

Proposal to give more practical effect to the long-standing arrangement whereby students from affiliated colleges in Calcutta were admitted to special lectures in the Presidency College

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OPEN LECTURESHIPS AT THE PRESIDENCY COLLEGE

...laying out so much money as the teaching of this subject, desirable and important as it is, will necessarily entail. My recent report will have shown you how injuriously the introduction and patronage of this subject has affected our attendance. We have only three students in the third-year class.

The desirableness, then, of the scheme you propose, as regards *this college* (the only feature of the scheme which I am at present considering), is obvious and I see no reason why we should not gladly and thankfully avail ourselves, as far as we can, of the arrangement suggested, and I see no great difficulty, as regards ourselves, in carrying out the scheme without detriment to our own course of studies.

I cannot hazard any prediction as to the probable number of students from this college who would avail themselves of these lectures, but our proximity to the Presidency College would make it easier for our students to attend, than students from other aided colleges, and I think it is very likely a considerable number would attend.

I have no objection to the amount of fee proposed. The only question that will arise, and *need settlement*, will be this, – who is to pay this fee? Will the students be required to pay it *in addition* to the monthly college fee of Rs. 5 or will the college pay it out of the Rs. 5 monthly fee, so that we shall receive only Rs. 3 per mensem from such students? I venture to suggest a compromise as a fair and practical solution of the question; viz. that the students of the aided colleges who attend these chemical lectures pay down as required Rs. 24, and during the session be entered on the rolls of their respective colleges on payment of a monthly fee of Rs. 4 according to the rule you state that payment should be regulated by the number of subjects taught in the college.

There is room for difference of opinion as to the application of our grant in aid rules to this unprecedented condition of things, and I desiderate a ruling on the question, of some kind or the other, by competent authority to preclude variety of practice.

I anticipate no difficulty in being able to arrange with the Principal of the Presidency College to have the chemical lectures delivered at a time convenient to both colleges.

[File 35. —7]

Dated General Assembly's Institution, Cornwallis Square, Calcutta, the 7th May 1873.

From — The Revd. Dr. R. Jardine,

To — The Director of Public Instruction.

With reference to your letter of 28th April, regarding the arrangements for our students attending chemical lectures at the Presidency College, I think it would be desirable if they could do so. It appears to me that the principal difficulty to be overcome is the distance of our college from the Presidency College; and the only way I see of overcoming this difficulty is by arranging chemical lectures for some hours before 10 A.M. or after 4 P.M. The smallness of the number of students who are likely to wish for chemistry in this college would be such that it would not be worth while for me to change my hours for their sake. At least previous to experience this is what I suppose.

With reference to the fees which you propose charging, I have no remark to make. They appear reasonable.

In this connection I wish to refer to you the case of one of our students. He is a scholarship-holder in the first year, by name Siva Prasad Ray, and his subject is chemistry. He applied for permission to hold his scholarship here, but in consequence of our not teaching chemistry the permission was not granted. I told him that he ought to join some other college, but he chose to remain on the ground that he had heard that soon he could get chemistry, by the arrangements you are proposing, at the Presidency College.

I shall be obliged to you if you kindly let me know what should be done with him. Can he remain in expectation of satisfactory arrangement being made?

As to whether many of our students would avail themselves of the chemical lectures, any opinion I might express would not be worth much. Probably a small number would, and I should for my own part encourage them to do so, as no doubt a knowledge of chemistry is a valuable part of good education.

[File 35. — 8] Dated Calcutta, the 14th May 1873.

From — The Revd. W.C. Fyfe, Free Church Institution.

I have to acknowledge the receipt on the 6th instant of your letter of the 28th ultimo. In reply I have to state that I read it to a meeting of our instructive staff yesterday. After a long discussion we arrived unanimously at the resolutions contained in the accompanying paper which I herewith beg to submit to you.

With thanks for your letter.

At a meeting of the instructive staff of the Free Church Institution, Calcutta, 13th May 1873, the Revd. W.C. Fyfe, Chairman, read a letter from Mr. Atkinson, Director of Public Instruction, intimating a willingness on the part of the Bengal Government to make “special arrangements to enable the students of the missionary colleges to attend the chemical lectures at the Presidency College on the payment of an annual fee for the course;” and asking to be acquainted with our views as to the desirableness of such arrangements being made.

- I. —Resolved, that we record our hearty thanks to Sir George Campbell, the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, for the interest he has manifested in the welfare of the missionary colleges, and his willingness to help in giving them instruction in chemistry.
- II. — Resolved, that the attention of the Bengal Government be directed to the following as bearing upon the subject: ----
 - (1) That this institution has been supplied with chemical apparatus at great expense to the mission, and that such arrangements would deprive us of the opportunity of making them serviceable to the mission.
 - (2) That our staff is prepared to give lectures in chemistry, and that during this session we are teaching the university text-book in chemistry to the first and third-year classes.
 - (3) That the institution is two miles from the Presidency College, a distance that would render it very disadvantageous to our students to attend classes in both buildings daily; and that would undoubtedly tend to reduce the number of our students if the proposed arrangements were carried into effect.
 - (4) That the time for the delivery of the lectures, so as to be convenient for our students, would require to be fixed before 9.45 A.M., or after 4.30 P.M.

- (5) That the fees in the missionary colleges were fixed with reference to those charged in the Presidency College, and that whenever the fees in the Missionary colleges were raised, a corresponding increase was made in the fees of the Presidency College. But as far as we can understand, if the proposed arrangements were carried into effect the fees of the missionary colleges would be raised nearly a half, without any corresponding increase being made in the fees of the Presidency College.
- III. —Resolved, that in these circumstances it is considered undesirable to encourage the Bengal Government in making any special arrangements to accommodate our students.
- IV. —Further, this meeting thinks that the proposed arrangements, while intended to confer an equal favor upon all missionary colleges in and around Calcutta, would give undue advantage to those colleges that are near the Presidency College over such colleges as are at greater distances from it.

W.C. Fyfe, *Chairman*.

[File 35. — 9.] No. 469T, dated the 4th June 1873.

From — C. Bernard, Esq., Offg. Secretary to the Government of Bengal, General Department.

To — The Director of Public Instruction.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 48T, dated 30th May, reporting upon the proposal to give more practical effect to the long-standing arrangement whereby students from affiliated colleges in Calcutta were admitted to special lectures at the Presidency College.

2. Mr. Sutcliffe, Principal of the Presidency College, in his letter of the 21st April 1873, reported that “under the practice which has always been observed at this college, students of any college are admissible to any course of lectures on the payment of an annual fixed fee (no Rs. 32) in advance.” He at the same time mentioned that it had been the “intention of the authorities at the missionary colleges to ask Government to allow their students to attend the lectures in chemistry and physics, on the ground that the expenses of these lectures at the missionary colleges was greater than their funds could bear.” Mr. Sutcliffe’s letter points out that the Presidency College fees for lectures in five branches of learning amount to Rs. 144 a year, and that the proportionate fee for lectures in one branch only would be Rs. 29 a year.

3. Your letter of the 28th April, to the heads of the missionary colleges in Calcutta, inquired whether they would wish special arrangements made to permit of the students of their

college attending chemical lectures at the Presidency College; you intimated that the fee for such a course of lectures might perhaps be fixed at Rs. 24 a year, and that if the proposal were accepted, the hour for these lectures would be fixed so as to suit general convenience.

4. The Revd. J. Dyson, Principal of the Cathedral Mission College, writes that the authorities of his college would “gladly and thankfully avail themselves as far as they can of the arrangement suggested, and they see no great difficulty, as regards their college, in carrying out the scheme without detriment to their own course of studies.” Mr. Dyson anticipates that a considerable number of students would attend the science lectures; he writes that the study of physical has become “an attractive subject to undergraduates of the Cathedral Mission College,” and he thinks that the Home society may probably not “feel itself justified in laying out so much money as the teaching of this subject, desirable and important as it is, will necessarily entail.” Mr. Dyson touches upon the question that the terms of the grant-in-aid to his college require his students to pay a fee of Rs. 5 a month, and he inquires whether the Rs. 24 fee for physical science lectures is to be in addition to that fee. He recommends that the Education Department should not insist upon the whole Rs. 24 a year being in addition to the ordinary Rs. 60 college fee.

5. Dr. Jardine, Principal of the General Assembly’s Institution, considers that arrangements for the undergraduates of his institution attending chemical lectures at the Presidency College would be desirable. He adverts to the practical difficulty that his institution is rather far from the Presidency College; he accepts the proposed rate of fee; he does not anticipate that many students from his institution would attend the lectures, but he cites the case of a scholarship-holder who wishes to stay at the General Assembly’s Institution, but who, as his subject is chemistry, will be forced to go elsewhere unless some such arrangement as is now proposed be carried out.

6. The Revd. W.G. Fyfe forwards the proceedings of a meeting of the instructive staff of the Free Church Institution, wherein it is stated that the institution already possesses sufficient chemical apparatus supplied at considerable cost, that its staff are prepared to teach chemistry, and are in fact giving lectures on that subject during the present session; that the distance from Presidency College (two miles) would render it inconvenient for their students to attend lectures in both buildings daily. Under these circumstances the staff of the Free Church Institution do not desire that any special arrangements be made at the Presidency College to accommodate their students. The enclosure to Mr. Fyfe’s letter touches on the fee question, and deprecates any arrangement which would in effect raise the fees of the missionary college students by nearly one-half.

7. In your letter forwarding these papers you recommend that “for the present the students of any college affiliated to the university should be admitted to the chemical lectures at the Presidency College on the payment of a fee of Rs. 24 per annum, and that for those who attend, the fee paid to their own college should be reduced by the full amount of Rs. 2 a month, or by any less sum, as may be agreed upon by the Principals of the colleges concerned.”

8. The Lieutenant-Governor is glad to learn that the proposal recently made has so far anticipated a want already felt two out of the three missionary colleges in Calcutta; he is glad to know that the staff and appliances of the third college are such as to enable the Free Church Institution to teach its students chemistry within its own walls.

9. As regards the general plan of giving increased facilities to the students of colleges outside the Presidency College for attending particular classes in the Presidency College, the present Vice-Chancellor of the University has expressed to the Lieutenant-Governor a strong dislike to a move in that direction, and as the college buildings and arrangements would not admit of much immediate extension, and Mr. Bayley's views are well-entitled to consideration, the Lieutenant-Governor is not anxious to hurry the matter to a conclusion. Mr. Sutcliffe's statement shows too that the fee now charged is not very largely in excess of a proportionate part of the ordinary college fee. For the present then the Lieutenant-Governor would confine himself to meeting immediate and pressing necessities. The University has given to chemistry a very important place in the course for degrees, and it is clear from the statements of Revd. Messrs. Dyson and Jardines that in the absence of some such arrangement as has been proposed, those independent colleges which have not been able to arrange a double course are very injuriously affected; the attendance on the Cathedral Mission's College having been much reduced in consequence, while the scholarship-holder at the General Assembly's Institution, whose case is mentioned, is in a very hard dilemma. But on general grounds it would be most undesirable that the introduction of physical science should injuriously affect these independent colleges, and the ordinary classes of the Presidency College are already so full that we can hardly desire, till we have better accommodation, to attract a large number of students from other colleges to the full course there. Under the circumstances therefore, without entering further on the general question, the Lieutenant-Governor will only sanction as a special case the admission of students from other colleges to the chemical classes of the Presidency College, as proposed by you, at a somewhat reduced fee of Rs. 24 per annum or Rs. 2 per mensem. The fee should be payable quarterly in advance, and arrangements made as you propose. As respects the fees charged by the colleges to which the students taking advantage of this permission belong, the Lieutenant-Governor thinks it would be a fair compromise that, as proposed by Mr. Dyson, they should be charged not more than Rs. 4, instead of Rs. 5 per mensem. If the college authorities should be willing to reduce the whole sum paid to the Presidency College, and to charge Rs. 3 only, the Lieutenant-Governor will be very glad – but he does not desire to stipulate for this.