

of Canada, but that it should be seen and examined only in the presence of some trusty person. The grounds for this application were the unaccountable change in the appearance of Hovenden's affidavit, and the fact ascertained that tests had been applied, privately, to the documents, by steaming or heating them, thereby altering their general character. The application was made, but not listened to, on the ground that "it would not do to throw suspicion on the Officers of State." More of this hereafter.

Let us now resume the history of the production of the French documents;—Lord Stirling had been long anxious to make searches in France relative to any document which might have been carried away by the French from Nova Scotia, and which would be likely to throw some light upon the existence of the great charter of Novo Damus, about which there is now so much dispute. At present we wish merely to observe, that, in that object of searching the French archives, Lord Stirling had been urged by his legal advisers for years so to do, but owing to the expense, and the manner in which the case had been involved by the treachery of various parties, no steps whatever were taken in it until about 1836 or 1837. It was at this period that Lady Stirling wrote to Mademoiselle Lenormand to ask her advice, and whether she could recommend any one to make the necessary researches. A favourable answer was returned, and a few particulars were given, the result of which was that, on the 11th of July, 1837, the present French evidence was sent to Mademoiselle Lenormand's house. It is unquestionable that very considerable researches were made, and that a great deal of attention was drawn to the subject by that lady's exertions. The importance of the evidence in question is chiefly derived from the information given of