

could, *intuitively*, tell the name of the second wife of John Alexander, of Gartmore, a name hitherto unknown to the family; could make up a case that would puzzle any learned gentleman; and all that to agree perfectly well with the rest of this long and complicated case, of which, without meaning any offence, we must say it is impossible for him to understand all the bearings? Why did not the Crown, who had summoned him and his brother Charles to Edinburgh as witnesses, examine him upon this point? He was then ready to reply, and to show them another letter addressed to his brother of the same date with that to his father, detailing the same circumstances; but adding, that, but for his accidentally seeing the parchment through the slight outer cover, he should have broken the seals. This letter had been long in the hands of the agents, but not produced. How much absurd and discreditable argument might have been avoided by this simple statement! Out of what trifling errors do great evils arise!

That Lord Stirling's family should act with extreme caution is in no way surprising, after what they had previously suffered. Mr. Lockhart, the Scotch agent in the case, was in London at the period of the receipt of the packet; and, on Lord Stirling's son communicating his suspicions to him, advised him as to the course to be pursued.

So strong has been the feeling produced in the minds of Lord Stirling's family and friends by the previous conduct of the Officers of State, that the utmost precaution is used in every thing relating to the case. When the French documents were put into Court, counsel was advised to make a special application not to permit the agents, or others, on the part of the Crown, to apply to the Court for an order to inspect, or, as the Scottish lawyers say, to *borrow up* the map