

twenty per cent. interest; but that having some time in the month of May last paid to the treasurer of the eastern shore the sum of one hundred and two thousand five hundred and eighty-eight pounds seventeen shillings and three-pence, which exceeds the sum he was indebted to the state for the thirteen pounds assessment, four thousand nine hundred and thirteen pounds ten shillings and one penny (as appears by said treasurer's account) which said sum the treasurer retained in his hands on account of the treble tax, part of which he collected in the year seventeen hundred and seventy-seven, but the commissioners of the tax did not think themselves authorized to settle with him, in consequence whereof he omitted to collect said tax in seventeen hundred and seventy-eight; but being afterwards informed that a law had passed directing the sheriffs to collect the same, he used his utmost endeavours to complete the collection, but for the reasons before assigned, it was out of his power to do it within the time limited by law; and having also paid on the eighth day of June last, to the commissioners for stating and settling the public accounts, the further sum of eighteen hundred pounds, there will remain a balance due to the state of two thousand three hundred and twenty-six pounds nine shillings and five-pence (as appears by said commissioners account, exclusive of interest) which he is ready to pay immediately into the treasury:

C H A P.  
XVI.

II. Be it therefore enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the said William Merritt be and is hereby indemnified and saved harmless from any penalties incurred by reason of his not having paid the amount of the assessment, as aforesaid, within the time heretofore limited by law for such payment, and from any penalties incurred by reason of his not having paid the amount of the treble tax aforesaid within the time limited by law, on his paying to the treasurer of the western shore, on or before the first day of January next, the balance due by him on account of the said treble tax, amounting to two thousand three hundred and twenty-six pounds nine shillings and five-pence continental currency, any law to the contrary notwithstanding.

Wm. Merritt  
indemnified,  
&c.

*N<sup>o</sup> 84*  
C H A P. XVI. *Old Act 1779 July c. 9*

An ACT for the speedy conveyance of public letters and packets, and for other purposes.

**W**HEREAS the laws heretofore made for the conveyance of public letters and packets have been found ineffectual;

Preamble.

II. Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the sheriff of each respective county shall, and he is hereby enjoined and required, to take care of all public letters and packets, and expeditiously convey them, according to their respective directions, to the next sheriff or under sheriff of the adjacent county, to be forwarded to the place where the person or persons may reside, or be employed in transacting the public business, and if such letters and packets be directed to the governor, or to the governor and the council, or to the president of the senate or speaker of the house of delegates, then the said letters shall be forwarded to the city of Annapolis, or other town or place where the seat of government may be in this state, and each sheriff or deputy shall endorse

Sheriffs to  
take care of  
public letters,  
&c.