

fire, and no discovery might have been made. What did I do? I hastened from the meeting as fast as I could—rummaged through a drawer of old papers—found the one in question—instantly ran back to Mr. McMurrich's place of business; found he had gone in search of it to the session house; told the whole matter to his young partner, Mr. Samuel Gunn—was advised by him to keep my mind quite easy as Mr. M. would be back in a few minutes, and he would hand the paper to him with a suitable explanation. All this passed in about a quarter of an hour from the time Mr. M. and I had parted, and next day I repeated the substance of it to that gentleman. I had thought he had been satisfied that I had no improper feeling in the matter, far less "a dishonest intention."

Another proof of my "insincerity" is thought to lie in my seeking to raise the nominees to the Eldership from fifteen to twenty, that my own wishes as to the men to be chosen might, forsooth, be gratified. It is peculiarly unfortunate for this argument that, by reference to the attested minutes of Session successively before the Presbytery and the Synod, it appears that the person who made this proposal is "Mr. James Shaw," who sympathizes with his brother Elder in the complaint of dishonesty! Unquestionably, however, it was at my suggestion he did so; and the language I used, so far as can be remembered, was, in substance, this,—addressed, too, not to the congregation, but to the brethren of the eldership near me,—*"I don't think this list represents the piety of the congregation. You will not get out of it six men suitably qualified, or that are willing to accept."* It may have been improper in me to make the remark, perhaps, but assuredly there was no "dishonesty" in it. Mr. McMurrich did not, *at that time*, make any such use of it; for in the Session House, immediately at the close of the meeting, he said to Mr. Shaw and me: *"We have had a very agreeable meeting; only, Doctor, I wish you had not made yon remark."* *"Why,"* said I, *"I am better pleased now; we have got some very good men added, and we have now a better prospect."* Both Messrs. Pyper & Campbell were on the list of nominees. I did not say a word, good, bad, or indifferent about it then; but certainly had it ever entered my mind that the first of these persons would have been returned in election, I would have objected strongly to his being in nomination at all.

I solemnly deny that my conduct in regard to Messrs. Pyper