

We have stepped a little out of our way in giving these particulars, but we hope they will not be uninteresting, or useless in showing the history and nature of the proceedings in the cause. We will now return to the French evidence, as being the first in importance and interest. The packet of papers received in London, through Messrs. D. Porquet and Co., had been lodged in Court, after having been opened before a Proctor and competent witnesses. Whether the precaution taken in opening the packet was considered sufficient to protect such family documents from suspicion, or if, on the contrary, their reception as evidence appeared doubtful without more confirmation, the course adopted, of putting them into Court, is now, certainly, to be deeply regretted. At present, however, the verdict of the jury removes the imputation cast upon them in the indictment, and we shall pass, for the present, from the consideration of this portion of the evidence, to show how Lord Stirling's situation became suddenly involved in uncertainty and trouble, by the unfortunate production of the map of Canada in the Court of Session.

Lord Stirling happened, at the period of the discovery of these documents, to be in Paris. He had been staying for some months in England, at the house of a friend, but though at the time in bad health, he removed to the Continent previously to Christmas, as visitors were expected.

Immediately after he received intimation of the existence of these autographs, and had been permitted to examine them, he obtained and forwarded copies to his third son, desiring him to show them to his London Solicitors, Messrs. Tennant and Harrison, of Gray's Inn Square. He did so, and requested those gentlemen to advise him as to the proper mode of rendering such French evidence legal evidence in