

which it was never intended that others should see ; and, moreover, perhaps utterly at variance with the ideas and inclination of the party addressed ! Seize these and read them, with the replies to the questions put at the inquisitorial examinations, in Court, as *evidence* against Lord Stirling ! Such a dangerous power ought to be abolished as soon as possible. In England its exercise is very properly confined to cases of treason.

If any good shall arise from this matter, it may be in regard to the questions of the *legality* of this prosecution, and thus draw attention to the absurd and dangerous powers of the Lord Advocate for Scotland, which have lately been described as “utterly repugnant to every principle of freedom,” and in no way “consonant to the spirit of a free constitution.” We are, certainly, of the same opinion. And viewing merely the illegal and unconstitutional measures in this case, the power that he and those acting under him exercise, even in the Civil Court ; judging by the extreme timidity and apprehension displayed by some of Lord Stirling’s defenders, and the perfect confidence of the opposing party, some of whom did not hesitate to represent, and openly speak of, the trial as a “mockery,” we think it quite time, for the credit of enlightened Scotland, that a check should be put upon the proceedings of Crown lawyers, particularly when the advocacy of its interests may happen to fall into the hands of persons incompetent, either in station or character, to maintain them in a respectable manner.

But let us proceed. Two French witnesses appeared at the trial to give their opinions as to the genuineness of the map and writings. We will first make some observations respecting these persons. Jean Baptiste Théodore Alexandre Teulet, Attaché aux Archives du Royaume, was the