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Title: Letter from Charles Stille to George Ellis

Date: June 7, 1891

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Philad^a. June 7. 1891
5204 St. James Place,
New York City.

I am highly flattered
and gratified to find that you
are able to speak so kindly
of my book in the Register, and
especially that you recognize
so clearly the line which divides
those who seek redress for a vio-
lation of their ancient un doubted
rights and privileges guaranteed
by law, from those for whom an
Independent Government is the
only remedy for what they esteem
intolerable grievances. As a
Member of the Massa-
chusetts Historical Society, I regret
to be fully satisfied with the
approval of its President, &
I am glad to think that I have

not, in your opinion, wholly
justified by allegiance.

I quite agree with you in
thinking that the book would
have been more interesting had
it dealt more with the private
and personal life of Capt
Slickinson. But unfortunately for
me the material for this work
was in the possession of three
different families, the Cad-
paladers, the male line of the
Slickinson family now represented
by the descendants of James
Logan, and by the female line.
All three have reason to believe
are in possession of papers
which would illustrate the
private life of Capt. Slickinson, but
I believe that the first two have the
largest share of what the public

must like to know, which I
have been obliged to content
myself with the meagre share
which has fallen to the lot of
the third. I do not know whether
historical writers with you meet
with the same formidable obsta-
cles ^{in acquiring} the fullest illus-
tration of their subjects from
the families of the persons of
whom they desire to write an account.
There seems to be here a conspira-
cy to conceal information about
conspicuous persons on the part
of their families. The late Gene-
ral Meade left a very full
diary, and letters of great
value addressed to his wife.
They are now in the possession
of his son, Colonel Meade, who
it is understood has arranged
them for publication, and who

Says that they will present a
new history of the Army of
the Potomac, yet for some
unknown reason he does not
publish them, nor permit any
one to see them. And yet he
complains, in Dickinson's descen-
dants do, that justice is not
done to his ^{Father's} memory! I have
been trying for more than twenty
years to write the life of
Dickinson, but I was unable
to get to work until I found
by a lucky accident that
Ellis Logan was willing to do me.

Will you kindly present my
thanks to Mr. Smith for his
criticism in the Post. At sometimes
does quite as much good to
point out one's failings as to
sound his praises.

Very sincerely,
Wm. L. G. Felt

Rev. Dr. Ellis,