

his evidence than at the end of the preceding November, although the agent for the Crown had obtained copies some months before, to forward their own projects in Paris.

The first step taken by the Crown agent was to visit all the different parties whose names were found upon the document, and to offer to Mademoiselle Lenormand *any money she chose to demand*, on condition of her declaring the document a forgery: then, to proceed to M. Villenave,* and *make him the same offer*.

As these offers met with anything but a favorable reception, the agents of the Crown were obliged to turn to more complicated methods of making a case. Various charges were bandied about, for some months, without any apparently fixed design. The first assertion, that Lord Stirling and his sons were in Paris together, fell to the ground, owing to the fact of his Lordship's sons never having been in Paris with him at any time since they were children. The proof too where they were could have been instantly produced. Nevertheless, previously to the trial, when the Crown's witnesses came first to Edinburgh, they (Lord Stirling's sons) were paraded before one of these easy-minded gentlemen, who had been ready to swear to any thing put to him, in order to identify them. It is needless to say that the attempt was laughed at.

In connection with this attempt to implicate Lord Stirling's sons in the charge of forgery, let us, before going further

* In the report for the Crown, edited by Mr. Swinton, and revised by the Solicitor-General, it is said, "if the alleged autographs of these eminent men, and the note attributed to Louis XV. are, in reality, forgeries, it is not a little remarkable, that they should have been executed with such skill as to deceive several eminent French antiquarians, and, especially, Monsieur Villenave, a gentleman of the highest respectability, who possesses a considerable collection of autographs."—See *M. Villenave's Letter*, Appendix No. 1 and 2.