

a further return; provided, that any one aggrieved by the decision of the court in ratifying any return may appeal to the court of appeals as may now be done from any final decree or order in the nature of a final decree from a court of equity.

An. Code, sec. 17. 1904, sec. 17. 1888, sec. 16. 1817, ch. 139, sec. 6.

17. The sheriff shall serve and return all writs and process which may be sent from another county or Baltimore city and delivered to him to the court to which the same is returnable, on or before the second day of the session of such court; and if he neglect or fail to do so, it shall be considered a contempt of the court, and such sheriff for such contempt shall forfeit and pay a fine not exceeding fifty dollars.

See art. 75, sec. 171, *et seq.*

An. Code, sec. 18. 1904, sec. 18. 1888, sec. 17. 1817, ch. 139, sec. 6.

18. The court imposing the fine for the contempt mentioned in the preceding section shall certify the same to the circuit court for the county where the sheriff resides; or, if he resides in the city of Baltimore, to the superior court of Baltimore city; and upon the receipt of such certificate by the court to which it may be sent, the said court shall forthwith compel the payment of the same in the same manner as if the fine had been imposed by such court.

An. Code, sec. 19. 1904, sec. 19. 1888, sec. 18. 1817, ch. 139, sec. 7.

19. The sheriff may return any writ or other process sent from another county or Baltimore city to the clerk of the court to which the same may be returnable, by mail, in a cover sealed up and duly addressed; but the non-return of such process by the time hereinbefore limited shall not be excused by any evidence which such sheriff may offer to prove that such writ or process was deposited in the postoffice to be so transmitted, except the positive affidavit in writing of the said sheriff himself, setting forth substantially the process so transmitted, the return endorsed thereon, the manner in which the same was covered and addressed, and the actual time when the same was deposited in the postoffice.

An. Code, sec. 20. 1904, sec. 20. 1888, sec. 19. 1817, ch. 139, sec. 7.

20. If the court before which said sheriff shall be brought for contempt shall be satisfied of the facts contained in such affidavit, and that such process was deposited in the proper postoffice in due time to be transmitted to the court to which the same was returnable, the said court may remit the fine aforesaid and discharge the sheriff from the attachment on payment of the costs arising from the proceedings had in consequence of the non-return of the writ or process; and the court shall direct the affidavit to be filed and their judgment in relation thereto to be entered on the record of their proceedings; but nothing herein contained shall in any manner affect the remedy given the party aggrieved, by the succeeding section, for the neglect or delay of the sheriff in not making a due return of said process.