

D.O. No. 4.

Presidency College,

3rd January

29

My dear Stapleton,

Thank you for your D. O. No. 6 of January 2nd enclosing a copy of Sir R. N. Mookerjee's letter. I do not consider that the complaints of the gentlemen to whom he refers can be substantiated. Ninety per cent of the students in this College have had relations here before, in many cases students can trace a family connection for four or five generations consecutively. The argument they adduce about English Public -- Schools and Universities is not correct in fact. Winchester, for example, which is the most difficult of any Public School in which to obtain admission, insists on a high entrance examination being passed as a condition of admittance regardless of any family connection. In any case, if family connection is to be considered, is it to be the connection of the rich and wealthy families or of families not so blessed with this -- world's goods, that is to be given the preference? In my opinion no college can lead a healthy existence which gives indulgence in admission to the sons of old members to an extent that excludes better and more promising pupils.

If the support of the proposed College Assembly Hall is to depend on the gratification of old students by concessions in admission, I, for one, do not consider that

that the Assembly Hall will be obtained at any benefit to this College. I agree that there is a real need of an Assembly Hall in the premier college of Bengal, but I would emphasize the fact that the Presidency College can only remain the premier college in Bengal by attracting to it the best ^{brains} ~~students~~ in Bengal who can count on admission irrespective of family prestige or position, provided that the character and ability of the applicants are satisfactory. In every college in Bengal e.g. Hughly, Krishnagar and others ^{there are} ~~for~~ long family connections, and as in the mofassil colleges and, to some extent, in the Presidency College the greater portion of the cost of the college is met by Government grant, I do not see how those who are fortunate enough to obtain the benefits of those colleges for their own education can claim the ^{prescriptive} ~~prospective~~ right for the education of their sons and grandsons, as the bulk of the cost and maintenance ^{comes} ~~goes~~ from the taxpayers.

Yours sincerely,

Rud
4/1/29

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D. P. I. Bengal (Offg).