

slothful, nor to take Things upon trust, or hurry them over carelessly, but to weigh the Circumstances, and sift the Witnesses, and search out the Truth of such Informations as come before them; and to reject the Indictment, if it be not sufficiently proved; and if they have reasonable Suspicion of Malice, Subornation, or wicked Designs against any Man's Life or Estate, in such as offer or come to swear to the Bill of Indictment, they are bound by Law, as well as in Conscience, to use all Diligence to discover the Villany; and if it appear to them (whereof they are the legal Judges) to be a Conspiracy, or malicious Conspiracy, against the Accused, they are bound, not only to reject such Bill of Indictment, but forthwith to indict all the Conspirators, with their Associates and Abettors: and that this is a main Part of the Grand Jury's Office, appears not only from legal Reason, but by an express Statute, viz. 25 Edw. 3. 4. and 42 Edw. 3. 3. which says, *That for preventing Mischiefs done by FALSE ACCUSERS, none shall be put to answer, unless it be by Indictment, or Presentment of good and lawful People of the same Neighbourhood where such deeds be done; that is to say, by a Grand Jury.*

The Grounds upon which Grand Juries are to proceed in giving their Verdicts, are either,

1. From their own Knowledge, and so they may find an Indictment against a Person, though there be never a Witness at all to it; and a Petty Jury may in like manner find a Person Guilty of a Felony or Murder whereof he stands indicted, though no Witnesses appear against him to prove it; and the Reason thereof is, because the Juries being always of the *Vicinage*, the Law supposes they may know the Matter of their own Knowledge, and therefore in all such Cases, when a
Jury