matters as well as one matter, and several persons as well as one person, and females as well as males, and bodies corporate as well as individuals, unless it be otherwise specially provided, or there be something in the subject or context repugnant to such construction.

[*Disallowed in C.O.D., No. 26, 12th August, 1844.*]

No. 2 of 1844.

An Ordinance to regulate the printing of books and papers, and the keeping of printing presses within the Colony of Hongkong.

[28th February, 1844.]

No newspaper to be published save in accordance with the rules hereinafter mentioned.

BE it enacted, that from and after the first day of April now next ensuing, no printed periodical work whatever, containing public news or comments on public news, shall be published within the Colony of Hongkong, except in conformity with the rules hereinafter laid down.

Printer and publisher to make declaration.

(1.) The printer and the publisher of every such periodical work shall appear before the Chief Magistrate of Police at Hongkong, and shall make and subscribe in duplicate the following declaration "I A. B. declare that I am the printer "(or publisher, or printer and publisher) of the periodical work intitled "and printed (or published, "or printed and published) at Hongkong,"
and the last blank in this form of declaration shall be filled up with a true and precise account of the premise where the printing or publication is conducted.

New declaration on change of residence.

(2.) As often as the place of printing or publication is changed a new declaration shall be necessary.

New declaration on former printer or publisher leaving the Colony.

(3.) As often as the printer or the publisher, who shall have made such declaration as is aforesaid, shall leave the Colony of Hongkong, a new declaration from a printer or publisher resident within the said Colony shall be necessary.

Punishment and penalty for non-observance of above rules.

2. And be it enacted, that whoever shall print or publish any such periodical work as is hereinbefore prescribed, without conforming to the rules hereinbefore laid down, or whoever shall print or publish, or shall cause to be printed or published, any such periodical work, knowing that the said rules have not been observed with respect to that work, shall on conviction be punished with fine, to an amount not exceeding three thousand dollars, and imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years.

Declaration to be deposited in office of Chief Magistrate and in the Supreme Court.

3. And be it enacted, that each of the two originals, of every declaration so made and subscribed as is aforesaid, shall be authenticated by the signature and seal of the said Chief Magistrate of Police; and one of the said originals shall be deposited among the records of the office of the said Chief Magistrate, and the other original shall be deposited among the records of such Supreme Court of Judicature as may

hereafter be established in Hongkong, and the officer, in charge of each original, shall allow any person to inspect that original, on payment of a fee of one dollar, and shall give to any person applying a copy of the said declaration, on payment of a fee of two dollars.

Copy of declaration to be evidence.

4. And be it enacted, that in any legal proceeding whatever, as well civil as criminal, the production of a copy of such a declaration as is aforesaid, attested by the seal of such Magistrate or Court, as are empowered by this Ordinance to have the custody of such declarations, shall be held (unless the contrary be proved) to be sufficient evidence, as against the person whose name shall be subscribed to such declaration, that the said person was printer or publisher or printer and publisher (according as the words of the said declaration may be) of every portion of every periodical work whereof the title shall correspond with the title of the periodical work mentioned in the said declaration.

Person ceasing to be printer or publisher to make declaration thereof.

5. Provided always, that any person who may have subscribed any such declaration as is aforesaid, and who may subsequently cease to be the printer or publisher of the periodical work mentioned in such declaration, may appear before such Chief Magistrate as aforesaid, and make and subscribe in duplicate the following declaration.

"I A. B. declare that I have ceased to be the printer (or publisher, or printer "and publisher) of the periodical work entitled

" " and each original of the latter declaration shall be authenticated by the signature and seal of the said Chief Magistrate, and one original of the said latter declaration shall be filed along with each original of the former declaration, and the officer in charge of each original of the latter declaration shall allow any person applying to inspect that original, on payment of a fee of one dollar, and shall give to any person applying a copy of the said latter declaration, attested by the seal of the Magistrate or Court having custody of the original, on payment of a fee of two dollars.

Copy of such declaration to be admitted as evidence.

6. And be it enacted, that in all trials in which a copy attested as is aforesaid of the former declaration shall have been put in evidence, it shall be lawful to put in evidence a copy attested as is aforesaid of the latter declaration, and the former declaration shall not be taken to be evidence, that the declarant was, at any period subsequent to the date of the latter declaration, printer or publisher of the periodical work therein mentioned.

Every book or paper to contain name of printer or publisher and place of printing or publication.

7. And be it enacted that every book or paper, printed after the passing and publishing of this Ordinance, within the Colony of Hongkong, shall have printed on it at the end thereof the name of the printer and of the publisher, and the place of printing and of publication, and whoever shall print or publish any book or paper, otherwise than in conformity with this rule, shall on conviction be punished by fine, to an amount not exceeding three thousand dollars, and by imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years.

Declaration by the possessor of any printing press.

8. And be it enacted, that after the first day of April now next ensuing no person shall within the Colony of Hongkong keep in his possession any press for the printing

of books or papers, who shall not have made and subscribed the following declaration before the Chief Magistrate of Police at Hongkong; and whoever shall keep in his possession any such press, without making such a declaration, shall on conviction be punished by fine, to an amount not exceeding three thousand dollars, and by imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years.

"I A. B. declare that I have a press for printing at

" " and this last blank shall be filled up with a true and precise description of the premises where such press may be.

Punishment and penalty for making any false declaration.

9. And be it enacted, that any person who shall, in making any declaration under the authority of this Ordinance, knowingly affirm an untruth shall on conviction thereof be punished by fine, to an amount not exceeding three thousand dollars, and imprisoned for a term not exceeding two years.

[*Repealed by Ordinance No. 6 of 1886.*]

No. 3 of 1844.

Title. [*See Ordinance No. 10 of 1856 as to "Lis Pendens."*]

An Ordinance to provide for the registration of deeds wills judgments and conveyances affecting real or immovable property in Hongkong.

[28th February, 1844.]

Preamble that it is desirable to facilitate the tracing of titles to landed property.

WHEREAS it is expedient to prevent secret and fraudulent conveyances in the Colony of Hongkong, and to provide means whereby the title to real and immovable property may be easily traced and ascertained. Be it therefore enacted by His Excellency the Governor of Hongkong and its dependencies, with the advice of the Legislative Council thereof, that from and after the passing of this Ordinance, the Land Office in the said Colony shall be a public office for the registration of deeds conveyances and other instruments wills and judgments in manner hereinafter mentioned: and that all conveyances and other deeds, wills and devises and other instruments in writing, now or hereafter to be made or executed, and all judgments hereafter to be obtained, by which conveyances deeds and other instruments in writing wills and judgments, any parcels of ground, tenements or premises in Hongkong aforesaid or its dependencies now are, or shall or may hereafter be affected may be entered and registered in the said office in the manner hereinafter directed.

Establishment of a Registry Office.

From the passing of this Ordinance all instruments affecting land may be registered within the said office.

Such instruments to have priority according to their respective dates of registration.

2. And be it further enacted that all such judgments and conveyances or instruments in writing obtained made or executed respectively after the passing of this Ordinance, and registered in pursuance hereof, shall have priority one over the other according to the priority of their respective