

said court is authorized and required to order the bill as to such matter or thing, the same being sufficiently alleged and charged, to be taken *pro confesso*, and to proceed to make a final decree in the case, in the same manner as if such matter or thing had been proved or admitted by answer.

P. G. L., (1860,) art. 16, sec. 112. 1799, ch. 79, sec. 5.

**129.** If any defendant, after appearance and before he puts in a sufficient answer, shall leave the State, or if any non-resident defendant appears and does not put in a sufficient answer, the court may order such defendant to answer by a particular day, and upon his failure to comply with such order, the bill may be taken *pro confesso* against such defendant.

Ibid. sec. 117. 1795, ch. 88, sec. 1. 1797, ch 114, sec 3. 1799, ch. 79, sec. 2. 1820, ch 161, sec. 3.

**130.** Any defendant against whom an interlocutory decree shall be entered, and also any defendant against whom an order to take a bill as to any matter or thing *pro confesso* may be passed, may appear at any time before final decree and file his answer, on oath, to the bill, which shall be filed forthwith, or within such reasonable time as the court in its discretion, and on special cause shown by affidavit, shall appoint; and on such answer being filed, such proceedings shall be had as would or might have been had in case such answer had been filed before the passage of such interlocutory order or decree; but the court shall impose such terms on the defendant as the condition of permitting such answer to be filed, as such court may, in its discretion, under all the circumstances of the case, judge reasonable and proper for avoiding delay or expense, and for the attainment of justice; and the filing of such answer shall in no case affect the validity of any testimony previously taken.

Wagner v. Shank, 59 Md. 313. Belt v. Bowie, 65 Md 350.

Rule 18.

**131.** Every bill or petition shall be expressed in terms as brief and concise as it reasonably can be, and shall contain no unnecessary recitals of documents of any kind, in *hæc verba*, nor any impertinent matter, or matter scandalous and not relevant to