

In like manner, when an assignation has been made for an act to be done by a limited time, shall not have been duly complied with, and an intermediate Court-day shall be subsequently held, parties who cannot by possibility have been cognizant of such intermediate Court, and who may have very conclusive reasons to allege why they have been unable to comply with such assignation, are not to be prejudiced by the enforcement of the same on such intermediate Court-day.

§ 37. *As to the Return and Service of Warrants, Monitions, and other Instruments.*

In general cases, warrants, monitions, and other instruments are to be made returnable, and parties cited to appear at the Registry, either on a certain day mentioned, or at the expiration of a certain number of days after service, to be specified in the instrument, and between any two hours of the day most usually appropriated to public business.

Monitions to pay costs or a sum of money, or to do any specific act within a certain number of days, are to be returnable at the expiration of the usual hours of business at the Registry, on the furthest or last day assigned to the party to do the act.

If no appearance be given thereto, the Registrar is immediately on the expiration of the time specified to attend before the Judge or Surrogate in Court or Chambers, with the Proctor who is to return the instrument; and the proceedings are subsequently to be continued according to the requisites of the cause. The day of such return is the period from which is to be reckoned, for all future purposes, the contumacy or default of the party cited and not appearing.

Instruments against all persons in general, and which are served only on the ship or goods, or on the Exchange, or principal resort of Merchants, or on the Court-house, can only be further proceeded or *in pœnam* on the regularly adjourned Court-days. But an instrument which has been personally served and duly returned, may be followed up by all further proceedings, even to attachment, without more regard to the regularly adjourned Court-days than would be necessary respecting any other incident in the proceedings, because in such cases the party who has been served must always be aware of the liabilities to which he is exposed by his own laches, or contempt.

If an instrument be served on a ship, or goods laden on board a ship, when the master is on board, and the action be one to which he ought to appear and become a defendant, such service may, for the purpose of future proceedings, be considered equivalent to a personal service on him.

Whenever any monition or other instrument is served by any other person than the Marshal, the certificate* of the service thereof must be verified by an affidavit of the person serving the same.

All warrants, monitions and other instruments requiring ulterior proceeding *in pœnam*, in case of no appearance or of non-obedience, must be duly returned at the time specified for their return; and if not then duly returned, no further proceedings can be had thereon.

§ 38. *Interlocutory Decree.*

The interlocutory decree, which must always be moved by Counsel, is the final act of adjudication in the principal cause of action in any suit. But in some few instances a suit may be terminated without it, viz:—

Where a libel is rejected.

Where a defendant is dismissed because the promoter does not bring in his libel.

Where a protest is pronounced for, and the party appearing under protest is dismissed.

Where an action is subducted.

If sureties apply to be dismissed from their recognizances, it must be done by interlocutory decree; but if they are dismissed by the interlocutory decree in the principal cause, no further decree of that kind is necessary for their dismissal.

* See Form of Certificate and Affidavit, No. 238.