



BILL.

An Act to improve the Law of Evidence and to abolish unnecessary Oaths.

WHEREAS the inquiry after truth in Preamble.
Courts of Justice is often obstructed
by incapacities created by, or existing under
the present Law, and it is desirable that full
5 information of the facts in issue both in
Criminal and in Civil cases should be laid
before the persons appointed to decide upon
them, and that such persons should exercise
their judgment on the credit of the wit-
10 nesses adduced, and on the truth of their tes-
timony: And whereas the Law of Evidence
and the mode of adducing the same have
in certain other respects been found incon-
venient and inconsistent with the ends of
15 justice, and therefore require amendment;
And whereas it is expedient to substitute
declarations for oaths in certain cases, and
to facilitate the admission in evidence of
various certificates, official and public docu-
20 ments, proceedings of corporations and other
companies, received in evidence of certain
particulars in Courts of Justice, provided
they be legally authenticated, and to remove
the difficulty of proving that the said
25 documents are genuine: Be it therefore
enacted, &c.

And it is hereby enacted by the authority of
the same, That no person offered as a wit-
ness shall hereafter be excluded by reason
30 of incapacity, from crime or interest, from
giving evidence according to the practice of
the Court, on the trial of any issue joined,
or of any matter or question, or on any
inquiry arising in any suit, action or pro-
35 ceeding, civil or criminal, in any court, or

No person hereafter to be excluded from giving evidence from incapacity, &c.