

bility, and the assistance of constitutional timidity, are objects which respectively import, in an eminent degree, the proper administration of justice. A perfect judgment of the causes of a person's demeanour upon a particular occasion, can only be formed by those who have a previous knowledge of his general habits and character, and in this respect an intelligent jury is of great advantage ; since, being assembled from different parts of the country, some of them will, in most cases, have at least a general knowledge of the witnesses who appear before them. It would be greatly beyond the limits of my power to trace even a slight outline of this extensive subject, but a few detached observations, founded upon my impressions respecting it, may not be wholly irrelevant. In deciding upon the demeanour of a witness, considerable allowance is to be made for the unaccustomed situation in which he is placed, and the impressions which it may be calculated to make upon his mind. To some persons this public appearance is a matter of indifference, but by many it is regarded with an apprehension, productive of embarrassment and agitation, which to skilful observers may appear the result of insincerity. This embarrassment will sometimes attach itself in a peculiar degree to those who are accustomed to appear before the public in a different situation, and who are therefore habitually anxious respecting the impression which they may induce. It is an anecdote of Garrick, that when examined as a witness respecting the nature of a free benefit, he was incapable of giving an intelligible testimony. In deciding upon the demeanour of witnesses, much attention is due to the mode of interrogation and the popular opinion respecting the person who is engaged in it. An asperity in the peculiar conduct of the counsel, of the Judge, or even the reputation of it with respect to the former, will necessarily produce an effect upon the sensations and deportment of the witness ; and an apprehension of the ridicule which frequently affixes itself permanently to the