

A remarkable example of the unscrupulous conduct of the Crown lawyers was elicited early in the trial. A scientific witness, Dr. Fyffe, was asked whether he could give an insight into the coloring of the excerpt; to which question he immediately replied, "I have seen the deed before; *from experiments that I have performed upon it*, I think the coloring proceeds from some vegetable or animal substance—organic matter." This avowal of having *already performed experiments upon the deed*, drew an exclamation of surprise from Lord Stirling's counsel, and well it might indeed! The Crown counsel looked disconcerted, and the agent who was named as the person by whom the experiments were authorized, and the document allowed to *remain two days* in Dr. Fyffe's hands, looked unutterable things, at the same time coloring to the eyes! This discovery, so openly, of a practice by no means new in this case, of tampering with the documents, and thus rendering them suspicious by their appearance, made a great impression on the minds of Lord Stirling's English and foreign friends. The matter becomes infinitely worse, when it is considered that several weeks previously, application had been made to Lord Stirling, his counsel, and some of the judges, *to have chemical experiments made on the whole of the documents*, which had been in each instance refused. In the face of this prohibition, did the Crown lawyers send the excerpt to Dr. Fyffe, as they had also done other documents, to be submitted to these chemical operations. It may be asked how could such acts be perpetrated? Because there seems to have existed so positive a conviction, that Lord Stirling, to use their own words, "was already condemned," that his trial would be a "mere mockery," that any such mischief might be attempted with impunity. Dr. Madden, another