such sheriff shall have received a precept or order of the Court or a Judge thereof commanding him to summon such grand jury. at Dublin unless the sheriffs receive notice.

2. Nothing herein contained shall be held to apply to the grand jury of the county of Dublin now summoned to attend the Presenting Term for the county of Dublin; but notwithstanding anything herein contained the sheriff of the county of Dublin shall summon a grand jury of the county of Dublin to attend at the Court of Queen's Bench at Dublin on the first day of the Presenting Term for the county of Dublin as has been heretofore accustomed. Not to apply to the grand jury that is summoned for the Presenting Term for the county of Dublin.

3. The said Court or any Judge thereof may at any time by precept or order command the said sheriffs respectively, or either of them, to summon a grand jury to attend the said Court at any period of its sittings, and the grand jury so summoned shall attend and serve accordingly. Power to Court to order jury to be summoned.

4. The said Court may make such rules as it may deem necessary and proper to carry into effect the provisions of this Act, and such rules shall have the like force and effect as if herein enacted. Power to Court to make rules.

5. Nothing in this Act shall be deemed to lessen or affect the existing powers, authority, or jurisdiction of the Court of Queen's Bench, or the authority of any grand jury empannelled before the said Court. Saving powers, &c. of Court.

CHAPTER 66.

An Act for the constitution of a Supreme Court, and for other purposes relating to the better Administration of Justice in England; and to authorise the transfer to the Appellate Division of such Supreme Court of the Jurisdiction of the Judicial Committee of Her Majesty's Privy Council.

[5th August 1873.]

WHEREAS it is expedient to constitute a Supreme Court, and to make provision for the better administration of justice in England:

And whereas it is also expedient to alter and amend the law relating to the Judicial Committee of Her Majesty's Privy Council:

Be it enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Preliminary.

1. This Act may be cited for all purposes as the "Supreme Court of Judicature Act, 1873." Short title.

2. This Act, except any provision thereof which is declared to take effect on the passing of this Act, shall commence and come into operation on the second day of November 1874. Commencement of Act.

PART I.

Constitution and Judges of Supreme Court.

3. From and after the time appointed for the commencement of this Act, the several Courts herein-after mentioned, (that is to say,) the High Court of Chancery of England, the Court of Queen's Bench, the Court of Common Pleas at Westminster, the Court of Exchequer, the High Court of Admiralty, the Court of Probate, the Court for Divorce Union of existing Courts into one Supreme Court.

and Matrimonial Causes, and the London Court of Bankruptcy, shall be united and consolidated together, and shall constitute, under and subject to the provisions of this Act, one Supreme Court of Judicature in England.

Division of Supreme Court into a Court of original and a Court of appellate jurisdiction.

4. The said Supreme Court shall consist of two permanent Divisions, one of which, under the name of "Her Majesty's High Court of Justice," shall have and exercise original jurisdiction, with such appellate jurisdiction from inferior Courts as is herein-after mentioned, and the other of which, under the name of "Her Majesty's Court of Appeal," shall have and exercise appellate jurisdiction, with such original jurisdiction as herein-after mentioned as may be incident to the determination of any appeal.

Constitution of High Court of Justice.

5. Her Majesty's High Court of Justice shall be constituted as follows:—The first Judges thereof shall be the Lord Chancellor, the Lord Chief Justice of England, the Master of the Rolls, the Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, the Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer, the several Vice-Chancellors of the High Court of Chancery, the Judge of the Court of Probate and of the Court for Divorce and Matrimonial Causes, the several Puisne Justices of the Courts of Queen's Bench and Common Pleas respectively, the several Junior Barons of the Court of Exchequer, and the Judge of the High Court of Admiralty, except such, if any, of the aforesaid Judges as shall be appointed ordinary Judges of the Court of Appeal.

Subject to the provisions herein-after contained, whenever the office of a Judge of the said High Court shall become vacant, a new Judge may be appointed thereto by Her Majesty, by Letters Patent. All persons to be hereafter appointed to fill the places of the Lord Chief Justice of England, the Master of the Rolls, the Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, and the Lord Chief Baron, and their successors respectively, shall continue to be appointed to the same respective offices, with the same precedence, and by the same respective titles, and in the same manner, respectively, as heretofore. Every Judge who shall be appointed to fill the place of any other Judge of the said High Court of Justice shall be styled in his appointment "Judge of Her Majesty's High Court of Justice," and shall be appointed in the same manner in which the Puisne Justices and Junior Barons of the Superior Courts of Common Law have been heretofore appointed: Provided always, that if at the commencement of this Act the number of Puisne Justices and Junior Barons who shall become Judges of the said High Court shall exceed twelve in the whole, no new Judge of the said High Court shall be appointed in the place of any such Puisne Justice or Junior Baron who shall die or resign while such whole number shall exceed twelve, it being intended that the permanent number of Judges of the said High Court shall not exceed twenty-one.

All the Judges of the said Court shall have in all respects, save as in this Act is otherwise expressly provided, equal power, authority, and jurisdiction; and shall be addressed in the manner which is now customary in addressing the Judges of the Superior Courts of Common Law.

The Lord Chief Justice of England for the time being shall be President of the said High Court of Justice in the absence of the Lord Chancellor.

Constitution of Court of Appeal.

6. Her Majesty's Court of Appeal shall be constituted as follows:—There shall be five ex officio Judges thereof, and also so many ordinary Judges (not exceeding nine at any one time) as Her Majesty shall from time to time appoint. The ex officio Judges shall be the Lord Chancellor, the Lord Chief Justice of England, the Master of the Rolls, the Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, and the Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer. The first ordinary Judges of the said Court shall be the existing Lords Justices of Appeal in Chancery, the existing salaried Judges of the Judicial Committee of Her Majesty's Privy Council, appointed under the "Judicial Committee Act, 1871," and such three other persons as Her Majesty may be pleased to appoint by Letters Patent; such appointment may be made either within one month before or at any time after the day appointed for the commencement of this Act, but if made before shall take effect at the commencement of this Act.

Besides the said ex officio Judges and ordinary Judges, it shall be lawful for Her Majesty (if she shall think fit) from time to time to appoint, under Her Royal Sign Manual,

as additional Judges of the Court of Appeal, any persons who, having held in England the office of a Judge of the Superior Courts of Westminster hereby united and consolidated, or of Her Majesty's Supreme Court hereby constituted, or in Scotland the office of Lord Justice General or Lord Justice Clerk, or in Ireland the office of Lord Chancellor or Lord Justice of Appeal, or in India the office of Chief Justice of the High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal, or Madras, or Bombay, shall respectively signify in writing their willingness to serve as such additional Judges in the Court of Appeal. No such additional Judge shall be deemed to have undertaken the duty of sitting in the Court of Appeal when prevented from so doing by attendance in the House of Lords, or on the discharge of any other public duty, or by any other reasonable impediment.

The ordinary and additional Judges of the Court of Appeal shall be styled Lords Justices of Appeal. All the Judges of the said Court shall have, in all respects, save as in this Act is otherwise expressly mentioned, equal power, authority, and jurisdiction.

Whenever the office of an ordinary Judge of the Court of Appeal becomes vacant, a new Judge may be appointed thereto by Her Majesty by Letters Patent.

The Lord Chancellor for the time being shall be President of the Court of Appeal.

Vacancies by resignation of Judges and effect of vacancies generally.

7. The office of any Judge of the said High Court of Justice, or of the said Court of Appeal, may be vacated by resignation in writing, under his hand, addressed to the Lord Chancellor without any deed of surrender; and the office of any Judge of the said High Court shall be vacated by his being appointed a Judge of the said Court of Appeal. The said Courts respectively shall be deemed to be duly constituted during and notwithstanding any vacancy in the office of any Judge of either of such Courts.

Qualifications of Judges. Not required to be Serjeants-at-Law.

8. Any barrister of not less than ten years standing shall be qualified to be appointed a Judge of the said High Court of Justice; and any person who if this Act had not passed would have been qualified by law to be appointed a Lord Justice of the Court of Appeal in Chancery, or has been a Judge of the High Court of Justice of not less than one year's standing, shall be qualified to be appointed an ordinary Judge of the said Court of Appeal; Provided, that no person appointed a Judge of either of the said Courts shall henceforth be required to take, or to have taken, the degree of Serjeant-at-Law.

Tenure of office of Judges, and oaths of office. Judges not to sit in the House of Commons.

9. All the Judges of the High Court of Justice, and of the Court of Appeal respectively, shall hold their offices for life, subject to a power of removal by Her Majesty, on an address presented to Her Majesty by both Houses of Parliament. No Judge of either of the said Courts shall be capable of being elected to or of sitting in the House of Commons. Every Judge of either of the said Courts (other than the Lord Chancellor) when he enters on the execution of his office, shall take, in the presence of the Lord Chancellor, the oath of allegiance, and judicial oath as defined by the Promissory Oaths Act, 1868. The oaths to be taken by the Lord Chancellor shall be the same as heretofore.

Precedence of Judges.

10. The ex officio Judges of the Court of Appeal shall rank in the Supreme Court in the order of their present respective official precedence. The other Judges (whether ordinary or additional) of the Court of Appeal shall rank in the Supreme Court, if Peers or Privy Councillors, in the order of their respective precedence; and the rest of the Judges of the Court of Appeal shall rank according to the priority of their respective appointments to be Judges thereof.

The Judges of the High Court of Justice, who are not also Judges of the Court of Appeal, shall rank next after the Judges of the Court of Appeal, and among themselves (subject to the provisions herein-after contained as to existing Judges) according to the priority of their respective appointments.

Saving of rights and obligations of existing Judges.

11. Every existing Judge, who is by this Act made a Judge of the High Court of Justice or an ordinary Judge of the Court of Appeal, shall, as to tenure of office, rank, title, salary, pension, patronage, and powers of appointment or dismissal, and all other privileges and disqualifications, remain in the same condition as if this Act had not passed; and, subject to the change effected in their jurisdiction and duties by or in

pursuance of the provisions of this Act, each of the said existing Judges shall be capable of performing and liable to perform all duties which he would have been capable of performing or liable to perform in pursuance of any Act of Parliament, law, or custom if this Act had not passed. No Judge appointed before the passing of this Act shall be required to act under any Commission of Assize, Nisi Prius, Oyer and Terminer, or Gaol Delivery, unless he was so liable by usage or custom at the commencement of this Act.

Service as a Judge in the High Court of Justice, or in the Court of Appeal, shall, in the case of an existing Judge, for the purpose of determining the length of service entitling such Judge to a pension on his retirement, be deemed to be a continuation of his service in the Court of which he is a Judge at the time of the commencement of this Act.

Provisions for extraordinary duties of Judges of the former Courts.

12. If, in any case not expressly provided for by this Act, a liability to any duty, or any authority or power, not incident to the administration of justice in any Court, whose jurisdiction is transferred by this Act to the High Court of Justice, shall have been imposed or conferred by any statute, law, or custom upon the Judges or any Judge of any of such Courts, save as herein-after mentioned, every Judge of the said High Court shall be capable of performing and exercising, and shall be liable to perform and empowered to exercise every such duty, authority, and power, in the same manner as if this Act had not passed, and as if he had been duly appointed the successor of a Judge liable to such duty, or possessing such authority or power, before the passing of this Act. Any such duty authority, or power, imposed or conferred by any statute, law, or custom, in any such case as aforesaid, upon the Lord Chancellor, the Lord Chief Justice of England, the Master of the Rolls, the Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, or the Lord Chief Baron, shall continue to be performed and exercised by them respectively, and by their respective successors, in the same manner as if this Act had not passed.

Salaries of future Judges.

13. Subject to the provisions in this Act contained with respect to existing Judges, there shall be paid the following salaries, which shall in each case include any pension granted in respect of any public office previously filled by him, to which the Judge may be entitled;

To the Lord Chancellor, the sums hitherto payable to him;

To the Lord Chief Justice of England, the Master of the Rolls, the Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, and the Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer, the same annual sums which the holders of those offices now respectively receive;

To each of the ordinary Judges of the Court of Appeal; and,

To each of the other Judges of the High Court of Justice, the sum of five thousand pounds a year.

No salary shall be payable to any additional Judge of the Court of Appeal appointed under this Act; but nothing in this Act shall in any way prejudice the right of any such additional Judge to any pension to which he may be by law entitled.

Retiring pensions of future Judges of High Court of Justice, and ordinary Judges of Court of Appeal.

14. Her Majesty may, by Letters Patent, grant to any Judge of the High Court of Justice, or to any ordinary Judge of the Court of Appeal who has served for fifteen years as a Judge in such Courts, or either of them, or who is disabled by permanent infirmity from the performance of the duties of his office, a pension, by way of annuity, to be continued during his life:

In the case of the Lord Chief Justice of England, the Master of the Rolls, the Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, and the Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer, the same amount of pension which at present might under the same circumstances be granted to the holder of the same office:

In the case of any ordinary Judge of the Court of Appeal or any other Judge of the High Court of Justice, the same amount of pension which at present might under the same circumstances be granted to a Puisne Justice of the Court of Queen's Bench.

Salaries and pensions how to be paid.

15. Subject to the provisions in this Act contained with respect to existing Judges, the salaries, allowances, and pensions payable to the Judges of the High Court of Justice, and

the ordinary Judges of the Court of Appeal respectively, shall be charged on and paid out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, or the growing produce thereof: such salaries and pensions shall grow due from day to day, but shall be payable to the persons entitled thereto, or to their executors or administrators, on the usual quarterly days of payment, or at such other periods in every year as the Treasury may from time to time determine.

Part II.

Jurisdiction and Law.

Jurisdiction of High Court of Justice.

16. The High Court of Justice shall be a Superior Court of Record, and, subject as in this Act mentioned, there shall be transferred to and vested in the said High Court of Justice the jurisdiction which, at the commencement of this Act, was vested in, or capable of being exercised by, all or any of the Courts following; (that is to say,)

(1.) The High Court of Chancery, as a Common Law Court as well as a Court of Equity, including the jurisdiction of the Master of the Rolls, as a Judge or Master of the Court of Chancery, and any jurisdiction exercised by him in relation to the Court of Chancery as a Common Law Court;
(2.) The Court of Queen's Bench;
(3.) The Court of Common Pleas at Westminster;
(4.) The Court of Exchequer, as a Court of Revenue, as well as a Common Law Court;
(5.) The High Court of Admiralty;
(6.) The Court of Probate;
(7.) The Court for Divorce and Matrimonial Causes;
(8.) The London Court of Bankruptcy;
(9.) The Court of Common Pleas at Lancaster;
(10.) The Court of Pleas at Durham;
(11.) The Courts created by Commissioners of Assize, of Oyer and Terminer, and of Gaol Delivery, or any of such Commissions:

The jurisdiction by this Act transferred to the High Court of Justice shall include (subject to the exceptions herein-after contained) the jurisdiction which, at the commencement of this Act, was vested in, or capable of being exercised by, all or any one or more of the Judges of the said Courts, respectively, sitting in Court or Chambers, or elsewhere, when acting as Judges or a Judge, in pursuance of any statute, law, or custom, and all powers given to any such Court, or to any such Judges or Judge, by any statute; and also all ministerial powers, duties, and authorities, incident to any and every part of the jurisdictions so transferred.

Jurisdiction not transferred to High Court.

17. There shall not be transferred to or vested in the said High Court of Justice, by virtue of this Act,—

(1.) Any appellate jurisdiction of the Court of Appeal in Chancery, or of the same Court sitting as a Court of Appeal in Bankruptcy:
(2.) Any jurisdiction of the Court of Appeal in Chancery of the County Palatine of Lancaster:
(3.) Any jurisdiction usually vested in the Lord Chancellor or in the Lords Justices of Appeal in Chancery, or either of them, in relation to the custody of the persons and estates of idiots, lunatics, and persons of unsound mind:
(4.) Any jurisdiction vested in the Lord Chancellor in relation to grants of Letters Patent, or the issue or commissions or other writings, to be passed under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom:
(5.) Any jurisdiction exercised by the Lord Chancellor in right of or on behalf of Her Majesty as visitor of any College, or of any charitable or other foundation:
(6.) Any jurisdiction of the Master of the Rolls in relation to records in London or elsewhere in England.

Jurisdiction transferred to Court of Appeal.

18. The Court of Appeal established by this Act shall be a Superior Court of Record, and there shall be transferred to and vested in such Court all jurisdiction and powers of the Courts following; (that is to say,)

(1.) All jurisdiction and powers of the Lord Chancellor and of the Court of Appeal in Chancery, in the exercise of his and its appellate jurisdiction, and of the same Court as a Court of Appeal in Bankruptcy:

(2.) All jurisdiction and powers of the Court of Appeal in Chancery of the county palatine of Lancaster, and all jurisdiction and powers of the Chancellor of the duchy and county palatine of Lancaster when sitting alone or apart from the Lord Justices of Appeal in Chancery as a Judge of re-hearing or appeal from decrees or orders of the Court of Chancery of the county palatine of Lancaster:

(3.) All jurisdiction and powers of the Court of the Lord Warden of the Stannaries assisted by his assessors, including all jurisdiction and powers of the said Lord Warden when sitting in his capacity of Judge:

(4.) All jurisdiction and powers of the Court of Exchequer Chamber:

(5.) All jurisdiction vested in or capable of being exercised by Her Majesty in Council, or the Judicial Committee of Her Majesty's Privy Council, upon appeal from any judgment or order of the High Court of Admiralty, or from any order in lunacy made by the Lord Chancellor, or any other person having jurisdiction in lunacy.

Appeals from High Court.

19. The said Court of Appeal shall have jurisdiction and power to hear and determine Appeals from any judgment or order, save as herein-after mentioned, of Her Majesty's High Court of Justice, or of any Judges or Judge thereof, subject to the provisions of this Act, and to such Rules and Orders of Court for regulating the terms and conditions on which such appeals shall be allowed, as may be made pursuant to this Act.

For all the purposes of and incidental to the hearing and determination of any Appeal within its jurisdiction, and the amendment, execution, and enforcement of any judgment or order made on any such appeal, and for the purpose of every other authority expressly given to the Court of Appeal by this Act, the said Court of Appeal shall have all the power, authority, and jurisdiction by this Act vested in the High Court of Justice.

No appeal from High Court or Court of Appeal to House of Lords or Judicial Committee.

20. No error or appeal shall be brought from any judgment or order of the High Court of Justice, or of the Court of Appeal, nor from any judgment or order, subsequent to the commencement of this Act, of the Court of Chancery of the county palatine of Lancaster to the House of Lords or to the Judicial Committee of Her Majesty's Privy Council; but nothing in this Act shall prejudice any right existing at the commencement of this Act to prosecute any pending writ of error or appeal, or to bring error or appeal to the House of Lords or to Her Majesty in Council, or to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, from any prior judgment or order of any Court whose jurisdiction is hereby transferred to the High Court of Justice or to the Court of Appeal.

Power to transfer jurisdiction of Judicial Committee by Order in Council.

21. It shall be lawful for Her Majesty, if she shall think fit, at any time hereafter by Order in Council to direct that all Appeals and Petitions whatsoever to Her Majesty in Council which according to the laws now in force ought to be heard by or before the Judicial Committee of Her Majesty's Privy Council, shall, from and after a time to be fixed by such Order, be referred for hearing to and be heard by Her Majesty's Court of Appeal; and from and after the time fixed by such Order, all such Appeals and Petitions shall be referred for hearing to and be heard by the said Court of Appeal accordingly, and shall not be heard by the said Judicial Committee; and for all the purposes of and incidental to the hearing of such Appeals or Petitions, and the reports to be made to Her Majesty thereon, and all orders thereon to be afterwards made by Her Majesty in Council, and also for all purposes of and incidental to the enforcement of any such Orders as may be made by the said Court of Appeal or by Her Majesty, pursuant to this section (but not for any other purpose), all the power, authority, and jurisdiction now by law vested in the said Judicial Committee shall be transferred to and vested in the said Court of Appeal.

The Court of Appeal, when hearing any appeals in Ecclesiastical Causes which may be referred to it in manner aforesaid, shall be constituted of such and so many of the Judges thereof, and shall be assisted by such assessors being Archbishops or Bishops of the Church of England, as Her Majesty, by any General Rules made with the advice of the Judges of the said Court, or any five of them (of whom the Lord Chancellor shall be one), and of the Archbishops and Bishops who are members of Her Majesty's Privy Council, or any two of them (and which General Rules shall be made by Order in Council), may think fit to direct: Provided that such rules shall be laid before each House of Parliament within forty days of the making of the same, if Parliament be then sitting, or if not, then within forty days of the commencement of the then next ensuing session; and if an address is presented to Her Majesty by either House of Parliament within the next subsequent forty days on which the said House shall have sat, praying that any such rules may be annulled, Her Majesty may thereupon by Order in Council annul the same; and the rules so annulled shall thenceforth become void and of no effect, but without prejudice to the validity of any proceedings which may in the meantime have been taken under the same.

Transfer of pending business.

22. From and after the commencement of this Act the several jurisdictions which by this Act are transferred to and vested in the said High Court of Justice and the said Court of Appeal respectively shall cease to be exercised, except by the said High Court of Justice and the said Court of Appeal respectively, as provided by this Act; and no further or other appointment of any Judge to any Court whose jurisdiction is so transferred shall be made except as provided by this Act: Provided, that in all causes, matters, and proceedings whatsoever which shall have been fully heard, and in which judgment shall not have been given, or having been given shall not have been signed, drawn up, passed, entered, or otherwise perfected at the time appointed for the commencement of this Act, such judgment, decree, rule, or order may be given or made, signed, drawn up, passed, entered, or perfected respectively, after the commencement of this Act, in the name of the same Court, and by the same judges and officers, and generally in the same manner, in all respects as if this Act had not passed; and the same shall take effect, to all intents and purposes, as if the same had been duly perfected before the commencement of this Act; and every judgment, decree, rule, or order of any Court whose jurisdiction is hereby transferred to the said High Court of Justice or the said Court of Appeal, which shall have been duly perfected at any time before the commencement of this Act, may be executed and enforced, and, if necessary, amended or discharged by the said High Court of Justice and the said Court of Appeal respectively, in the same manner as if it had been a judgment, decree, rule, or order of the said High Court or of the said Court of Appeal; and all causes, matters, and proceedings whatsoever, whether Civil or Criminal, which shall be pending in any of the Courts whose jurisdiction is so transferred as aforesaid at the commencement of this Act, shall be continued and concluded, as follows (that is to say), in the case of proceedings in Error or on Appeal, or of proceedings before the Court of Appeal in Chancery, in and before Her Majesty's Court of Appeal; and, as to all other proceedings, in and before Her Majesty's High Court of Justice. The said Courts respectively shall have the same jurisdiction in relation to all such causes, matters, and proceedings as if the same had been commenced in the said High Court of Justice, and continued therein (or in the said Court of Appeal, as the case may be) down to the point at which the transfer takes place; and so far as relates to the form and manner of procedure, such causes, matters, and proceedings, or any of them, may be continued and concluded, in and before the said Courts respectively, either in the same or the like manner as they would have been continued and concluded in the respective Courts from which they shall have been transferred as aforesaid, or according to the ordinary course of the said High Court of Justice and the said Court of Appeal respectively (so far as the same may be applicable thereto), as the said Courts respectively may think fit to direct.

Rules as to exercise of jurisdiction.

23. The jurisdiction by this Act transferred to the said High Court of Justice and the said Court of Appeal respectively shall be exercised (so far as regards procedure and practice) in the manner provided by this Act, or by such Rules and Orders of Court as

may be made pursuant to this Act; and where no special provision is contained in this Act or in any such Rules or Orders of Court with reference thereto, it shall be exercised as nearly as may be in the same manner as the same might have been exercised by the respective Courts from which such jurisdiction shall have been transferred, or by any of such Courts.

Law and equity to be concurrently administered.

24. In every civil cause or matter commenced in the High Court of Justice law and equity shall be administered by the High Court of Justice and the Court of Appeal respectively according to the Rules following:

(1.) If any plaintiff or petitioner claims to be entitled to any equitable estate or right, or to relief upon any equitable ground against any deed, instrument, or contract, or against any right, title, or claim whatsoever asserted by any defendant or respondent in such cause or matter, or to any relief founded upon a legal right, which heretofore could only have been given by a Court of Equity, the said Courts respectively, and every Judge thereof, shall give to such plaintiff or petitioner such and the same relief as ought to have been given by the Court of Chancery in a suit or proceeding for the same or the like purpose properly instituted before the passing of this Act.

(2.) If any defendant claims to be entitled to any equitable estate or right, or to relief upon any equitable ground against any deed, instrument, or contract, or against any right, title, or claim asserted by any plaintiff or petitioner in such cause or matter, or alleges any ground of equitable defence to any claim of the plaintiff or petitioner in such cause or matter, the said Courts respectively, and every Judge thereof, shall give to every equitable estate, right, or ground of relief so claimed, and to every equitable defence so alleged, such and the same effect by way of defence against the claim of such plaintiff or petitioner, as the Court of Chancery ought to have given if the same or the like matters had been relied on by way of defence in any suit or proceeding instituted in that Court for the same or the like purpose before the passing of this Act.

(3.) The said Courts respectively, and every Judge thereof, shall also have power to grant to any defendant in respect of any equitable estate or right, or other matter of equity, and also in respect of any legal estate, right, or title claimed or asserted by him, all such relief against any plaintiff or petitioner as such defendant shall have properly claimed by his pleading, and as the said Courts respectively, or any Judge thereof, might have granted in any suit instituted for that purpose by the same defendant against the same plaintiff or petitioner; and also all such relief relating to or connected with the original subject of the cause or matter, and in like manner claimed against any other person, whether already a party to the same cause or matter or not, who shall have been duly served with notice in writing of such claim pursuant to any Rule of Court or any Order of the Court, as might properly have been granted against such person if he had been made a defendant to a cause duly instituted by the same defendant for the like purpose; and every person served with any such notice shall thenceforth be deemed a party to such cause or matter, with the same rights in respect of his defence against such claim, as if he had been duly sued in the ordinary way by such defendant.

(4.) The said Courts respectively, and every Judge thereof, shall recognise and take notice of all equitable estates, titles, and rights, and all equitable duties and liabilities appearing incidentally in the course of any cause or matter, in the same manner in which the Court of Chancery would have recognised and taken notice of the same in any suit or proceeding duly instituted therein before the passing of this Act.

(5.) No cause or proceeding at any time pending in the High Court of Justice, or before the Court of Appeal, shall be restrained by prohibition or injunction; but every matter of equity on which an injunction against the prosecution of any such cause or proceeding might have been obtained, if this Act had not passed, either unconditionally or on any terms or conditions, may be relied on by way of

defence thereto: Provided always, that nothing in this Act contained shall disable either of the said Courts from directing a stay of proceedings in any cause or matter pending before it if it shall think fit; and any person, whether a party or not to any such cause or matter, who would have been entitled, if this Act had not passed, to apply to any Court to restrain the prosecution thereof, or who may be entitled to enforce, by attachment or otherwise, any Judgment, Decree, Rule, or Order, contrary to which all or any part of the proceedings in such cause or matter may have been taken, shall be at liberty to apply to the said Courts respectively, by motion in a summary way, for a stay of proceedings in such cause or matter, either generally, or so far as may be necessary for the purposes of justice; and the Court shall thereupon make such Order as shall be just.

(6.) Subject to the aforesaid provisions for giving effect to equitable rights and other matters of equity in manner aforesaid, and to the other express provisions of this Act, the said Courts respectively, and every Judge thereof, shall recognise and give effect to all legal claims and demands, and all estates, titles, rights, duties, obligations, and liabilities existing by the Common Law or by any custom, or created by any Statute, in the same manner as the same would have been recognised and given effect to, if this Act had not passed, by any of the Courts whose jurisdiction is hereby transferred to the said High Court of Justice.

(7.) The High Court of Justice and the Court of Appeal respectively, in the exercise of the jurisdiction vested in them by this Act in every cause or matter pending before them respectively, shall have power to grant, and shall grant, either absolutely or on such reasonable terms and conditions as to them shall seem just, all such remedies whatsoever as any of the parties thereto may appear to be entitled to in respect of any and every legal or equitable claim properly brought forward by them respectively in such cause or matter; so that, as far as possible, all matters so in controversy between the said parties respectively may be completely and finally determined, and all multiplicity of legal proceedings concerning any of such matters avoided.

Rules of law upon certain points.

25. And whereas it is expedient to take occasion of the union of the several Courts whose jurisdiction is hereby transferred to the said High Court of Justice to amend and declare the Law to be hereafter administered in England as to the matters next hereinafter mentioned: Be it enacted as follows:

Administration of assets of insolvent estates.

(1.) In the administration by the Court of the assets of any person who may die after the passing of this Act, and whose estate may prove to be insufficient for the payment in full of his debts and liabilities, the same rules shall prevail and be observed as to the respective rights of secured and unsecured creditors, and as to debts and liabilities proveable, and as to the valuation of annuities and future or contingent liabilities, respectively, as may be in force for the time being under the law of bankruptcy with respect to the estates of persons adjudged bankrupt; and all persons who in any such case would be entitled to prove for and receive dividends out of the estate of any such deceased person may come in under the decree or order for the administration of such estate and make such claims against the same as they may respectively be entitled to by virtue of this Act.

Statutes of Limitation inapplicable to express trusts.

(2.) No claim of a cestui que trust against his trustee for any property held on an express trust, or in respect of any breach of such trust, shall be held to be barred by any Statute of Limitations.

Equitable waste.

(3.) An estate for life without impeachment of waste shall not confer or be deemed to have conferred upon the tenant for life any legal right to commit waste of the description known as equitable waste, unless an intention to confer such right shall expressly appear by the instrument creating such estate.

Merger.

(4.) There shall not, after the commencement of this Act, be any merger by operation of law only of any estate, the beneficial interest in which would not be deemed to be merged or extinguished in equity.

Suits for possession of land by mortgagors.

(5.) A mortgagor entitled for the time being to the possession or receipt of the rents and profits of any land as to which no notice of his intention to take possession

or to enter into the receipt of the rents and profits thereof shall have been given by the mortgagee, may sue for such possession, or for the recovery of such rents or profits, or to prevent or recover damages in respect of any trespass or other wrong relative thereto, in his own name only, unless the cause of action arises upon a lease or other contract made by him jointly with any other person.

Assignment of debts and choses in action.

(6.) Any absolute assignment, by writing under the hand of the assignor (not purporting to be by way of charge only), of any debt or other legal chose in action, of which express notice in writing shall have been given to the debtor, trustee, or other person from whom the assignor would have been entitled to receive or claim such debt or chose in action, shall be, and be deemed to have been effectual in law (subject to all equities which would have been entitled to priority over the right of the assignee if this Act had not passed,) to pass and transfer the legal right to such debt or chose in action from the date of such notice, and all legal and other remedies for the same, and the power to give a good discharge for the same, without the concurrence of the assignor: Provided always, that if the debtor, trustee, or other person liable in respect of such debt or chose in action shall have had notice that such assignment is disputed by the assignor or any one claiming under him, or of any other opposing or conflicting claims to such debt or chose in action, he shall be entitled, if he think fit, to call upon the several persons making claim thereto to interplead concerning the same, or he may, if he think fit, pay the same into the High Court of Justice under and in conformity with the provisions of the Acts for the relief of trustees.

Stipulations not of the essence of contracts.

(7.) Stipulations in contracts, as to time or otherwise, which would not before the passing of this Act have been deemed to be or to have become of the essence of such contracts in a Court of Equity, shall receive in all Courts the same construction and effect as they would have heretofore received in equity.

Injunctions and receivers.

(8.) A mandamus or an injunction may be granted or a receiver appointed by an interlocutory Order of the Court in all cases in which it shall appear to the Court to be just or convenient that such Order should be made; and any such Order may be made either unconditionally or upon such terms and conditions as the Court shall think just; and if an injunction is asked, either before, or at, or after the hearing of any cause or matter, to prevent any threatened or apprehended waste or trespass, such injunction may be granted, if the Court shall think fit, whether the person against whom such injunction is sought is or is not in possession under any claim of title or otherwise, or (if out of possession) does or does not claim a right to do the act sought to be restrained under any colour of title; and whether the estates claimed by both or by either of the parties are legal or equitable.

Damages by collisions at sea.

(9.) In any cause or proceeding for damages arising out of a collision between two ships, if both ships shall be found to have been in fault, the rules hitherto in force in the Court of Admiralty, so far as they have been at variance with the rules in force in the Courts of Common Law, shall prevail.

Infants.

(10.) In questions relating to the custody and education of infants the Rules of Equity shall prevail.

Cases of conflict not enumerated.

(11.) Generally in all matters not herein-before particularly mentioned, in which there is any conflict or variance between the Rules of Equity and the Rules of the Common Law with reference to the same matter, the Rules of Equity shall prevail.

PART III.

Sittings and Distribution of Business.

Abolition of terms.

26. The division of the legal year into terms shall be abolished so far as relates to the administration of justice; and there shall no longer be terms applicable to any sitting or business of the High Court of Justice, or of the Court of Appeal, or of any Commis-

sioners to whom any jurisdiction may be assigned under this Act; but in all other cases in which, under the law now existing, the terms into which the legal year is divided are used as a measure for determining the time at or within which any act is required to be done, the same may continue to be referred to for the same or the like purpose, unless and until provision is otherwise made by any lawful authority. Subject to Rules of Court, the High Court of Justice and the Court of Appeal, and the Judges thereof respectively, or any such Commissioners as aforesaid, shall have power to sit and act, at any time, and at any place, for the transaction of any part of the business of such courts respectively, or of such Judges or Commissioners, or for the discharge of any duty which by any Act of Parliament, or otherwise, is required to be discharged during or after term.

Vacations.

27. Her Majesty in Council may from time to time, upon any report or recommendation of the Judges by whose advice Her Majesty is herein-after authorised to make rules before the commencement of this Act, and after the commencement of this Act upon any report or recommendation of the Council of Judges of the Supreme Court herein-after mentioned, with the consent of the Lord Chancellor, make, revoke, or modify, orders regulating the vacations to be observed by the High Court of Justice and the High Court of Appeal, and in the offices of the said Courts respectively; and any Order in Council made pursuant to this section shall, so long as it continues in force, be of the same effect as if it were contained in this Act; and Rules of Court may be made for carrying the same into effect in the same manner as if such Order in Council were part of this Act. In the meantime, and subject thereto, the said vacations shall be fixed in the same manner, and by the same authority, as if this Act had not passed. This section shall come into operation immediately upon the passing of this Act.

Sittings in vacation.

28. Provision shall be made by Rules of Court for the hearing, in London or Middlesex, during vacation by Judges of the High Court of Justice and the Court of Appeal respectively, of all such applications as may require to be immediately or promptly heard.

Jurisdiction of Judges of High Court on circuit.

29. Her Majesty, by commission of assize or by any other commission, either general or special, may assign to any Judge or Judges of the High Court of Justice or other persons usually named in commissions of assize, the duty of trying and determining within any place or district specially fixed for that purpose by such commission, any causes or matters, or any questions or issues of fact or of law, or partly of fact and partly of law, in any cause or matter depending in the said High Court or the exercise of any civil or criminal jurisdiction capable of being exercised by the said High Court; and any commission so granted by Her Majesty shall be of the same validity as if it were enacted in the body of this Act; and any Commissioner or Commissioners appointed in pursuance of this section shall, when engaged in the exercise of any jurisdiction assigned to him or them in pursuance of this Act, be deemed to constitute a Court of the said High Court of Justice; and, subject to any restrictions or conditions imposed by Rules of Court and to the power of transfer, any party to any cause or matter involving the trial of a question or issue of fact, or partly of fact and partly of law, may, with the leave of the Judge or Judges to whom or to whose division the cause or matter is assigned, require the question or issue to be tried and determined by a Commissioner or Commissioners as aforesaid, or at sittings to be held in Middlesex or London as herein-after in this Act mentioned, and such question or issue shall be tried and determined accordingly.

A cause or matter not involving any question or issue of fact may be tried and determined in like manner with the consent of all the parties thereto.

Sittings for trial by jury in London and Middlesex.

30. Subject to Rules of Court, sittings for the trial by jury of causes and questions or issues of fact shall be held in Middlesex and London, and such sittings shall, so far as is reasonably practicable, and subject to vacations, be held continuously throughout the year by as many Judges as the business to be disposed of may render necessary. Any Judge of the High Court of Justice sitting for the trial of causes and issues in Middlesex or London, at any place heretofore accustomed, or to be hereafter determined by Rules of Court, shall be deemed to constitute a Court of the said High Court of Justice.

Divisions of the High Court of Justice.

31. For the more convenient despatch of business in the said High Court of Justice (but not so as to prevent any Judge from sitting whenever required in any Divisional Court, or for any Judge of a different Division from his own,) there shall be in the said High Court five Divisions consisting of such number of Judges respectively as herein-after mentioned. Such five Divisions shall respectively include, immediately on the commencement of this Act, the several Judges following; (that is to say,)

(1.) One Division shall consist of the following Judges; (that is to say,) The Lord Chancellor, who shall be President thereof, the Master of the Rolls, and the Vice-Chancellors of the Court of Chancery, or such of them as shall not be appointed ordinary Judges of the Court of Appeal:

(2.) One other Division shall consist of the following Judges; (that is to say,) The Lord Chief Justice of England, who shall be President thereof, and such of the other Judges of the Court of Queen's Bench as shall not be appointed ordinary Judge of the Court of Appeal:

(3.) One other Division shall consist of the following Judges; (that is to say,) The Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, who shall be President thereof, and such of the other Judges of the Court of Common Pleas as shall not be appointed ordinary Judges of the Court of Appeal:

(4.) One other Division shall consist of the following Judges; (that is to say,) The Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer, who shall be President thereof, and such of the other Barons of the Court of Exchequer as shall not be appointed ordinary Judges of the Court of Appeal:

(5.) One other Division shall consist of two Judges who, immediately on the commencement of this Act, shall be the existing Judge of the Court of Probate and of the Court for Divorce and Matrimonial Causes and the existing Judge of the High Court of Admiralty, unless either of them is appointed an ordinary Judge to the Court of Appeal. The existing Judge of the Court of Probate shall (unless so appointed) be the President of the said Division, and subject thereto the Senior Judge of the said Division, according to the order of Precedence under this Act, shall be President.

The said five Divisions shall be called respectively the Chancery Division, the Queen's Bench Division, the Common Pleas Division, the Exchequer Division, and the Probate, Divorce, and Admiralty Division.

Any deficiency of the number of five Judges for constituting, in manner aforesaid, immediately on the commencement of this Act, any one or more of the Queen's Bench, Common Pleas, and Exchequer Divisions, may be supplied by the appointment, under Her Majesty's Royal Sign Manual, either before or after the time fixed for the commencement of this Act, of one of the Puisne Justices or Junior Barons of any superior Court of Common Law from which no Judge may be so appointed as aforesaid to the Court of Appeal, to be a judge of any Division in which such deficiency would otherwise exist. And any deficiency of the number of three Vice-Chancellors or of the two Judges of the Probate and Admiralty Divisions at the time of the commencement of this Act may be supplied by the appointment of a new Judge in his place in the same manner as if a vacancy in such office had occurred after the commencement of this Act.

Any Judge of any of the said Divisions may be transferred by Her Majesty, under Her Royal Sign Manual, from one to another of the said Divisions.

Upon any vacancy happening among the Judges of the said High Court, the Judge appointed to fill such vacancy shall, subject to the provisions of this Act, and to any Rules of Court which may be made pursuant thereto, become a member of the same Division to which the Judge whose place has become vacant belonged.

Power to alter Divisions by Order in Council.

32. Her Majesty in Council may from time to time, upon any report or recommendation of the Council of Judges of the Supreme Court herein-after mentioned, order that any reduction or increase in the number of Divisions of the High Court of Justice, or in the number of the Judges of the said High Court who may be attached to any such Division, may, pursuant to such report or recommendation, be carried into effect; and may give all such further directions as may be necessary or proper for that purpose; and such Order

may provide for the abolition on vacancy of the distinction of the offices of any of the following Judges, namely, the Chief Justice of England, the Master of the Rolls, the Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, and the Chief Baron of the Exchequer, which may be reduced, and of the salaries, pensions, and patronage attached to such offices, from the offices of the other Judges of the High Court of Justice, notwithstanding anything in this Act relating to the continuance of such offices, salaries, pensions, and patronage; but no such Order of Her Majesty in Council shall come into operation until the same shall have been laid before each House of Parliament for thirty days on which that House shall have sat, nor if, within such period of thirty days, an address is presented to Her Majesty by either House of Parliament, praying that the same may not come into operation. Any such Order, in respect whereof no such address shall have been presented to Her Majesty, shall, from and after the expiration of such period of thirty days, be of the same force and effect as if it had been herein expressly enacted: Provided always, that the total number of the Judges of the Supreme Court shall not be reduced or increased by any such Order.

Rules of Court to provide for distribution of business.

33. All causes and matters which may be commenced in, or which shall be transferred by this Act to, the High Court of Justice, shall be distributed among the several Divisions and Judges of the said High Court, in such manner as may from time to time be determined by any Rules of Court, or Orders of Transfer, to be made under the authority of this Act; and in the meantime, and subject thereto, all such causes and matters shall be assigned to the said Divisions respectively, in the manner herein-after provided. Every document by which any cause or matter may be commenced in the said High Court shall be marked with the name of the Division, or with the name of the Judge, to which or to whom the same is assigned.

Assignment of certain business to particular Divisions of High Court, subject to Rules.

34. There shall be assigned (subject as aforesaid) to the Chancery Division of the said Court:

(1.) All causes and matters pending in the Court of Chancery at the commencement of this Act:

(2.) All causes and matters to be commenced after the commencement of this Act, under any Act of Parliament by which exclusive jurisdiction, in respect to such causes or matters, has been given to the Court of Chancery, or to any Judges or Judge thereof respectively, except Appeals from County Courts:

(3.) All causes and matters for any of the following purposes:
The administration of the estates of deceased persons;
The dissolution of partnerships or the taking of partnership or other accounts;
The redemption or foreclosure of mortgages;
The raising of portions, or other charges on land;
The sale and distribution of the proceeds of property subject to any lien or charge;
The execution of trusts, charitable or private;
The rectification, or setting aside, or cancellation of deeds or other written instruments;
The specific performance of contracts between vendors and purchasers of real estates, including contracts for leases;
The partition or sale of real estates;
The wardship of infants and the care of infants estates.

There shall be assigned (subject as aforesaid) to the Queen's Bench Division of the said Court:

(1.) All causes and matters, civil and criminal, pending in the Court of Queen's Bench at the commencement of this Act:

(2.) All causes and matters, civil and criminal, which would have been within the exclusive cognizance of the Court of Queen's Bench in the exercise of its original jurisdiction, if this Act had not passed.

There shall be assigned (subject as aforesaid) to the Common Pleas Division of the said Court:

(1.) All causes and matters pending in the Court of Common Pleas at Westminster, the Court of Common Pleas at Lancaster, and the Court of Pleas at Durham, respectively, at the commencement of this Act:

(2.) All causes and matters which would have been within the exclusive cognizance of the Court of Common Pleas at Westminster, if this Act had not passed.

There shall be assigned (subject as aforesaid) to the Exchequer Division of the said Court:

(1.) All causes and matters pending in the Court of Exchequer at the commencement of this Act:

(2.) All causes and matters which would have been within the exclusive cognizance of the Court of Exchequer, either as a Court of Revenue or as a Common Law Court, if this Act had not passed:

(3.) All matters pending in the London Court of Bankruptcy at the commencement of this Act:

(4.) All matters to be commenced after the commencement of this Act under any Act of Parliament by which exclusive jurisdiction in respect to such matters has been given to the London Court of Bankruptcy.

There shall be assigned (subject as aforesaid) to the Probate, Divorce, and Admiralty Division of the said High Court:

(1.) All causes and matters pending in the Court of Probate, or in the Court for Divorce and Matrimonial Causes, or in the High Court of Admiralty, at the commencement of this Act:

(2.) All causes and matters which would have been within the exclusive cognizance of the Court of Probate, or the Court for Divorce and Matrimonial Causes, or of the High Court of Admiralty, if this Act had not passed.

Option for any Plaintiff (subject to Rules) to choose in what Division he will sue.

35. Subject to any Rules of Court, and to the provisions herein-before contained, and to the power of transfer, every person by whom any cause or matter may be commenced in the said High Court of Justice shall assign such cause or matter to one of the Divisions of the said High Court, not being the Probate, Divorce, and Admiralty Division thereof, as he may think fit, by marking the document by which the same is commenced, with the name of such Division, and giving notice thereof to the proper officer of the Court; provided that all interlocutory and other steps and proceedings in or before the said High Court, in any cause or matter subsequent to the commencement thereof, shall be taken (subject to any Rules of Court and to the power of transfer) in the Division of the said High Court to which such cause or matter is for the time being attached; provided also, that if any plaintiff or petitioner shall at any time assign his cause or matter to any Division of the said High Court to which, according to the Rules of Court or the provisions of this Act, the same ought not to be assigned, the Court, or any Judge of such Division, upon being informed thereof, may, on a summary application, at any stage of the cause or matter, direct the same to be transferred to the Division of the said Court to which, according to such rules or provisions, the same ought to have been assigned, or he may, if he think it expedient so to do, retain the same in the Division in which the same was commenced; and all steps and proceedings whatsoever taken by the plaintiff or petitioner, or by any other party in any such cause or matter, and all orders made therein by the Court or any Judge thereof before any such transfer, shall be valid and effectual to all intents and purposes in the same manner as if the same respectively had been taken and made in the proper Division of the said Court to which such cause or matter ought to have been assigned.

Power of transfer.

36. Any cause or matter may at any time, and at any stage thereof, and either with or without application from any of the parties thereto, be transferred by such authority and in such manner as Rules of Court may direct, from one Division or Judge of the High Court of Justice to any other Division or Judge thereof, or may by the like authority be

retained in the Division in which the same was commenced, although such may not be the proper Division to which the same cause or matter ought, in the first instance, to have been assigned.

Sittings in London and Middlesex and on Circuits.

37. Subject to any arrangements which may be from time to time made by mutual agreement between the Judges of the said High Court, the sittings for trials by jury in London and Middlesex, and the sittings of Judges of the said High Court under Commissions of Assize, Oyer and Terminer, and Gaol Delivery, shall be held by or before Judges of the Queen's Bench, Common Pleas, or Exchequer Division of the said High Court; provided that it shall be lawful for Her Majesty, if she shall think fit, to include in any such Commission any Ordinary Judge of the Court of Appeal or any Judge of the Chancery Division to be appointed after the commencement of this Act, or any Serjeant-at-Law, or any of Her Majesty's Counsel learned in the law, who, for the purposes of such Commission, shall have all the power, authority, and jurisdiction of a Judge of the said High Court.

Rota of Judges for election petitions.

38. The Judges to be placed on the rota for the trial of election petitions for England in each year, under the provisions of the "Parliamentary Elections Act, 1868," shall be selected out of the Judges of the Queen's Bench, Common Pleas, and Exchequer Divisions of the High Court of Justice in such manner as may be provided by any Rules of Court to be made for that purpose; and in the meantime, and subject thereto, shall be selected out of the Judges of the said Queen's Bench, Common Pleas, and Exchequer Divisions of the said High Court, by the Judges of such Divisions respectively, as if such Divisions had been named instead of the Courts of Queen's Bench, Common Pleas, and Exchequer respectively, in such last-mentioned Act: Provided that the Judges who, at the commencement of this Act, shall be upon the rota for the trial of such petitions during the then current year, shall continue upon such rota until the end of such year, in the same manner as if this Act had not passed.

Powers of one or more Judges not constituting a Divisional Court.

39. Any Judge of the said High Court of Justice may, subject to any Rules of Court, exercise in Court or in Chambers all or any part of the jurisdiction by this Act vested in the said High Court, in all such causes and matters, and in all such proceedings in any causes or matters, as before the passing of this Act might have been heard in Court or in Chambers respectively, by a single Judge of any of the Courts whose jurisdiction is hereby transferred to the said High Court, or as may be directed or authorised to be so heard by any Rules of Court to be hereafter made. In all such cases, any Judge sitting in Court shall be deemed to constitute a Court.

Divisional Courts of the High Court of Justice.

40. Such causes and matters as are not proper to be heard by a single Judge shall be heard by Divisional Courts of the said High Court of Justice, which shall for that purpose exercise all or any part of the jurisdiction of the said High Court. Any number of such Divisional Courts may sit at the same time. A Divisional Court of the said High Court of Justice shall be constituted by two or three, and no more, of the Judges thereof; and, except when through pressure of business or any other cause it may not conveniently be found practicable, shall be composed of three such Judges. Every Judge of the said High Court shall be qualified and empowered to sit in any of such Divisional Courts. The President of every such Divisional Court of the High Court of Justice shall be the senior Judge of those present, according to the order of their precedence under this Act.

Divisional Courts for business of Queen's Bench, Common Pleas, and Exchequer Divisions.

41. Subject to any Rules of Court, and in the meantime until such Rules shall be made, all business belonging to the Queen's Bench, Common Pleas, and Exchequer Divisions respectively of the said High Court, which, according to the practice now existing in the Superior Courts of Common Law, would have been proper to be transacted or disposed of by the Court sitting in Banc, if this Act had not passed, may be transacted and disposed of by Divisional Courts, which shall, as far as may be found practicable and convenient, include one or more Judge or Judges attached to the particular Division of the said Court to which the cause or matter out of which such business arises has been assigned; and it shall be the duty of every Judge of such last-mentioned

Division, and also of every other Judge of the High Court who shall not for the time being be occupied in the transaction of any business specially assigned to him, or in the business of any other Divisional Court, to take part, if required, in the sittings of such Divisional Courts as may from time to time be necessary for the transaction of the business assigned to the said Queen's Bench, Common Pleas, and Exchequer Divisions respectively; and all such arrangements as may be necessary or proper for that purpose, or for constituting or holding any Divisional Courts of the said High Court of Justice for any other purpose authorised by this Act, and also for the proper transaction of that part of the business of the said Queen's Bench, Common Pleas, and Exchequer Divisions respectively which ought to be transacted by one or more Judges not sitting in a Divisional Court, shall be made from time to time under the direction and superintendence of the Judges of the said High Court; and in case of difference among them, in such manner as a majority of the said Judges, with the concurrence of the Lord Chief Justice of England, shall determine.

Distribution of business among the Judges of the Chancery and Probate, Divorce, and Admiralty Divisions of the High Court.

42. Subject to any Rules of Court, and in the meantime until such Rules shall be made, all business arising out of any cause or matter assigned to the Chancery or Probate, Divorce, and Admiralty Division of the said High Court shall be transacted and disposed of in the first instance by one Judge only, as has been heretofore accustomed in the Court of Chancery, the Court of Probate and for Divorce and Matrimonial Causes, and the High Court of Admiralty respectively; and every cause or matter which, at the commencement of this Act, may be depending in the Court of Chancery, the Court of Probate and for Divorce and Matrimonial Causes, and the High Court of Admiralty respectively, shall (subject to the power of transfer) be assigned to the same Judge in or to whose Court the same may have been depending or attached at the commencement of this Act; and every cause or matter which after the commencement of this Act may be commenced in the Chancery Division of the said High Court shall be assigned to one of the Judges thereof, by marking the same with the name of such of the said Judges as the plaintiff or petitioner (subject to the power of transfer) may in his option think fit: Provided that (subject to any Rules of Court, and to the power of transfer, and to the provisions of this Act as to trial of questions or issues by Commissioners, or in Middlesex or London,) all causes and matters which, if this Act had not passed, would have been within the exclusive cognizance of the High Court of Admiralty, shall be assigned to the present Judge of the said Admiralty Court during his continuance in office as a Judge of the High Court.

Divisional Courts for business of the Chancery Division.

43. Divisional Courts may be held for the transaction of any part of the business assigned to the said Chancery Division, which the Judge to whom such business is assigned, with the concurrence of the President of the same Division, deems proper to be heard by a Divisional Court.

Divisional Courts for business belonging to the Division.

44. Divisional Courts may be held for the transaction of any part of the business assigned to the Probate, Divorce, and Admiralty Division of the said High Court, which the Judges of such Division, with the concurrence of the President of the said High Court, deem proper to be heard by a Divisional Court. Any cause or matter assigned to the said Probate, Divorce, and Admiralty Division may be heard at the request of the President of such Division, with the concurrence of the President of the said High Court, by any other Judge of the said High Court.

Appeals from inferior Courts to be determined by Divisional Courts.

45. All Appeals from Petty or Quarter Sessions, from a County Court, or from any other inferior Court, which might before the passing of this Act have been brought to any Court or Judge whose jurisdiction is by this Act transferred to the High Court of Justice, may be heard and determined by Divisional Courts of the said High Court of Justice, consisting respectively of such of the Judges thereof as may from time to time be assigned for that purpose, pursuant to Rules of Court, or (subject to Rules of Court) as may be so assigned according to arrangements made for the purpose by the Judges of the said High Court. The determination of such Appeals respectively by such Divisional Courts shall be final unless special leave to appeal from the same to the Court of Appeal

shall be given by the Divisional Court by which any such appeal from an inferior Court shall have been heard.

Cases and points may be reserved for or directed to be argued before Divisional Courts.

46. Subject to any Rules of Court, any Judge of the said High Court, sitting in the exercise of its jurisdiction elsewhere than in a Divisional Court, may reserve any case, or any point in a case, for the consideration of a Divisional Court, or may direct any case, or point in a case, to be argued before a Divisional Court; and any Divisional Court of the said High Court shall have power to hear and determine any such case or point so reserved or so directed to be argued.

Provision for Crown cases reserved.

47. The jurisdiction and authorities in relation to questions of law arising in criminal trials which are now vested in the Justices of either Bench and the Barons of the Exchequer by the Act of the session of the eleventh and twelfth years of the reign of Her present Majesty, chapter seventy-eight, intituled "An Act for the further amendment of "the administration of the Criminal Law," or any Act amending the same, shall and may be exercised after the commencement of this Act by the Judges of the High Court of Justice, or five of them at the least, of whom the Lord Chief Justice of England, the Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, and the Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer, or one of such chiefs at least, shall be part. The determination of any such question by the Judges of the said High Court in manner aforesaid shall be final and without appeal; and no appeal shall lie from any judgment of the said High Court in any criminal cause or matter, save for some error of law apparent upon the record, as to which no question shall have been reserved for the consideration of the said Judges under the said Act of the eleventh and twelfth years of Her Majesty's reign.

Motions for new trials to be heard by Divisional Courts.

48. Every motion for a new trial of any cause or matter on which a verdict has been found by a jury, or by a Judge without a jury, and every motion in arrest of judgment, or to enter judgment non obstante veredicto, or to enter a verdict for plaintiff or defendant, or to enter a nonsuit, or to reduce damages, shall be heard before a Divisional Court; and no appeal shall lie from any judgment founded upon and applying any verdict unless a motion has been made or other proceeding taken before a Divisional Court to set aside or reverse such verdict, or the judgment, if any, founded thereon, in which case an appeal shall lie to the Court of Appeal from the decision of the Divisional Court upon such motion or other proceeding.

What orders shall not be subject to Appeal.

49. No order made by the High Court of Justice or any Judge thereof, by the consent of parties, or as to costs only, which by law are left to the discretion of the Court, shall be subject to any appeal, except by leave of the Court or Judge making such order.

As to discharging orders made in Chambers.

50. Every order made by a Judge of the said High Court in Chambers, except orders made in the exercise of such discretion as aforesaid, may be set aside or discharged upon notice by any Divisional Court, or by the Judge sitting in Court, according to the course and practice of the Division of the High Court to which the particular cause or matter in which such order is made may be assigned; and no appeal shall lie from any such order, to set aside or discharge which no such motion has been made, unless by special leave of the Judge by whom such order was made, or of the Court of Appeal.

Provision for absence or vacancy in the office of a Judge.

51. Upon the request of the Lord Chancellor, it shall be lawful for any Judge of the Court of Appeal, who may consent so to do, to sit and act as a Judge of the said High Court or to perform any other official or ministerial acts for or on behalf of any Judge absent from illness or any other cause, or in the place of any Judge whose office has become vacant, or as an additional Judge of any Division; and while so sitting and acting any such Judge of the Court of Appeal shall have all the power and authority of a Judge of the said High Court.

Power of a single Judge in Court of Appeal.

52. In any cause or matter pending before the Court of Appeal, any direction incidental thereto, not involving the decision of the appeal, may be given by a single Judge of the Court of Appeal; and a single Judge of the Court of Appeal may at any time during vacation make any interim order to prevent prejudice to the claims of any parties pending

an appeal as he may think fit; but every such order made by a single Judge may be discharged or varied by the Court of Appeal or a Divisional Court thereof.

Divisional Courts of Court of Appeal.

53. Every appeal to the Court of Appeal shall be heard or determined either by the whole Court or by a Divisional Court consisting of any number, not less than three, of the Judges thereof. Any number of such Divisional Courts may sit at the same time. Any appeal which for any reason may be deemed fit to be re-argued before decision or to be re-heard before final judgment may be so re-argued or re-heard before a greater number of Judges if the Court of Appeal think fit so to direct.

Judges not to sit on appeal from their own judgments.

54. No Judge of the said Court of Appeal shall sit as a Judge on the hearing of an appeal from any judgment or order made by himself or made by any Divisional Court of the High Court of which he was himself a member.

Arrangements for business of Court of Appeal, and for hearing Appeals transferred from the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

55. All such arrangements as may be necessary or proper for the transaction of the business from time to time pending before the Court of Appeal, and for constituting and holding Divisional Courts thereof, shall be made by and under the direction of the President and the other ex officio and ordinary Judges of the said Court of Appeal; and if Her Majesty shall be pleased by Order in Council to direct that the hearing of such appeals and petitions to Her Majesty in Council as herein-before mentioned shall be referred to the said Court of Appeal, not less than one Divisional Court of the said Court of Appeal shall sit throughout the year (except during vacations) for the hearing of such of the appeals and petitions so referred as may from time to time be depending and ready for hearing, which Divisional Court shall be composed (as far as may be found practicable) of Judges of the Court of Appeal who are also members of Her Majesty's Privy Council; and any member of Her Majesty's Privy Council who, having held the office of a Judge in the East Indies or in any of Her Majesty's dominions beyond the seas, shall have been appointed by Her Majesty, under the Acts relating to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, to attend the sittings of the said Judicial Committee, may attend the sittings of any such Divisional Court of the Court of Appeal; and with respect to the place of sitting of any such last-mentioned Divisional Court, and any attendance or service therein, or in aid of the proceedings thereof, which may be required from the Registrar or any other officer of Her Majesty's Privy Council, all such arrangements as may be necessary or proper shall be made by the Lord Chancellor, as President of the Court of Appeal, with the concurrence of the President for the time being of Her Majesty's Privy Council; and the President of Her Majesty's Privy Council shall from time to time give such directions to the Registrar and other officers of the said Privy Council as may be necessary or proper for the purpose of carrying such last-mentioned arrangements into effect.

PART IV.

Trial and Procedure.

References and assessors.

56. Subject to any Rules of Court and to such right as may now exist to have particular cases submitted to the verdict of a jury, any question arising in any cause or matter (other than a criminal proceeding by the Crown) before the High Court of Justice or before the Court of Appeal, may be referred by the Court or by any Divisional Court or Judge before whom such cause or matter may be pending, for inquiry and report to any official or special Referee, and the report of any such Referee may be adopted wholly or partially by the Court, and may (if so adopted) be enforced as a judgment by the Court. The High Court or the Court of Appeal may also, in any such cause or matter as aforesaid in which it may think it expedient so to do, call in the aid of one or more assessors specially qualified, and try and hear such cause or matter wholly or partially with the assistance of such assessors. The remuneration, if any, to be paid to such special Referees or assessors shall be determined by the Court.

Power to direct trials before Referees.

57. In any cause or matter (other than a criminal proceeding by the Crown) before the said High Court in which all parties interested who are under no disability consent

thereto, and also without such consent in any such cause or matter requiring any prolonged examination of documents or accounts, or any scientific or local investigation which cannot, in the opinion of the Court or a Judge, conveniently be made before a jury, or conducted by the Court through its other ordinary officers, the Court or a Judge may at any time, on such terms as may be thought proper, order any question or issue of fact or any question of account arising therein to be tried either before an official Referee, to be appointed as herein-after provided, or before a special Referee to be agreed on between the parties; and any such special Referee so agreed on shall have the same powers and duties and proceed in the same manner as an official Referee. All such trials before Referees shall be conducted in such manner as may be prescribed by Rules of Court, and subject thereto in such manner as the Court or Judge ordering the same shall direct.

Power of Referees and effect of their findings.

58. In all cases of any reference to or trial by Referees under this Act the Referees shall be deemed to be officers of the Court, and shall have such authority for the purpose of such reference or trial as shall be prescribed by Rules of Court or (subject to such Rules) by the Court or Judge ordering such reference or trial; and the report of any Referee upon any question of fact on any such trial shall (unless set aside by the Court) be equivalent to the verdict of a jury.

Powers of Court with respect to proceedings before Referees.

59. With respect to all such proceedings before Referees and their Reports, the Court or such Judge as aforesaid shall have, in addition to any other powers, the same or the like powers as are given to any Court whose jurisdiction is hereby transferred to the said High Court with respect to references to arbitration and proceedings before arbitrators and their awards respectively, by the Common Law Procedure Act, 1854.

Her Majesty may establish District Registries in the country for the Supreme Court.

60. And whereas it is expedient to facilitate the prosecution in country districts of such proceedings as may be more speedily, cheaply, and conveniently carried on therein, it shall be lawful for Her Majesty, by Order in Council, from time to time to direct that there shall be District Registrars in such places as shall be in such order mentioned for districts to be thereby defined, from which writs of summons for the commencement of actions in the High Court of Justice may be issued, and in which such proceedings may be taken and recorded as are herein-after mentioned; and Her Majesty may thereby appoint that any Registrar of any County Court, or any Registrar or Prothonotary or District Prothonotary of any local Court whose jurisdiction is hereby transferred to the said High Court of Justice, or from which an appeal is hereby given to the said Court of Appeal, or any person who, having been a District Registrar of the Court of Probate, or of the Admiralty Court, shall under this Act become and be a District Registrar of the said High Court of Justice, or who shall hereafter be appointed such District Registrar, shall and may be a District Registrar of the said High Court for the purpose of issuing such writs as aforesaid, and having such proceedings taken before him as are herein-after mentioned. This section shall come into operation immediately upon the passing of this Act.

Seals of District Registries.

61. In every such District Registry such seal shall be used as the Lord Chancellor shall from time to time, either before or after the time fixed for the commencement of this Act, direct, which seal shall be impressed on every writ and other document issued out of or filed in such District Registry, and all such writs and documents, and all exemplifications and copies thereof, purporting to be sealed with the seal of any such District Registry, shall in all parts of the United Kingdom be received in evidence without further proof thereof.

Powers of District Registrars.

62. All such District Registrars shall have power to administer oaths and perform such other duties in respect of any proceedings pending in the said High Court of Justice or in the said Court of Appeal as may be assigned to them from time to time by Rules of Court, or by any special order of the Court.

Fees to be taken by District Registrars.

63. The Lord Chancellor, with the sanction of the Treasury, may, either before or after the commencement of this Act, fix, and may afterwards, with the like sanction, from time to time alter, a Table of Fees to be taken by such District Registrars in respect of all business

to be done under this Act; and such fees shall be received and collected by stamps, denoting in each case the amount of the fee payable. The provisions of the "Courts of Justice (Salaries and Funds) Act, 1869," as to fees to be taken by stamps, shall apply to the fees to be received and collected by stamps under this Act.

Proceedings to be taken in District Registries.

64. Subject to the Rules of Court in force for the time being, writs of summons for the commencement of actions in the High Court of Justice shall be issued by the District Registrars when thereunto required; and unless any order to the contrary shall be made by the High Court of Justice, or by any Judge thereof, all such further proceedings, including proceedings for the arrest or detention of a ship, her tackle, apparel, furniture, cargo, or freight, as may and ought to be taken by the respective parties to such action in the said High Court down to and including entry for trial, or (if the plaintiff is entitled to sign final judgment or to obtain an order for an account by reason of the non-appearance of the defendant) down to and including final judgment, or an order for an account, may be taken before the District Registrar, and recorded in the District Registry, in such manner as may be prescribed by Rules of Court; and all such other proceedings in any such action as may be prescribed by Rules of Court shall be taken and if necessary may be recorded in the same District Registry.

Power for Court to remove proceedings from District Registries.

65. Any party to an action in which a writ of summons shall have been issued from any such District Registry shall be at liberty at any time to apply, in such manner as shall be prescribed by Rules of Court, to the said High Court, or to a Judge in Chambers of the Division of the said High Court to which the action may be assigned, to remove the proceedings from such District Registry into the proper Office of the said High Court; and the Court or Judge may, if it be thought fit, grant such application, and in such case the proceedings and such original documents, if any, as may be filed therein shall upon receipt of such order be transmitted by the District Registrar to the proper Office of the said High Court, and the said action shall thenceforth proceed in the said High Court in the same manner as if it had been originally commenced by a writ of summons issued out of the proper Office in London; or the Court or Judge, if it be thought right, may thereupon direct that the proceedings may continue to be taken in such District Registry.

Accounts and inquiries may be referred to District Registrars.

66. It shall be lawful for the Court, or any Judge of the Division to which any cause or matter pending in the said High Court is assigned, if it shall be thought fit, to order that any books or documents may be produced, or any accounts taken or inquiries made, in the office of or by any such District Registrar as aforesaid; and in any such case the District Registrar shall proceed to carry all such directions into effect in the manner prescribed; and in any case in which any such accounts or inquiries shall have been directed to be taken or made by any District Registrar, the report in writing of such District Registrar as to the result of such accounts or inquiries may be acted upon by the Court, as to the Court shall seem fit.

30 & 31 Vict. c. 142. ss. 5, 7, 8, and 10 to extend to actions in High Court.

67. The provisions contained in the fifth, seventh, eighth, and tenth sections of the County Courts Acts, 1867, shall apply to all actions commenced or pending in the said High Court of Justice in which any relief is sought which can be given in a County Court.

Rules of Court may be made by Order in Council before commencement of the Act.

68. Subject to the provisions of this Act, Her Majesty may, at any time before the commencement of this Act, by and with the advice of the Lord Chancellor, the Lord Chief Justice of England, and the other Judges of the several Courts intended to be united and consolidated by this Act, or of the greater number of them, (of whom the Lord Chancellor and the Lord Chief Justice of England shall be two,) cause to be prepared Rules, in this Act referred to as Rules of Court, providing as follows:

(1.) For the regulation of the sittings of the High Court of Justice and the Court of Appeal, and of any Divisional or other Courts thereof respectively, and of the Judges of the said High Court sitting in Chambers;

(2.) For the regulation of Circuits, including the times and places at which they are to be holden and the business to be transacted thereat;

(3.) For the regulation of all matters consistent with or not expressly determined by the Rules contained in the Schedule hereto, which, under and for the purposes of such last-mentioned Rules, require to be, or conveniently may be defined or regulated by further Rules of Court;

(4.) And, generally, for the regulation of any matters relating to the practice and procedure of the said Courts respectively, or to the duties of the officers thereof, or to the costs of proceedings therein, or to the conduct of civil or criminal business coming within the cognizance of the said Courts respectively, for which provision is not expressly made by this Act or by the Rules contained in the Schedule hereto.

Rules to be laid before Parliament, and may be annulled on address from either House.

All Rules of Court made in pursuance of this section shall be laid before each House of Parliament within forty days next after the same are made, if Parliament is then sitting, or if not, within forty days after the then next meeting of Parliament; and if an address is presented to Her Majesty by either of the said Houses, within the next subsequent forty days on which the said House shall have sat, praying that any such Rules may be annulled, Her Majesty may thereupon by Order in Council annul the same; and the Rules so annulled shall thenceforth become void and of no effect, but without prejudice to the validity of any proceedings which may in the meantime have been taken under the same. This section shall come into operation immediately on the passing of this Act.

Rules in Schedule to regulate procedure till changed by other rules after commencement of Act.

69. The Rules contained in the Schedule to this Act (which shall be read and taken as part of this Act) shall come into operation immediately on the commencement of this Act, and, as to all matters to which they extend, shall thenceforth regulate the proceedings in the High Court of Justice and the Court of Appeal respectively, unless and until, by the authority herein-after in that behalf provided, any of them may be altered or varied; but such Rules, and also all Rules to be made before the commencement of this Act, as herein-before mentioned, shall for all the purposes of this Act be Rules of Court capable of being annulled or altered by the same authority by which any other Rules of Court may be made, altered, or annulled after the commencement of this Act.

Rules of Probate, Divorce, Admiralty, and Bankruptcy Courts to be Rules of the High Court.

70. All Rules and Orders of Court which shall be in force in the Court of Probate, the Court for Divorce and Matrimonial Causes, the Admiralty Court, and the London Court of Bankruptcy respectively at the time of the commencement of this Act, except so far as they are hereby expressly varied, shall remain and be in force in the High Court of Justice and in the Court of Appeal respectively in the same manner in all respects as if they had been contained in the Schedule to this Act until they shall respectively be altered or annulled by any Rules of Court made after the commencement of this Act.

Criminal procedure, subject to future Rules, to remain unaltered.

71. Subject to any Rules of Court to be made under and by virtue of this Act, the practice and procedure in all criminal causes and matters whatsoever in the High Court of Justice and in the Court of Appeal respectively, including the practice and procedure with respect to Crown Cases Reserved, shall be the same as the practice and procedure in similar causes and matters before the passing of this Act.

Act not to affect rules of evidence or juries.

72. Nothing in this Act or in the Schedule hereto, or in any Rules of Court to be made by virtue hereof, save as far as relates to the power of the Court for special reasons to allow depositions or affidavits to be read, shall affect the mode of giving evidence by the oral examination of witnesses in trials by jury, or the Rules of Evidence, or the law relating to jurymen or juries.

Saving of existing procedure of Courts when not inconsistent with this Act or Rules.

73. Save as by this Act, or by any Rules of Court (whether contained in the Schedule to this Act, or to be made under the authority thereof), is or shall be otherwise provided, all forms and methods of procedure which at the commencement of this Act were in force in any of the Courts whose jurisdiction is hereby transferred to the said High Court, and to the said Court of Appeal, respectively, under or by virtue of any law, custom, General Orders, or Rules whatsoever, and which are not inconsistent with this Act or with any Rules contained in the said Schedule or to be made by virtue of this Act, may continue to

be used and practised in the said High Court of Justice, and the said Court of Appeal, respectively, in such and the like cases, and for such and the like purposes, as those to which they would have been applicable in the respective Courts of which the jurisdiction is so transferred, if this Act had not passed.

Power to make and alter Rules after commencement of Act.

74. From and after the commencement of this Act, the Supreme Court may at any time, with the concurrence of a majority of the Judges thereof present at any meeting for that purpose held (of which majority the Lord Chancellor shall be one), alter or annul any Rules of Court for the time being in force, or make any new Rules of Court, for the purpose of regulating all such matters of practice and procedure in the Supreme Court, or relating to the suitors or officers of the said Court, or otherwise, as under the provisions of this Act are or may be regulated by Rules of Court: Provided, that any Rule made in the exercise of this power, whether for altering or annulling any then existing Rule, or for any other purpose, shall be laid before both Houses of Parliament, within the same time and in the same manner and with the same effect in all respects, as is herein-before provided with respect to the said Rules to be made before the commencement of this Act, and may be annulled and made void in the same manner as such last-mentioned Rules.

Councils of Judges to consider procedure and administration of justice.

75. A Council of the Judges of the Supreme Court, of which due notice shall be given to all the said Judges, shall assemble once at least in every year, on such day or days as shall be fixed by the Lord Chancellor, with the concurrence of the Lord Chief Justice of England, for the purpose of considering the operation of this Act and of the Rules of Court for the time being in force, and also the working of the several offices and the arrangements relative to the duties of the officers of the said Courts respectively, and of inquiring and examining into any defects which may appear to exist in the system of procedure or the administration of the law in the said High Court of Justice or the said Court of Appeal, or in any other Court from which any appeal lies to the said High Court or any Judge thereof, or to the said Court of Appeal: And they shall report annually to one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State what (if any) amendments or alterations it would in their judgment be expedient to make in this Act, or otherwise relating to the administration of justice, and what other provisions (if any) which cannot be carried into effect without the authority of Parliament it would be expedient to make for the better administration of justice. Any Extraordinary Council of the said Judges may also at any time be convened by the Lord Chancellor.

Acts of Parliament relating to former Courts to be read as applying to Courts under this Act.

76. All Acts of Parliament relating to the several Courts and Judges, whose jurisdiction is hereby transferred to the said High Court of Justice and the said Court of Appeal respectively, or wherein any of such Courts or Judges are mentioned or referred to, shall be construed and take effect, so far as relates to anything done or to be done after the commencement of this Act, as if the said High Court of Justice or the said Court of Appeal, and the Judges thereof, respectively, as the case may be, had been named therein instead of such Courts or Judges whose jurisdiction is so transferred respectively; and in all cases not hereby expressly provided for in which, under any such Act, the concurrence or the advice or consent of the Judge or any Judges, or of any number of the Judges of any one or more of the Courts whose jurisdiction is hereby transferred to the High Court of Justice is made necessary to the exercise of any power or authority capable of being exercised after the commencement of this Act, such power or authority may be exercised by and with the concurrence, advice, or consent of the same or a like number of Judges of the said High Court of Justice; and all general and other commissions, issued under the Acts relating to the Central Criminal Court or otherwise, by virtue whereof any Judges of any of the Courts whose jurisdiction is so transferred may, at the commencement of this Act, be empowered to try, hear, or determine any causes or matters, criminal or civil, shall remain and be in full force and effect, unless and until they shall respectively be in due course of law revoked or altered.

Part V.

Officers and Offices.

Transfer of existing staff of officers to Supreme Court.

77. The Queen's Remembrancer, and all Masters, Secretaries, Registrars, Clerks of Records and Writs, Associates, Prothonotaries, Chief and other Clerks, Commissioners to take oaths or affidavits, Messengers, and other officers and assistants at the time of the commencement of this Act attached to any Court or Judge whose jurisdiction is hereby transferred to the High Court, or to the Court of Appeal, and also all Registrars, Clerks, officers, and other persons at the time of the commencement of this Act engaged in the preparation of commissions or writs, or in the registration of judgments or any other ministerial duties in aid of, or connected with, any Court, the jurisdiction of which is hereby transferred to the said Courts respectively, shall, from and after the commencement of this Act, be attached to the Supreme Court, consisting of the said High Court of Justice and the said Court of Appeal: Provided, that all the duties with respect to Appeals from the Court of Chancery of the County Palatine of Lancaster which are now performed by the Clerk of the Council of the Duchy of Lancaster shall be performed by the Registrars, Taxing Masters, and other officers by whom like duties are discharged in the Supreme Court; and the said Clerk of the Council of the Duchy of Lancaster shall not be an officer attached to the said Court.

The officers so attached shall have the same rank and hold their offices by the same tenure and upon the same terms and conditions, and receive the same salaries, and, if entitled to pensions, be entitled to the same pensions, as if this Act had not passed, and any such officer who is removeable by the Court to which he is now attached shall be removeable by the Court to which he shall be attached under this Act, or by the majority of the Judges thereof.

The existing Registrars and Clerks to the Registrars in the Chancery Registrars' office shall retain any right of succession secured to them by Act of Parliament, so as to entitle them in that office, or in any substituted office, to the succession to appointments with similar or analogous duties and with equivalent salaries.

The business to be performed in the High Court of Justice and in the Court of Appeal respectively, or in any Divisional or other Court thereof, or in the chambers of any Judge thereof, other than that performed by the Judges, shall be distributed among the several officers attached to the Supreme Court by this section in such manner as may be directed by Rules of Court; and such officers shall perform such duties in relation to such business as may be directed by Rules of Court, with this qualification, that the duties required to be performed by any officer shall be the same, or duties analogous to those which he performed previously to the passing of this Act; and, subject to such Rules of Court, all such officers respectively shall continue to perform the same duties, as nearly as may be, in the same manner as if this Act had not passed.

All Secretaries, Clerks, and other officers attached to any existing Judge who under the provisions of this Act shall become a Judge of the High Court of Justice, or of the Court of Appeal, shall continue attached to such Judge and shall perform the same duties as those which they have hitherto performed, or duties analogous thereto; and all such last-mentioned officers shall have the same rank and hold their offices by the same tenure, and upon the same terms and conditions, and receive the same salaries, and, if entitled to pensions, be entitled to the same pensions, as if this Act had not passed: Provided that the Lord Chancellor may, with the consent of the Treasury, increase the salary of any existing officer whose duties are increased by reason of the passing of this Act.

Upon the occurrence of a vacancy in the office of any officer coming within the provisions of this section, the Lord Chancellor, with the concurrence of the Treasury, may, in the event of such office being considered unnecessary, abolish the same, or may reduce the salary, or alter the designation or duties thereof, notwithstanding that the patronage thereof may be vested in an existing Judge. Nothing in this Act contained shall interfere with the office of Marshal attending any Commissioner of Assize.

Officers of Courts of Pleas

78. The existing Queen's Counsel of the County Palatine of Lancaster shall for the future have the same precedence in the County, and the existing Prothonotaries and

at Lancaster and Durham.

District Prothonotaries, and other officers of the Court of Common Pleas at Lancaster and the Court of Pleas at Durham respectively, and their successors, shall (subject to Rules of Court) perform the same or the like duties and exercise the same or the like powers and authorities in respect of all causes and matters depending in those Courts respectively at the commencement of this Act, and also in respect of all causes and matters which may afterwards be commenced in the High Court of Justice in the manner heretofore practised in the said Court of Common Pleas at Lancaster and the said Court of Pleas at Durham respectively, as at the commencement of this Act may lawfully be performed and exercised by them respectively under any Acts of Parliament for the time being in force with respect to the said last-mentioned Courts respectively, or under any other authority; and all powers in respect of any such Prothonotaries, District Prothonotaries, or other officers of the Court of Common Pleas at Lancaster, which at the commencement of this Act may be vested by law in the Chancellor of the Duchy and County Palatine of Lancaster, under any such Act of Parliament or otherwise, and to which the concurrence of any other authority may not be required, shall and may be exercised after the commencement of this Act by the Lord Chancellor; and all the powers of making or publishing any general rules or orders with respect to the powers or duties of such Prothonotaries, District Prothonotaries, or other officers of the said Court of Common Pleas at Lancaster or the said Court of Pleas at Durham, or with respect to the business of the said Court respectively, or with respect to any fees to be taken therein, or otherwise with reference thereto, which under any such Act as aforesaid or otherwise by law may be vested in the Chancellor of the Duchy and County Palatine of Lancaster, with the concurrence of any Judges or Judge, or in any other authority, shall be exercised after the commencement of this Act in the manner hereby provided with respect to Rules of Court to be made under this Act, and (in all cases in which the sanction of the Treasury is now required) with the sanction of the Treasury; and all provisions made by any such Acts as aforesaid, or otherwise, for or with respect to the remuneration of any such Prothonotaries, District Prothonotaries, or other officers as aforesaid, shall remain and be in full force and effect until the same shall be altered under the provisions of this Act, or otherwise by lawful authority.

Personal officers of future Judges.

79. Each of the Judges of the High Court of Justice, and of the Ordinary Judges of the Court of Appeal, appointed respectively after the commencement of this Act, and also such of the Ordinary Judges of the Court of Appeal as have no similar officers at the time of the commencement of this Act, shall have such officers as herein-after mentioned, who shall be attached to his person as such Judge, and appointed and removeable by him at his pleasure, and who shall respectively receive the salaries herein-after mentioned; (that is to say,)

To the Lord Chief Justice of England, the Master of the Rolls, the Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, and the Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer, respectively, there shall be attached a Secretary, whose salary shall be five hundred pounds per annum, a Principal Clerk, whose salary shall be four hundred pounds per annum, and a Junior Clerk, whose salary shall be two hundred pounds per annum. To each of the other Judges of the High Court of Justice, and to each of the Ordinary Judges of the Court of Appeal, there shall be attached a Principal Clerk, whose salary shall be four hundred pounds per annum, and, in the case of the Judges of the High Court of Justice, a Junior Clerk, whose salary shall be two hundred pounds per annum.

Such one or more of the officers so attached to each of the said Judges, as such Judge shall think fit, shall be required, while in attendance on such Judge, to discharge, without further remuneration, the duties of Crier in Court or on Circuit, or of Usher or Train Bearer. The duties of Chamber Clerks, so far as relates to business transacted in chambers by Judges appointed after the commencement of this Act, shall be performed by officers of the Court in the permanent civil service of the Crown.

Provisions as to officers paid out of fees.

80. Any existing officer attached to any existing Court or Judge whose jurisdiction is abolished or transferred by this Act, who is paid out of fees, and whose emoluments are affected by the passing of this Act, shall be entitled to prefer a claim to the Treasury; and the Treasury, if it shall consider his claim to be established, shall have power to award to

him such sum, either by way of compensation, or as an addition to his salary, as it thinks just, having regard to the tenure of office by such officer and to the other circumstances of the case.

Doubts as to the status of officers to be determined by Rule.

81. Where a doubt exists as to the position under this Act of any existing officer attached to any existing Court or Judge affected by this Act, such doubt may be determined by Rules of Court: subject to this proviso, that such Rules of Court shall not alter the tenure of office, rank, pension (if any), or salary of such officer, or require him to perform any duties other than duties analogous to those which he has already performed.

Powers of Commissioners to administer oaths.

82. Every person who at the commencement of this Act shall be authorised to administer oaths in any of the Courts whose jurisdiction is hereby transferred to the High Court of Justice shall be a Commissioner to administer oaths in all causes and matters whatsoever which may from time to time be depending in the said High Court or in the Court of Appeal.

Official Referees to be appointed.

83. There shall be attached to the Supreme Court permanent officers to be called Official Referees, for the trial of such questions as shall under the provisions of this Act be directed to be tried by such Referees. The number and the qualifications of the persons to be so appointed from time to time, and the tenure of their offices, shall be determined by the Lord Chancellor, with the concurrence of the Presidents of the Divisions of the High Court of Justice, or a majority of them (of which majority the Lord Chief Justice of England shall be one), and with the sanction of the Treasury. Such Official Referees shall perform the duties entrusted to them in such places, whether in London or in the country, as may from time to time be directed or authorised by any order of the said High Court, or of the Court of Appeal; and all proper and reasonable travelling expenses incurred by them in the discharge of their duties shall be paid by the Treasury out of moneys to be provided by Parliament.

Duties, appointment, and removal of officers of Supreme Court.

84. Subject to the provisions in this Act contained with respect to existing officers of the Courts whose jurisdiction is hereby transferred to the Supreme Court, there shall be attached to the Supreme Court such officers as the Lord Chancellor with the concurrence of the Presidents of the Divisions of the High Court of Justice, or the major part of them, of which majority the Lord Chief Justice of England shall be one, and with the sanction of the Treasury, may from time to time determine.

Such of the said several officers respectively as may be thought necessary or proper for the performance of any special duties, with respect either to the Supreme Court generally, or with respect to the High Court of Justice or the Court of Appeal, or with respect to any one of the divisions of the said High Court, or with respect to any particular Judge or Judges of either of the said Courts, may by the same authority, and with the like sanction as aforesaid, be attached to the said respective Courts, Divisions, and Judges accordingly.

All officers assigned to perform duties with respect to the Supreme Court generally, or attached to the High Court of Justice or the Court of Appeal, and all Commissioners to take oaths or affidavits in the Supreme Court, shall be appointed by the Lord Chancellor.

All officers attached to the Chancery Division of the said High Court, who have been heretofore appointed by the Master of the Rolls, shall continue, while so attached, to be appointed by the Master of the Rolls.

All other officers attached to any Division of the said High Court shall be appointed by the President of that Division.

All officers attached to any Judge shall be appointed by the Judge to whom they are attached.

Any officer of the Supreme Court (other than such officers attached to the person of a Judge as are herein-before declared to be removeable by him at his pleasure,) may be removed by the person having the right of appointment to the office held by him, with the approval of the Lord Chancellor, for reasons to be assigned in the order of removal.

The authority of the Supreme Court over all or any of its officers may be exercised in and by the said High Court and the said Court of Appeal respectively, and also in the case of officers attached to any Division of the High Court by the President of such Division, with respect to any duties to be discharged by them respectively.

Salaries and pensions of officers.

85. There shall be paid to every official Referee and other salaried officer appointed in pursuance of this Act such salary out of moneys to be provided by Parliament as may be determined by the Treasury with the concurrence of the Lord Chancellor.

An officer attached to the person of a Judge shall not be entitled to any pension or compensation in respect of his retirement from or the abolition of his office, except so far as he may be entitled thereto independently of this Act; but every other officer to be hereafter appointed in pursuance of this part of this Act, and whose whole time shall be devoted to the duties of his office, shall be deemed to be employed in the permanent Civil Service of Her Majesty, and shall be entitled, as such, to a pension or compensation in the same manner, and upon the same terms and conditions, as the other permanent civil servants of Her Majesty are entitled to pension or compensation.

Patronage not otherwise provided for.

86. Subject to the provisions herein-before contained, any rights of patronage and other rights or powers incident to any Court, or to the office of any Judge of any Court whose jurisdiction is transferred to the said High Court of Justice, or to the said Court of Appeal, in respect of which rights of patronage or other rights or powers no provision is or shall be otherwise made by or under the authority of this Act, shall be exercised as follows, that is to say: if incident to the office of any existing Judge shall continue to be exercised by such existing Judge during his continuance in office as a Judge of the said High Court or of the Court of Appeal, and after the death, resignation, or removal from office of such existing Judge shall be exercised in such manner as Her Majesty may by Sign Manual direct.

Solicitors and attorneys.

87. From and after the commencement of this Act all persons admitted as solicitors, attorneys, or proctors of or by law empowered to practise in any Court, the jurisdiction of which is hereby transferred to the High Court of Justice or the Court of Appeal, shall be called Solicitors of the Supreme Court, and shall be entitled to the same privileges and be subject to the same obligations, so far as circumstances will permit, as if this Act had not passed; and all persons who from time to time, if this Act had not passed, would have been entitled to be admitted as solicitors, attorneys, or proctors of or been by law empowered to practise in any such Courts, shall be entitled to be admitted and to be called Solicitors of the Supreme Court, and shall be admitted by the Master of the Rolls, and shall, as far as circumstances will permit, be entitled as such solicitors to the same privileges and be subject to the same obligations as if this Act had not passed.

Any solicitors, attorneys, or proctors to whom this section applies shall be deemed to be Officers of the Supreme Court; and that Court, and the High Court of Justice, and the Court of Appeal respectively, or any Division or Judge thereof, may exercise the same jurisdiction in respect of such solicitors or attorneys as any one of Her Majesty's superior courts of law or equity might previously to the passing of this Act have exercised in respect of any solicitor or attorney admitted to practise therein.

PART VI.

Jurisdiction of Inferior Courts.

Power by Order in Council to confer jurisdiction on inferior Courts.

88. It shall be lawful for Her Majesty from time to time by Order in Council to confer on any inferior Court of civil jurisdiction, the same jurisdiction in Equity and in Admiralty, respectively, as any County Court now has, or may hereafter have, and such jurisdiction, if and when conferred, shall be exercised in the manner by this Act directed.

Powers of inferior Courts

89. Every inferior Court which now has or which may after the passing of this Act have jurisdiction in equity, or at law and in equity, and in Admiralty respectively, shall,

as regards all causes of action within its jurisdiction for the time being, have power to grant, and shall grant in any proceeding before such Court, such relief, redress, or remedy, or combination of remedies, either absolute or conditional, and shall in every such proceeding give such and the like effect to every ground of defence or counter-claim equitable or legal (subject to the provision next herein-after contained), in as full and ample a manner as might and ought to be done in the like case by the High Court of Justice. having Equity and Admiralty jurisdiction.

90. Where in any proceeding before any such inferior Court any defence or counter-claim of the defendant involves matter beyond the jurisdiction of the Court, such defence or counter-claim shall not affect the competence or the duty of the Court to dispose of the whole matter in controversy so far as relates to the demand of the plaintiff and the defence thereto, but no relief exceeding that which the Court has jurisdiction to administer shall be given to the defendant upon any such counter-claim: Provided always, that in such case it shall be lawful for the High Court, or any Division or Judge thereof, if it shall be thought fit, on the application of any party to the proceeding, to order that the whole proceeding be transferred from such inferior Court to the High Court, or to any Division thereof; and in such case the Record in such proceeding shall be transmitted by the Registrar, or other proper officer, of the inferior Court to the said High Court; and the same shall thenceforth be continued and prosecuted in the said High Court as if it had been originally commenced therein. Counter-claims in inferior Courts, and transfers therefrom.

91. The several rules of law enacted and declared by this Act shall be in force and receive effect in all Courts whatsoever in England, so far as the matters to which such Rules relate shall be respectively cognizable by such Courts. Rules of law to apply to inferior Courts.

Part VII.

Miscellaneous Provisions.

92. All books, documents, papers, and chattels in the possession of any Court, the jurisdiction of which is hereby transferred to the High Court of Justice or to the Court of Appeal, or of any officer or person attached to any such Court, as such officer, or by reason of his being so attached, shall be transferred to the Supreme Court, and shall be dealt with by such officer or person in such manner as the High Court of Justice or the Court of Appeal may by order direct; and any person failing to comply with any order made for the purpose of giving effect to this section shall be guilty of a contempt of the Supreme Court. Transfer of books and papers to Supreme Court.

93. This Act, except as herein is expressly directed, shall not, unless or until other commissions are issued in pursuance thereof, affect the circuits of the Judges or the issue of any Commissions of Assize, Nisi Prius, Oyer and Terminer, Gaol Delivery, or other commissions for the discharge of civil or criminal business on circuit or otherwise, or any patronage vested in any Judges going circuit, or the position, salaries, or duties of any officers transferred to the Supreme Court who are now officers of the Superior Courts of Common Law, and who perform duties in relation to either the civil or criminal business transacted on circuit. Saving as to circuits, &c.

94. This Act, except so far as herein is expressly directed, shall not affect the office or position of Lord Chancellor; and the officers of the Lord Chancellor shall continue attached to him in the same manner as if this Act had not passed; and all duties, which any officer of the Court of Chancery may now be required to perform in aid of any duty whatsoever of the Lord Chancellor, may in like manner be required to be performed by such officer when transferred to the Supreme Court, and by his successors. Saving as to Lord Chancellor.

95. This Act, except so far as is herein expressly directed, shall not affect the offices, position, or functions of the Chancellor of the County Palatine of Lancaster. Saving as to Chancellor of Lancaster.

96. The Chancellor of the Exchequer shall not be a Judge of the High Court of Justice, or of the Court of Appeal, and shall cease to exercise any judicial functions hitherto Saving as to Chancellor of the Exchequer

exercised by him as a Judge of the Court of Exchequer; but save as aforesaid he shall remain in the same position as to duties and salary, and other incidents of his office, as if this Act had not passed. The same order and course with respect to the appointment of sheriffs shall be used and observed in the Exchequer Division of the said High Court as has been heretofore used and observed in the Court of Exchequer.

and sheriffs.

Saving as to Lord Treasurer and office of the Receipt of Exchequer.

97. Nothing in this Act contained shall affect the office of Lord Treasurer, except that any Lord Treasurer shall not hereafter exercise any judicial functions hitherto exercised by him as a Judge of the Court of Exchequer; and nothing in this Act shall affect the office of the Receipt of the Exchequer.

Provisions as to Great Seal being in commission.

98. When the Great Seal is in commission, the Lords Commissioners shall represent the Lord Chancellor for the purposes of this Act, save that as to the Presidency of the Court of Appeal, and the appointment or approval of officers, or the sanction to any order for the removal of officers, or any other act to which the concurrence or presence of the Lord Chancellor is hereby made necessary, the powers given to the Lord Chancellor by this Act may be exercised by the Senior Lord Commissioner for the time being.

Provision as to Commissions in Counties Palatine.

99. From and after the commencement of this Act, the Counties Palatine of Lancaster and Durham shall respectively cease to be Counties Palatine, so far as respects the issue of Commissions of Assize, or other like Commissions, but not further or otherwise; and all such Commissions may be issued for the trial of all causes and matters within such counties respectively in the same manner in all respects as in any other counties of England and Wales.

Interpretation of terms.

100. In the construction of this Act, unless there is anything in the subject or context repugnant thereto, the several words herein-after mentioned shall have, or include, the meanings following; (that is to say,)

"Lord Chancellor" shall include Lord Keeper of the Great Seal.

"The High Court of Chancery" shall include the Lord Chancellor.

"The Court of Appeal in Chancery" shall include the Lord Chancellor as a Judge on Rehearing or Appeal.

"London Court of Bankruptcy" shall include the Chief Judge in Bankruptcy.

"The Treasury" shall mean the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury for the time being, or any two of them.

"Rules of Court" shall include forms.

"Cause" shall include any action, suit, or other original proceeding between a plaintiff and a defendant, and any criminal proceeding by the Crown.

"Suit" shall include action.

"Action" shall mean a civil proceeding commenced by writ, or in such other manner as may be prescribed by Rules of Court; and shall not include a criminal proceeding by the Crown.

"Plaintiff" shall include every person asking any relief (otherwise than by way of counter-claim as a defendant) against any other person by any form of proceeding, whether the same be taken by action, suit, petition, motion, summons, or otherwise.

"Petitioner" shall include every person making any application to the Court, either by petition, motion, or summons, otherwise than as against any defendant.

"Defendant" shall include every person served with any writ of summons or process, or served with notice of or entitled to attend any proceedings.

"Party" shall include every person served with notice of, or attending any proceeding, although not named on the Record.

"Matter" shall include every proceeding in the Court not in a cause.

"Pleading" shall include any petition or summons, and also shall include the statements in writing of the claim or demand of any plaintiff, and of the defence of any defendant thereto, and of the reply of the plaintiff to any counter-claim of a defendant.

"Judgment" shall include decree.

"Order" shall include rule.
"Oath" shall include solemn affirmation and statutory declaration.
"Crown cases reserved" shall mean such questions of law reserved in Criminal Trials as are mentioned in the Act of the eleventh and twelfth years of Her Majesty's reign, chapter seventy-eight.
"Pension" shall include retirement and superannuation allowance.
"Existing" shall mean existing at the time appointed for the commencement of this Act.

SCHEDULE.

Rules of Procedure.

Form of Action.

Form of action in High Court.

1. All actions which have hitherto been commenced by writ in the Superior Courts of Common Law at Westminster, or in the Court of Common Pleas at Lancaster, or in the Court of Pleas at Durham, and all suits which have hitherto been commenced by bill or information in the High Court of Chancery, or by a cause in rem or in personam in the High Court of Admiralty, or by citation or otherwise in the Court of Probate, shall be instituted in the High Court of Justice by a proceeding to be called an action.

All other proceedings in and applications to the High Court may, subject to Rules of Court, be taken and made in the same manner as they would have been taken and made in any Court in which any proceeding or application of the like kind could have been taken or made if this Act had not passed.

Writ of Summons.

Actions to be commenced by writ.

2. Every action in the High Court shall be commenced by a writ of summons, which shall be endorsed with a statement of the nature of the claim made, or of the relief or remedy required in the action, and which shall specify the Division of the High Court to which it is intended that the action should be assigned.

Form of writ.

3. Forms of writs and of endorsements thereon applicable to the several ordinary causes of action, shall be prescribed by Rules of Court, and any costs incurred by the use of any more prolix or other forms shall be borne by the party using the same, unless the Court shall otherwise direct.

Acceptance of service.

4. No service of writ shall be required when the defendant, by his solicitor, agrees to accept service, and enters an appearance.

Service of writ.

5. When service is required the writ shall, wherever it is practicable, be served in the manner in which personal service is now made, but if it be made to appear to the Court or to a Judge that the plaintiff is from any cause unable to effect prompt personal service, the Court or Judge may make such order for substituted or other service, or for the substitution of notice for service, as may seem just.

Service out of the jurisdiction.

6. Whenever it appears fit to the Court or to a Judge in a case in which the cause of action has arisen within the jurisdiction, or is properly cognizable against a defendant within the jurisdiction, that any person out of the jurisdiction of the Court should be served with the writ or other process of the Court, the Court or Judge may order such service, or such notice in lieu of service, to be made or given in such manner and on such terms as may seem just.

Special endorsement of particulars of debts or liquidated demands.

See C. L. P. Act, 1852, ss. 25, 27.

7. In all actions where the plaintiff seeks merely to recover a debt or liquidated demand in money, payable by the defendant, with or without interest, arising upon a contract, express or implied, as, for instance, on a bill of exchange, promissory note, cheque, or other simple contract debt, or on a bond or contract under seal for payment of a liquidated amount of money, or on a statute where the sum sought to be recovered is a fixed sum of money or in the nature of a debt, or on a guaranty, whether under seal or not, where the claim against the principal is in respect of such debt or liquidated demand, bill, cheque, or note, or on a trust, the writ of summons may be specially endorsed with the particulars of the amount sought to be recovered, after giving credit for any payment or set-off.

In case of non-appearance by the defendant where the writ of summons is so specially endorsed, the plaintiff may sign final judgment for any sum not exceeding the sum endorsed on the writ, together with interest at the rate specified, if any, to the date of the judgment, and a sum for costs,

but it shall be lawful for the Court or a Judge to set aside or vary such judgment upon such terms as may seem just.

Where the defendant appears on a writ of summons so specially endorsed, the plaintiff may, on affidavit verifying the cause of action, and swearing that in his belief there is no defence to the action, call on the defendant to show cause before the Court or a Judge why the plaintiff should not be at liberty to sign final judgment for the amount so endorsed, together with interest, if any, and costs; and the Court or Judge may, unless the defendant, by affidavit or otherwise, satisfy the Court or Judge that he has a good defence to the action on the merits, or disclose such facts as the Court or Judge may think sufficient to entitle him to be permitted to defend the action, make an order empowering the plaintiff to sign judgment accordingly. Permission to defend the action may be granted to the defendant on such terms and conditions, if any, as the Judge or Court may think just.

Special endorsement of particulars in cases of account.

8. In all cases of ordinary account, as, for instance, in the case of a partnership or executorship or ordinary trust account, where the plaintiff, in the first instance, desires to have an account taken, the writ of summons shall be endorsed with a claim that such account be taken.

In default of appearance on such summons, and after appearance unless the defendant, by affidavit or otherwise, satisfy the Court or a Judge that there is some preliminary question to be tried, an order for the account claimed, with all directions now usual in the Court of Chancery in similar cases, shall be forthwith made.

Parties.

Mis-joinder or non-joinder of parties.

9. No action shall be defeated by reason of the mis-joinder of parties, and the Court may in every action deal with the matter in controversy so far as regards the rights and interests of the parties actually before it. The Court or a Judge may, at any stage of the proceedings, either upon or without the application of either party, in the manner prescribed by Rules of Court, and on such terms as may appear to the Court or a Judge to be just, order that the name or names of any party or parties, whether as plaintiffs or as defendants, improperly joined be struck out, and that the name or names of any party or parties, whether plaintiffs or defendants, who ought to have been joined, or whose presence before the Court may be necessary in order to enable the Court effectually and completely to adjudicate upon and settle all the questions involved in the action, be added. No person shall be added as a plaintiff sueing without a next friend, or as the next friend of a plaintiff under any disability, without his own consent thereto. All parties whose names are so added as defendants shall be served with a summons or notice in such manner as may be prescribed by Rules of Court or by any special order, and the proceedings as against them shall be deemed to have begun only on the service of such summons or notice.

Representation of parties having same interest.

10. Where there are numerous parties having the same interest in one action, one or more of such parties may sue or be sued, or may be authorised by the Court to defend in such action, on behalf or for the benefit of all parties so interested.

11. Any two or more persons claiming or being liable as co-partners may sue or be sued in the name of their respective firms, if any; and any party to an action may in such case apply by summons to a Judge in Chambers for a statement of the names of the persons who are co-partners in any such firm, to be furnished in such manner, and verified on oath or otherwise, as the Judge may direct.

Power to determine questions as against third parties.

12. Where a defendant is or claims to be entitled to contribution or indemnity, or any other remedy or relief over against any other person, or where from any other cause it appears to the Court or a Judge that a question in the action should be determined not only as between the plaintiff and defendant, but as between the plaintiff, defendant, and any other person, or between any or either of them, the Court or a Judge may on notice being given to such last-mentioned person, in such manner and form as may be prescribed by Rules of Court, make such order as may be proper for having the question so determined.

Provision for case of doubt as to proper parties.

13. Where in any action, whether founded upon contract or otherwise, the plaintiff is in doubt as to the person from whom he is entitled to redress, he may, in such manner as may be prescribed by Rules of Court, or by any special order, join two or more defendants, to the intent that in such action the question as to which, if any, of the defendants is liable, and to what extent, may be determined as between all parties to the action.

Trustees, executors, &c.

14. Trustees, executors, and administrators may sue and be sued on behalf of or as representing the property or estate of which they are trustees or representatives, without joining any of the parties beneficially interested in the trust or estate, and shall be considered as representing such parties in the action; but the Court or a Judge may, at any stage of the proceedings, order any of such parties to be made parties to the action, either in addition to or in lieu of the previously existing parties thereto.

15. Married women and infants may respectively sue as plaintiffs by their next friends, in the manner practised in the Court of Chancery before the passing of this Act; and infants may, in like manner, defend any action by their guardians appointed for that purpose. Married women may also, by the leave of the Court or a Judge, sue or defend without their husbands and without a next friend, on giving such security (if any) for costs as the Court or a Judge may require. Actions by married women and infants.

16. The plaintiff may, at his option, join as parties to the same action all or any of the persons severally, or jointly and severally, liable on any one contract, including parties to bills of exchange and promissory notes. Parties where there are several liabilities on the same contract.

17. An action shall not become abated by reason of the marriage, death, or bankruptcy of any of the parties, if the cause of action survive or continue, and shall not become defective by the assignment, creation, or devolution of any estate or title pendente lite. Abatement.

In case of the marriage, death, or bankruptcy, or devolution of estate by operation of law, of any party to an action, the Court or a Judge may, if it be deemed necessary for the complete settlement of all the questions involved in the action, order that the husband, personal representative, trustee, or other successor in interest, if any, of such party be made a party to the action, or be served with notice thereof in such manner and form as may be prescribed by Rules of Court, and on such terms as the Court or Judge shall think just, and shall make such order for the disposal of the action as may be just.

In case of an assignment, creation, or devolution of any estate or title pendente lite, the action may be continued by or against the person to or upon whom such estate or title has come or devolved.

Pleadings.

18. The following rules of pleading shall be substituted for those heretofore used in the High Court of Chancery and in the Courts of Common Law, Admiralty, and Probate. Form of pleadings.

Unless the defendant at the time of his appearance shall state that he does not require the delivery of a statement of complaint, the plaintiff shall within such time and in such manner as shall be prescribed by Rules of Court, file and deliver to the defendant after his appearance a printed statement of his complaint, and of the relief or remedy to which he claims to be entitled. The defendant shall within such time and in such manner as aforesaid file and deliver to the plaintiff a printed statement of his defence, set-off, or counter-claim (if any), and the plaintiff shall in like manner file and deliver a printed statement of his reply (if any) to such defence, set-off, or counter-claim. Such statements shall be as brief as the nature of the case will admit, and the Court in adjusting the costs of the action shall inquire at the instance of any party into any unnecessary prolixity and order the costs occasioned by such prolixity to be borne by the party chargeable with the same.

A demurrer to any statement may be filed in such manner and form as may be prescribed by Rules of Court.

The Court or a Judge may, at any stage of the proceedings, allow either party to alter his statement of claim or defence or reply, or may order to be struck out or amended any matter in such statements respectively which may be scandalous, or which may tend to prejudice, embarrass, or delay the fair trial of the action, and all such amendments shall be made as may be necessary for the purpose of determining the real questions or question in controversy between the parties.

19. Where in any action it appears to a Judge that the statement of claim or defence or reply does not sufficiently disclose the issues of fact in dispute between the parties, he may direct the parties to prepare issues, and such issues shall, if the parties differ, be settled by the Judge. Power to settle issues.

20. A defendant may set off, or set up, by way of counter-claim against the claims of the plaintiff, any right or claim, whether such set-off or counter-claim sound in damages or not, and such set-off or counter-claim shall have the same effect as a statement of claim in a cross action, so as to enable the Court to pronounce a final judgment in the same action, both on the original and on the cross claim. But the Court or a Judge may, on the application of the plaintiff before trial, if in the opinion of the Court or Judge such set-off or counter-claim cannot be conveniently disposed of in the pending action, or ought not to be allowed, refuse permission to the defendant to avail himself thereof. Counter-claims by defendant.

21. Where in any action a set-off or counter-claim is established as a defence against the plaintiff's claim, the Court may, if the balance is in favour of the defendant, give judgment for the defendant for such balance, or may otherwise adjudge to the defendant such relief as he may be entitled to upon the merits of the case. Power to give judgment for defendant for balance under counter-claim.

22. Subject to any Rules of Court, the plaintiff may unite in the same action and in the same statement of claim several causes of action, but if it appear to the Court or a Judge that any such causes of action cannot be conveniently tried or disposed of together, the Court or Judge may order separate trials of any of such causes of action to be had, or may make such other order as may be necessary or expedient for the separate disposal thereof. Joinder of several causes of action.

23. It shall not be necessary that every defendant to any action shall be interested as to all the relief thereby prayed for, or as to every cause of action included therein; but the Court or a Judge may make such order as may appear just to prevent any defendant from being embarrassed or put to expense by being required to attend any proceedings in such action in which he may have no interest.

Power for Court to raise preliminary questions of law in an action.

24. If it appear to the Court or a Judge, either from the statement of claim or defence or reply or otherwise, that there is in any action a question of law, which it would be convenient to have decided before any evidence is given or any question or issue of fact is tried, or before any reference is made to a referee or an arbitrator, the Court or Judge 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 or Judge may deem expedient, or as may be prescribed by Rules of Court, and all such further proceedings as the decision of such question of law may render unnecessary may thereupon be stayed.

Discovery.

Right of discovery on interrogatories.

25. Subject to any Rules of Court, a plaintiff in any action shall be entitled to exhibit interrogatories to, and obtain Discovery from, any defendant, and any defendant shall be entitled to exhibit interrogatories to, and obtain Discovery from, a plaintiff or any other party. Any party shall be entitled to object to any interrogatory on the ground of irrelevancy, and the Court or a Judge, if not satisfied that such interrogatory is relevant to some issue in the cause, may allow such objection. No exceptions shall be taken to any answer, but the sufficiency or otherwise of any answer objected to as insufficient shall be determined by the Court or a Judge in a summary way.

The Court in adjusting the costs of the action shall at the instance of any party inquire or cause inquiry to be made into the propriety of exhibiting such interrogatories, and if it is the opinion of the taxing master or of the Court or Judge that such interrogatories have been exhibited unreasonably, vexatiously, or at improper length, the costs occasioned by the said interrogatories and the answers thereto shall be borne by the party in fault.

Production of documents pleaded or proved.

26. Every party to an action or other proceeding shall be entitled, at any time before or at the hearing thereof, by notice in writing, to give notice to any other party, in whose pleadings or affidavits reference is made to any document, to produce such document for the inspection of the party giving such notice, or of his solicitor, and to permit him or them to take copies thereof; and any party not complying with such notice shall not afterwards be at liberty to put any such document in evidence on his behalf in such action or proceeding, unless he shall satisfy the Court that such document relates only to his own title, he being a defendant to the action, or that he had some other sufficient cause for not complying with such notice.

Discovery as to documents.

27. It shall be lawful for the Court or a Judge at any time during the pendency therein of any action or proceeding, to order the production by any party thereto, upon oath, of such of the documents in his possession or power, relating to any matter in question in such suit or proceeding, as the Court or Judge shall think right; and the Court may deal with such documents, when produced, in such manner as shall appear just.

Place of Trial.

Place of trial.

28. There shall be no local venue for the trial of any action, but when the plaintiff proposes to have the action tried elsewhere than in Middlesex, he shall in his statement of claim name the county or place in which he proposes that the action shall be tried, and the action shall, unless a Judge otherwise orders, be tried in the county or place so named. Where no place of trial is named in the statement of claim, the place of trial shall, unless a Judge otherwise orders, be the county of Middlesex. Any order of a Judge, as to such place of trial, may be discharged or varied by a Divisional Court of the High Court.

Lists for trials in London and Middlesex.

29. The list or lists of actions for trial at the sittings in London and Middlesex respectively shall be prepared and the actions shall be allotted for trial in such manner as may be prescribed by Rules of Court, without reference to the division of the High Court to which such actions may be attached.

Mode of Trial.

Mode of trying actions.

30. Actions shall be tried and heard either before a Judge or Judges, or before a Judge sitting with assessors, or before a Judge and Jury, or before an official or special Referee, with or without assessors.

Notice of mode of trial to be given.

31. The plaintiff may give notice of trial by any of the modes aforesaid, but the Defendant may, upon giving notice, within such time as may be fixed by Rules of Court, that he desires to have any

issues of fact tried before a Judge and Jury, be entitled to have the same so tried, or he may apply to the Court or a Judge for an order to have the action tried in any other of the said ways, and in such case the mode in which the action is to be tried or heard shall be determined by such Court or Judge.

Different questions arising in same action may be tried in different ways.

32. In any action the Court or a Judge may, at any time or from time to time, order that different questions of fact arising therein be tried by different modes of trial, or that one or more questions of fact be tried before the others, and may appoint the place or places for such trial or trials.

Trials by jury.

33. Every trial of any question or issue of fact by a jury shall be held before a single Judge, unless such trial be specially ordered to be held before two or more Judges.

Proceedings before an official Referee.

34. Where an action or matter, or any question in an action or matter, is referred to a Referee, he may, subject to the order of the Court or a Judge, hold the trial at or adjourn it to any place which he may deem most convenient, and have any inspection or view, either by himself or with his assessors (if any), which he may deem expedient for the better disposal of the controversy before him. He shall, unless otherwise directed by the Court or a Judge, proceed with the trial in open Court, de die in diem, in a similar manner as in actions tried by a jury.

Effect of decision of Referee.

35. The Referee may, before the conclusion of any trial before him, or by his report under the reference made to him, submit any question arising therein for the decision of the Court, or state any facts specially, with power to the Court to draw inferences therefrom, and in any such case the order to be made on such submission or statement shall be entered as the Court may direct; and the Court shall have power to require any explanation or reasons from the Referee, and to remit the action or any part thereof for re-trial or further consideration to the same or any other Referee.

Evidence.

Mode of giving evidence at trials.

36. In the absence of any agreement between the parties, and subject to any Rules of Court applicable to any particular class of cases, the witnesses at the trial of any cause or at any assessment of damages, shall be examined vivâ voce and in open court, but the Court or a Judge may at any time for sufficient reason order that any particular fact or facts may be proved by affidavit, or that the affidavit of any witness may be read at the hearing or trial, on such conditions as the Court or Judge may think reasonable, or that any witness whose attendance in court ought for some sufficient cause to be dispensed with, be examined by interrogatories or otherwise before a Commissioner or examiner; provided that where it appears to the Court or Judge that the other party bonâ fide desires the production of a witness for cross-examination, and that such witness can be produced, an order shall not be made authorising the evidence of such witness to be given by affidavit.

Evidence at interlocutory applications.

37. Upon any interlocutory application evidence may be given by affidavit; but the Court or a Judge may, on the application of either party, order the attendance for cross-examination of the person making any such affidavit.

Matter of affidavits.

38. Affidavits shall be confined to such facts as the witness is able of his own knowledge to prove, except on interlocutory motions, on which statements as to his belief, with the grounds thereof, may be admitted. The costs of every affidavit which shall unnecessarily set forth matters of hearsay, or argumentative matter, or copies of or extracts from documents, shall be paid by the party filing the same.

Admissions.

39. Any party to an action may give notice, by his own statement or otherwise, that he admits the truth of the whole or any part of the case stated or referred to in the statement of claim, defence, or reply of any other party.

Either party may call upon the other party to admit any document, saving all just exceptions; and in case of refusal or neglect to admit, after such notice, the costs of proving any such document shall be paid by the party so neglecting or refusing, whatever the result of the action may be, unless at the hearing or trial the Court certify that the refusal to admit was reasonable; and no costs of proving any document shall be allowed unless such notice be given, except where the omission to give the notice is, in the opinion of the taxing officer, a saving of expense.

Interlocutory Orders and Directions.

Power for party to apply for order before termination of action.

40. Any party to an action may at any stage thereof apply to the Court or a Judge for such order as he may, upon any admissions of fact in the pleadings, be entitled to, without waiting for the determination of any other question between the parties.

Power to transfer questions arising in actions.

41. The Lord Chancellor, with the concurrence of the Lord Chief Justice of England, may order any question of law or of fact which may arise in any action or matter to be transferred from

any Judge to any other Judge, or to be tried or heard by any other Judge of the said High Court, and may confer on such Judge power to deal with the whole or any part of the matters in controversy.

Accounts and inquiries.

42. The Court or a Judge may at any stage of the proceedings in an action or matter, direct any necessary inquiries or accounts to be made or taken, notwithstanding that it may appear that there is some special or further relief sought for or some special matter to be tried, as to which it may be proper that the cause should proceed in the ordinary manner.

Interim orders as to subject-matter of litigation.

43. When by any contract a primâ facie case of liability is established, and there is alleged as matter of defence a right to be relieved wholly or partially from such liability, the Court or a Judge may make an order for the preservation or interim custody of the subject-matter of the litigation, or may order that the amount in dispute be brought into Court or otherwise secured.

Power to make orders for sale of goods.

44. It shall be lawful for the Court or a Judge, on the application of any party to any action, to make any order for the sale by any person or persons named in such order, and in such manner, and on such terms as to the Court or Judge may seem desirable, of any goods, wares, or merchandise which may be of a perishable nature or likely to injure from keeping, or which for any other just and sufficient reason it may be desirable to have sold at once.

Power for Court to make interim orders as to preservation or examination of property, examination of witnesses, &c.

45. It shall be lawful for the Court or a Judge, upon the application of any party to an action, and upon such terms as may seem just, to make any order for the detention, preservation, or inspection of any property, being the subject of such action, and for all or any of the purposes aforesaid to authorise any person or persons to enter upon or into any land or building in the possession of any party to such action, and for all or any of the purposes aforesaid to authorise any samples to be taken, or any observation to be made or experiment to be tried, which may seem necessary or expedient for the purpose of obtaining full information or evidence. The Court or a Judge may also, in all cases where it shall appear necessary for the purposes of justice, make any order for the examination upon oath before any officer of the Court, or any other person or persons, and at any place, of any witness or person, and may order any deposition so taken to be filed in the court, and may empower any party to any action or other proceeding to give such deposition in evidence therein on such terms, if any, as the Court or a Judge may direct.

Discontinuance of action.

46. The plaintiff may, at any time before receipt of the Defendant's statement of defence, or after the receipt thereof before taking any other proceeding in the action (save any interlocutory application), by notice in writing, wholly discontinue his action or withdraw any part or parts of his alleged cause of complaint, and thereupon he shall pay the defendant's costs of the action, or, if the action be not wholly discontinued, the defendant's costs occasioned by the matter so withdrawn. Such costs shall be taxed in the manner prescribed by Rules of Court, and such discontinuance or withdrawal, as the case may be, shall not be a defence to any subsequent action. Save as in this Rule otherwise provided, it shall not be competent for the plaintiff to withdraw the Record or discontinue the action without leave of the Court or a Judge, but the Court or a Judge may, before, or at, or after the hearing or trial upon such terms as to costs, and as to any other action, and otherwise as may seem fit, order the action to be discontinued, or any part of the alleged cause of complaint to be struck out. The Court or a Judge may, in like manner, and with the like discretion as to terms, upon the application of a defendant, order the whole or any part of his alleged grounds of defence or counter-claim to be withdrawn or struck out, but it shall not be competent to a defendant to withdraw his defence, or any part thereof, without such leave. Any judgment of nonsuit, unless the Court or a Judge otherwise directs, shall have the same effect as a judgment upon the merits for the defendant; but in any case of mistake, surprise, or accident, any judgment of nonsuit may be set aside on such terms, as to payment of costs and otherwise, as to the Court or a Judge shall seem just.

Costs.

Costs.

47. Subject to the provisions of this Act, the costs of and incident to all proceedings in the High Court shall be in the discretion of the Court; but nothing herein contained shall deprive a trustee, mortgagee, or other person of any right to costs out of a particular estate or fund to which he would be entitled according to the rules hitherto acted upon in Courts of Equity.

New Trials and Appeals.

Restrictions on new trials.

48. A new trial shall not be granted on the ground of misdirection or of the improper admission or rejection of evidence, unless in the opinion of the Court to which the application is made some substantial wrong or miscarriage has been thereby occasioned in the trial of the action; and if it appear to such Court that such wrong or miscarriage affects part only of the matter in controversy, the Court may give final judgment as to part thereof, and direct a new trial as to the other part only.

49. Bills of exceptions and proceedings in error shall be abolished. Abolition of bills of exceptions and proceedings in error.

50. All appeals to the Court of Appeal shall be by way of re-hearing, and shall be brought by notice of motion in a summary way, and no petition, case, or other formal proceeding other than such notice of motion shall be necessary. The appellant may by the notice of motion appeal from the whole or any part of any judgment or order, and the notice of motion shall state whether the whole or part only of such judgment or order is complained of, and in the latter case shall specify such part. Mode of appealing.

51. The notice of appeal shall be served upon all parties directly affected by the appeal, and it shall not be necessary to serve parties not so affected; but the Court of Appeal may direct notice of the appeal to be served on all or any parties to the action or other proceeding, or upon any person not a party, and in the meantime may postpone or adjourn the hearing of the appeal upon such terms as may seem just, and may give such judgment and make such order as might have been given or made if the persons served with such notice had been originally parties. Any notice of appeal may be amended at any time as to the Court of Appeal may seem fit. Notice of appeal.

52. The Court of Appeal shall have all the powers and duties as to amendment and otherwise of the Court of First Instance, together with full discretionary power to receive further evidence upon questions of fact, such evidence to be either by oral examination in court, by affidavit, or by deposition taken before an examiner or commissioner. Such further evidence may be given without special leave upon interlocutory applications, or in any case as to matters which have occurred after the date of the decision from which the appeal is brought. Upon appeals from a decree or judgment upon the merits, at the trial or hearing of any action or matter, such further evidence (save as aforesaid) shall be admitted on special grounds only, and not without special leave of the Court. The Court of Appeal shall have power to give any judgment and make any decree or order which ought to have been made, and to make such further or other order as the case may require. The powers aforesaid may be exercised by the said Court, notwithstanding that the notice of appeal may be that part only of the decision may be reversed or varied, and such powers may also be exercised in favour of all or any of the respondents or parties, although such respondents or parties may not have appealed from or complained of the decision. The Court of Appeal shall have power to make such order as to the whole or any part of the costs of the appeal as may seem just. General power of Appeal Court.

53. It shall not, under any circumstances, be necessary for a respondent to give notice of motion by way of cross appeal, but if a respondent intends, upon the hearing of the appeal, to contend that the decision of the Court below should be varied or altered, he shall, within such time as may be prescribed by Rules of Court or by special order, give notice of such intention to any parties who may be affected by such contention. The omission to give such notice shall not diminish the powers by this Act conferred upon the Court of Appeal, but may, in the discretion of the Court, be ground for an adjournment of the appeal, or for a special order as to costs. Regulations as to cross appeals.

54. When any question of fact is involved in an appeal, the evidence taken in the Court below shall be brought before the Court of Appeal in such manner as may be prescribed by Rules of Court or by special order. Mode of bringing evidence before Court of Appeal.

55. If, upon the hearing of an appeal, a question arise as to the ruling or direction of the Judge to a jury or assessors, the Court shall have regard to verified notes or other evidence, and to such other materials as the Court may deem expedient. Power for Court to refer to notes, &c.

56. No interlocutory order or rule from which there has been no appeal shall operate so as to bar or prejudice the Court of Appeal from giving such decision upon the appeal as may seem just. Want of appeal from interlocutory order not to limit powers of Court of Appeal.

57. No appeal from any interlocutory order shall, except by special leave of the Court of Appeal, be brought after the expiration of twenty-one days, and no other appeal shall, except by such leave, be brought after the expiration of one year. The said respective periods shall be calculated from the time at which the judgment or order is signed, entered, or otherwise perfected, or, in the case of the refusal of an application, from the date of such refusal, or from such time as may be prescribed by Rules of Court. Such deposit or other security for the costs to be occasioned by any appeal shall be made or given as may be prescribed by Rules of Court, or directed under special circumstances by the Court of Appeal. Limit of time in appeals.

58. An appeal shall not operate as a stay of execution or of proceedings under the decision appealed from, except so far as the Court appealed from, or any Judge thereof, or the Court of Appeal, may so order; and no intermediate act or proceeding shall be invalidated, except so far as the Court appealed from may direct. Appeal not to stay proceedings.