

James Losh, esq. Barrister at Law. By Robert Tweddell, A. M. 4to. 2s.

This letter may be pronounced at least the prelude to the triumph of truth; and even though the rest of the valuable relics of the lamented Tweddell should not make their speedy appearance, his friends will have substantial reason to hope that time may bring them to light. For the information of our readers, we shall extract the "Minutes of the Examination."

"At a meeting holden by appointment at the Foreign Office in Downing street, on Thursday the 7th of November, 1816, between William Hamilton, esq. one of the under secretaries of state, on the part of the Earl of Elgin; and John Heys, of Lincoln's Inn, esq. and Abraham Moore, of the Temple, esq. on the part of the Rev. Robert Tweddell, of Manchester, administrator to his late brother, Mr. John Tweddell, who died at Athens in July, 1799:

"Mr. Heys and Mr. Moore produced a box containing sixty-seven drawings of costumes, chiefly Turkish, which they stated to belong to Mr. Hamilton Nisbet, and to have been sent by him to Mr. Robert Tweddell, as copies taken for the former at Naples, from originals belonging to the late Mr. John Tweddell; which originals had been brought home by Mr. Nisbet from Constantinople, and returned into the possession of Lord Elgin.

"Mr. Hamilton produced two corded boxes of different sizes, which he stated had been sent to him by Lord Elgin, from Broomhall, in order that their contents might be examined by some one on the part of Mr. Robert Tweddell.

"The smaller of the two boxes produced by Mr. Hamilton contained ninety-eight drawings of costumes chiefly Turkish, and of some from other parts of the Levant, the East, and Egypt; and fourteen other drawings or sketches of figures chiefly Swiss. At the bottom of each of the ninety-eight drawings, there was the Turkish name and also a short explanation in French of the figure represented, all stated by Mr. Moore and Mr. Heys to have been in the late Mr. John Tweddell's hand-writing. Sixty of these were evidently the originals, from which the same number of copies contained in Mr. Nisbet's box had been taken; but the boxes produced by Mr. Hamilton contained no originals from which the remaining seven of Mr. Nisbet's drawings had been copied. There were, however, thirty-eight drawings in this box, of which there were no copies in Mr. Nisbet's box. The ninety-eight drawings of costumes, all having the late Mr. John Tweddell's hand-writing at the bottom, were admitted without hesitation, to have belonged to him; and the parties present all thinking it probable, that the remaining fourteen drawings or sketches (being found in the same box, and representing the customs, &c. of countries which he had visited) had belonged to him also; this box, with all its contents, as above described, was delivered by Mr. Hamilton to Mr. Heys and Mr. Moore, for the use of Mr. Robert Tweddell.

"The larger box was then opened. It contained seven pencil drawings, two small and one large portfolio of scenery, figures, and costumes, from Naples and other parts, which had not been visited by Mr. John Tweddell; with the name of the artist Xavier Gatta, and a short description of them in hand-writing which had not the least resemblance to the late Mr. John Tweddell's. The smaller drawings had the dates of 1799 and 1800 upon them: and all or most of the larger had the date upon them of 1803. From these circumstances it was thought apparent that the drawings

contained in the larger box could not have formed any part of Mr. John Tweddell's collection, and therefore this larger box and its contents were retained by Mr. Hamilton."

Thus stands this mysterious business: but after so glaring a discovery, no one, we believe, will be hardy enough to say that the friends of Mr. Tweddell have been rash, or that Lord Elgin and his advocates have manifested much liberality or discretion.

After a long acrimonious public correspondence between Rev. Robert Tweddell and Elgin & Hunt, in which Tweddell accused them of stealing his dead brother, John's possessions, Hunt was eventually forced to concede that he had plagiarised John Tweddell's writings and then Elgin was forced to concede that he had given some boxes, that may have contained some of John Tweddell's artefacts to his father in law, Mr. Hamilton Nisbet it was agreed that these boxes should be examined by representatives of both parties. Here is an account of that event which was published by Robert Tweddell.

"Account of the Examination of the Elgin Box at the Foreign Office in Downing Street, on the 7th November 1816, in a letter to James Losh, esq. Barrister at Law. By Robert Tweddell, A. M.

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The narrative went on to describe the contents of boxes sent by Lord Elgin to his then father in law, Mr. Hamilton Nisbet, which contained a large number of drawings and costumes that 98 drawings of costume were identified with certainty and 14 with probability as having been once the property of Tweddell. These were then handed over to the representative of his brother the Rev. Robert Tweddell, who wrote at the end of his account of the examination:

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