

Correspondence regarding the establishment of a professorship in Latin and Comparative Grammar

Edn. Proceedings 23-27, February 1868

Accessed: 09/03/2023

[No. 23]

From W.S. ATKINSON, ESQ., Director of Public Instruction, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, — [No. 369, dated Fort William, the 27th January 1868]

*Letter No. 672, dated 2nd January 1868, from the Principal, Presidency College
This Office No. 111, dated 16th January 1868, to the Principal, Presidency College.
Letter No. 691, dated 21st January 1868, from Principal, Presidency College.

WITH reference to your office endorsement No. 3136, dated 18th July, I have the honor to forward herewith a copy of the correspondence noted in the margin*, and beg to recommend that immediate sanction be given to the expenditure of Rupees 200 a month from the fees of the Presidency College, as remuneration for the Professor who may be employed to conduct a class in Latin and Comparative Grammar in addition to his other duties, in accordance with the suggestions of the Government of India. I propose that this arrangement be sanctioned experimentally for two years, after which it may, perhaps, be possible to provide additional funds for the purpose, either by a special class fee, or by a further increase in the rate of fee for all classes.

P.S. - I have just been informed by the Principal that he has received applications from ten students for admission to a Latin Class, in the event of one being formed.

[No. 24]

From J. SUTCLIFFE, ESQ., M. A. Principal, Presidency College, to W. S. ATKINSON, ESQ., M. A. Director of Public Instruction, - (No. 672, dated Presidency College, the 2nd January 1868.)

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a copy of your letter No. 1419 of 31st March last, together with a copy of a letter from the Secretary to the Government of India, No. 2007, dated 5th July, containing the orders of the Supreme Government regarding your proposal for the appointment of an additional Professor on the staff of this College, whose duty should be to teach Comparative Grammar, with special reference to Latin, Greek and Sanskrit.

2. While concurring with you in your estimate and desirableness of founding a distinct Professorship of Comparative Grammar in this Institution when the state of finance will permit, I would point out that perhaps there could not be more opportune time for carrying out the suggestion contained in the last paragraph of Mr Secretary Bayley's letter than the present, owing to the presence, existing staff of the College, of a Professor who is probably better qualified than any other Officer of the Department to carry out successfully the experiment of a temporary chair. I need hardly say that I allude to Mr Tawney ,

who to the highest attainment in Latin and Greek has added a knowledge of Sanskrit since he joined the College, if you see no objection. I would therefore propose that the experimental class be opened with the Session of 1868 and Mr. Tawney be appointed to take charge of it on an additional allowance of 200 Rupees per mensem.

[No 25]

From W. S. ATKINSON, ESQ., Director of Public Instruction, to the Principal of the Presidency College, - (No. 111, dated Fort William, the 16th January, 1868.)

WITH reference to the concluding part of your letter No 672, dated 2nd January, I have the Honor to enquire in what way you propose to provide the rupees 200 a month which have been suggested as the amount of remuneration to be given to the Professor who may undertake the experimental class in Comparative Grammar You will observe that the Governemnt of Idia has intimated that such remuneration must be given "by means of fees from students of subscriptions," but in your present communication nothing is said upon this point.

2. The expediency of requiring extra fees to be paid for special lectures appears doubtful, and it is worthy of consideration whether the requisite funds might not rather be obtained, either now or hereafter, by a further increase in the ordinary fee which is levied on all students, From the commencement of next Session the additional Rupee I which it is proposed to require from the students holding Junior Scholarships may perhaps produce nearly the amount wanted and it is possible that Governement might be willing to accept this for the present as an off-set against the charge, and allow the Rupees 200 a month to be paid now out of the proceeds of the present income from fees, considering that the general rate has only recently been increased from Rupees 10 to Rupees 12 a month.

3. I shall await your report on these points before communicating to Government the recommendations submitted by you.

[No. 26] From J. SUTCLIFFE, ESQ., M.A., Principal, Presidency College, to W.S. ATKINSON, ESQ., M.A., Director of Public Instruction — (No. 691, dated Presidency College, the 21st January 1868)

IN reply to your letter No. 111 of 16th instant, I have the honor to state that when I wrote to you on 2nd January, I was under the impression that the Government of India was prepared to sanction the payment of an extra allowance of 200 Rupees a month from the Educational Grant of the year, and that it was unnecessary to consider any other way of providing for the payment of the Professor who might be appointed to take charge of the class.

2. As it appears that the extra allowance is to be provided "by means of fees from students or subscriptions," I would suggest that, for the present, the sum be debited to the general income from fees rather than that a special fee be levied from this particular class. Indeed, it is but too certain, I fear, that the exaction of a special fee for Latin would deter students from joining the class, and the genera rate of fees for all classes has been too recently raised to admit of another increase just now. The higher fee of 6 Rupees,

which it is proposed to levy from junior scholars on 1st January 1869, will produce an increase of income of about 100 Rupees a month. I cannot reckon, therefore, upon providing the extra expenditure from the source alone.

3. The objection to the debiting of the amount to the General Fee FUnd is in a great measure met by the fact that we almost invariably have some 4th year students who take up Latin as a second language, and that such students have hitherto been obliged to have recourse to the assistance of some private tutor, or to trust to their own unaided exertions. I admitted one student yesterday to the 4th year class, whose second language at the Degree Examination will be Latin, and most probably, if it were known that the College course embraces Latin, I should soon have other applicants for admission. I have also had an application from a Native Graduate to join a Latin Class if no special fee be levied. I think, therefore, that, viewing the formation of the new class as an experiment, you might very properly recommend Government to sanction payment of the extra allowance to the Professor from the General Fee Fud of the College for two Sessions, after which period a report might be submitted showing how the class has succeeded.

[No. 27] From H.L. Harrison, Esq., Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Director of Public Instruction, (No. 733, dated Fort William, the 11th February 1868)

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 369, dated the 27th ultimo, recommending sanction to an expenditure of Rupees 200 per mensem from the fees of the Presidency College, to remunerate a Professor who is to be employed in conducting a class in Latin and Comparative Grammar in addition to his other duties, and in reply to inform you that the Lieutenant-Governor is of opinion that the proposal is clearly not in accordance with the intention of the Government of India, and is therefore unable to approve it. It is obvious that though the proposed plan would debit with the cost only the fees of the College in the first instance, yet it would ultimately fall on the Imperial Revenues by the corresponding diminution of the Fee Fund.

2. The introduction of the new graded system has already added somewhat to the expensiveness of Government Colleges for general education, and the Lieutenant-Governor regrets to observe that the annual report for 1866-67 shews that the increase from this and other causes has been so great that the annual cost to the Government to each pupil has risen from an average of Rupees 176 in 1865-66 to Rupees 1866-67. This increased costliness alone forms a general ground for hesitating to recommend any fresh expenditure that is not absolutely necessary for the efficiency of the Government Colleges, as well as for requiring a larger contribution from those who take advantage of the education provided to them.