

RULES AND REGULATIONS

TO BE OBSERVED IN THE SEVERAL

COURTS OF VICE ADMIRALTY.

§ 1. *As to the holding of Courts.*

COURTS are to be regularly held at short intervals by adjournment from day to day ; but the Judge is authorized to sit on any intermediate day as hereinafter provided, in case the dispatch of business, or other necessity shall require. The practice which has prevailed in many of the Vice-Admiralty Courts of presenting a petition to the Judge to appoint a day for holding a Court, is from henceforth to cease.

The Judge is to be at convenient times accessible at his chambers, that he may be, if necessary, consulted by the Registrar on any incidental matter, or for the purpose of hearing a motion by Counsel, or directing the sale of perishable goods, or doing any other act which the emergency of a case may render requisite to be done.

§ 2. *Surrogates.*

The admitted Advocates of each Court are to be appointed Surrogates, to do, in the absence of the Judge, ordinary, or common form acts (but none other), such as the administering an oath to a witness, decreeing a monition, taking bail, and the like ; but in those Courts in which the Advocate is allowed to act as Proctor also, no judicial act of any kind is to be sped by a practitioner in any cause in which he may be professionally retained or interested.

When an Advocate is to be admitted a Surrogate, he is to attend with the Registrar before the Judge, and, on being sworn faithfully to execute his office, is to be admitted. The Registrar is then to make an entry of such admission in the Minute or Assignment Book, and attest the same.

§ 3. *Registrar and Marshal to be sworn.*

The persons to be appointed to execute the several offices of Registrar and Marshal are to be sworn faithfully to perform their respective duties.

§ 4. *Registry Office.*

The Registry of the Court is to be accessible to suitors at convenient hours in the day throughout the year ; and a person of competent skill and knowledge is to be in regular attendance there, for all requisite purposes.

§ 5. *Registrar's Duties.*

The duty of the Registrar is to attend all sittings of the Court, and also before the Judge, or Surrogate in Chambers, and to make minutes of every act of Court or decree, and to enter the same in an Assignment Book, to be kept for the purpose, which is to form a record of the proceedings of the Court ; he is to file, or take the custody of all pleas, depositions, documents, exhibits, and papers brought into Court, recording the receipt thereof in the Assignment Book, briefly stating the papers so received, and the date of their receipt. He is to take the depositions of all witnesses examined upon pleas and interrogatories. If from illness, or any other sufficient cause, he should be unable to perform this duty, he may, with the consent of the Judge, appoint some other competent person to act for him on those occasions. He is to make, or procure to be made, translations of such documents in foreign languages brought into Court as may be required by the Judge, or by the Proctor of either party. He is to make and to attest copies of all records, documents, and papers that may be requisite. He is to draw all bail-bonds, or recognizances, and to be present at and attest the execution thereof before the Judge or Surrogate. He is to prepare, sign, and seal all warrants, commissions, and instruments issuing under the seal of the Court. He is also to collect from the practitioners, and receive for the Judge's use, the fees payable to him. He is to have the custody of all monies paid into Court, and to remit them when required, by bills of exchange or other valid securities, to England. He is prohibited from acting either as Advocate or Proctor in any suit, matter, or proceeding in the Court of which he is a Registrar.