No. 1 of 1844.

An Ordinance to define the law relating to slavery in Hongkong. Title.

[28th February, 1844.]

WHEREAS it is expedient to define and promulgate the law respecting slavery in the Colony of Hongkong. Preamble.

1. Be it therefore enacted and declared by the Governor of Hongkong, with the advice of the Legislative Council thereof, that the laws of England prohibitory of slavery, together with the punishments and penalties provided therein, shall be in full virtue and operation and shall be duly enforced and inflicted in the said Colony, save as hereinafter excepted. Laws of England prohibitory of slavery to be in force at Hongkong.

2. And be it enacted, that every one whatsoever using or treating, or attempting to use or treat, any person as a slave in Hongkong, shall upon conviction thereof before the Chief Magistrate of Police of Hongkong, or before such Court of Justice as may hereafter be established in Hongkong, be liable to be imprisoned for any period not exceeding two years, with or without hard labour and corporal punishment, and shall forfeit to Her Majesty Her Heirs and Successors, for the public uses of the said Colony of Hongkong, such sum not exceeding five hundred dollars for each offence, and also such other additional sum not exceeding two hundred dollars to be paid to any person giving information of the said offence, as shall be adjudged by the said Chief Magistrate or Court aforesaid. Liabilities incurred by every one treating any person as a slave in Hongkong.

3. And be it enacted that if any person, not being a subject of Her Majesty, shall come within the precincts of the Colony of Hongkong, bringing with him any person previously a slave, and shall not forthwith on being lawfully requested, or within ten days after his arrival as aforesaid (whether thereto being required or not) convey such previous slave before the Chief Magistrate of Police at Hongkong, or before the nearest Justice of the Peace, such person shall, on being convicted thereof as aforesaid, be liable to be imprisoned for any period not exceeding six months, with or without hard labour and corporal punishment, and shall forfeit to Her Majesty Her Heirs and Successors, for the public uses of the Colony, such sum not exceeding one hundred dollars for each offence, and also such additional sum not exceeding fifty dollars, to be paid to the person giving information of the said offence, as shall be adjudged as aforesaid. Liabilities incurred by foreigners coming to Hongkong with slaves and not conveying them before Chief or other Magistrate.

4. And be it enacted, on any such previous slave being produced before such Magistrate as aforesaid, that it shall be explained to him, apart from his former owner, that slavery is prohibited in the Colony of Hongkong, and that he is free to depart whithersoever he pleases, and such Magistrate as aforesaid shall take due care that such liberty is freely exercised. Slave produced before Magistrate to be set free.

5. And be it enacted in case of any such previous slave expressing a wish to remain with his former owner, that such owner shall, together with two approved sureties, resident householders in Hongkong aforesaid, enter into a bond to Her Owner of slave retaining slave in his service to enter into a bond with sureties

conditioned for non-removal of slave.

Majesty in the sum of five hundred dollars, conditioned against the removal of such previous slave from the Colony of Hongkong by his said former owner, without the said previous slave having been produced before the Chief Magistrate, or any other Justice of the Peace of the said Colony of Hongkong, and examined apart as to his voluntarily departing with his said former owner, and being informed that by his so doing be will revert to his former state of slavery.

Slave to be supported and apprenticed in case of his not remaining with former owner, or of former owner not entering into bond.

6. And be it enacted in case any such previous slave shall at any time leave his former owner, or in case such former owner shall be unable or unwilling to enter into such bond as aforesaid, that such previous slave shall be maintained at the public cost, until such time as he is enabled to gain his own livelihood; and the Chief Magistrate aforesaid is hereby authorized, with the approbation of the Governor in Council, to apprentice or otherwise place out such previous slave as aforesaid, with a view to his obtaining a livelihood by his own labour.

Slave found in service of former owner proof of due hiring to lay upon former owner.

7. And be it enacted, if any such previous slave as last aforesaid shall be thereafter found in the possession or employment of his former owner, that such possession or employment shall be deemed *primâ facie* proof of such owner having unduly repossessed himself of the said previous slave; and such owner in default of rebutting such presumption shall be liable to the penalties herein affixed to the treating or using any one as a slave in Hongkong.

Liabilities incurred by any person not giving information of owner of slaves inhabiting his house.

8. And be it enacted, that any person knowingly receiving in his house any one having any person previously a slave in his possession, or a person used or intended to be used or claimed as such, and not giving immediate information thereof to the Chief Magistrate of Hongkong or the nearest Justice of the Peace, shall upon conviction thereof before the Chief Magistrate, or such Court at Hongkong as herein aforesaid, be liable to be imprisoned for any period not exceeding three months, with or without hard labour and corporal punishment, and shall forfeit such sum not exceeding one hundred dollars for each offence, and also such sum not exceeding fifty dollars to be paid to the person giving information of the same, as shall be adjudged in manner aforesaid.

Penalties to be cumulatory.

9. And be it enacted that the punishments and penalties herein provided shall be held and deemed to be in addition to those inflicted by the law of England for any offence mentioned herein, and not in any way in the stead, lieu, or substitution thereof. Provided always and it is hereby enacted that no part of any sum forfeited, and declared by the laws of England to be payable to any informer, shall be paid to such informer without the express direction of the Chief Magistrate or Court aforesaid, who shall have full power to make such deductions therefrom as may be deemed expedient.

Rule for interpreting this and other ordinances.

10. And be it enacted that whenever this or any other ordinance, in describing or referring to any offence, or the subject matter on, or with respect to which it shall be committed, or the offender or the party affected or intended to be affected by the offence, hath used or shall use words importing the singular number or the masculine gender only, yet the ordinance shall be understood to include several

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