

happens, that the Declarations of two witness do not agree in all points, or that some essential Circumstances are known only to one of the witnesses, the other being ignorant of them; and that likewise it may so fall out, that there may be some justification against one of the witnesses, or even against both; therefore a greater Number of witnesses may be examined that the evidence of the one may make up what is defective in the Testimony of the other, and all together may make out proof of the truth.

Witness will be received on the very day to which they were cited to appear, or any day thereafter, if the party of a Diligence against him or with, or against both parties, had been discontinued by them to give them dispensation to appear before the Ordinary, and then, after calling the party and his procurators, they resume the instrument declare their willingness to depose and protest to be free from the effects of the Diligence issued forth against them. Whereupon the ordinary Dismissed them, and may give the expenses. Mean Men called as Witnesses by Diligence appearing upon the first Citation, get expences paid to them by the ordinary before they depone, and orders to be paid after their oaths are taken; viz. Eight shillings to each foot man, 16 shillings to each horse man for every days attendance and Travels. But if they do not appear to them are brought in by a second Diligence, no expences are allowed to them. Which is a punishment for their publishing the party to him self and trouble and cost to the party, and their Advocates were not allowed to hear the oaths of witnesses taken; partly, upon pretence that advocates might spend too much time in Debating against them; partly, because it was thought that witnesses would speak more freely and sincerely when no person concerned was to see them, than they could be supposed to do in presence of those interested, whom probably they might take power to please. But witnesses are now examined in presence of the parties or their Advocates act 18 feb. 2 Parl. S. 7 for Scotland hereafter to be mentioned. Vide infra page 1804. 1865 Each of the witnesses appearing ought to be examined separately out of the presence and hearing of the rest of the witnesses. While a witness is upon examination all the rest are removed from hearing him, swears of

one witness should instruct another what to say. Great caution is used in the admitting of witnesses, and only such are received as are not prohibited by law. But all objections against receiving witnesses must be made and discussed before they are sworn: because an oath ought not to be administered in vain. Some are unfit to bear witness in any case; others are liable witness only in some particular cases; a third sort are rejected from bearing witness in some causes or upon the account of some persons. Others again are admitted to bear witness cum Nolo where better witnesses cannot be had.

Persons Simple in habile witness, who cannot be believed in any case are of Minor under 14 Years of Age, &c. 1. 51. 53. Gestile partly, because they understand not to answer to all Circumstances that require to be considered by the Judge, partly, for that they know not the Nature and Shape of an oath; and partly, for that they are very liable to Corruption. But Minor past 14 Years of Age, may be witness, Stat. 2 Rob. 1 Cap. 34. Mc Kenzie Crim. part 2 Tit. 26. 53. For then law supposed a Moral principle of Justice, and abhorrence to wrong others to be confirmed in them. And persons arrived to the age of discretion, may depose upon their memory of palpable things they saw or knew while under that age. Provo. Farin. & Testib. Tit. 3. 84. 53. 56. 63. Corpov. Thos. Ord. Tord. part 1. Conf. 16. Dif. 55. Blair 1. 6. 4 Tit. 43. 57. Therefore it is, that at the solemn setting of March stones young boys used to be laid down upon them and sharply whipt to make them by the strong impression such treatment marked upon their fancy to be good & honest in their old age. Of fools or fatuous persons or mad men cannot bear witness in any case. Nor are furious persons habile witness in their usual Intemperance, unless the same be of long Continuance. Starr 1. 6. 4 Tit. 43. 57. ver. 4. 5. Law prohibits the testimony of openly profane or vicious persons, who by their frequent cursing or swearing falsely or unscrupulously are reckoned such as make no Confession of an oath. Of this sort are men notorious by profane, atheistical or contumacious Religion, and such as are infamous infamia facti for vice relating to the point, as Deceivers and appraisers, or those who have formerly been corrupted by being bribed to swear in some cause, or