

day the 24th Oct. ; and we trust to be able to give some account of what transpires in our next issue.

We have now to revert to the action taken by the Grand Jury. In his charge, at the commencement of the term, Mr. Justice DRUMMOND instructed that body as follows:—

“In the investigation of any charge, either on an indictment, or for the purpose of a presentment, you can receive no evidence other than such as is given by witnesses produced and sworn before you, or furnished by confession made upon voluntary examination before a magistrate, or by other legal documentary evidence. No affidavits or depositions should be received by you in evidence, except such as contain dying declarations in cases of alleged murder and manslaughter. Even these should not be read as evidence before you, without previous consultation with the Counsel for the Crown, or in his absence, with the Clerk of the Crown, or by permission of the Court.

If, however, you deem it proper to make any such presentment, you should annex notes of the evidence taken in support of it, signed by your foreman, and you should not announce in open Court the name of the person accused; while the Court, if, in its discretion it should order further proceedings, would be bound to prevent publicity being given to the proceedings of such a presentment, until an arrest had been effected.”

Nevertheless, the gentlemen of the Grand Jury thought proper to prepare a series of interrogatories which they sent to the ATTORNEY GENERAL, the SOLICITOR GENERAL, and also to Mr. GODLEY, Civil Secretary, and Mr. GAUTHIER, Consul General of France. These interrogatories required the gentlemen above named to state all they knew about the LAMIRANDE case, and, as might be expected, they unanimously declined to reply. The only evidence in fact obtained by the Grand Jury was a deposition made by Mr. DOUTRE, Q.C., detailing the facts of the case; and reflecting rather severely upon the part taken in it by Mr. RAMSAY.

The Grand Jury having made their presentment, with copies of the correspondence and Mr. DOUTRE'S deposition, Mr. Justice DRUMMOND (Oct. 13) adverted in Court to the extra-

ordinary course adopted by the Jury, in sending interrogatories to the officers of state and even to the GOVERNOR GENERAL, instead of applying to the Court to enforce the attendance before them of such witnesses as they might require.

The inquiry by the Grand Jury, therefore, proved wholly abortive—a result not surprising, when we reflect on the difficulties which must attend an investigation of this sort by men ignorant of the first principles of law.

We mentioned in our last impression that LAMIRANDE had been taken to Paris, notwithstanding the efforts of Mr. DOUTRE'S correspondents in London to detain him. It appears, besides the embarrassment occasioned by the absence of the Judges from London during vacation, that the telegrams sent from this side by the GOVERNOR GENERAL and Mr. DOUTRE, were too meagre to admit of an affidavit being founded upon them, and LORD CARNARVON, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, with singular indifference, neither telegraphed for more information, nor authorized the detention of the prisoner till the mail should arrive. The case, however, has since been taken up by the English press, which, almost without a dissenting voice, has loudly denounced the carrying away of LAMIRANDE, and urged that he should be restored to the jurisdiction of our courts. Copies of all the documents connected with the case have been transmitted to the Home authorities, and the GOVERNOR GENERAL has no doubt been called upon for a full explanation. In the meantime, it is stated that the French authorities have been requested by the English Government to postpone the trial of LAMIRANDE.

THE GRAND JURY SYSTEM.

The attention of the English public has again been drawn to the consideration of the utility or inutility of grand juries. The juries themselves throughout the country have of late been complaining of the unnecessary demands made upon their time. At the Middlesex Sessions recently, the grand jury made a presentment to the effect that they did not think a grand jury was of the least use. They urged that the cases all underwent preliminary examination by professional men, and