

all Letters sent by a bill of the said Countie the subscribers name to be put in the
name Endowed and for her majestys Service, and all Letters sent by the public
treasurers of each shire to any Sadle officer with the subscribers name
Endowed and for her majestys Service shall be accounted only publick Letters.

And whereas also the sherrifs of this province whose duty it is
to convey Letters for her majestys Service are very much Complaigned of for
their negligence therein.

Be it Enacted by the authority aforesaid and Content of that
if any sherrif or his deputy receive any publick Letter he shall if required
give a receipt for the same Showning day and hour when he received
the same and when he deliver the same Letter to the next sherrif or
party to whom directed, the party that receives the same shall likewise
if required give such like receipt to the sherrif that first received it, and
any sherrif or his deputy or deputy for whom the high sherrif shall
be answerable shall refuse to give such receipt to be proved by the
Call 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 sherrif shall
forfeit the sume of two thousand pounds of lawfull money in Case the due money thereof
to our Sovereigne Lady the Queen her heirs and successours for the support of the
Government of this province the other money 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 sherrif shall be evidenced by the date
of the receipt.

And whereas the trade and Commerce of this province
is in great measure Consined 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 in trade and often protested bills of Exchange are
remitted hither to the severall persons interested therein which are sometimes
of considerable value and for want of due Care of such Letters in which
the same are Inclosed, no settled post houses being appointed for the
reception of them many times sundry evil minded persons find Occasion
Unadvisedly to take such Letters out of the publick houses (where they
are generally kept) and break open and conceal the same to the great
Detrimment of sundry of the Inhabitants merchants and traders and many
ill designing persons who have drawn bills of Exchange not having any
bottom in England to answer the same well knowing and observing the
usual manner or merchants such bills are remitted do diligently watch
the returns of such bills from the merchants and queering at some
Letters