

"evidence within itself" was anything but "sufficient" to prove its "genuineness," for it was the circumstance of *such commission* being issued in favour of a mere student that led Dr. Dewitt to speak of the extreme unlikelihood of his signing anything of the kind. On his being shewn the diploma to Mr. Lillie, then and still in my possession, he at once said, "Yes, *that is* the handwriting of Dr. Milledoler." On my hinting the *possibility* of the other being his also (though unlike) he looked at it again, and observed that "it might be." Of the one in my possession there was no doubt whatever. On the other, as it was merely a copy, no definite conclusion or judgment was given.

The "Executive Committee" distinctly acknowledge in their very next paragraph, marked "7th," that Dr. Milledoler did sign "credentials" as a matter of course, and the reason given is that "he felt satisfied he was following the instructions of the Committee." Dr. Milledoler said so himself in his letter to Mr. Freeland of August 16th, and hence it is easy to see how mistakes may have arisen. Very improper nominations may have been made by the Committee, and Dr. Milledoler may not have even looked at the contents of what he was asked to sign. He took the thing presented as all right. My *charitable conjecture* was, that Mr. Edwin McGregor, "from zeal for the Society," may have *slipped in* a Commission in favour of his brother, and its being signed became a "matter of course." It appears that the Committee wish to father all the deeds of the Secretary, good, bad, and indifferent. They are most heartily welcome to this; but, while Edwin R. McGregor is thus screened from blame, what shall we say of a Committee which thus deliberately proclaims its own folly?

9. On the subject of granting extracts from the Minutes of the Society, as requested by me, the Executive Committee have published the following as their definitive opinion.—

"The Committee would say in this connection, that no officer of the Society has the right to expose either to private or public view the minutes of its action, or make extracts from them for any person whatever, without the authority of the Executive Committee: And further, that their minutes are in the keeping of the Recording Secretary, who alone is responsible for their safety."

Had my friends, Messrs. Thomson and McPherson, been civilly told by McGregor that at the first meeting of the "Executive Committee," their request would be submitted, and in all probability granted, they would have been perfectly satisfied. Was anything like this done? Certainly not.

But I dispute the soundness of the principle. A religious or benevolent society which looks for support to public voluntary contributions, is not like a banking or commercial establishment. I apprehend that any one giving a dollar in aid of such institutions is entitled to be satisfied as to what has been done with it. The *very*

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