

Absence of  
Speaker valid.

Speaker shall thereupon perform the Duties and exercise the Authority of Speaker, pursuant to the Standing Orders or other Order or Resolution of that House, every Act done and Proceeding taken in or by the House, pursuant to any Statute, shall be as valid and effectual as if the Speaker himself were in the Chair; and every Act done, and Warrant, Order, Certificate, Notice, or other Document issued, signed, or published, in relation to any Proceedings of the House of Commons, by such Deputy Speaker, shall have the same Effect and Validity as if the same had been done, issued, signed, or published by the Speaker for the Time being.

Deputy  
Speaker not  
to appoint to  
any Office.  
Nothing herein  
to affect  
Election of  
Speaker, &c.

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.

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.

### 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, Go-  
‘ vernor of the Colony of *Sierra Leone*, on behalf of Her  
‘ Majesty, and certain Chiefs of the *Sherbro* Country, namely,  
‘ *Careyah 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 Engage-  
‘ ments 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 Govern-*  
‘ “ ment

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

Power for  
 Commanders  
 of Ships of  
 War, &c. to  
 visit and  
 inspect, &c.  
 Vessels belong-  
 ing to the  
 Sherbro Chiefs.

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 Par-  
 liament in force in relation to the Suppression of the Slave Trade  
 by *British*-owned Ships, as fully as if all the Powers and Pro-  
 visions contained in such Acts were re-enacted in this Act as to  
 such High Court of Admiralty or Courts of Vice-Admiralty.

As to the Trial  
 and Condemna-  
 tion of Vessels  
 engaged in the  
 Slave Trade.

Persons giving false Evidence deemed guilty of Perjury.

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.

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

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

Payment of Bounty for Slaves captured.

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*.

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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

Additional Bounty on Tonnage of Slave Ships captured and demolished.

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.

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

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.

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

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.

Proof of Tonnage.

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.

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

XIII. Where any Slaves or Persons treated as Slaves shall be seized on board any Vessel or Boat taken and condemned in pursuance

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

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 detained but not condemned.

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 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.

XVII. 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.