

words remain only in the memory of the hearers, who are commonly negligent or prejudiced. It is infinitely easier then to found an accusation on the words, than on the actions of a man; for in these, the number of circumstances, urged against the accused, afford him variety of means of justification.

C H A P. XIV.

*Of Evidence and the Proofs of a Crime,
and of the Form of Judgment.*

THE following general theorem is of great use in determining the certainty of a fact. When the proofs of a crime are dependant on each other, that is, when the evidence of each witness, taken separately, proves nothing; or when all the proofs are dependant upon one, the number of proofs neither increase nor diminish the probability of the fact; for the force of the whole is no greater than the force of that on which they depend: and if this fails, they all fall to the ground.

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