

may be thought just, and if the said defendant shall have further time granted him to answer, and the said defendant shall not, before the expiration of such further time, put in a good and sufficient answer to the bill or petition exhibited against him, such bill or petition shall be taken *pro confesso*, without further delay, and such decree made thereon as by the court may be deemed just, or the chancellor may, in his discretion, in said cases, order commission to issue as aforesaid, or examine the plaintiff as aforesaid, and thereupon decree as he shall think just.

XXI. AND BE IT ENACTED, That in all cases, the defendant in chancery may exhibit interrogatories to the plaintiff, which shall be answered by him in writing upon oath, and such answer shall be evidence in the cause, in the same manner, and to the same effect, that the defendant's answer to the plaintiff's bill is evidence, and there shall be the same process, and the same power exercised by the chancellor to compel the plaintiff to answer the defendant's interrogatories, as can be issued, or lawfully exercised, to compel the defendant to answer the plaintiff's bill.

And may exhibit interrogatories, &c.

XXII. AND BE IT ENACTED, That in order to enforce obedience to the process, rules and orders, of the chancery court, in all cases where any party or person shall be in contempt for disobedience, non-performance or non-observance, of any process, rule or order, of the chancellor or chancery court, or for any other matter or thing whatsoever, whereby or wherein a contempt, according to the rules, law, practice or course, of the said court, may be incurred, such party or person shall, for every such contempt, and before he shall be released or discharged from the same, pay to the register in chancery, (to be by him accounted for upon oath, and paid, at the end of every six months, to the treasurer of the western shore, to the use of the state,) a sum not exceeding ten pounds current money, as a fine for the purgation of every such contempt, and that the said party or person being in court, upon any process of contempt, or otherwise, upon the order of the chancery court, shall and may stand committed, and remain in close custody until the said process, rule or order, shall be fully performed, obeyed and fulfilled, and until the said fine or fines for such contempts imposed by the said court, and the costs, shall be fully paid and discharged.

Party in contempt to pay a fine, &c.

XXIII. AND BE IT ENACTED, That if any sheriff, coroner, or other public officer or person, to whom any process or order, according to the course of the chancery court, shall or may be directed or delivered, shall serve and execute, and return served or executed, and the said sheriff, coroner and other public officer, is and are hereby authorized and commanded to serve and execute any process of contempt, whether it be an attachment of contempt, attachment with proclamations, or any order of the chancellor commanding such sheriff, coroner, or other public officer or person, to take and bring into court the body or bodies of the person or persons therein mentioned, and the said sheriff, coroner, or other public officer or person, do and shall not bring into and have in court the body or bodies of the person or persons mentioned, according to the tenor of the process or order, and the return thereof, the plaintiff or person obtaining such process or order may move, that the sheriff, coroner, or other public officer or person, be amerced, and it shall and may be lawful for the chancellor, upon motion, to amerce such sheriff, coroner, or other public officer or person, *nisi* the court next following such motion for amerciament, or the return of the process, or order any sum of money or tobacco, (having regard to the value of the matter, thing or sum, in question or demand,) and fine for contempt and costs, to compel such sheriff, coroner, or other public officer or person, to comply with and fulfil the tenor of the process or order, and the return thereof, as the chancellor may think proper; and that when the said amerciament, (which the chancellor may, in his discretion, as he may see just cause, continue, or enlarge or increase, from court to court,) shall be no longer continued, enlarged or increased, and thereby become final, the chancellor may, upon motion, order the said sheriff, coroner, or other public officer or person, to pay the said amerciament and costs to the plaintiff or other person at whose instance the said amerciament is made, and fine for contempt, and upon a non-compliance with the said order for payment, may issue process of *feri facias* against the lands, tenements and hereditaments, goods and chattels, of the said sheriff, coroner or other public officer, which shall thereupon be taken and sold to satisfy such amerciament and fine for contempt, or the chancellor may issue a *capias ad satisfaciendum* against such sheriff, coroner or other public officer, for the said amerciament and fine for contempt, and there shall be the same proceedings thereon as at common law, or the chancellor may, upon motion, order the said sheriff, coroner, or other public officer or person, so amerced, and in court upon process of contempt, or otherwise, to stand committed and be kept in close custody until the said amerciament and costs, and fine for contempt, be fully satisfied; and in case the amerciament aforesaid shall not be satisfied and paid by means aforesaid, within six months from the time it may be ordered to be paid to the plaintiff or other person at whose instance the said amerciament is laid, then, and immediately thereafter, such plaintiff or other person at whose instance the said amerciament is laid, or

Sheriff, &c. may be amerced, &c.

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