

by the 4th section of the said Act jurisdiction is given to the High Court of Admiralty of England, as also to the several Vice-Admiralty Courts, to adjudicate and determine upon such seizures respectively.

In these cases also the same steps are to be taken by the seizers as directed in seizures under the Act of the 5th of George the 4th, c. 113., and the same course is to be pursued relative to the legal proceedings in order to obtain a forfeiture of the vessel and slaves, if any.

No foreign vessel whatever, although engaged in the slave trade, can legally be detained at sea by any of Her Majesty's ships of war without the Commander thereof being duly authorized in conformity with the said Acts of Parliament.

Many foreign States have entered into treaties with Great Britain conceding to Her Majesty's ships of war the right to search vessels belonging to their subjects, and engaged in the slave trade, in violation of any such treaty or convention; such foreign slave vessels, however, can only be seized by such of Her Majesty's ships of war as are provided with special instructions and authority, and if they are not so specially authorized they cannot legally seize and detain them, nor can the search of any such foreign slave vessel be made by any officer holding a rank inferior to that of lieutenant in the navy of Great Britain, unless when by those treaties with foreign powers the search and seizure are authorized in case of death or other causes to be made by an officer of inferior rank to that of lieutenant.

With respect to seizures of this description, that is of foreign slave vessels under treaty or convention, the Vice-Admiralty Courts, except as hereafter stated, have no jurisdiction whatever, and the only tribunals which can legally adjudicate thereon are the Mixed Commission Courts established in pursuance of treaty, or in those instances where Mixed Commission Courts are not established, they can only be adjudicated according to the laws in force of the foreign country to which such captured ship might belong, conformably to the stipulations of the treaty entered into with each foreign State.

It is material also to observe that vessels which belong to the subjects of some foreign States, found carrying on the illicit traffic, are placed under very different circumstances to those of the subjects of other foreign States, the same being dependent entirely upon the stipulations in the treaties or conventions entered into with Great Britain, whereby the right of search and seizure has been conceded.

In some of these treaties or conventions it is stipulated that Mixed British and Foreign Commission Courts should be established to adjudicate upon the seizure of vessels belonging to their subjects.

Secondly.—In others of them vessels so employed can only be adjudicated according to the laws in force of the foreign country to which the captured ship may belong, conformably to the stipulations of the treaty entered into with such foreign State.

Thirdly.—There are some foreign States which have not only conceded the right of search and seizure, but have consented to the vessels captured being adjudicated in the High Court of Admiralty of England, or in any Vice-Admiralty Court in Her Majesty's Dominions nearest to the place where the capture may be made.

The foreign vessels which range under this last category are those belonging to the subjects of the Imaum of Muscat, with respect to which jurisdiction is given to the High Court of Admiralty of England and to all Vice-Admiralty Courts in Her Majesty's Dominions, including those