interruption for the last thirty years, and which, in some of its phases, presents circumstances as romantic as any of those that are to be found in the French causes celebres. The Scottish earldom of Stirling, which was created, we believe in the reign of Charles I, and which was endowed by that monarch with possessions in North America, equal in extent to a European kingdom, together with the privilege of granting patents and creating dignities, such as are usually considered to be sacred to royalty alone, is now finally extinguished. The title, indeed, has been dormant for many years—or rather it has been in that semi-vital state in which a person lays claim to it without having the power to make his title good; while at the same time, he is allowed to assert it because no one has an interest in disputing his claim. More than one of the old historic titles of Scotland have been picked up and worn, with more or less genuine belief in their own right, by individuals of the humblest rank. Our readers will no doubt be familiar with the story told by Hugh Miller, of the hodman in Edinburgh, who claimed to be the lineal descendant of the Earls of Crawford, and whose aswho claimed to be the lineal descendant of the Earls of Crawfurd, and whose assertion was admitted, while it was ridiculed by the masons, who delighted to call him, "John, Earl of Crawfurd and Lindsay, bring me another hod of lime." The claimants of the Earldon of Stirling had not fallen so low in the ancial scale; on the contrary, they had wealth and wealthy friends, and it was their determination to bring their right, not to the title only, but to the more than semi-royal rights conferred on that title by the Sovereign, to the decisions of the courts of law, that first moved the Crown to interfere and remove the gation of the pedigree of the claimant to an accusation that the principal documents on which he rested his claim were arrant forgeries.

The documents on which the claimant rested his title were of a singular character, and they had as singular a history. They had been procured in France through the medium of a forin Paris in her day, and whom the wife of the claimant had gone to consult about the chances of the success of her and mysterious communings took place between them; the issue of which was that the Parisian sybil not only predicted speedy and brilliant success, but rendered more substantial and worldly aid by furnishing documents which, if genuine, placed the reality of his title beyond doubt. These documents were produced in the Court of Session, and the natural consequence was, that on the face of them he was served heir to the title. But on their production, strong doubts of their genuineness sprung up in the minds of the law officers of the Crown, who, of course, watched with a jealous eye the progress of a suit that was to place a subject on a level with the sovereign in granting of patents and creating digni-Secret and searching inquiries were set on foot in Paris; and enough light was thrown on the transactions to induce the Lord Advocate of the day to indict Mr. Alexander, the claimant of the case, before the High Court of Justiciary, for the crime of forgery. The documents that were brought forward to establish the claim were now used to demonstrate his crime; and many witnesses were brought from France to testify, not only to the spuriousness of the documents, but also to the manner in which the forgeries had been manipulated.

One piece of evidence was remarkable for the subtlety, precision and fulness

with which forgery was shown in a case where at first sight there seemed to be no possibility of fraud. It was an old map of the Canadas, drawn at a time when Canada was in the possession of France, and which, it was averred, had been in the possession of Louis XIV.
This was evident, for on the back of it
were written some remarks by the
King's own hand in reference to Canada, and the adjoining English provinces
of Nova Scotia. The map, indeed, seemed to have passed through the hands of all the Paris celebrities of that period, for not only had the King scribbled on the back of it, but Bousset, Mazarin, and, indeed, the whole Court eircle had followed the royal example. And, what was still more remarkable, the notes of avery one of them. the notes of every one of them bore reference in one form or other to the extensive rights in North America, granted by the charter of the English monarch to the earldom of Stirling. The map purported to be executed in a given year by an engraver who styled himself map-maker to the King. So far all was clear. It was curious that all these royal or courtly personages should have so full a knowledge of the rights of the Stirling family, and should take so much interest in their fortunes; but plausible reasons were given why they should do so; and it was impossible to prove the negative. But of this comparatively solid and compact evidence, the ingenuity of the Crown lawyers culled the means of its complete destruction, and the tearing to tatters of the whole cleverly constructed evidence in the case. A witness was brought from the office of the French archives in Paris, who proved that at the date of the the notes of every one of them bore re- MULES. Paris, who proved that at the date of the map, as given in the margin, the engrato the King, and that he did not attain that honor until some years afterwards, in the following reign. To explain the discrepancy that was thus apparent between the title and the date, the witness stated that it was common in France, as we believe it is in this country also, to engrave on the plate from which the map is printed every new honor to which the engraver attains, hammering which the engraver attains, hammering out, if need be, any previous honor he may have held, but not altering more than is necessary, and especially leaving the date of the year when the plate was engraved untouched. Thus it was plain to demonstration that the particular copy of the map on which the prisoner relied could not possibly have been printed until the engraver had attained the office which it certified; and it was clearly proved that at that date all the illustrious persons who had written their comments on its back had been long dead. The evidence was conclusive,—the forgery palpable.

But it was not so clear who was the

DESERET EVENING NEWS.

Tuesday.

June 16, 1868.

A LEGAL ROMANCE,

The House of Lords, sitting as a Court of Appeal, have finally disposed of a case which has troubled the Courts of Law in Scotland with more or less of interruption for the last thirty years, and which, in some of its phases, presents circumstances as romantic as any of those that are to be found in the which the trial had turned were impounded and in the following year an action of reduction was brought upon the service of heirship, which he had obtained in the previous year. This was in 1839, and from that time the matter had slept till a few months ago, when the son of Mr. Alexander proposed to carry on the appeal in the House of Lords, against the decree of reduction in the Court of Session, which had been given notice of thirty years before, but never prosecuted till now. His claim was admitted, and the case was heard; but the case on its own merita was altogether untenable, and the appeal was dismissed with costs. We may therefore assume that now at least we have heard the last of the claim to the Earl-dom of Stirling, and the semi-reyal pri-

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