Contents

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