

great Detriment of Sundry of the Inhabitants merchants & Traders and many ill Designing persons who have drawn bills of Exchange not haveing any Bottom in England to answer the same well knowing and observing to what m<sup>ch</sup>ant or merchants such bills are remitted do deligently watch the Returns of such bills from the merchants and guessing at some Letters to be the Coverts 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 a dishonest and inquisitive Temper Secretly take and break open publick and private Country Letters to the great Dissatisfaction and prejudice of severall the Inhabitants her Majestys Good Subjects and great Delay of Publick business for the prevention thereof for the future. Lib. L. L.  
No. 64.  
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Be it Enacted by the Queens most Excellent Majesty by and with the Advice and Consent of her Majtys Governour Council and Assembly of this Province and the Authority of the same, that if any Pson or Psons whatsoever shall hereafter presume to take and breake open the Seale or Seals of any Letter or Letters whatsoever not being unto him or them directed or not haveing Especiall Lycense (from the Psons to whom the same are directed their Executors or Administrators) so to do shall upon due Conviction thereof Either in the Provinciall or County Courts of this province suffer Imprisonment of his her or their body or bodys for and dureing the Space of Six days without bayle or Mainprize and forfeit the sume of five pounds Sterling the one Moiety to her Majesty her heires and Successors for the support of Government the other Moiety to him or them that shall informe 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 Essoyn protection or wager of Law to be allowed ; And in Case any such Pson or Psons shall breake open any Letter or Letters directed to his Excellency her Majesty's Governour or any of her Majestys Council of this province for the time being or other publick Letter Superscribed or directed for her Majesty's Service and Signed by any pson haveing authority so to do and shall be thereof Legally Convict he she or They so offending shall Suffer two months imprisonment Without bayle or Mainprize and forfeit to our Sovereign Lady the Queen her heirs and Successors the sume of twenty pounds Sterl to be Recovered and Divided as afd. and whereas also the Sheriffe of this Province whose Duty it is to Convey Letters for her Majesty's Service are very much Complained of for their Negligence : p. 277

Be it Enacted by the Authority Advice and Consent afd that if any high Sherriffe or his Deputy or Deputy's receive any