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WHEREAS upon Arrival of Ships from Parts beyond the Seas into several Ports within His Majesty's Dominions, many Letters directed to several Merchants and others, have been either Imbezelled 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 understood not the Ways and Means of speedy Conveyance and Delivery of Letters, whereby great Prejudice hath accrued 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 Merchants. For prevention whereof it was (in and by an Act of Parliament made in the Ninth Year of the Reign of her late Majesty Queen *Anne*, Intituled, *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*) Enacted 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 Majesty's 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 in and by the said Act excepted) shall by such Master, Passenger, or other Person or Persons, be forthwith delivered unto the Deputy or Deputies only of such Post-Master-General for the time being by him appointed for such Place or Port-Town, and to be by such Deputy or Deputies sent Post unto the said General-Post-Office to be delivered according to the several and respective Directions of the same, upon pain of Forfeiting the Sum of 5*l.* of *British* Mony for every several Offence against the Tenor of the said Act, to be recovered as is in the said Act mentioned, together with full Costs of Suit. 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 Post-Master-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 Penny 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 or Deputies; which Certificate and Receipt shall be by such Deputy by the next Post returned to the said Post-Master-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. And in regard all private Collections and Conveyances of Letters are prohibited to be made by such Masters of Vessels, Seamen and Passengers as aforesaid. And for as much as such Masters, Seamen and Passengers have a good Recompence appointed by the said Act to encourage their due Compliance therewith; and for that his Majesty's Subjects may have sufficient Conve- niency for maintaining their Trade and Correspondence, the Right Honourable *Charles* Lord *Cornwallis* and *James* *Craggs*, Esq; his Majesty's Post-Master-General, have according to the Direction of the said Act caused convenient Posts to be settled for that purpose, and particularly at the several Towns following (that is to say)

for Receipt of all Letters and Packets to be conveyed to or from the same Towns, and all other Towns and Places adjacent thereunto, to any part of His Majesty's Dominions, or any part beyond the Seas, and have appointed or approved to be their Deputy and to receive for the Stage of Collect, and there to deliver all Letters and Pacquets within the Collection and Delivery of the said Stage to which the Towns above-named amongst others do belong, who have Directions to pay such Encouragement as is by the Act directed. And to the end his Majesty's Revenue arising by Posts may not be longer injured by such unlawful Collections and Conveyances, and the Moneys lent her said late Majesty on the Credit of the said Revenue for the Service of the Publick be the better secured, the said *Charles* Lord *Cornwallis* and *James* *Craggs*, Esq; his Majesty's said Post-Master-General in Execution of the Trust reposed in them, and to the end that no Person may pretend Ignorance of the said Law, and their Duties in relation thereunto, have thought fit hereby to give Notice, that if any Person or Persons after this Notice shall in any thing act contrary to the said Law, they shall be proceeded against and punished according to the utmost Severity. Given under their Hands at the General-Post-Office in London this _____ Day of _____ in the _____ Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord *George* by the Grace of God of *Great Britain, France* and *Ireland* King, Defender of the Faith, &c. Annoq; Dom. 17

Cornwallis
J. Craggs