

It is known to you that during the time John Smith was here, he took an office under that occupied by the Telegraph, and advertised himself as a general Telegraph agent—that he was guaranteed, by the “Hon. F. O. J. Smith, President of the New York and Portland Telegraph Lines” *exclusive privileges* in the transmission of *private communications* over the Boston and Halifax Lines—and this *Honorable*, conscientious, public-protecting F. O. J. Smith took pains to publish to the world the extraordinary qualifications possessed by the precocious *John*—and lest the Public and Press should not discover the *great truth*, he kindly informed them of their wants through all the Boston papers, as follows:—

[Extract from Certificate from F. O. J. Smith, attached to John Smith's Circular, issued at Boston, Dec. 6.]

“TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED.—The establishment of a reliable commercial agency at Halifax, N. S., to act conjointly with the Telegraph as the joint conduits of private and newspaper correspondence between merchants on opposite sides of the Atlantic, is indispensable to the safety of merchants, and most needed for the reputation of the Telegraph.”

Then, after certifying to the fact that he “had encouraged” his namesake to establish himself at Halifax “*to act conjointly with the Telegraph*,” he proceeds to say, that “every advantage which the Telegraph Lines under my direction can afford, will be at all times most freely awarded to him.” And in conclusion, F. O. J. Smith says, “I do this knowing the *necessity* of it, and entertaining *full faith* in Mr. Smith's rendering the undertaking, which is by no means an easy one, worthy of both public and private confidence.”

Circumstances have since fully verified Mr. Smith's prediction, i. e. that the task allotted to *John* “was by no means an easy one;” for, after the most strenuous and unprincipled efforts to gain a footing for him in this city—after having accorded to him “every advantage” that could be commanded by *fair* or *foul* means over the Telegraph Lines, John Smith's *agency* here has, as you are aware, *fallen through*—at least, it has so, practically—and this, too, though he had the *brazen faced impudence* to make use of your honorable names without authority, as parties to whom he was privileged to refer to. It is true that he still retains his office here (and probably will continue to do so as long as he finds an *accommodating landlord*—but no person has been known to enter the office within the last two months, and I much doubt if any merchant here or elsewhere has yet been found sufficiently *verdant* to confide business to the agency to the amount of one penny.