

referred to a master to take accounts between parties of every description; to inquire into the claims of creditors, legatees, and next of kin; to inquire into repairs to be done; to inquire and state what would be a sufficient allowance for the maintenance and education of an infant, or for the maintenance of any one, the amount of which, as claimed, was left uncertain; (*t*) to inquire into the value of an estate for the purpose of enabling a party to elect, to assist the court in fixing upon a price, or in making an investment; (*u*) to inquire whether it would be most for the benefit of an infant, or *feme covert* to take under a will, or against it; (*w*) or to inquire into the value of an annuity, and of the estate upon which it is charged. (*x*) Where the plaintiff's claim was founded on a variety of deeds, wills and other instruments, the general purport only of which was stated in the bill, it was referred to a master to state a case of the rights claimed by the plaintiff under those instruments; (*y*) and so too, where the bill had not minutely charged every particular circumstance, which, as matters of evidence, it would not have been proper to charge, and yet it appeared, that the case turned upon it, and no notice or opportunity had been given to the other side to answer it, the case was referred to a master to make inquiry and report such particulars. (*z*) And the court is much in the habit of directing inquiries with respect to material points, in order to supply the defect of proofs in the case, where a sufficient ground has been shown of the propriety of such inquiry. (*a*)

In general, there is no question of law or equity, or disputed fact, respecting which, a master may not be called upon to make a report; (*b*) and in order to enable him to do so, the parties should lay before him a statement of facts; (*c*) and he may call for proofs, and himself examine witnesses on oath. (*d*) But although such examinations, before a master himself, are made privately; no publication passes, as of depositions taken before commissioners. (*e*) If proof be wanted, and the master so certifies, a commission

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(*t*) *Abraham v. Alman*, 1 Russ. 509.—(*u*) *Wilson v. Mount*, 3 Ves. 191; *Radnor v. Shafto*, 11 Ves. 454.—(*w*) *Wilson v. Townshend*, 2 Ves. jun. 696; *Ebrington v. Ebrington*, 5 Mad. 117; *Gretton v. Haward*, 1 Swan. 413.—(*x*) *Jones v. Collier*, Amb. 731.—(*y*) *Pauncefort v. Lincoln*, 1 Dick. 362.—(*z*) *Chicot v. Lequesne*, 2 Ves. 318; *Edney v. Jewell*, 6 Mad. 165.—(*a*) *Parkinson v. Ingram*, 3 Ves. 605.—(*b*) *Pottinger v. Wightman*, 3 Meriv. 68; *Toosey v. Burchell*, 4 Cond. Chan. Rep. 73; *Brown v. De Tastet*, 4 Cond. Chan. Rep. 135; *Cook v. Collingridge*, 4 Cond. Chan. Rep. 286.—(*c*) 1 Newl. Pra. 330.—(*d*) *Beam's Ord.* 285.—(*e*) *Parkinson v. Ingram*, 3 Ves. 603; *Forum Rom.* 109.