4. Before commencing process on the ground of a *fama* a judicatory must be satisfied that such *fama* really exists; and no rumour is to be considered as such, unless it specify some particular sin or sins, is widely spread, generally believed, and has strong presumption of truth.

5. If a slandered individual should himself request a judicial investigation in consequence of the existence of rumours injurious to him, but which the Court does not consider as constituting a *fama*, as above defined, the judicatory may institute such investigation. If in such investigation the individual is proved guilty, the judicatory shall deal with him the same as if convicted by regular process.

6. The original parties in a process are the *accuser* and the *accused*; and in process on the ground of a *fama*, the judicatory may appoint, if they see meet, a person to represent the *fama* who shall act as the accuser or the judicatory itself may so act. In case of appeal, these parties become *appellant* and *appellee*.

7. Great caution is to be exercised in receiving accusations from any person who is rash or malicious, who is not of good character, who is himself under censure or process, or who is personally interested in the conviction of the accused.

8. Any prosecutor, but especially the prosecutor of a Minister, should be previously warned, that, if he fail to show good cause for the charges made, he must himself be censured as a slanderer, in proportion to the malignity or rashness of which he shall appear to have been guilty.

Chapter III.

Of Process. General Provisions.

1. Original jurisdiction in relation to Ministers and Licentiates belongs to the Presbytery, and in relation to other Church members to the Session.

2. All accusations shall be presented in writing, in which, as far as possible, times, places and circumstances shall be particularly stated. The judicatory shall then furnish the accused with a copy of the accusation, with the names of the witnesses who may be cited to prove the charges. All parties shall then be cited to appear at a subsequent meeting, which, in the case of a Presbytery, shall not be held sooner than ten days after the citation, and in the case of a Session, two days.

3. At this subsequent meeting the accused shall answer in writing. If he confess, or admit the facts charged, but deny that they constitute an offence, the Court, after hearing the parties, may proceed to judgment. If he deny the charges, the trial shall proceed.

4. Citations to parties are usually to be made in writing. Citations to witnesses may be made in writing or verbally at the discretion of the judicatory. A verbal citation to a witness may be made by one of the parties, or by any other competent person. A certificate of the serving of citation shall in all cases be lodged with the Court. Any person, either party or witness who may be present at a meeting of the Court may be cited *apud acta*.

5. When an accused person refuses to obey a citation, he shall be cited a second time with certification that if he do not appear at the time appointed, unless providentially hindered, (of which he must notify the Court,) he will be dealt with for contumacy. If he fail to appear the Court may proceed to trial and judgment in his absence. The time allowed for his appearance on the second or any subsequent citation shall not be less than is quite sufficient for a reasonable and convenient compliance with the citation.