

It appears from what the Rev. Duncan McRuar told you, "that in a conversation which Dr. Jennings had with Mr. McRuar some months ago, Dr. J. had stated, and maintained, that Mrs. Gale and Mrs. Inglis were the persons mentioned by Mr. Guinness in a (printed) correspondence between that gentleman and the Rev. Dr. Irvine as, having informed Mr. Guinness that 'Dr. Irvine was not a Christian;' that Dr. J. had frequently asserted it as a fact which, he had on good authority, that Mr. James Walker, of this city, was his informant."

Allow me to say that, living in the midst of the discussion that arose, and taking part in it (as will be seen by reference to the "H. Grattan Guinness' Correspondence," which I also forward * to you herewith) I was frequently asked "how could a total stranger enter the city and act the part therein brought to public view, unless with the knowledge, if not with the approbation of the household in which he and Mrs. Guinness, for the time being, were guests;" and, after the publication of the correspondence, did he not continue to receive every token of your confidence, as well as substantial assistance from yourself and people, so as to confirm in the public mind that he had, by evading us and reflecting on our Minister, earned for himself an increased claim to your esteem? And this opinion was confirmed in the public mind by your previously written and spoken sentiments of hostility toward Dr. Irvine, even dating these feelings back to the time of your first coming to the city—your statement in Presbytery, on the 9th April, and there reported, being, "When I came to Hamilton I determined to be respectful, but not to be on any intimate terms with Dr. Irvine." I may now state that I heard the subject of the Guinness statements generally discussed, and in common with many others, concurred in the opinion of home influence; and, in answer of Dr. Jennings, did state that I supposed that the ladies in question were among the "Christian persons;" † and I think up to this time, if the subject is revived, as it has been by your letter, the prevailing opinion will be found unaltered. As to

Committee's Report. From this it is reasonable to infer there was nothing objectionable in them. Such is my own impression, in reference to them, and such I think must have been the impression of the other members of the Committee, as there was not, to the best of my recollection, anything to the contrary intimated by any of them when the correspondence was under consideration."

(Signed,)

JAMES MIDDLEMISS.

GLENALLAN, 26th, April, 1861.

"I can assure you that I have not the slightest remembrance of anything in them unbefitting the character of a Christian minister or a Christian gentleman."

(Signed,)

THOS. J. HODGSKIN.

GILLIAD COTTAGE, Saltfleet, 1st May, 1861.

"In reply to your request, in what light I looked upon your letters in reply to those of Mr. McIndoe, I beg leave to state that I considered them as characterized by great forbearance, and manifested a Christian spirit."

(Signed,)

GEO. CHEYNE:

FERGUS, 26th April, 1861.

"In your replies I did not think there was anything at all objectionable, and I am sure they were characterized by a very remarkable and undeserved amount of forbearance."

(Signed,)

G. SMIELLIE.

* See appendix.

† It appears Guinness, before he left the country, stated that Mrs. Isaac Buchanan, of Aughmar House, was one of the "Christian persons in town."