

Pleadings in  
suits on con-  
tracts.

pleaded, unless such plea contains a good defence, and unless the defendant or some one in his behalf shall, under oath or affirmation, state that every plea so pleaded by the defendant is true; and shall further state the amount of plaintiff's demand, if anything, admitted to be due or owing, and the amount disputed, and further, that the affiant verily believes the defendant will be able at the trial of the cause to produce sufficient evidence to support the plea as to the portion disputed, and that he is advised by counsel to file the said plea; and such plea shall be accompanied by a certificate of counsel that he so advised the party making such oath or affirmation, and if the copartnership or incorporation of any of the parties to the suit shall be alleged in the declaration and the affidavit to be filed therewith, as hereinafter provided; or if there shall be filed with the declaration in said cause, any paper purporting to be signed by any defendant therein, the fact of such alleged copartnership or incorporation, and the genuineness of such signature shall be deemed to be admitted for the purposes of said cause, unless the said affidavit shall further state that the affiant knows, or has good reason to believe, such allegation of copartnership or incorporation to be untrue, or that such signature was not written by or by the authority of the person whose signature it purports to be, in case any part of the debt or damages claimed be admitted to be due, the plaintiff shall be entitled forthwith to an entry of judgment therefor with costs, in the discretion of the court, to the time of entry of such judgment, and if the amount so admitted to be due shall not be below the jurisdiction of the court, the plaintiff may at once have execution therefor, and upon such entry of judgment the plaintiff may join issue or reply to the pleas as to the disputed portion, and the case shall be proceeded with as to such disputed portion in the same manner as if the suit had been originally instituted for the recovery of the same; and the court shall have jurisdiction as to such disputed portion in all cases where the amount originally claimed shall be within the jurisdiction of the court, but if either judgment in the case be below the jurisdiction of the court, no execution shall issue from that court on the same, and the provisions of section 17 of article 26 of the Code of Public General Laws shall apply thereto; yet if the sum of the two judgments shall equal such jurisdiction they may then be included in an execution issued from that court; provided, that the court for good cause shown, may, by its order in writing, passed at any time before judgment, extend the time for filing such pleas and affidavits, which extension shall suspend, until the expiration