

AD 1710.

9 ANNE, c.11.

An Act for establishing a General Post-Office for all Her Majesties Dominions and for settling a weekly Sum out of the Revenues thereof for the Service of the War and other Her Majesties Occasions.

Most gracious Sovereign Whereas by an Act made in the Twelfth Year of the Reign of His late Majesty King Charles the Second a General Post Office was erected and established in that Part of Great Britain called England and by the Twentieth Act of the Fifth Session of the First Parliament of His late Majesty King William the Third a General Post Office was erected and established in that Part of Great Britain called Scotland and several Rates of Postage were thereby severally appointed to be received under several different Powers and Authorities which Two Kingdoms being since united it is most likely that a Correspondence by Posts will be best managed and ordered for the Publick Good by uniting also the said Two Post-Offices under One Postmaster General.

II And whereas also Posts have at great Charges been established by Packet-Boats between that Part of Great Britain called England and the West-Indies and also on the main Land in North America through most of Her Majesties Plantations and Colonies in those Parts as also to divers Parts in Eruope to which no Packet-Boats were till lately settled and more Posts may yet be settled and established for the publick Good and Welfare of all Your Majesties Subjects. And whereas the several Rates of Postage may in many Parts with little Burthen to the Subject be encreased and other new Rates granted which additional and new Rates may in some measure enable Your Majesty to carry on and finish the present War so as suitable Powers and Authorities be made for collecting the same and sufficient Provision be made as well for preventing the undue collecting and Delivery of Letters by private Posts Carriers Higlrs Watermen Drivers of Stage Coaches and other Persons as all other Frauds to which the Revenue might otherwise be liable which cannot be well and properly done to answer the Ends aforesaid without [the] Authority of Parliament in a new Act to be made for the said Office and for the Revenues to arise thereby. We therefore Your Majesties most dutiful and loyal Subjects the Comons of Great Britain in Parliament assembled do most humbly beseech Your Majesty that it may be enacted and be it enacted by the Queens most Excellent Majesty by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal and Commons in this present Parliament assembled and by Authority of the same That the said Act made in England in the Twelfth Year of the Reign of His said late Majesty King Charles the Second intituled An Act for erecting and establishing a Post-Office and the said Act made in Scotland in the Fifth Session of the First Parliament of His said late Majesty King William the Third intituled An Act anent the Post-Office and every Article Clause and Thing therein or in either of them contained shall be and is [and] are hereby from and after the First Day of June One thousand seven hundred and eleven actually repealed except as is herein after mentioned.

III And to the End a General Post Office may be established for and throughout Her Majesties Kingdoms of Great Britain and Ireland Her Colonies and Plantations in North America and the West Indies and all other Her Majesties Dominions and Territories in such Manner as may be most beneficial to the People of these Kingdoms and Her Majesty may be supplied and the Revenue arising by the said Office better improved settled and secured to Her Majesty, Her Heirs and Successors in such Manner as is herein after mentioned. Be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid That from and after the said First Day of June One thousand seven hundred and eleven there be from thenceforth One General Letter Office and Post Office erected and established in some convenient Place within the City of London from whence all Letters and Packets whatsoever may be with Speed and Expedition sent into any Part of the Kingdoms of Great Britain and Ireland or to North America the West Indies or to any other of Her Majesties Dominions or Territories or unto any other Kingdom or Country beyond the Seas at which said Office all Returns and Answers may be likewise received and that One Master of the said General Letter-Office and Post-Office shall be from time to time appointed by the Queen's Majesty Her Heirs and Successors to be made and constituted by Letters Patents under the Great Seal of Great Britain by the Name and Stile of Her Majesties postmaster General which said Master of the said Office and his Deputy and Deputies by him thereunto sufficiently authorized and his and their Servants and Agents and no other Person or Persons whatsoever shall from

time to time and at all Times have the Receiving taking up ordering dispatching sending Post or with Speed carrying and delivering of all Letters and Packets whatsoever which shall from time to time and at all or any Times be sent to and from all and every the Parts and Places of Great Britain and Ireland North America the West Indies and other Her Majesties Dominions and also to and from all and every the Kingdoms and Countries beyond the Seas where he shall settle or cause to be settled Posts or Running Messengers for that purpose except such Letters as shall respectively concern Goods sent by common known Carriers of Goods by Carts Waggons or Pack-Horses and shall be respectively delivered with the Goods such Letters do concern without Hire or Reward or other Profit or Advantage for receiving or delivering such Letters and except Letters of Merchants and Masters Owners of any Ships Barques or Vessels of Merchandize [or any the Cargo or Lading therein sent on board such Ships Barques or Vessels of Merchandize] whereof such Merchants of Masters are Owners as aforesaid and delivered by any Masters of any such Ships Barques or Vessels of Merchandize or by any other Person employed by them for the Carriage of such Letters aforesaid according to their respective Directions so as such Letters be delivered to the respective Persons to whom they shall be directed without paying or receiving any Hire or Reward Advantage or Profit for the same in any wise and also except Commissions or the Return thereof Affidavits Writs Process or Proceedings or Returns thereof issuing out of any Court and also any Letter or Letters to be sent by any private Friend or Friends in their Way of Journey or Travel or by any Messenger or Messengers sent on Purpose for or concerning the private Affair of any Person or Persons.

IV Provided always nevertheless That nothing in the said Exception contained shall extend or be construed to extend to give any Lycence or Authority to any common known Carriers of Goods by Carts Waggons or Pack-Horses their Servants or Agents to receive collect or deliver with or without Hire any Letter Or Letters Packet or Packets of Letters whatsoever that do not concern Goods in their Carts Waggons or on their Pack-Horses nor to any Owners or Drivers of Stage-Coaches nor to any Owners Masters or Commanders of Boats called Passage Boats sailing between any Part of Great Britain or Ireland and any Parts of Places beyond the Seas or their Servants or Agents nor to any Passenger or Passengers on board such Boats or Vessels nor to the Owners or Watermen on board of any Boat Barge or Vessel passing or repassing on any River or Rivers to and from any Parts of Great Britain and Ireland North America or the West Indies or other Her Majesties Dominions and Territories although such Drivers of Stage Coaches Owners Masters or Commanders of Boats called Passage Boats or Passengers therein Owners or Watermen on board of an such boat Barge or Vessel passing or repassing on any such River or Rivers as aforesaid do not receive any Hire or Reward or other Advantage for the same but that all such Carriers Owners and Drivers of Stage Coaches Owners Masters or Commanders of Passage Boats and the Passengers therein and all Owners and Watermen on board of any Boat Barge or Vessel passing or repassing on any River or Rivers to or from any the Parts and Places aforesaid collecting and delivering Letters as aforesaid though without Hire or Reward shall be deemed and taken and are hereby declared to be Persons offending against this Act and shall forfeit and pay such Sum and Sums of Money as Persons collecting receiving taking up conveying and delivering of Letters for Hire or setting up employing and maintaining any Post contrary to this Act or that are or shall be concerned therein are herein after enacted to forfeit and pay.

V. And to the End there may be One Chief Letter Office also in North Britain and Ireland and at New York in North America and in the West Indies from whence the Distances for which the Rates hereby granted may be computed and settled Be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid That such Postmaster General so to be constituted as aforesaid shall be at Liberty to keep One Chief Letter Office in the City of Edinburgh and one other Chief Letter Office in the City of Dublin and one Chief Letter Office in New York aforesaid and other Chief Offices at some convenient Place or Places in each of Her Majesties Provinces or Colonies in America and in each of the Islands in the West Indies called the Leeward Islands and appoint sufficient Deputies under him for the better managing ordering collecting and improving the Revenue hereby granted.

VI And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid That such Postmaster General for the Time being as shall from time to time be made and constituted by Her Majesty Her Heirs and Successors and the Respective Deputies or Substitutes of such Postmaster General and no other Person or Persons whatsoever shall prepare and provide Horses and Furniture to let to Hire unto all or any Person or Persons riding in Post by Commission or without to or from all and every the Parts and Places of Great Britain and Ireland where any Post Roads are or shall be settled and established.

VII And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid That it shall and may be lawful to and for such Postmaster General to be constituted and appointed as aforesaid and his Deputy and Deputies by him thereunto sufficiently authorized to and for the Use of Her Majesty Her Heirs and Successors to demand have receive and take for the Portage and Conveyance of all such Letters and Packets which he shall so convey carry or send Post as aforesaid and for the providing and furnishing Horses for Persons riding in Post as aforesaid according to the several Rates and Sums of lawful British Money hereafter mentioned not to exceed the same (that is to say)

For the Port of every Single Letter of Piece of Paper to of from any Place not exceeding Eighty English Miles distant from the said General Post-Office in London and within that Part of great Britain called England and not coming from or directed on Ship-board Three Pence and

For the like Port of every Double Letter Six Pence and so proportionably unto the said Rates for the Port of every Packet of Letters and

For the like Port of every Packet of Writs Deeds and other Things after the Rate of Twelve Pence of British Money for every Ounce Weight and

For the Port of every Single Letter of Piece of Paper to or from any Place above Eighty such English Miles distant from the said General Post Office and within that Part of the Kingdom of Great Britain called England or to the Town of Berwick upon Tweed and not coming from or directed on Ship-board Four Pence and

For the like Port of every Double Letter Eight Pence and so proportionably unto the said Rates for the Port of every Packet of Letters and

For the like Port of every Packet or Writs Deeds and other Things after the Rate of One Shilling and Four Pence British Money for every Ounce Weight and

For the Port of every Single Letter or Piece of Paper from the said General Post Office in London unto the City of Edinburgh in that Part of Great Britain called Scotland or from thence to the said General Post Office in the City of London and to and from Dumfreys or Cockburnspeth and between either of those Places and the said City of Edinburgh not coming from or directed on board any Ship Six Pence and

For the like Port of every Double Letter Twelve Pence and so Proportionably unto the said Rates for the Port of every Packet of Letters and

For the like Port of every Packet or Writs Deeds and other Things after the Rate of Two Shilings British Money for every Ounce Weight and

For the Port of every Single Letter or Piece of Paper to or from the Chief Post Office in the said City of Edinburgh to or from any Place not exceeding Fifty such English Miles distant from the said Chief Post Office in Edinburgh and within that Part of the Kingdom of Great Britain called Scotland and not coming from or directed on board of any Ship or Vessel Two Pence British Money and

For the like Port of every Double Letter Four Pence of like Money and so proportionably to the said Rates for the Port of every Packet of Letters

For the like Port of every Packet of Writs Deeds and other Things after the Rate of Eight Pence British Money for every Ounce Weight and

For the Port of every Single Letter or Piece of Paper to or from any Place above Fifty such Miles distant from the said Chief Office in Edinburgh and not exceeding Eighty such miles and within that Part of Great Britain called Scotland and not coming from or directed on Ship board Three Pence and

For the like Port of every Double Letter Six Pence and so proportionably to the said Rates for the Port of every Packet of Letters and

For the like Port of every Packet of Writs Deeds and other Things after the Rate of Twelve Pence British Money for every Ounce Weight and

For the Port of every Single Letter or Piece of Paper to or from any Place above Eighty English Miles distant from the said Chief Office in Edinburgh and within that Part of Great Britain called Scotland and not coming from or directed on Ship-board Four Pence British Money and

For the like Port of every Double Letter Eight Pence and so proportionably to the said Rates for the Port of every Packet of Letters and

For the like Port of every Packet of Writs Deeds and other Things after the Rate of One Shilling and Four Pence British Money for every Ounce Weight and

For the Port of every Single Letter or Piece of Paper from the said General Letter-Office in London unto the City of Dublin in Ireland or from the said City of Dublin in Ireland unto the said General Post Office and not coming from or directed on board of any Ship Six Pence of British Money and

For the like ort of every Double Letter Twelve Pence British Money and so proportionably unto the said Rates for the Port of every Packet of Letters and

For the like Port of every other Packet or Writs Deeds and other Things of greater Bulk Two Shillings of British Money for every Ounce Weight and

For the Port of such Letters or Packets as shall be conveyed or carried from the Chief Post Office in the said City of Dublin unto an other Place or Places within the Kingdom of Ireland or from any other Place within the said Kingdom not coming from or directed on Ship-board according to the Rates and Sums of British Money hereafter following (viz)

For the Port of every Single Letter from the Chief Post-Office in the said City of Dublin to or from any Place not exceeding Forty English Miles distant from the said Chief Office in Dublin and within the said Kingdom of Ireland not coming from or directed on Ship-board Two Pence and

For the like Port of every Double Letter Four Pence and so proportionably unto the said Rates for the Port of every Packet of Letters and

For the like Port of every other Packet of Writs Deeds or other Things after the Rate of Eight Pence for every Ounce Weight and

For the Port of every Single Letter or Piece of Paper to or from an Place above Forty English Miles distant from the said Chief Office in Dublin and within the said Kingdom of Ireland and not coming from or directed on board an Ship or Vessel Four Pence and

For the like Port of every Double Letter Eight Pence and so proportionably unto the said Rates for the Port of every Packet of Letters and

For the like Port of every Packet of Writs Deeds and other Things after the Rate of One Shilling and Four Pence for every Ounce Weight and

For the Port of all and every the Letters and Packets of Letters directed on board or fetched or brought from on board an Ship or Vessel riding or stopping in any Port within Her Majesties Dominions the Sum of One Penny over and above the Rates granted in and by this Act and

For the Port of all and every the Letters and Packets passing or repassing by the Carriage called the Penny Post established and settled within the Cities of London and Westminster and Borough of Southwark and Parts adjacent and to be received and delivered within Ten English Miles distant from the said General Letter Office in London One Penny and

For the Port of all and every the Letters Packets and Parcels of Goods that shall be carried or conveyed to or from any of Her Majesties said Dominions to or from any other Parts or Places beyond the Seas according to the several and respective Rates following the same being rated either by the Letter or by the Ounce that is to say

All Letters and Packets coming from any Part of France to London	Single Ten Pence
	Double One Shilling Eight Pence
	Treble Two Shillings Six Pence
	Ounce Three Shillings Four Pence

All Letters and Packets passing from London through France to any Part of Spain or Portugal (Port paid to Bayone) and from Spain and Portugal through France unto London	Single One Shilling Six Pence
	Double Three Shillings
	Treble Four Shillings Six Pence
	Ounce Six Shillings

All Letters and Packets passing from London through France to any Part of Italy or Sicily by the Way of Lyons or to any Part of Turkey by the Way of Marcellia and from any of those Parts through France unto London	Single One Shilling Three Pence
	Double Two Shillings Six Pence
	Treble Three Shillings Nine Pence
	Ounce Five Shillings

All Letters and Packets coming from any Part of the Spanish Netherlands unto London	Single Ten Pence
	Double One Shilling Eight Pence
	Treble Two Shillings Six Pence
	Ounce Three Shillings Four Pence

All Letters and Packets passing from London through the Spanish Netherlands to and Part of Italy or Sicily (Port paid to Antwerp) and from any Part of Italy or Sicily through the Spanish Netherlands unto London

Single One Shilling
Double Two Shillings
Treble Three Shillings
Ounce Four Shillings

All Letters and Packets passing from London through the Spanish Netherlands to any Part of Germany Switzerland Denmark Sweden and all Parts of the North and from any of those Parts through the Spanish Netherlands unto London

Single One Shilling
Double Two Shillings
Treble Three Shillings
Ounce Four Shillings

All Letters and Packets passing from London through the Spanish Netherlands to any Part of Spain or Portugal and from any Part of Spain or Portugal through the Spanish Netherlands unto London

Single One Shilling Six Pence
Double Three Shillings
Treble Four Shillings Six Pence
Ounce Six Shillings

All Letters and Packets passing from any Part of the United Provinces unto London

Single Ten Pence
Double One Shilling Eight Pence
Treble Two Shillings Six Pence
Ounce Three Shillings Four Pence

All Letters and Packets passing from London through the United Provinces for any Part of Italy or Sicily and from any Part of Italy or Sicily through the United Provinces unto London

Single One Shilling
Double Two Shillings
Treble Three Shillings
Ounce Four Shillings

All Letters and Packets passing from London through the United Provinces to any Part of Germany Switzerland Denmark Sweden and all Parts of the North and from any of those Parts and Places through the United Provinces unto London

Single One Shilling
Double Two Shillings
Treble Three Shillings
Ounce Four Shillings

All Letters and Packets passing from London through the United Provinces unto any Part of Spain or Portugal and from any Part of Spain or Portugal through the United Provinces unto London

Single One Shilling Six Pence
Double Three Shillings
Treble Four Shillings Six Pence
Ounce Six Shillings

All Letters and Packets passing from London through the Spanish Netherlands or the United provinces to Hamburg (port paid to Antwerp or Amsterdam) and from Hamburg through the Spanish Netherlands or the United Provinces unto London

Single Ten Pence
Double One Shilling Eight Pence
Treble Two Shillings Six Pence
Ounce Three Shillings Four Pence

All Letters and Packets passing between London Spain or Portugal by Packet Boats

Single One Shilling Six Pence
Double Three Shillings
Treble Four Shillings Six Pence
Ounce Six Shillings

All Letters and Packets passing from London unto Jamaica Barbadoes Antegoa Montserrat Nevis and Saint Christophers in America and from any of those Places to London	Single One Shilling Six Pence Double Three Shillings Treble Four Shillings Six Pence Ounce Six Shillings
All Letters and Packets from London to New York in North America and thence to London	Single One Shilling Double Two Shillings Treble Three Shillings Ounce Four Shillings
All Letters and Packets from any Part of the West Indies to New York as aforesaid	Single Four Pence Double Eight Pence Treble One Shilling Ounce One Shilling Four Pence
All Letters and Packets from New York to any Place within Sixty English Miles thereof and thence back to New York	Single Four Pence Double Eight Pence Treble One Shilling Ounce One Shilling Four Pence
All Letters and Packets from New York to Perth Amboy the Chief Town in East New Jersey and to Bridlington the chief Town in West New Jersey and from each of those Places back to New York and from New York to any Place not exceeding One hundred English Miles and from each of those Places to New York	Single Six Pence Double One Shilling Treble One Shilling and Six Pence Ounce Two Shillings
All Letters and Packets from Perth Amboy and Bridlington to any Place not exceeding Sixty English Miles and thence back again	Single Four Pence Double Eight Pence Treble One Shilling Ounce One Shilling Four Pence
All Letters and Packets from Perth Amboy and Bridlington to any Place not exceeding One hundred English Miles and thence back again	Single Six Pence Double One Shilling Treble One Shilling and Six Pence Ounce Two Shillings
All Letters and Packets from New York to New-London the Chief Town in Connecticut in New England and to Philadelphia the chief Town in Pensilvania and from those Places back to New York	Single Nine Pence Double One Shilling Six Pence Treble Two Shillings Three Pence Ounce Three Shillings
All Letters and Packets from New-London and Philadelphia to any Place not exceeding Sixty English Miles and so back again	Single Four Pence Double Eight Pence Treble One Shilling

	Ounce One Shilling Four Pence
All Letters and Packets from New-London and Philadelphia to any Place not exceeding One hundred English Miles and so back again	Single Six Pence Double One Shilling Treble One Shilling Six Pence Ounce Two Shillings
All Letters and Packets from New York aforesaid to Newport the chief Town in Rhode-Island and Providence Plantation in New-England and to Boston the chief Town in Massachusetts Bay in New-England aforesaid and to Portsmouth the chief Town in New Hampshire in New England aforesaid and to Annapolis the Chief Town in Maryland and from every of those Places to New York	Single One Shilling Double Two Shillings Treble Three Shillings Ounce Four Shillings
All Letters and Packets from Newport Boston Portsmouth and Annapolis aforesaid to any Place not exceeding Sixty English Miles and thence back again	Single Four Pence Double Eight Pence Treble One Shilling Ounce One Shilling Four Pence
All Letters and Packets from Newport Boston Portsmouth and Annapolis aforesaid to any Place not exceeding One hundred [English] Miles and thence back again	Single Six Pence Double One Shilling Treble One Shilling Six Pence Ounce Two Shillings
All Letters and Packets from New York aforesaid to the chief Offices in Salem and Ipswich and to the chief Office in Piscataway and to Williamsburgh the chief Office in Virginia and from every of those Places to New York	Single One Shilling Three Pence Double Two Shillings Six Pence Treble Three Shillings Nine Pence Ounce Five Shillings
All Letters and Packets from the chief Offices in Salem Ipswich Piscataway and Williamsburgh aforesaid to any Place not exceeding Sixty English Miles and thence back again	Single Four Pence Double Eight Pence Treble One Shilling Ounce One Shilling Four Pence
All Letters and Packets from the chief Offices in Salem Ipswich Piscataway and Williamsburgh aforesaid to any Place not exceeding One hundred English Miles and thence back again	Single Six Pence Double One Shilling Treble One Shilling Six Pence Ounce Two Shillings
All Letters and Packets from New-York aforesaid to Charles-Town the chief Town in North and South Carolina and from Charles-Town aforesaid to New York	Single One Shilling Six Pence Double Three Shillings Treble Four Shillings Six Pence Ounce Six Shillings
	Single Four Pence

All Letters and Packets from Charles Town aforesaid to any Place
not exceeding Sixty English Miles and thence back again Double Eight Pence
Treble One Shilling
Ounce One Shilling Four Pence

All Letters and Packets from Charles-Town aforesaid to any Place
not exceeding One hundred English Miles and thence back again Single Six Pence
Double One Shilling
Treble One Shilling Six Pence
Ounce Two Shillings

VIII. And be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid That such Postmaster General so to be appointed as aforesaid shall and may receive and take according to the same Rates and Proportions for the Port of Letters Packets and Parcels to or from any of the Parts or Places beyond the Seas where Posts have not been heretofore settled and may hereafter be settled by such Postmaster General for the Time being.

IX And be it further enacted That all Letters and Packets directed to or coming from an of the Foreign Parts or Places aforesaid and collected or delivered at any Part or Place between London and any of the Ports from whence any of Her Majesties Packet Boats shall at any Time hereafter sail or at which they shall or may arrive with the Foreign Mails do pay the same Rates as if the same were conveyed in the said Mails to or from London

X. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid That such Postmaster General shall be at Liberty to keep and maintain Packet Boats to go weekly (Wind and Weather permitting) to and from Donachadee or some other convenient Port in Ireland to Port-Patrick or some other convenient Port in that Part of Great Britain called Scotland for Conveyance of Letters and Packets for the conveniency of Trade and Commerce between the said Kingdoms paying over and above the inland Rates hereby rated and appointed to be received for such Letters and Packets at the Place where such Letter or Letters are delivered in to be sent by such Packet Boats according to the Rates following (that is to say) For every such Single Letter Two Pence Double Four Pence Treble Six Pence Ounce Eight Pence

XI. And forasmuch as it may be convenient to erect some Cross Stages for the better maintaining of Trace and Commerce and mutual Correspondencies and to settle the Rates for all By or Way Letters and Packets conveyed by Post in any of the said Kingdoms Be it therefore enacted by the Authority aforesaid That from and after the said First Day of June One thousand seven hundred and eleven it shall and may be lawful to and for the Postmaster General for the Time being so constituted as aforesaid to erect and set up Cross Stages to and from any Place or Places whatsoever and thereupon such Post-master General and his Deputy and Deputies by him thereunto sufficiently authorized shall and may lawfully demand have receive and take for the Postage and Conveyance as well of all such Letters and Packets which he or they shall so convey carry or send Post as aforesaid in any such Cross Stages as for all By or Way Letters and Packets the same Rates in Proportion to the Distances of the Places to which they shall be directed from the Places at which they shall be put in as Letters and packets conveyed and reconveyed to and from London are rated to pay

XII. And for the better reducing all Miles in both the said Kingdoms throughout all the Post-Roads within One hundred Miles Distance from the said chief Offices and in the Cross Roads now settled or hereafter to be settled to One and the same Measure and Standard and for preventing Disputes touching the same Be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid That it shall and may be lawful to and for such Person and Persons as the Postmaster General for the Time being shall appoint to measure or cause to be measured by the Wheel all Roads except such Roads where Stages are already settled and that such Person or Persons so to be authorized shall cause fair Surveys or Books to be made for each of the said Kingdoms one of each whereof to be left with Her Majesties Postmaster General in London another of each to be left at the chief Post Office in Edinburgh with the Postmaster Generals Deputy there another of each to be left at the chief Post Office in Dublin with the Postmaster Generals Deputy there to remain in the said Post-Offices and each of which said Books shall be signed by such Person or Persons making the same and by the Postmaster General for the Time being and his Deputies in such General Offices in each Kingdom and the

Comptrollers and Surveyors belonging or to belong to the said General Post Offices in London Edinburgh and Dublin which Books or Surveys shall ascertain and determine the Distances on all the said Roads

XIII. Provided always That such Person or Persons who shall be authorized to measure the said Distances and every of them shall be sworn to perform the same according to the best of their Skill and Judgment which Oath shall and may be administred by any of Hew Majesties Justices of the peace in the said Kingdoms respectively who shall make a Certificate thereof in Writing to be entered in the Three General Post Offices aforesaid without Fee or Charge

XIV. Provided always That all Merchants Accounts not exceeding One Sheet of Paper and all Bills of Exchange Invoices and Bills of Lading are and shall hereby be understood to be allowed without Rate in the Price of the Letters and likewise the Covers of Letters not exceeding One Fourth Part of a Sheet of Paper sent by the Way of Vienna Marseiles Venice or Leghorne to be sent to or from Turkey shall be understood to be allowed to pass without Rate or Payment for the same

XV. And in regard the said Postmaster General and his Deputies are obliged as well for performing the Duties of the severall Stages of Great Britain and Ireland as for furnishing such as ride Post with Horses and Furniture to be at great Charge to maintain a convenient Number of Servants Horses and Furniture Be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid That it shall and may be lawful to and for such Postmaster-General and his Deputy and Deputies to ask demand take and receive of every Person that he or they shall furnish and provide with Horses and Furniture or with Horses Furniture and Guide to ride Post in any of the Post Roads as aforesaid Three Pence of British Money for each and every Horse Hire or Postage for every English Mile and Four Pence of like Money for the Person riding as Guide for every Stage and the Deputy or Deputies of such Postmaster General shall not charge any Person riding Post for the carrying of an Bundle or parcel of Goods carried along with them in their Way of Travel so as any such bundle or Parcel of Good do not exceed the Weight of Eighty Pounds Avordipoize to be laid on the Horse rid by the Guide and no Deputy shall be obliged to carry above that Weight for any Person riding Post

XVI. And whereas upon the Arrival of ships from Parts beyond the Seas into several orts within Her Majesties Dominions many Letters directed to several Merchants and others have been either imbezilled or long detained to the great Damage of the Merchants and others to whom the same were directed in want of that speedy Advice and Intelligence which they might have had if the same had been forthwith dispatched by the settled Posts and sometimes such Letters have been delivered by the Masters or Passengers of such Ships to ignorant and loose Hands that understand not the Ways and Means of speedy Conveyance and Delivery of Letters whereby great Prejudice hath accrewed to the Affairs of Merchants and others as well by the Miscarriage of many Letters so brought as oftentimes by the opening the same to the Discovery of the Correspondency and Secrets of the Merchangs Be it therefore further enacted by the Authority aforesaid That all Letters and Packets that by any Master of any Ship or Vessel or any of his company or any Passengers therein shall or may be brought to any Port Town or which shall arrive or touch at any Port belonging to any Port Town within any Her Majesties Dominions or any the Members thereof or which shall be on board any Ship or Vessel that shall or do touch or stay at any such Port town (other than such Letters as are before excepted) or may be sent by common known Carriers in Manner aforesaid or by a Friend as aforesaid) shall by such Master Passenger or other Person or Persons be forthwith delivered unto the Deputy or Deputies only of such Postmaster General for the Time being by him appointed for such Place or ort Town ad to be by such Deputy or Deputies sent Post unto the said General Post Office to be delivered according to the severall and respective Directions of the same upon pain of forfeiting the Sum of Five Pounds of British Money for every severall Offence against the Tenor of this present Act

XVII. And for the Encouragement of all such Masters of Ships or Vessels or such other Persons on their Arrival at such Ports as aforesaid from any Parts beyond the Seas to deliver unto the Deputy or Deputies of such Postmaster General for such Place or Port Town at which they shall so touch or arrive all such Letters and Packets as they shall respectively have on board such Vessel or Vessels every such Master or other Person for every Letter or Packet of Letters he or they shall so deliver unto such Deputy or Deputies shall receive the Sum of One Pen of such [Deputy or] Deputies he or they signing a Certificate of the Number of Letters delivered and by what Vessel they came and of the Time when he or they delivered the same to such Deputy or Deputies and giving a Receipt for such Number of Pence as he or they shall receive of such

Deputy of Deputies which Certificate and Receipt shall be by such Deputy by the next Post returned to the said Postmaster-General together with the Letters so delivered who shall have Credit on his Account for so much Money as any such Deputy shall pay on that Account

XVIII. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid That no Person or Persons whatsoever or Body Politick or Corporate in any Part of these Kingdoms of Great Britain and Ireland or other Her Majesties Plantations and Colonies in the West Indies and America other than such Postmaster-General as shall from time to time be nominated and appointed by Her Majesty Her Heirs and Successors and constituted by Letters Patents under the Great Seal of Great Britain as aforesaid and his Deputy and Deputies or Assigns shall presume to receive take up order dispatch convey carry recarry or deliver any Letter or Letters Packet or Packets of Letters (other than as before excepted) or make any Collection of Lettes or set up or employ any Foot Post Horse Post or Packet boat or other Vessel or Boat or other Person or Persons Conveyance or Conveyances whatsoever for the receiving taking up ordering dispatching conveying carrying recarrying or delivering any Letter or Letters Packet or Packets of Letters [by Sea or by Land or on any river within Her Majesties Dominions or by Means whereof any Letter or Letters Packet or Packets of Letters] shall be collected received taken up odered dispatched conveyed carried recarried or delivered by Sea or Land or on any River within Her Majesties Dominions (other than as before excepted) or shall presume to keep rovide and maintain Horses or Furnitre for the horsing of an Person or Persons riding Post that is to say riding several Stages upon a Post Road and changing Horses or shall let to hire or furnigh an Person or Persons whatsoever with Horses or Furniture for riding Post as aforesaid on any of the Post Roads or Stages now or hereafter to be appointed with or without a Guide or Horn for Hire or Reward or on any Agreement or Promise of Reward or whereby he or they may have any Profit or Advantage on pain of forfeiting the Sum of Five Pounds of British Money for every several Offence against the Tenor of this present Act and also of the Sum of One hundred Pounds of like British Money for every Week that an Offender against this Act shall collect receive take up order dispatch convey carry recarry or deliver an Letter or Letters Packet or packets of Letters by Sea or Land or on any River within Her Majesties Dominions (other than as before excepted) or that shall presume to set up continue or emloy an Foot Post Horse Post or Packet Boat or other Vessel or Boat or any other Person or Persons Conveyance or Conveyances whatsoever for the receiving taking u ordering dispatching conveying carrying recarrying or delivering of any Letter or Letters Packet or Packets of Letters by Sea or Land or on any River within Her Majesties Dominions as aforesaid

XIX. And whereas divers Deputy Postmasters do collect great Quantities of Post-Letters called By or Way-Letters and by clandestine and private Agreements amongst themselves do convey the same Post in their respective Mails or By-Bags according to their several Directions without accounting for the same or endorsing the same on their Bills to the great Detriment of Her Majesties Revenues For preventing whereof for the Time to come Be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid That if at any Time hereafter any Person or Persons employed as a Deputy Postmaster or otherwise in these Kingdoms of Great Britain and Ireland or in any of Her Majesties Dominions and Territories in the West Indies or in North America shall not duly answer and account to Her Majesty Her Heirs and Successors for all such By or Way Letters as such Deputy or Deputies or any by his her or their Order shall receive the Port for or that shall not on his or her Post Bills exactly mention all the By or Way Letters he she or they shall or do receive or which shall come to his her or their Hand or Hands Custody or Power distinguishing them severally whether Single Double Treble or Ounce Weight or that shall destroy or embezill an such By Letter or By Letters Packet or Packets of Letters every such Person so offending shall forfeit and pay for every such Offence such Penalties and Forfeitures as the persons herein before prohibited setting up or employing other Posts or collecting carrying recarrying ordering dispatching or delivering Letters and Packets contrary hereunto are enacted to forfeit and Pay

XX. And it is hereby enacted That all and singular the said several Penalties and Forfeitures by this Act imposed on any Offender or Offenders against the same or an Part thereof shall and may be sued for and recovered by Action or Actions of Debt Bill Plaint or Information in any of Her Majesties Courts of Record wherein no Essoign Privilege Protection or Wager at Law shall be admitted and the said several and respective Penalties and Forfeitures that shall happen from time to time to be recovered shall be and remain the one Moiety thereof to Her Majesty Her Heirs and Successors and the other Moiety thereof to such Person or Persons who shall or will inform against the Offender or Offenders against this present Act and shall and will sue for the said Penalties and Forfeitures upon the same and on every such Recovery such

Person or Persons so informing and Prosecuting for the said Penalties and Forfeitures shall recover and have also taxed and paid their full Costs of Suit

XXI. Provided always That if any Postmaster of any respective Stages on any Post Roads in any Her Majesties Dominions now settled or hereafter to be settled doth not or cannot furnish an Person or Persons riding in Post with sufficient Horses within the Space of One Half Hour after Demand that then such Person or Persons is and are hereby understood to be left at Liberty to Provide themselves as conveniently as they can to the next Stage and so at every Stage where he or they shall not be furnished as aforesaid and the Person or Persons who shall furnish such Horses shall not therefore be liable to an Penalties or Forfeitures contained in this Act by reason thereof

XXII Provided always That if through Default or Neglect of the Postmaster General or his Deputy for the time being any Person or Persons riding in Post shall fail as aforesaid of being furnished with a sufficient Horse or Horses for his or their Use after Demand as aforesaid that then and in every such Case the Postmaster General or his Deputy so offending shall forfeit the Sum of Five Pounds Sterling the one Moiety to Her Majesty Her Heirs or Successors and the other Moiety to him or them who shall sue for the same in any Court of Record to be recovered and divided as aforesaid

XXIII Provided always and be it further enacted That nothing herein contained shall be understood to prohibit the carrying or recarrying of any Letters or Packets to or from an Town or Place to or from the next respective Post Road or Stage appointed for that Purpose above Six Miles from the said General Post Office or the Chief Offices of Edinburgh and Dublin but that every Person shall have free Liberty to send and employ such Person or Persons as they shall think fit for to carry the said Letters or Packets as aforesaid without any Forfeiture or Penalty therefoe Any thing herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding

XXIV Provided always nevertheless That nothing herein contained shall be construed to extend to give Licence to any person or Persons whatsoever to make Collection of Letters in or near the City of London or Suburbs thereof under Pretence of conveying the same to any Parts or Places in the said City or Suburbs or to the General Office of the said City without the Licence and Leave of the Postmaster General for the Time being And an Person or Persons acting contrary hereunto shall forfeit and pay as Persons collecting receiving carrying recarrying and delivering Letters contrary to this Act are hereby enacted to forfeit and pay to be recovered as aforesaid and with full Costs of Suit

XXV. Provided always That if the Packet or Mail shall be carried out of Great Britain into any Part or Place beyond the Seas in any Ship or Vessel which is not a free Ship and navigated with such Seamen as by the Laws of this Land the same are required to be that then and in every such Case the Postmaster General for the Time being shall forfeit the Sum of One hundred Pounds Sterling the one Moiety to Her Majesty Her Heirs and Successors and the other Moiety to him or them who shall sue for the same in any Court of Record to be recovered by Bill Plaint or other Information wherein no Essoign Protection or Wager at Law shall be allowed

XXVI Provided always and be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid That such Postmaster-General and all Officers and Deputies acting under him and all Officers belonging to the said General Post-Office within that Part of the said United Kingdom called England receiving the Sacram^t. According to the Usage of the Church of England and taking making and subscribing the Test and the Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy and Abjuration appointed by any of the Laws of the said Part of the said United Kingdom to be taken made and subscribed by Officers in publick Places of Trus. In the Governm^t. And within such times and in such Places as are particularly appointed by any of those Laws for doing the same shall be deemed and taken to be sufficiently qualified to act in their respective Stations and Duties and to execute their respective Employments throughout the said whole United Kingdom and all other her Majesties Dominions and shall not incur any Penalties Forfeitures or Disabilities for not taking the Oaths of Allegiance and Abjuration and subscribing the Assurance appointed by any the Laws of that Part of the said United Kingdom called Scotland or by any Law or Laws of the said United Kingdom of Great Britain to be taken and made by an Person in publick Trust notwithstanding such Postmaster-General and such Deputies and Officers shall exercise their respective Offices or Employments within all and every the Parts and Places of that Part of

the said United Kingdom called Scotland And all Deputies and Agents acting under such Postmaster-General within that Part of the said United Kingdom called Scotland taking and making the Oaths of Allegiance and Abjuration and subscribing the same with the Assurance appointed by any of the Laws of the said Part of the said United Kingdom called Scotland or by any Law or Laws of the said United Kingdom of Great Britain to be taken and made by any Person in publick Trust and within such Times and at such Places as are particularly appointed by any of those Laws for doing the same shall be deemed and taken to be sufficiently qualified to execute and exercise their respective Employments in the said Office throughout the said whole United Kingdom and all other Her Majesties Dominions Any Act or Acts of Parliament in either of the said United Kingdoms at an Time heretofore made to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding

XXVII. Provided also and be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid That a Letter or Packet-Post shall Twice every Week come by the Way of Trurow and Penrin to the Town of Penzance in the County of Cornwall and Once a Week to Kendall by the Way of Lancaster and to the Town of Penrith in Cumberland by the Way of New-Castle and Carlisle and to the City of Lincoln and the Borough of Grimsby in the County of Lincoln Any thing in this Act contained to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding

XXVIII And for the better Management of the said Post-Office and that the People of these Kingdoms may have their Intercourse of Commerce and Trade the better maintained and their Letters and Advices conveyed carried and re-carried with the greatest Speed Security and Conveniency that may be Be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid That the said Postmaster-General so nominated appointed and constituted as aforesaid and his Deputies shall from time to time observe and follow such Orders Rules Directions and Instructions for and concerning the Settlement of Posts and Stages upon the several Roads in Great Britain and Ireland and other Her Majesties Dominions and the providing and keeping a sufficient Number of Horses at the said several Stages as well for the carrying and conveying the said Letters and Packets as for the horsing of all Persons riding in Post by Warrant or otherwise as aforesaid as Her Majesty Her Heires and Successors shall from time to time in that Behalf make and ordain

XXIX Provided always and be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid That no person or Persons shall have Power to take use or seize any Horses for the Services mentioned in this Act without the Consent of the Owner or Owners thereof Any Law Statute Usage or Custom to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding

XXX And forasmuch as the Post must necessarily pass several Ferries in North America in which the Ferrymen give great Delays and sometimes have endeavoured to exact Money from them notwithstanding the same have always been free for the Post Be it therefore enacted by the Authority aforesaid That no Deputy or Agent of such Postmaster-General travelling with any Mail of Letters shall pay any thing for passing or repassing any Ferry within any of the Colonies or Plantations of Her said Majesty in North America aforesaid but such Ferrymen shall forthwith within One Half Hour after Demand convey such Deputies on Pain of forfeiting for every Offence the Sum of Five Pounds to be recovered in any Court of Record within any of the Provinces or Colonies in North America by Bill Plaint or Information wherein no Essoign Protection or Wager of Law shall be allowed One Moiety thereof to Her Majesty Her Heirs and Successors towards the Support of the Government of the said Provinces and the contingent Charges thereof and the other Moiety to the Postmaster General who shall sue and prosecute for the same together with full Costs of Suit

XXXI And whereas many Persons having received their Letters refuse to pay for the same or often run in Debt for the Postage of their Letters or having received some small Sum for the Port of Letters which Sums being very small in Particulars are properly to be recovered in a summary Way Be it therefore enacted by the Authority aforesaid That all Sum and Sums of Money not exceeding Five Pounds that now is or shall be due from any Person or Persons for Letters or Packets or any Letter or Packet to them delivered by any Deputy or Deputies of such Postmaster General or which now is or shall be due from any Person or Persons for the Port of Letters or Packets to them delivered by any Deputy or Agent of such Postmaster-General not exceeding the said Value or which have been or shall be received for the Port of Letters not exceeding the same Value without answering or paying the Moneys so due and owing to the Receiver General of the said Revenues for Her Majesties Use shall be recovered before Justices of the Peace in the same Manner and

under the same Rules as Small Tythes are by the Laws of England to be recovered and such Debt or Sums of Money shall be preferable in Paym'. By the Person owing the same or from whose Estate the same is or shall be due before any Debt of any sort to any private Person whomsoever

XXXII And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid That all inland Letters sent by any Packet-Post established by this Act as aforesaid do and shall pay the Rates and Prices before mentioned at such Stages at which they are last delivered only unless the Party that doth put in the Letters desirety to pay elsewhere and unless any such Letters are directed on board any Ship or Vessel or to any Person in the Arm or are sent by the Peny Post and unless they be Letters or Packets going out of Great Britain which have usually paid the Rates in England Any thing in this Act contained to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding

XXXIII Provided always That this Act or any thing therein contained shall not in any wise be prejudicial to the Privileges of the Two Universities of Oxford and Cambridge or either of them or to the chancellors or Scholars of the same or their Successors but that they may use and enjoy such Privileges as heretofore they have lawfully used and enjoyed and that all Letters and other Things may be sent or conveyed to or from the said Two Universities in Manner as heretofore hath been used Any thing herein to the contrary notwithstanding

XXXIV Provided always That it shall and may be lawful to and for the Postmaster General for the Time being his Deputy and Deputies to continue By-Bags for collecting and delivering of By-Letters as hath been heretofore accustomed such Deputy and Deputies duly accounting to and paying the respective Parts thereof to the Receiver General of the said Revenue for the Time being for the Use of Her Majesty Her Heirs and Successors

XXXV Provided always and be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid That all and every Sum and Sums of Money which shall or may be due and owing to Her Majesty on the said First Day of June One thousand seven hundred and eleven for the Duties and Revenues that have arisen or shall or may arise to that Time by Posts or by reason of the Duties and Revenues granted by either of the said former Acts shall be paid to the Receiver General of the said Revenue for Her Majesties Use and be recovered and recoverable in such Manner and by such Ways and Means as the same were recoverable before the making of this present Act Any thing herein contained to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding

XXXVI And towards the Establishment of a good sure and lasting Fond in order to raise a present Supply of Money for carrying on the War and other Her Majesties most necessary Occasions be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid That from and after the Twenty ninth Day of September One thousand seven hundred and eleven for and during the whole Term of Thirty two Years from thence next and immediately ensuing the full clear and entire weekly Sum of Seven hundred Pounds of lawful Money of Great Britain out of all the Duties and Revenues from time to time arising by virtue of this Act shall be brought and paid by the postmaster-General the Receiver General of the Post-Office or such other Person or Persons who for the Time being shall have the Receipt of the said Duties and Revenues who are hereby respectively enjoyed and required to bring and pay the same accordingly into the Receipt of the Exchequer upon Tuesday in every Week if it be not a Holy-day and if it be then upon the next Day that is not a Holy Day as one Week shall successively and immediately follow and succeed another and in case in any Week or Weeks the whole Receipt of the Monies of the said Duties or Revenues hereby charged as aforesaid shall not be sufficient to answer the said weekly Payment or Payments hereby directed for such particular Week or Weeks that then and so often the Deficiency and Deficiencies thereof shall be supplied and made good out of the whole Receipt of the said Duties or Revenues arising in the next Week or Weeks when the Receipt or Receipts shall be sufficient to bear the same all which Payments into the Exchequer shall be made for the Purposes and under the Penalties Forfeitures and Disabilities hereafter in this Act expressed

XXXVII And it is hereby further enacted by the Authority aforesaid That the Postmaster-General for the Time being at the Head Office in London shall from time to time cause an Account to be kept by an Accountant-General of all the Monies arising by virtue of this Act of or for the Duties or Revenues aforesaid and every or any of them as the same shall from time to time arise be paid or brought into the said Office to the Hands of the Receiver General for the Time being who is or shall be appointed from time to

time to receive the same And that such Receiver General for the Time being shall out of the Monies so arising make the said Weekly Paymt. into the Exchequer in Manner as aforesaid And if the said Postmaster-General for the Time being shall refuse or neglect to appoint or keep such Accountant General or if such Accountant General shall neglect to keep a just and true Account [as] aforesaid or if such Receiver General shall at any Time refuse or neglect to make any such weekly Payments as aforesaid into the Excheq' according to the true Meaning of this Act or if the said Postmaster-General Accountant-General and Receiver General for the Time being or an of them or any other Officer of the said Duties shall divert or misapply any of the Monies which should make good the said weekly Payments or any of them or any Part thereof contrary to the Tenor and true Meaning of this Act at any Time or Times during the said Term of thirty two Years then and in any such Case they and every of them so offending shall forfeit their several Offices and Places and be incapable to serve the Queen Her Heirs or Successors in any Office or Place of Truse or Profit and shall be liable for every such Offence to pay Double the Value of the Money so diverted or Misapplied to an Person or Persons who shall or ma be grieved by reason of such Offence and will inform or sue for the same by Action of Debt or of the Case Bill Suit or Information in any of Her Majesties Courts of Record at Westminster wherein no Essoign Protection Wager of Law or more than one Imparlance shall be granted or allowed

XXXVIII And to the End the said weekly Sum of Seven hundred Pounds may be made a Fund or Security for the purposes in this Act expressed Be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid That there shall be provided and kept in the Office of the Auditor of the Receipt of the Exchequer One Book in which all the Monies which shall be paid in weekly as aforesaid for or upon Account of the said weekly Sums out of the said Duties shall be entered apart and distinct from all other Monies which shall be brought and paid to the said Receipt upon an other Account whatsoever

XXXIX Provided always and it is hereby enacted That the said weekly Sum of Seven hundred Pounds for the Purposes aforesaid shall from time to time during all the said Term of thirty two Years be paid into the Exchequer as aforesaid out of the whole Produce of the Duties and Revenues arising by virtue of this Act with Preference to all other Payments which are shall or may be charged or chargeable thereupon the necessary Charges for managing the said Post Office and the Duties thereof and for receiving answering and accounting for the revenues arising hereby only excepted And that the said Duties and Revenues arising by this Act (after Deduction from time to time to be first made of so much as shall be then due and incurred or in Arrear of or for the said weekly Payments at any Time within or during the Term aforesaid and after the Allowance of such necessary Charges as aforesaid and not otherwise) shall from time to time be subject and liable to such Annuities and other Payments and Incumbrances which by an Act of Parliament now in force were lawfull charged upon the Revenues of the Post-Office or an of them granted by the said former Acts hereby repealed as aforesaid or which having been charged by any Grant upon the said Revenues have been saved by Act of Parliament of and for such Estate and Estates in Possession Reversion or Remainder and subject to such Conditions Limitations Restrictions and Appointments and in such or the like Manner and Form (and not otherwise) as the said Revenues payable by the said former Acts or any of them would have been subject or liable if this Act had not been made An thing herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding

XL Provided always and be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid That from and after the First Day of June One thousand seven hundred forty three the same Rates and Prices only and no more shall be taken or paid for the Carriage Conveyance and Delivery of all Letters and Packets sent by the Post from one Part of Great Britain to another as also for all Letters brought to Great Britain or sent from thence from or to an Parts beyond the Seas than were authorized or allowed to be taken by the Postmaster-General or his Deputy or Deputies for the Postage of such Letters by the said several Acts hereby repealed

XLI And whereas Abuses may be committed by willfully opening inbezilling detaining and delaying of Letters or Packets to the great Discouragement of Trade Commerce and Correspondence For Prevention thereof be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid That from and after the said First Day of June One thousand seven hundred and eleven no Person or Persons shall presume wittingly willingly or knowingly to open detain or delay or cause procure permit or suffer to be opened detained or delayed any Letter or Letters Packet or Packets after the same is or shall be delivered into the General or other Post-Office or into the Hands of any Person or Persons employed for the receiving or carrying Post Letters and before Delivery

to the Persons to whom they are directed or for their Use except by an express Warrant in Writing under the Hand of One of the principal Secretaries of State for every such opening detaining or delaying or except in such Cases where the Party or Parties to whom such Letter or Letters Packet or Packets shall be directed or who is or are hereby chargeable with the Payment of the Port or Ports thereof shall refuse or neglect to pay the same and except such Letters or Packets as shall be returned for want of true Directions and where the Party to whom the same is or are directed cannot be found and that every Person or Persons offending in Manner aforesaid or who shall imbezel any such Letter or Letters Packet or Packets shall for every such Offence forfeit the sum of Twenty Pounds the said Penalties for any such Offence committed in England Wales or Berwick upon Tweed to be recovered by Action Bill Plaint or Information in any of Her Majesties Courts of Record at Westminster and for any such Offence committed in that Part of Great Britain called Scotland to be recovered in the court of Sessions or Exchequer there such Penalties respectively to be recovered by such Person or Persons as will inform or sue for the same together with full Costs of Suit and over and above such Penalty as aforesaid every such Person or Persons so offending as aforesaid shall be for ever incapable of having using exercising or enjoying any Office Trust or Employmt. In or relating to the Post-Office or an Branch thereof

XLII. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid That no Person or Persons shall after the said First Day of June One thousand seven hundred and eleven be capable of having using or exercising the Office or Offices of Postmaster General or an Part thereof or any other Employment relating to the Post Office or any Branch thereof or be any way concerned in receiving sorting or delivering of Letters or Packets unless such Person or Persons shall first have taken the following Oath before some One Justice of the Peace for the County or Place where such Person resides which said Oath such Justice of Peace is hereby authorized to administer in the following Words

I, A.B. do swear That I will not wittingly willingly or knowingly open detain or delay or cause procure permit or suffer to be opened detained or delayed any Letter or Letters Packet or Packets which shall come into my Hands Power or Custody by reason of my Employment in or relating to the Post Office except by the Consent of the Person or Persons to whom the same is or shall be directed or by an express Warrant in Writing under the Hand of One of the Principal Secretaries of State for that Purpose or except in such Cases where the Party or Parties to whom such Letter or Letters Packet or Packets shall be directed or who is or are hereby chargeable with the Payment of the Port or Ports thereof shall refuse or neglect to pay the same and except such Letters or Packets as shall be returned for want of true Directions or when the Party or Parties to whom the same is or shall be directed cannot be found And that I will not any way imbezel any such Letter or Letters Packet or Packets as aforesaid

XLIII. And it is further enacted and declared by the Authority aforesaid That from the said First Day of June in the Year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and eleven One Third Part of the Surplus of the yearly Produce arising by the said Letter or Post-Office or duties upon Postage of Letters and Packets by this Act granted over and above the Sum of One hundred and eleven thousand four hundred sixty one Pounds Seventeen Shillings and Ten Pence which was the Amount of the gross Receipt of the Duties arising by virtue of the said former Acts of Parliament (which are now repealed) for One Year ended the Nine and twentieth Day of September in the Year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and ten and over and above the said Sum of Seven hundred Pounds per Week shall be and is by this Act reserved to the Disposal of Parliament for the Use of the Publick and shall not be divertible or diverted to any other Use Intent or Purpose other than according to such Disposal

XLIV And to the Intent the Inheritance of such Part of the said Duties and Revenue arising in and by the said General Letter-Office or Post-Office which is hereby vested in Her Majesty Her Heirs and Successors undeterminable as aforesaid may be preserved in the Crown for the future Benefit thereof Be it further enacted and declared by the Authority aforesaid That the same or any Part thereof shall not hereafter be alienable chargeable or grantable by Her Majesty Her Heirs or Successors for any Estate Term or Time whatsoever to endure longer than the Life of Her Majesty or of such King or Queen as shall make such Alienation Charge or Grant respectively and that all Gifts Grants Alienations and Assurances whatsoever to be had or made of and Charges upon the said Duties or Revenue or any Part thereof contrary to the Provision of this Act shall be null and void without any Inquisition Scire facias or other Proceeding to determine or make void the same

XLV And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid That no Postmaster or Postmasters-General or his or their Deputy or Deputies or any Person employed by or under him or them in the receiving collecting or managing the Revenue of the Post Office or any Part thereof shall by Word Message or Writing or in any other Manner whatsoever endeavour to perswade any Elector to give or diswade any Elector from giving his Vote for the Choice of any Person to be a Knight of the Shire Citizen Burgess or Baron of any County City Borough or Cinque Port to serve in Parliament and every Officer or other Person offending therein shall forfeit the Sum of One hundred Pounds One Moiety thereof to the Informer the other Moiety to the Poor of the Parish where such Offence shall be committed to be recovered by Action of Debt Bill Plaint or Information in any of Her Majesties Courts of Record at Westminster or in the Court of Exchequer in Scotland for the said Offences committed in England and Scotland respectively wherein no Essoign Protection or Wager of Law or any more than One Imparlance shall be allowed and every Person Convict on any such Suit of the said Offence shall thereby become disabled and incapable of ever bearing or executing any Office or Place of Trust whatsoever under Her Majesty Her Heirs or Successors.