

the report which is copied in the *Mail*?

Hon. Mr. McKELLAR—It is said to be on the 40th November I was not there at all on the 30th November, but I was there on the 16th November. I shall have these papers distributed so that hon. members may see whether the report of that paper is true. Now, here is another document, a paper that has been in possession of Mr. King ever since he was in Edinburgh. It is taken from the *Edinburgh News*, and was printed the day after the meeting which he and I attended. I will read, if the House will bear with me, what Mr. King actually did say. The speaker then went on to read from the report mentioned, the statements made by Mr. King and himself, and proceeded. Now I was at that meeting. That is what I said; that is the only meeting I attended in Edinburgh. I have been charged with having attended meetings in Manchester and Belfast. Well, I have only to say that I have never been in Manchester in my life, I am sorry to say. I have been in Belfast, but I never attended a meeting there; but I may say frankly that I had had the time I would have cheerfully gone on every platform on which Mr. King appeared, and have borne the same testimony. I went to Europe on my own business, to see my native country, and when this meeting was organized I was in the Highlands. Mr. King wrote me that he wished me to come down as it was his first meeting, and I did go down. From the statement I have read, the *Mail* has sent forth to the length and breadth of the country that Mr. King and myself have been guilty of collecting money and using it for our own purposes. If anything could be more vile and wicked than another, it is to lay charges against a clergyman of adopting to his own uses money raised for constructing a religious edifice. At this meeting a long list of gentlemen was appointed a Committee. This list included some of the most distinguished men in Edinburgh, as honourable gentlemen will see:—The Right Hon. the Lord Provost; Rev. Principal Cunningham, Rev. Professor Robertson, Rev. Dr. Canilish, Rev. Dr. Guthrie, Rev. Dr. James Begg, Rev. Dr. A. Thomson, Rev. Dr. J. Bonar, Rev. Dr. Gould, Rev. Dr. Tweedie, Rev. W. Robertson, Rev. Dr. Johnson, Rev. William Fasker, Rev. Thomas Finlayson, Rev. Sir H. W. Moncrief, Rev. Dr. Alexander, Rev. Jonathan Watson; Sir John Melville, St. Luke's; William Leckie, Esq., Commercial Bank, Treasurer; Arthur Fraser, Esq., St. George's, Secretary; Professor Miller; James Marsball, Esq., Broughton Place; John Millar, Esq., Broughton Place; James Duncan, Esq., Rose-street; Robert Romanes, Esq., St. Stephen's; J. B. Murdoch, Esq., Jr., High Church; James Balfour, Esq., Jr., High Church; James Cunningham, Esq., Tolbooth; Walter Sibbald, Esq., New North; J. R. Dymock, Esq., St. John's; H. D. Dickie, Esq., Bristol Port (Baptist); R. M. Johnson, Esq., Chalmers's Territorial; William Stephenson, Esq., Dublin-street; ex-Provost M'Laren. I have taken the trouble to see whether the Treasurer appointed at that meeting had any money or not, and I have his letter and financial statement, which I will read to the House:—

EDINBURGH, Jan. 16, 1873.

DEAR SIR—I have much pleasure in sending you the enclosed statement of the "Elgin Settlement Fund," made out from the Bank book up to the present date. You will be glad to see that there is a balance in favour of the Fund of £8 13s 10d. I was rather astonished, when I asked our check clerk if he had such an account in his books in my name, when he told me that it had been dormant for many years, but that there was a sum at the credit of it. Indeed I had completely forgot that I ever had such an account. I am so glad that you should have asked me about it, as I shall get quit of the £8 13s 10d.

Yours truly,

WM. LECKIE.

I am sorry that the clerk has been so long in making out the account for you, but this is a very busy time with him.

A. Begg, Esq.

Does that look as if Mr. King and myself were so very watchful over the monies collected, in order to place them in our own pockets? I declare here that I never collected a dollar, that I never handled a farthing of the fund. (Loud applause.) I attended the meeting. I did so with pleasure. If I had had time I would have gone with him to every corner of Great Britain to bear the same testimony, because I knew the losses he had sustained and the great sacrifices he had made in this good cause. Now we shall come to the famous Glasgow meeting. I do not

know much about law. I believe the less a man knows about it the better (laughter) but I believe that when a man is not present at a certain place, and can prove that he is somewhere else, he establishes an *alibi*. I have been able to prove an *alibi* in this case. I have got the paper itself, a copy of the *Scottish Guardian* of May 15th, 1860. It was on the previous evening that the meeting was held. There they charge me with having collected £3,000 for these schools and churches. They state correctly the amount that was collected, but if you will refer to the amount paid to the Government you will find that it is within a fraction of \$18,000, very nearly the amount collected. In one of the papers reporting this meeting Mr. King gets credit for stating that he had 18,000 square miles. I have three reports of the same meeting, and no two of the reports agree. Mr. King, in his letter, stated that I was at the time of this meeting on the banks of the Thames attending to my farm. He was slightly mistaken in that, though, for I had by reference to the Journals of the House that I must have been sent over by telegraph, because on the 18th May I was in Quebec and recorded my vote there on a division. (Tear, hear, and laughter.) The Allan steamers are nothing to the expedition I must have made. Now it may be seen with how much or rather how little foundation my name has been hurled over the country as having been at that meeting. I was not in possession of these documents from Britain, and therefore I could not sooner make this explanation. Now, Sir, they have gone a little further in their indictment. They say in addition in the *Mail* that the Buxton Committee had some two thousand dollars of this money. But before I go to that I may state that this money was sent from the Bank to Mr. Scott, who, I believe, is the Treasurer in London. I am not aware that Mr. King handled any of it. I know I never did. The *Mail* newspaper, I say, has gone further, and it says that when the report was made by the Buxton mission to the Synod that it showed that \$2,000 of the money was still in the hands of the Committee and that is italicized. Well, Mr. King and myself belonged to the Local Committee in connection with the Church, and I wrote to Mr. Scott, and I have got his letter, and I will read it to show what he says in regard to that matter:

TORONTO, January 27th, 1873

DEAR SIR,—Herewith I enclose you a copy of the *Mail*, in which I am charged, among other things, with having been engaged in collecting money in Britain for the erection of a church and the establishment of a school in Buxton; that Mr. King and myself collected about ten thousand dollars more than has been accounted for. Will you, as Convener of the Buxton Committee, write and say what connection I had with the collection and payment of these funds, and how they were disposed of. It is asserted I was present when the report was presented to the Synod. I shall feel obliged if you will send as full and complete an answer to the statements contained in the *Mail* as the facts in your possession will enable you to do.

Yours faithfully,

ARCH. MCKELLAR.

Rev. John Scott, London, Ontario.

JANUARY 30th, 1873.

To the Hon. ARCHIBALD MCKELLAR, M.P.

DEAR SIR,—Yours of the 27th inst. duly came to hand, as also a copy of the *Mail* for November 2nd, 1872. In directing my attention to an editorial in the copy of the *Mail*, headed "The Elgin Association Funds," you say, "I am charged among other things with having been engaged in collecting money in Britain for the erection of a church and the establishment of a school at Buxton, and having, along with Mr. King, collected about ten thousand dollars more than has been accounted for." and ask, "Will you, as Convener of the Buxton Mission Committee, write and say what connection I had with the collection and payment of these funds, and how they were disposed of."

In answer to the first part of your question, which relates to the connection you had with the collecting and payment of the Buxton Mission funds, I may reply, in brief, that so far as I am aware you had no connection whatever with the collecting of them, and that your only connection with the payment of them was your being a member of the Committee to whose management these funds were entrusted, subject to the review and direction of the Supreme Court of the Canada Presbyterian Church.

Your name, I suppose, has become identified in the public mind with the Buxton Mission from the great interest which you always