1888, art. 16, sec. 144 Rule 25.

**157.** But either plaintiff or defendant shall be at liberty to decline answering any interrogatory, or part of any interrogatory, when he might have protected himself by demurrer from answering the subject of the interrogatory; and he shall be at liberty so to decline, notwithstanding he shall answer other interrogatories, from which he might have protected himself by demurrer; and upon such declination, the plaintiff or defendant may, on three days' notice, set down the matter for hearing before the court or judge thereof, as on an exception to the answer for insufficiency. But where the interrogatories are not fully answered, and no reason is assigned for the omission, the particular objection must be pointed out by exception, to be filed and served at least five days before the hearing of such exception. The plaintiff or defendant shall be at liberty, before answers to the interrogatories are filed, or pending exceptions, to file or require a replication, and proceed to take testimony, without waiver of his right to such answer, or of his exceptions to the answers.

Ibid. sec. 145. Rule 26.

**158.** Cross-bills for discovery only shall not be allowed, but the defendant shall be at liberty, instead thereof, to file interrogatories to the plaintiff, as provided in the preceding section. In other cross-bills, no other reference shall be made to the matters contained in the original bill than shall be necessary, but the same may be treated as if incorporated therein. The rules regulating the form of bills shall apply to cross-bills. If no new parties are introduced, service of a copy of the cross-bill on the solicitor of the plaintiff or plaintiffs in the original bill shall be sufficient. But where other persons are made parties, the service or notification shall be the same as provided in respect to notice or service of process upon defendants in original bills, together with the cross-bill.

Ibid. sec. 146. 1860, art. 16, sec. 103. 1852, ch. 133. 1853, ch. 344.

**159.** It shall not be necessary for any defendant to make oath to his answer unless required by the plaintiff, nor shall any answer, whether sworn to or not, be evidence against the plaintiff at the hearing of the cause, unless the plaintiff shall read such answer as evidence against the defendant making the same; but this section shall not apply to motions to dissolve an injunction or to discharge a receiver.

Coale *v.* Chase, 1 Bl 136. Salmon *v.* Clagett, 3 Bl. 125. Bellona Co 's Case, 3 Bl. 442. Washington University *v.* Green, 1 Md. Ch. 97. Wood *v.*