

detaining, or delaying, any letter, &c. is alone recoverable in the courts at Westminster or Edinburgh consequently such persons who trespass against the enactments that are in favour of the post-office, are punishable in this country, and those who trespass against the rights of the public, are not so by statute, although I can not but believe they would be punishable by common law.

With respect to the remedial suggestions, there appear to me to be three modes which the provincial legislature might adopt.

1. To pass an act to *repeal*, with regard to this province, (a power which the constitution gives them) such parts of the post-office acts of the British Parliament, as relate to the colonies; and to establish their own post-office, modelled upon the regulations of the other, as far as they may be applicable to the country, fixing their own rates of postage, appropriating the revenue to be derived from it, and enacting *that all newspapers shall go free.*

2. To establish a concurrent provincial post-office,\* and regulations for the more quick, as well as more economical, conveyance of letters, so that the preference would be given to the provincial post, above the general post, a revenue raised, and by degrees the general post worked out of the country by means of competition.

3d. To petition the Imperial parliament to repeal and alter the acts relative to the post-office, in all cases in which they do not suit the circumstances of the country, and particularly as to the application of the surplus-revenue derived from these provinces, and the free conveyance of papers.

Each of these modes has its advantages and disadvantages, and reasons for and against it; but the discussion of these I must defer till another opportunity.

L. L. M.

*the 9 Ann, directs the recovery generally of the penalties imposed by it, in "any of her Majesty's courts of Record" that those imposed on the post office people would be equally so, altho' by Sect. 40 and 44, they are limited to Westminster and Edinburgh; or on the other hand, that altho' Sect. 19 gives that general power of recovery, yet as Sect. 29 (the only one in which any penalty is specially imposed upon any act committed in America,) the penalty for ferrymen for obstructing or delaying the mail, is recoverable "in any court of record in the colonies," none but such a particular penalty can be so recoverable.*

\* This is not merely a theoretical plan. In the seven United provinces, before the French revolution, although there was a Staats-post, that went through the whole, each province had its own post besides, called provinciale bodens, or provincial messengers, the postage by which was about 3-4 of the other.

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