

example, we might properly say, in speaking of a former deputy, or minister, or of a servant retired, "Monsieur un tel ancien député"—"C'est un ancien ministre," meaning a minister who was formerly such, but now in a different situation. "Une ancienne femme-de-chambre," or a woman who was formerly a lady's-maid. It is used when referring to things and events, not only when of very ancient date, but when ancient by opposition to what is very new or modern: thus, to Mallet, the charter was "une ancienne charte;"—to John Alexander, what he had heard verbally, in his boyhood, of the loss of the boxes of records at sea, during Cromwell's time, was "une ancienne tradition." Moreover, this gentleman, Mr. John Alexander, passed the greater part of his life abroad, and therefore, from familiarity with the language, the term "ancienne," was, no doubt, felt and used by him as it would have been by a native of France. We refer to an extract from the "Return of the Lords of Session to the House of Lords, dated 12th June, 1799,"* for some particulars relative to the accident by sea, as establishing that fact, as also other points bearing upon this case. The learned Judge also remarked† upon the statement of Caron St. Estienne, that the copy from the record of the charter extended to *fifty pages of writing* (his Lordship always said *fifty-eight*;) though this appeared to his Lordship an absurdity, yet we have seen copies of charters written by lawyers or their clerks, which, though occupying but a few pages in the close small writing upon the register of the Great Seal, are extended in the copies to nearly, if not quite, as many pages, as was apparently the copy made at Annapolis, from the register of Acadia.

* Appendix, No. ii.

† Swinton's Report, p. 311.