

The facts alleged in the act on petition are to be supported by affidavits; and any necessary exhibits, or documents annexed thereto, are to be verified in such affidavits, which are to be confined to the material averments, and are not to be settled by Counsel.

Should any delay occur in the delivery of the act from one Proctor to the other, either of them may allege the same, in the presence of the Registrar, before the Judge, who is to direct the act to be returned by a time to be specified; and if it be not returned by that time, or good cause shewn for the delay, the Judge is to assign to hear the act on petition *ex parte*, that no unnecessary postponement may take place, for which purpose a copy of the act, instead of the original, together with the affidavits on behalf of the party, must be brought in by the Proctor applying to have the cause so heard.

When the article is concluded, it is to be signed by both Proctors who are to attend before the Judge or Surrogate, in the presence of the Registrar, to bring in the same, together with the original affidavits and exhibits. No further affidavits or documents are to be afterwards received, unless by leave of the Judge obtained on special application. The Judge is then to appoint the cause for hearing, and thereupon one copy of the affidavits and exhibitions is to be made for each of the Counsel, and one for the adverse Proctor, to be delivered to him when the originals are brought in. The adverse Proctor is also to make copies for his own Counsel. The same rules, as to the preparing the case for hearing, delivering copies of papers, fees to Counsel, and the same proceedings for enforcing obedience to the decree, are to be observed as in a cause conducted by plea and proof.

§ 15. *Suits for Mariners' Wages.*

The same regulations as to the arrest of a Ship, the subsequent proceeding by default or *in pœnam*, and the rules for conducting a cause by plea and proof, are to be applicable to the suit of a mariner for his wages, which is called a cause of subtraction of wages, in which the mariner may proceed against the ship, freight, and master, or the ship and freight, or the owner or the master alone; and any number of mariners, not exceeding six, may proceed jointly in one action.

When an appearance is given, the Proctor for the party proceeding is entitled to an assignation on the defendant* to bring into Court the mariner's contract and ship's books; and he is not compelled to file his libel until they are so brought in.

The libel, if in common form and pleading no special matter, should state the hiring, rate of wages, performance of service, and the refusal of payment; and should have annexed to it a schedule, stating the whole amount of wages, with the sum received on account, and the balance claimed to be due. This plea is termed a summary petition, and should not be settled by Counsel.

§ 16 *Suits for Pilotage.*

Suits for the recovery of pilotage, where no party appears to defend the action, may be conducted by default or *in pœnam*. When contested, the proceeding will be by plea and proof; the libel or plea, as in suits for wages, if containing no special matter, is also called a summary petition, and need not be settled by Counsel.

§ 17. *Suits of Bottomry.*

These suits may likewise be conducted by default or *in pœnam*, and ships may be sold, in virtue of a decree of the Court, for the payment of bottomry bonds without any appearance having been given to defend the action.

When the validity of the bond is contested, the cause generally proceeds by act on petition and affidavits, but the party promoting the cause may, if he thinks proper, proceed by plea and proof; and it is competent to defendant, on his appearance, to require the cause to be conducted in that manner, for which purpose he must pray the Judge to assign the promoter to bring in a libel.

* See Minute, No. 149.