

Young v. Bank of Alexandria.

in rendering a judgment on this special verdict for the sum of \$143.33, instead of the sum of \$16.63 ; which was the balance, after deducting the debt due from H. & T. Moore to the defendants in that court. It is, therefore, considered by the court, that the said judgment be reversed and annulled ; and that judgment be rendered for the plaintiffs in the circuit court for the sum of \$16.63, and the costs in the circuit court.

Judgment reversed.

YOUNG v. BANK OF ALEXANDRIA.*Summary trial.*

Suits brought by the Bank of Alexandria, upon promissory notes, made negotiable in that bank, are entitled to trial at the return-term of the writ.¹
Bank of Alexandria v. Young, 1 Cr. C. C. 458, affirmed.

ERROR to the Circuit Court of the district of Columbia, sitting in Alexandria, in an action of debt, upon a promissory note, negotiable in the bank, of Alexandria, made by Young to Yeaton, and by him indorsed to the bank. The only question now argued was, whether the court below erred, in ruling the plaintiff in error into a trial at the return-term of the writ ?

The bill of exceptions set forth the *capias ad respondendum* issued by the circuit court of the district of Columbia, on the 10th of November 1807, returnable "at the next court." The defendant below was taken, on the 12th of November. The next court was holden, by law, on the 4th Monday of November 1807. *It further stated, that the counsel for the plaintiffs below, having filed his declaration at the return-term, prayed the [*46 court to fix a day for the trial of the cause, during the present term, and also to rule the defendant to plead, at a short day, during the term, and offered to consent that the defendant should plead the general issue, and under that plea give in evidence any special matter which he could plead either in bar or abatement ; to which the defendant objected ; but the court ruled him to plead the next day, and upon the general issue being joined, ruled him to trial immediately.

By the general rules of practice established by the circuit court, it is ordered, that all process issuing from that court, except executions, be made returnable before the court in term-time ; and that rules be held in the clerk's office, on the day after the rising of the court in each term, and on the same day in each month thereafter, during the vacation ; and that all proceedings and orders taken at the rules shall conform as near as may be to the rules of proceeding directed by an act of the assembly of Virginia, entitled "an act reducing into one the several acts concerning the establishment, jurisdiction and powers of district courts," and the several acts amending the same. By that act, which was passed December 12th, 1792, it is ordered, that "one month after the plaintiff hath filed his declaration, he may give a rule to plead with the clerk, and if the defendant shall not plead accordingly, at the expiration of such rule, the plaintiff may enter judgment for his debt or damages and costs." "All rules to declare, plead, reply, rejoin, or for other proceedings, shall be given regularly, from month to

¹ Bank of Alexandria v. Henderson, 1 Cr. C. C. 167 ; Bank of Alexandria v. Davis, Id. 262.

Young v. Bank of Alexandria.

month, shall be entered in a book to be kept for that purpose, and shall expire on the succeeding rule-day." By the 25th section of that act, it is provided, that in certain cases, the sheriff may take the engagement of an attorney of the court, indorsed on the writ, that he will appear for the defendant, "and such appearance shall be entered with the clerk in the office, on the first day after the end of the court to which such process is *47] returnable, which *is hereby declared to be the appearance-day in all process returnable to any day of the court next preceding."

By the act of congress of 27th of February 1801, it is declared, that the laws of Virginia, as they then existed, should be and remain in force in that part of the district of Columbia which was ceded by Virginia to the United States.

By the act of congress of the 3d of March 1801, § 3, it is enacted, that the circuit court for the county of Alexandria, shall possess and exercise the same powers and jurisdiction, civil and criminal, as was then possessed and exercised by the district courts of Virginia.

By the act of assembly of Virginia, passed on the 23d of November 1792, and which incorporated the bank, it is ordered, that in suits brought by the bank, upon notes made negotiable therein, an issue shall be made up, and trial had at the return-term of the writ.

Youngs, for the plaintiff in error.—The act of 27th of February 1801, conferred on the circuit court for the district of Columbia, no other powers than those which had been given, generally, to the circuit courts of the United States, by the act passed in the same session (2 U. S. Stat. 92, § 11), and by that act, no such power is given to those courts in respect to the debts due to the bank.

The 3d section of the act of the 3d of March 1801, relates to criminal jurisdiction only, or if it relates to the civil jurisdiction, it is not clear, that the district courts of Virginia could exercise the power, because those courts were established after the act incorporating the bank.

When this case was before this court at the last term, upon the motion *48] to quash the writ of error (4 Cr. 384), *this court decided that so much of the charter as took away the right of appeal from the debtors to the bank, in the courts of Virginia, did not apply to the courts of the United States; and a distinction was taken between the rights which the bank had as a body corporate, and its remedies derived from particular provisions in its charter. The summary trial is nothing more than a form of remedy given by its charter, and cannot be binding upon the courts of the United States. The proviso in the 16th section of the act of the 27th of February 1801, only saves the rights, not the remedies, of the corporation.

Simms and Swann, contrà.—The act incorporating the Bank of Alexandria is a public act, and obligatory upon all the courts of Virginia. By the act of congress of the 27th of February 1801, it is adopted, together with all the other laws of Virginia, as the law within the county of Alexandria; and is, therefore, as binding upon the circuit court of the district of Columbia, as it was upon the courts of Virginia; but lest any doubt should exist on the subject, the act of congress of the 3d of March 1801, declares, that the circuit court of that district "shall possess and exercise the same powers and jurisdiction, civil and criminal, as is now possessed and exercised by

Yeaton v. Bank of Alexandria.

the district courts of Virginia." There has never been a doubt, but that the district courts of Virginia had jurisdiction, in cases in which the bank was plaintiff, and was bound, if requested, to compel the defendant to go to trial at the return-term. The clause in the charter of the bank is an exception to the general law upon the subject of judicial proceedings; but the exception is equally valid with the general rule.

Jones, in reply.—The bank has not brought the case within the act. The writ is not returnable until the return-day, and the return-day is not until after the rising of the *court; so that the bank is not entitled to a trial, until the second term after issuing the writ. The writ is returnable to the next court; but the officer has the whole term to return it in, and may delay it until the very last moment of the session. [*49]

March 10th, 1809. MARSHALL, Ch. J., delivered the opinion of the court, to the following effect:—The writ being returnable to the court, is returnable the first day of the court. It was known to the legislature of Virginia, that the appearance-day for all process was the day after the term. When, therefore, they directed that a trial should be had at the return-term, they must have intended that this case should be an exception to the general rule.

Judgment affirmed.

YEATON v. BANK OF ALEXANDRIA.

Promissory notes.

The Bank of Alexandria may maintain an action against the indorser of a promissory note, made negotiable in that bank, without first suing the maker, or proving him insolvent, although the indorsement was for the accommodation of the maker, and notwithstanding that, in Virginia, the implied contract of the indorser of a promissory note, by the general understanding of the country, is, that he will pay the debt, if, by due diligence, it cannot be obtained from the maker.

Perhaps, the undertaking of the indorser of a note to a bank may be different.¹ It is no objection, that the indorsement was for the accommodation of the maker. The consideration moving from the bank to the maker of the note, on the credit of the indorser, charges both the maker and indorser.

Bank of Alexandria v. Yeaton, 1 Cr. C. C. 458, affirmed.

ERROR to the Circuit Court of the district of Columbia, in an action of *assumpsit*, brought by the defendants in error, against the plaintiff in error, as indorser of a promissory note for the accommodation of R. Young, the maker.

The declaration contained two counts. One upon the indorsement of the note, in the usual form, and without any averment of the insolvency of the maker, or of any steps taken to enforce payment from him. The other was for money had and received.

The same questions arose in this case as in the preceding case of *Young v. Bank of Alexandria*, but the only question argued in this court, was, whether an indorser of a promissory note to the Bank *of Alexandria, for the accommodation of the maker, was liable in an action by the

¹ See *Renner v. Bank of Columbia*, 9 Wheat. 581.