

Before the warrant is extracted from the Registry, the original bond must be exhibited to the Registrar in addition to the usual affidavit.

§ 18 *Causes of damage by Collision.*

These causes may also be prosecuted by default or *in penam*. When defended, the suit is conducted by plea and proof, and differs in no respect from that mode of proceeding already detailed.

Suits of Damage by Beating or Assault on the High Sea.

In these cases the suit is by plea and proof, and the warrant is necessarily against the person.

Prosecutions for contempt in breach of the Maritime Law, and of the Regulations and Instructions relating to His Majesty's Service at Sea.

These prosecutions can only be instituted on complaint by an Officer in His Majesty's Navy, and under the directions of the Lord High Admiral or the Commissioners, for executing the office of Lord High Admiral of the United Kingdom, or of some one of the Admirals or Commanders in Chief of the naval squadrons abroad, and are to be conducted in the following manner:—

An affidavit* of two persons is to be exhibited by the Proctor for the Crown, stating the name and description of the party intended to be proceeded against, and detailing the particulars of the offence committed, which affidavit, with a short case, is to be delivered to the Advocate for the Crown to move the Judge to decree the warrant of arrest, who in making the decree, is to specify the amount of the bail to be given as he shall consider sufficient to ensure the personal appearance of the party prosecuted when judgment shall be pronounced. This amount is to be stated in the Action Book and on the face of the warrant. The Marshal is then to execute the warrant by the arrest of the person of the offender, who is to be liberated on giving sufficient bail, which is to be taken in the usual manner.

On the appearance being given, the Proctor for the Crown † is to be assigned to exhibit articles pleading the offence within a short time to be specified by the Judge.

These articles are to be prepared by the Proctor for the Crown, and may be settled by Counsel, and the cause is then to proceed like other suits, by plea and proof, with the following exceptions:

1st. On the articles or plea being admitted to proof, the defendant must be assigned to declare in act of Court, within a reasonable time, generally whether he denies the facts pleaded, which is termed giving a negative issue, or whether he confesses them, which is termed giving an affirmative issue.

2ndly. In case of an affirmative issue, the Judgment of the Court may be immediately pronounced, on which occasion the defendant is to be allowed to exhibit affidavits in mitigation of punishment, but not to deny the offence charged.

3rdly. Extended personal answers in writing to the different positions or averments of the articles cannot be required from the defendant.

4thly. Where a negative issue is given the defendant may be at liberty to offer a defensive plea.

After the evidence is taken, if the Judge shall decide that the charge is established, he will proceed to give sentence, imposing the fines due by law on the defendant and condemning him in the costs. In very aggravated cases the defendant may also be imprisoned for a limited time. Affidavits in mitigation may be offered and are to be received when the offence has been proved by evidence.

§ 19. *Suits for Salvage.*

The ordinary course of proceeding is by act on petition, but in cases where no

* See Affidavit, No. 150.

† See Form, No. 151.