public letter superscribed or directed for her majesty's service, and signed by any person having authority so to do, and shall be thereof legally convicted, 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.

An act repealed.

X. 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, entitled, An act to prevent the abuse of breaking open and concealing public and private letters, and every article, clause and thing therein contained, be and is hereby repealed, and made null and void.

C H A P. III.

An ACT for relief of debtors, and ascertaining the manner of tenders in tobacco. Lib. LL. No. 4. fol. 75.

C H A P. IV.

An ACT for regulating writs of error, and granting appeals from and to the courts of common law within this province. Lib. LL. No. 4. fol. 77.

Preamble.

FORASMUCH as the liberty of appeals, and writs of error, from the judgment of the provincial and county courts of this province, is found to be of great use and benefit to the good of the people thereof;

No execution to be stayed, &c.

II. BE IT THEREFORE 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 no execution upon any judgment obtained either in the provincial or county courts, or other inferior courts of record within this province, shall be stayed or delayed, or any supersedeas upon such judgment granted, or issued forth, upon any appeal or writ of error from any such court or courts of record as aforesaid to the court before whom such appeal ought to be brought, or before whom such writ of error ought to be heard and determined, unless such person or persons in whose name such appeal or writ of error shall be made or brought as aforesaid, or some other in his, her or their behalf, shall immediately upon making such appeal, or suing out such writ of error as aforesaid, enter into bond, with sufficient sureties, (such as the justices of the court by whom judgment shall be given as aforesaid, or the keeper of the seal for the time being, to whom application shall be made for such writ of error as aforesaid, shall approve of.) in double the sum recovered by such judgment obtained as aforesaid, with condition, "That if the party appellat, or party suing out such writ of error as aforesaid,