

Daunon, Member of the Institute, Keeper of the Archives of the Kingdom, has likewise certified the authenticity of the writing of Fénelon. Now, it would result from the verification of the artists of Scotland, that the Keeper of the Archives and I must have been deceived, and that the writings certified by us as authentic, must have been forged by you, my Lord, assisted by a lady, and by an illiterate young man, whom you must have set to the work.

It may be said that this decision is audacious, and even ourlesque.

What is in this matter very remarkable, is, that they have made a *fac-simile* at Edinburgh, for conducting the law-suit, of all that is written upon the back of the map of Canada. Now, however skilful may be the Scotch caligraphical writers who were employed at this work, a single glance suffices to recognize that the *fac-simile* offers dissimilitude in numerous instances, not only from the autographs of Fénelon, Fléchier, and Louis XV; but also from the pretended forged writings, which they accuse you of having fabricated. Thus exactness is wanting even in the *fac-simile* of the pretended false documents of the map.

Well now, what can be proved by the depositions of a servant girl, and a porter, to make out that it was you, my Lord, who fabricated, with your fellow-labourers, a woman and an unlettered young man, a work, the very conception and execution of which would have embarrassed a whole academy?

And of what use can be other subaltern witnesses without value and without authority, on the foundation even of the question? For example: what imports it whence came the map thus covered with documents? Since what period has it been held necessary, under penalty of being a forger, to prove the origin of a writing or document that is produced, the forgery of which cannot be proved?

But, it is said, the proof of forgery results from the fact that this map of Canada, bearing the date of 1703, gives to Guillaume de L'Isle the title of *First Geographer to the King*, a title which he did not officially obtain, that is to say by patent, until the 24th of August 1718. But, Mallet of Lyons wrote upon the back of this map in 1706, and he died in 1707; Fléchier was dead in 1710;