

inquiries and searches relative to this very document. Such conduct certainly does not look like that of a person who had fabricated the writings. Lord Stirling was, on his part, not less urgent in his demands; but the same impediment, want of sufficient resources, prevented any steps being taken until within three weeks or a month of the late trial. Consequently very little was done in a matter that, we are told, would require at least six weeks or two months, if the inquiry was regularly commenced as advised. Thus it will be seen that from unfortunate circumstances, and constant disappointment, no steps whatever were taken until too late to avert the evil that followed.

The agents for the Crown in Paris, aware of the importance of searching there, have been most active for many months past in obtaining information and documents from the public archives in that city. Immense sums have been paid for this object, and a constant transmission of papers has been going on between that place and Edinburgh. The object of these researches on the part of the Crown is clear.

We come now to the period of the trial which has attracted so much attention, the proceedings relative to which are of so suspicious and tyrannical a character. After a twelvemonth had been wasted in doing nothing, the tales got up about the new evidence, accompanied by the assurance of proof being in the hands of the Crown, had created so much suspicion in Scotland, as well as in England and France, that it became evident, unless great exertions were made, Lord Stirling would not have fair play. The refusal to allow proof in the case, and the determination, now quite clear, to swamp the case altogether by a *coup àc main*, alarmed all friendly to the family. The statements of a more powerful or richer party almost invariably obtain credit,