

modified. If ordered to be rejected, such rejection puts an end to the suit.

On the libel being debated, a case on each side is to be prepared by the respective Proctors, and delivered to Counsel with copies of the libel and of the exhibits, if any, which copies, however, must afterwards serve for the use of Counsel at the final hearing.

Pleas, the admissibility of which is not objected to, are admitted to proof of course.

Pleas or allegations given in the subsequent stage of a cause, may be admitted, reformed, or rejected in a similar manner.

On the libel being admitted, the Proctor giving in the same is to be assigned to prove its contents by evidence within a time to be limited by the Judge, and the party giving in the plea is entitled, if he desire it, to the personal answers in writing of the adverse party. In that case a decree for answers is to be extracted from the Registry and served on the party, by shewing him the original under seal and leaving with him a copy thereof. The answers are to be drawn by the Proctor for the party required to give in the same, who must answer specifically to all the facts or allegations in the plea which are within his own knowledge, by either admitting or denying the same; and as to all other matters, he must answer to his belief or disbelief.

No extraneous or irrelevant matter is to be introduced, but the party may set forth any matter necessary to explain his answer. If any facts are introduced which are capable of proof by witnesses, they must be established by evidence regularly taken on a plea. The answers* are to be settled by Counsel, and then the party attended by his Proctor is to be sworn to the truth thereof before the Judge or Surrogate in the presence of the Registrar, who is to make and sign an attestation at the foot thereof. The Registrar is then to file them and make a minute in the Assignment Book of their having been sworn and brought into Court. The adverse Proctor may immediately inspect them without waiting for publication, and may have an office copy of them. And if they be insufficient, redundant, or contain matter not pertinent,

* See Answers, No. 18 to 21.