

Letters to be the Covers of their protested bills get them into their hands and destroy the same to the great detriment of many honest traders and dealers and others concerned, and many times others out of adulation and Inquisitive temper secretly take and break open publick and private Country Letters, to the great dissatisfaction and prejudice of severall the Inhabitant <sup>by</sup> ~~the~~ good subjects and great delay of publick Business for the prevention thereof for the future

Be it Enacted by the authority advice and Consent afo 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 Special License from the persons to whom the same are directed their Executors or admors So to do, shall upon due Conviction thereof either in the great or County Courts of this province suffer Imprisonment of his her or their bodies for and during the space of six days without Bayle or mainprize, and forfeit the sume of five pounds <sup>sterling</sup> the one moiety to her majty her heirs and Successors for the support of Governm: 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 Stayne protection or wager of law to be allowed

And in case any person or persons shall break open any Letter or Letters directed to his Excellency her majty Governour or any of her majty Councill of this province for the time being or other publick Letter superscribed or directed for her majty 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 monthes Imprisonment without Bayle or mainprize and forfeit to our Sovereign Lady the Queen her heirs and Successors the sume of twenty pounds sterling to be recovered and divided as afo

And be it further Enacted by the authority advice and Consent afo 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 seventeenth hundred and seven entitled an act to prevent the abuse of breaking open and opening publick and private Letters and every <sup>other</sup> Cause and thing therein contained be and is hereby repealed & made null & void

9<sup>th</sup> November 1713. Read and Assented to by the house of Delegates & signed of and for the same  
 Read and Assented to by the house of Council & signed of and for the same  
 November 9<sup>th</sup> 1713 Read and Assented to by her majty lion  
 In the behalf of our Sovereign Lady Queen Anne of Great Brittain &c. Well Will  
 be a law -  
 Edw<sup>rd</sup> Lloyd Crowl