

among offences to be made triable here assaults, however grave, which are not in some way connected with slave-dealing which is already punishable. With regard to forced labour, what the committee had in mind was a practice said to have been prevalent in the Putumayo. The Indians, having been recruited by force and "reduced to obedience," were set to collect rubber. Advances of European goods were made to them, and they were then regarded as debtors to their employers and forced to work off their debts in rubber. This system of debt bondage, known as peonage, was made an offence, triable in this country. by s. 2 of the Slave Trade Act, 1843 (6 & 7 Vict. c. 98), if practised abroad by British subjects.

This particular section of the Act was included in the schedule of the Statute Law Revision Act, 1891, and was expressed to be "repealed as to all Her Majesty's dominions." The effect of these words would seem to be to leave it remaining as an offence of committed elsewhere than in the King's dominions. For if they were not intended to qualify the extent of the repeal of the section, there would have been no need to insert the words. Piracy, which is an offence by the law of nations, was formerly triable by the Court of Admiralty as coming within its own jurisdiction whether committed by persons or ships of any or no nationality. A consideration of what amounts to piracy is to be found in the case of *Attorney-General for the Colony of Hong Kong v. Kwok-a-Sing*, 29 L.T. Rep. 114, L. Rep. 5 P.C. 179. This and all other offences formerly triable by the Court of Admiralty are now by the Criminal Law Consolidation Acts of 1861 brought within the jurisdiction of the ordinary criminal courts of this country.

The policy of preventing British subjects joining in expeditions against friendly states, and thus endangering our relations with them, made it necessary that the courts should have the power of punishing such acts even when committed, as might well be the case, outside the King's dominions. The provisions of the Foreign Enlistment Act, 1870, 33 & 34 Vict. c. 90, accordingly cover offences by a British subject wherever committed. A famous instance of the prosecution of British subjects under