II. Provided, That such Deputy Speaker shall not have Power to appoint to any Office, except for such Time as he shall continue to be Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker not to appoint to any Office.

III. Provided also, That nothing herein contained shall affect the Election of a Speaker, or the Forms thereof, or any Prerogative of Her Majesty concerned therein, or otherwise relating to the Office of Speaker. Nothing herein to affect Election of Speaker, &c.

CAP. LXXXV.

An Act for carrying into effect the Engagements between Her Majesty and certain Chiefs of the *Sherbro* Country near *Sierra Leone* in *Africa*, for the more effectual Suppression of the Slave Trade. [14th *August* 1855.]

'WHEREAS on the Thirty-first *March* One thousand eight hundred and fifty-three, an Engagement was concluded between *Arthur Edward Kennedy* Esquire, Governor of the Colony of *Sierra Leone*, on behalf of Her Majesty, and certain Chiefs of the *Sherbro* Country, namely, *Careybah Caulker*, Chief of *Bombey*, and *Thomas Stephen Caulker*, Chief of the *Plantain Islands*, *Pierre Charley*, King of *Sherbro*, *Harry Tucker*, Chief of *Shebar*, and *William Tucker*, Chief of *Bullom* and *Boom* Rivers: And whereas on the Ninth, Nineteenth, and Twenty-first *May* One thousand eight hundred and fifty-three certain other Engagements were concluded between the said *Arthur Edward Kennedy*, Governor of the said Colony, on behalf of Her Majesty, and certain other Chiefs of the *Sherbro* Country, namely, *Ibiboo Salifoo*, Chief of "*Jong*," *Mahamadoo Calipha*, Chief of *Barmah*, *Cabouka*, Chief of *Bagroo*, *Pah Rakey*, Chief of *Baly*, *Somaaker*, Chief of *Tassamankar*, *Soloko*, Chief of *Robannah*: And whereas on the Seventeenth Day of *April* One thousand eight hundred and fifty-four, another Engagement was concluded between the said *Arthur Edward Kennedy*, Governor of the said Colony, on behalf of Her Majesty, and a certain other Chief, namely, *John Fortune*; by which said several Engagements it was amongst other things agreed as follows: "The Cruizers of the *British* Government, "or any Officer deputed by his Excellency the Governor of *Sierra Leone*, whenever they "fall in with any Vessels or Boats belonging to the People of *Sherbro*, suspected of being "engaged in the Slave Trade, may detain and search them, and in case of their finding "that any of the Vessels or Boats aforesaid belonging to the People of *Sherbro* have violated "this Engagement, by the Exportation of Slaves from the Coasts of *Africa* or elsewhere, "they (the Government Cruizers, or Officers deputed by his Excellency the Governor of "*Sierra Leone*,) may seize and confiscate the same, and the Vessels and Boats so seized "shall be taken to *Sierra Leone*, to be tried by *English* Law, and when condemned shall be "sold, and the Produce of the Sale shall be divided equally between the Queen of "*England* and the Chief or Chiefs of *Sherbro*, and the Slaves who were found on board shall "be made free:" And whereas it is expedient that effectual Provision should be made for carrying into execution the herein-before recited Provisions of the said several Agreements:' Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's 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 the Authority of the same, as follows:

I. It shall be lawful for the Commanders and other Officers of Her Majesty's Ships of War, or for any Officer deputed by the Governor of *Sierra Leone*, to detain and search in any Seas any Vessel or Boat belonging to *Careybah Caulker*, Chief of *Bombey*, and *Thomas Stephen Caulker*, Chief of the *Plantain Islands*, *Pierre Charley*, King of *Sherbro*, *Harry Tucker*, Chief of *Shebar*, *William Tucker*, Chief of *Bullom* and *Boom* Rivers, *Ibiboo Salifoo*, Chief of "*Jong*," *Mahamadoo Calipha*, Chief of *Barmah*, *Cabouka*, Chief of *Bagroo*, *Pah Rakey*, Chief of *Baly*, *Somanker*, Chief of *Tassermanker*, *Soloko*, Chief of *Robannah*, and *John Fortune*, or to any of their Subjects, which shall upon reasonable Grounds be suspected of being engaged in the Slave Trade, and to send or carry away such Vessel or Boat together with Power for Commanders of Ships of War, &c. to visit and inspect, &c. Vessels belonging to the Sherbro Chiefs.

with its Master, Sailors, Passengers, Slaves, and Cargo, for the Purpose of such Vessel being brought to Adjudication as herein-after mentioned.

As to the Trial and Condemnation of Vessels engaged in the Slave Trade.

II. It shall be lawful for the High Court of Admiralty of *England*, and for all Courts of Vice-Admiralty in any Dominions of Her Majesty beyond the Seas, to take cognizance of and try any such Vessel or Boat, which shall be detained or captured for the Violation of the said Engagements, and to condemn any such Vessel or Boat to Her Majesty, and adjudge as to the Slaves found therein, in like Manner and under such and the like Rules and Regulations as are contained in any Act or Acts of Parliament in force in relation to the Suppression of the Slave Trade by *British*-owned Ships, as fully as if all the Powers and Provisions contained in such Acts were re-enacted in this Act as to such High Court of Admiralty or Courts of Vice-Admiralty.

Persons giving false Evidence deemed guilty of Perjury.

III. Every Person who shall wilfully and corruptly give false Evidence in any Examination or Deposition had or Affidavit taken in any Proceeding under the said Engagement or this Act shall be deemed guilty of Perjury, and being thereof convicted shall be subject and liable to all the Punishments, Pains, and Penalties to which Persons convicted of wilful and corrupt Perjury are liable; and every such Person may be tried for any such Perjury, either in the Place where the Offence was committed, or in any Colony or Settlement of Her Majesty near thereto in which there is a Court of competent Jurisdiction to try any such Offence, or in Her Majesty's Court of Queen's Bench in *England*; and that in case of any Prosecution for such Offence in Her Majesty's said Court of Queen's Bench the Venue may be laid in the County of *Middlesex*.

In case of Prosecution in England, Venue may be laid in Middlesex.

Pendency of Suits to be a Bar to any Proceedings instituted for the Recovery of the Vessels detained.

IV. The Pendency of any Suit or Proceeding instituted for the Condemnation or Restitution of any Vessel, Boat, or Cargo, or Slaves taken, seized, or detained by virtue of the said Agreement, or the final Adjudication, Condemnation, or Judgment or Determination thereupon, may be pleaded in Bar or given in Evidence under the General Issue, and shall be deemed in any Court whatever to be a complete Bar in any Action, Suit, or Proceeding, whether instituted by any Person or Persons for the Recovery of any such Vessel, Boat, or Cargo, or of any Damage or for any Injury sustained thereby or by the Persons on Board the same, in consequence of any Capture, Seizure, or Detention, or anything done under or in pursuance of the Provisions of the said Agreement.

Vessels condemned to be sold for Her Majesty's Service or broken up.

V. Any Vessel or Boat which shall be condemned as aforesaid may be taken into Her Majesty's Service, upon Payment of such Sum as the Lord High Admiral or the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty shall deem a proper Price for the same, or if not so taken shall be broken up and demolished, and the Materials thereof shall be publicly sold in separate Parts, and the Proceeds thereof shall be paid to such Person or Persons as the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury may appoint to receive the same.

Captors of Vessels condemned entitled to the Proceeds belonging to Her Majesty.

VI. Where any Ship or Vessel employed or engaged in such illicit Traffic in Slaves, in violation of the said Engagements, shall be seized by any Ship or Vessel belonging to Her Majesty, and afterwards condemned, there shall be paid to the Captors the net Proceeds to which Her Majesty is entitled, the same to be distributed in the Manner herein-after directed for the Distribution of Bounties on Slaves taken on board the said Vessels.

Payment of Bounty for Slaves captured.

VII. There shall be paid to the Commanders, Officers, and Crews of Her Majesty's Ships a Bounty of Five Pounds for every Man, Woman, and Child Slave seized and found on board any Vessel or Boat taken and condemned in pursuance of the Provisions of the said Agreement and of this Act, such Bounty to be issued and paid by Order from the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, and to be distributed to and amongst the Captors aforesaid in such Manner and Proportions as Her Majesty shall think fit to order, by any Order in Council, made or to be made, or by any Proclamation for that Purpose.

Additional Bounty on Tonnage of Slave Ships captured and demolished.

VIII. Where any Vessel or Boat which shall have been seized and condemned under the Provisions of the said Engagements shall have been or shall be demolished, and the Materials thereof publicly sold in separate Parts, as well as her Cargo, there shall be paid to the Commanders, Officers, and Crews of Her Majesty's Ships, in addition to the Amount of the Proceeds of such Sale, as herein-before mentioned, a further Bounty on the

the Tonnage of such Vessel or Boat at the Rate of Thirty Shillings for every Ton of such Tonnage.

Where no Slaves are on board a Ship seized and condemned, an additional Bounty on Tonnage to be paid.

IX. Where any Vessel or Boat, having no Slaves on Board, shall have been seized and condemned under the Provisions of the said Engagements, there shall be paid to the Commanders, Officers, and Crews of Her Majesty's Ships an additional Bounty upon the Tonnage of such Ship or Vessel at the Rate of Four Pounds for every Ton; and the Tonnage of all such Vessels shall be ascertained according to the Mode of ascertaining the Admeasurement of *British* Vessels, either by the Principal Officer of the Customs at the Port where the Vessel may be at the Time of Condemnation, or in default thereof by the best Evidence which can be obtained: Provided always, that in every Case in which any Vessel or Boat shall be seized with Slaves on board in which the Bounty calculated upon the Number of Slaves shall be less than the Bounty calculated upon the Tonnage, the Commanders of Her Majesty's Ships making the Seizure may elect to take the Bounty calculated according to Tonnage, instead of the Bounty which would be payable upon the Number of Slaves on board.

Bounties to be paid out of Monies to be provided by Parliament.

X. All Bounties payable under this Act shall be paid out of such Monies as may be provided by Parliament to the Commanders, Officers, and Crews of Her Majesty's Ships, and such Bounties shall be issued and paid by Order from the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury.

Proof of Tonnage.

XI. In order to entitle the Captors to receive the said Bounty Money, the Tonnage of the Vessel or Boat so seized and condemned shall be proved to the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, by producing a Copy duly certified of the Sentence or Decree of Condemnation, or by such documentary or other Evidence as they may deem satisfactory.

Copy of Sentence of Condemnation to be produced to the Treasury.

XII. In order to entitle the Captors to receive the said Bounty Money on Slaves, the Number of Men, Women, and Children so taken, delivered over, and condemned shall be proved to the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, by producing a Copy duly certified, of the Sentence or Decree of Condemnation, and also a Certificate under the Hand of the proper Officer or Officers, Military or Civil, who may be appointed to receive such Slaves.

One Moiety of the Bounty only to be paid in certain Cases.

XIII. Where any Slaves or Persons treated as Slaves shall be seized on board any Vessel or Boat taken and condemned in pursuance of the said Agreement and of this Act, but who shall not have been delivered over in consequence of Death, Sickness, or other inevitable Circumstance, it shall be lawful for the said Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, if to their Discretion it shall seem meet, to direct Payment of One Moiety of the Bounty which would have been due in each Case respectively if the said Slaves had been delivered over.

Parties claiming Benefit under this Act may resort to Court of Admiralty.

XIV. Any Party or Parties claiming any Benefit by way of Bounty under the Provisions of this Act, or of any Share of the Proceeds of any Vessel confiscated in pursuance of the Provisions of the aforesaid Agreement, may resort to the High Court of Admiralty for the Purpose of obtaining the Judgment of the said Court in that Behalf, and that it shall be lawful for the Judge of the said High Court of Admiralty to determine thereon, and also to hear and determine any Question of joint Capture which may arise upon any Seizure made in pursuance of this Act, and also to enforce any Decrees or Sentences of the said Vice-Admiralty Courts relating to any such Seizure.

Regulations and Penalties respecting Prize Agents Accounts extended to Bounties, &c. under this Act.

XV. All the Provisions, Rules, Regulations, Forfeitures, and Penalties respecting the Delivery by Prize Agents of Accounts for Examination, and the Distribution of Prize Money, and the accounting for and paying over the Proceeds of Prize, and the Per-centage due thereon to *Greenwich Hospital*, shall be extended to all Bounties and Proceeds to be distributed under the Provisions of this Act to the Officers and Crews of any of Her Majesty's Ships and Vessels of War.

Power to order Payment of Costs awarded for Vessels

XVI. Where any Vessel or Boat belonging in whole or in part to either of the before-mentioned Chiefs, or his Subjects or Dependants, shall have been detained and brought to Adjudication under the Provisions of this Act and the said Ship shall be restored by Sentence

detained but not condemned.

Sentence of the Court, it shall be lawful for the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, by Warrant, to direct Payment to be made out of such Monies as may be provided by Parliament of any Costs or Damages which may be duly awarded: Provided always, that nothing herein contained shall exempt such Officer from his Liability to make good the Payment so made, when lawfully called upon, either by the Parties interested therein or by Order of the said Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury.

Power to Treasury to repay to the Seizor of any Vessel not condemned the Expenses incurred by him.

XVI. When any Seizure shall be made by any of the Commanders, Officers, and Crews of Her Majesty's Ships, and Judgment shall be given against the Seizor, or when such Seizure shall be relinquished by him, it shall be lawful for the said Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, if to their Discretion it shall seem meet, by Warrant to direct Payment to be made out of such Monies as may be provided by Parliament of such Costs and Expenses as the Seizor may have incurred in respect of such Seizure, or any proportional Part thereof.

CAP. LXXXVI.

An Act for securing the Liberty of Religious Worship. [14th *August* 1855.]

'WHEREAS it is expedient that the Laws affecting Assemblies for Religious Worship should be amended: And whereas by an Act passed in the First Year of King *William* and Queen *Mary*, intituled *An Act for exempting Their Majesties Protestant Subjects dissenting from the Church of* England *from the Penalties of certain Laws*, it is enacted that no Congregation or Assembly for Religious Worship shall be permitted or allowed until the Place of such Meeting shall be certified and registered or recorded as described in such Act: And whereas by an Act passed in the Fifty-second Year of King *George* the Third, Chapter One hundred and fifty-five, intituled *An Act to repeal certain Acts, and to amend other Acts relating to Religious Worship and Assemblies, and Persons teaching or preaching therein*, it is enacted that no Congregation or Assembly for Religious Worship of Protestants (at which there shall be present more than Twenty Persons, besides the immediate Family and Servants of the Person in whose House or upon whose Premises such Meeting, Congregation, or Assembly shall be had,) shall be permitted or allowed unless the Place of such Meeting is certified as described in such Act, and that every Person who shall knowingly permit or suffer any such Congregation or Assembly as aforesaid to meet in any Place occupied by him, until the same shall have been so certified, shall forfeit for every Time any such Congregation or Assembly shall meet a Sum not exceeding Twenty Pounds nor less than Twenty Shillings, at the Discretion of the Justices who shall convict for such Offence:' Be it enacted by the Queen's 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 the Authority of the same, as follows:

1 W. & M. Sess. 1. c. 18.

52 G. 3. c. 155.

No Prosecution to be maintainable for assembling for Religious Worship in a Place of Meeting not certified.

I. From and after the passing of this Act, nothing contained in the above-mentioned Acts or in an Act passed in the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Years of the Reign of Her Majesty, Chapter Thirty-six, shall apply to the Congregations or Assemblies herein-after mentioned or any of them; that is to say,

(1) To any Congregation or Assembly for Religious Worship held in any Parish or any Ecclesiastical District, and conducted by the Incumbent, or in case the Incumbent is not resident, by the Curate of such Parish or District, or by any Person authorized by them respectively:

(2) To any Congregation or Assembly for Religious Worship meeting in a private Dwelling House or on the Premises belonging thereto:

(3) To any Congregation or Assembly for Religious Worship meeting occasionally in any Building or Buildings not usually appropriated to Purposes of Religious Worship:

And no Person permitting any such Congregation to meet as herein mentioned in any Place occupied by him shall be liable to any Penalty for so doing.

II. So