

relative thereto in the issue containing such answer: Provided always, that the answer so presented shall not contain any libellous matter, and shall not extend to more than four times the number of words in the article containing the charge which it is intended to answer. 5

Penalty on proprietor of newspaper, &c not inserting such answer

VIII. And be it enacted, That if any such answer as aforesaid, being presented as hereinbefore provided, shall not be inserted 10 as hereinbefore required, in the issue of such paper or periodical publication in which it ought to be inserted, the proprietor of such newspaper or periodical publication shall forfeit and pay to the party presenting 15 such answer for insertion, the sum of

to be recovered in any Court having jurisdiction in civil cases to the amount; and a like penalty shall be incurred for each repetition of the offence, 20 that is for each occasion on which such answer shall be presented as aforesaid for insertion, and shall not be inserted as hereinbefore required in the issue in which, under this Act, it ought to be inserted: Provided 25 always, that it shall be a good defence to any action for the said penalty that the answer alleged to have been presented for insertion contained libellous matter, but such defence shall be specially pleaded, and the 30 plea by which the same shall be made shall distinctly and precisely set forth the libellous matter contained in such answer, and shall shew in what manner the same is libellous.

Proviso

Truth of the matter charged may be inquired into after certain pleas.

IX. And be it enacted, That on the trial 35 of any indictment or information for a defamatory Libel, the defendant, having pleaded such plea as hereinafter mentioned, the truth of the matters charged may be inquired into, but shall not amount to a defence, unless it 40 was for the public benefit that the said matters charged should be published; and that to entitle the defendant to give evidence of the truth of such matters charged as a de-