

UNITED STATES v. BATES.

SLAVE TRADE—HABEAS CORPUS—PROBABLE
CAUSE—FAILURE TO INDICT—CRIMINAL
LAW—COMMITMENT.

1. The act of congress declaring the slave trade to be piracy is constitutional.
2. A defendant arrested on a criminal charge, may be committed for a further examination, and held under such commitment for a reasonable time.
3. Where a prisoner is not indicted at the first term of the court, or the grand jury has ignored the bill, he is not entitled to be discharged.
4. On a habeas corpus, the court will only inquire whether the warrant of commitment states a sufficient probable cause to believe that the person charged has committed the offence stated.

{See U. S. v. Johns, 4 U. S. (4 Dall.) 413.}

5. On a hearing of a habeas corpus, it is competent for the court to look into the testimony on which the commitments were made.

{The above statement of the points determined was taken from Brightly's Dig. 161, 206, 211, 441. Nowhere reported; opinion not now accessible.}

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