any person residing in Great-Britain shall be " a party, it shall and may be lawful to and " for the plantiff or defendant, and also to and of for any witness to be examined or made use of in fuch action or fuit, to verify or prove " any matter or thing by affidavit or affidavits " in writing upon oath, or in case the person " making fuch affidavit be one of the people " called quakers, then upon his or her folemn " affirmation, made before any mayor or other " chief magistrate of the city, borough or " town corporate in Great-Britain, where or " near to which the person making such affida-" vit or affirmation shall reside, and certified " and transmitted under the common seal of " fuch city, borough or town corporate, or " the feal of the office of fuch mayor, or other chief magistrate, which oath and solemn afse firmation eve , fuch mayor and chief mase giftrate shall be and is hereby anthorised " and empowered to administer; and every af-" fidavit or affirmation fo made, certified and " transmitted, shall in all such actions and fuits " be allowed to be of the same force and effect, " as if the person or persons making the same " upon oath or folemn affirmation as aforefaid, 66 had appeared and fworn or affirmed the matters contained in fuch affidavit or affirmation 66 viva voce in open court, or upon a commissi-