## Contents

List of Illustrations vii  
Acknowledgments ix  
Introduction 1  

1 Of Factual Proof and Moral Comfort 9  
2 The Christian Judge and the Taint of Blood: The Theology of Killing in War and Law 27  
3 The Decline of the Judicial Ordeal: From God as Witness to Man as Witness 51  
4 Salvation for the Judge, Damnation for the Witnesses: The Continent 91  
5 Salvation for the Judge, Damnation for the Jury: England 125  
6 The Crises of the Seventeenth Century 159  
7 The Eighteenth Century: The Rule Emerges 185  
Conclusion 201  
List of Abbreviations 213  
Notes 215  
Index 271