

however untrue they may be in point of fact. Such was the case here; no one would believe either Lord Stirling or his friends, while his opponents declared they had proof to back all their assertions.

Suspicion now ripe, Lord Stirling was, on the 18th of December 1838, brought before the Court of Session to be judicially examined regarding this evidence. It became at once evident by the questions put, that the correspondence between Lord Stirling and Mademoiselle Lenormand had been violated. This was accomplished *by opening the letters addressed to Lord Stirling* in Scotland; and by means of a servant in that lady's household, who was not in good favour with her mistress, they obtained copies of letters and papers addressed to her. The girl, Melanie Fontaine, carried the letters, at night, to a watchmaker in the neighbourhood, named Villemain. This man was connected with the police, and was an agent of the Officers of State in getting up their case. It is to be regretted that Lord Stirling's counsel consented to this examination. We must say that we think he was not defended either in that, or in subsequent proceedings, so judiciously as he should have been. A certain timidity, which is ever too prevalent in Scotland when the Crown is an opposing party, and a want of confidence in the case, owing, perhaps, to the representations so publicly made by Lord Stirling's opponents, seem to have thrown a weakness over the whole defence.

As soon, however, as this was over, one of the counsel for the Crown, Mr. Cosmo Innes, hurried over to Paris, to arrange the case, for which Lord Stirling's declaration necessarily furnished them a foundation; and it was to meet particular points in that statement, that certain witnesses were brought over to Edinburgh to be arrayed against him.