

12. Any objection as to the admissibility of the evidence tendered, shall be entered and noted when made, without discussion, and shall be reserved, without delaying the proceedings, to be discussed and decided, at the time of the hearing on the merits and of the judgment to be rendered on the merits of the petition.

13. Forthwith after both parties shall have closed their *enquête*, the Court at some sitting thereof shall appoint and fix, and in the absence of the Judge it shall be the duty of the Clerk of the Court to appoint and fix, a day which shall not be more than ten days after the day of the closing of the *enquête*, for hearing the matter on the merits; and it shall not be necessary to give to the parties or their Counsel any other notice of the day fixed for the hearing on the merits of the petition.

14. The party against whom the complaint is brought, may admit before the Court, the illegality of the election or of his return, and such confession shall be taken in writing and be attested under the signature of the party in presence of the Judge, who shall certify such confession in the usual way.

15. If the party against whom the complaint is brought does not appear on the day fixed for the return of the Writ of Summons, the default shall be established and recorded, and the party complaining may then forthwith proceed to prove the allegations of his petition, and to the hearing on the merits thereof, without it being necessary to give any further notice or summons to the opposite party.

HEARING ON THE MERITS—JUDGMENT.

16. With the view of securing a Judgment which shall give to the parties and to society the most perfect confidence in the independence and impartiality of the tribunal, the laws constituting the Superior Court for Lower Canada, in so far as they enact that the said Court shall be presided over by one Judge, shall not apply to such judgment; and notwithstanding the said provision of the Judicature Act of 1857, (Con. Stat., L. C., c. 78, s. 12, 5,) the Superior Court for Lower Canada shall, for and during the hearing on the merits of the petition, and for the judgment to be rendered, be composed of and presided over by three Judges of the Superior Court; but all the proceedings on such petition, from the application for the issue of a Writ of Summons to the hearing on the merits, shall be had and taken before one Judge only, in conformity with the provisions of the Judicature Act of 1857, and the laws now in force.

17. In Lower Canada, the hearing on the merits of such Petition shall take place either in the City of Quebec or in the City of Montreal, in conformity with the order of the Court in which the proceedings have been commenced by the issue of the Writ of Summons; and the transmission of the record and of all the papers, shall be effected in the manner in which it is effected in other causes and proceedings in the Superior Court for Lower Canada, when appeals are brought in such causes; And it shall be the duty of the said Superior Court, on fixing the day for the hearing on the merits of such petition, to appoint and declare at the same time, and in the order to be registered respecting the fixing