

the clerk, in all cases in entering the appearance of defendants, to note in the margin of the docket the time of such appearance entered; and if the appearance be by solicitor, and there be more than one defendant, the clerk shall note for which defendant the appearance is entered; and the court or judge thereof may, for special reason shown, extend or enlarge the time to answer, according to the nature and circumstances of the case.

Rule 12.

127. Upon service of process, or notice given by publication, as the case may be, the adult defendants, not being insane, shall appear and file their answer, plea or demurrer, to the bill or petition, within the time allowed by this article, or by the terms of the order of publication, or special order for the extension of time; and in default of appearance, or of answer, plea or demurrer, after appearance within the time allowed, the plaintiff may, at his election, obtain an order as of course, that the bill be taken *pro confesso* as against such defendants; and thereupon the cause shall be proceeded with *ex parte* as against the defendants so in fault; and the matter of the bill or petition may be decreed by the court or judge thereof at any time after the lapse of thirty days from the date of the order *pro confesso*, if there be no answer, plea or demurrer interposed, and the allegations of the bill or petition present a proper case for relief. But the court or judge thereof may, in all such cases, if it be deemed proper, order that the allegations of the bill or petition, or any of them, be supported by affidavit or deposition to be taken as may be directed.

P. G. L., (1860,) art 16, sec. 116. 1820, ch. 161, sec. 2.

128. Whenever any bill shall charge any matter or thing as being within the private knowledge of the defendant and shall pray a discovery, on oath, as to such matter or thing, and an interlocutory decree, as provided for in the last preceding section, shall have been entered, and the plaintiff shall satisfy the court, by affidavit, to be taken in open court and filed in the cause, that such matter or thing does rest in the private knowledge of the defendant, and that there is reasonable ground for believing, *prima facie*, that such matter or thing does exist, the