THIRTIETH CONGRESS  Sess. I. Ch. 82, 83. 1848.

conveying the mail, shall decline to sell and deliver to the United States such ship or ships, or shall refuse to name and appoint appraisers to value the same, agreeably to the provisions of said act, or the same having been appraised and valued, shall refuse to convey and deliver said ship or ships to the United States, on the payment, or tender of payment, by the United States, of the sum at which the said ship or ships may have been appraised and valued, such person or persons so offending shall forfeit a sum not exceeding one hundred thousand dollars, to be recovered in any proper action, for the use of the treasury of the United States; and in case of refusal or inability to pay the same, shall be liable to be imprisoned not exceeding one year, at the discretion of the court rendering judgment for such penalty.

SEC. 4. And be it further enacted, That to secure the regular transmission of the mail to and from foreign countries, the Postmaster-General be, and he is hereby, authorized and required to impose fines on contractors, for any unreasonable or unnecessary delay, and

Proviso.

Contracts for foreign mail service not to be assignable.

Proviso.

SEC. 5. And be it further enacted, That it shall not be lawful for any contractor for transporting the mail to any foreign country to assign or transfer his contracts; and all such assignments or transfers shall be null and void: Provided, That the fine for any one default shall not exceed one half of the contract price paid for the trip.

June 28, 1848.

CHAP. LXXXII.—An Act concerning the taking of official Oaths in the District of Columbia.

Any one of the judges of the Circuit Court, or the judge of the Criminal Court, of the District of Columbia, may administer official oaths.

APPROVED, June 27, 1848.

June 28, 1848.

CHAP. LXXXIII.—An Act respecting certain Surveys in the State of Florida.

Certain islands, keys, and other lands in South Florida to be surveyed.

Expense of surveys limited.

APPROVED, June 28, 1848.