

knowledge of such person or persons, or corporation, by service or otherwise.

1888, art. 16, sec. 182. 1860, art. 16, sec. 124. 1785, ch. 72. 1790, ch. 60. 1816, ch. 154. 1818, chs. 133, 193. 1828, ch. 184. 1831, ch. 311. 1833, ch. 150.

**195.** No decree *pro confesso* shall be passed against an infant or insane defendant under the preceding sections relating to process ; but such infant or insane defendant shall be proceeded against according to the provisions of this article relating specially to infants and persons *non compos mentis*.

Ibid. sec. 183. 1886, ch. 334.

**196.** If it appear to the court, either from the pleadings or otherwise, that there is a question of law in any case, which it would be convenient to have decided before any evidence is given, or any question or issue of fact is tried, the court may make an order accordingly, and may direct such question of law to be raised for the opinion of the court, either by special case or in such other manner as the court may deem expedient ; and all such proceedings as the decisions of such questions of law may render unnecessary may therefore be stayed.

Ridgely v. Cross, 83 Md. 168.

Ibid. sec. 184. Rule 47.

**197.** Any person interested, or claiming to be interested, in any question cognizable by a court of equity, as to the construction of any statute, deed, will, or other instrument of writing, or as to any other matter falling within the original jurisdiction of such court, or made subject to the jurisdiction thereof by statute, may state and raise such question before the court in the form of a special case stated, instead of formal pleading. Every such special case stated shall be entitled as a cause between some one or more of the parties interested, or claiming to be interested, as plaintiff or plaintiffs, and the others of them as defendants ; and such special case shall be regularly docketed as a cause pending in said court, and shall be in all respects, and for all purposes, treated and regarded as a pending cause, as if regularly instituted by formal pleading.

Rogers v. Sisters of Charity, 97 Md. 551.

Ibid. sec. 185. Rule 48.

**198.** Such special case shall concisely state such facts and documents as may be necessary to enable the court to decide