

Regarding Application of Students of the Dacca and Kishnaghur Colleges to receive transfer to Presidency College law classes at same fees

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[No. 20]

From W.S. ATKINSON, ESQ., Director of Public Instruction, to RIVERS THOMPSON, ESQ., Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal, — (No. 271, dated the 2nd February 1861)

I HAVE recently received applications from certain third year Students of the Dacca and Kishnaghur Colleges to be transferred to the Law Department of the Presidency College on the same terms with regard to fees as they were on their respective Colleges; and I have thought it right, before passing any order on their application, to obtain the opinion of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor as to the propriety of sanctioning their request.

2. In consequence of the very inadequate staff of the Mofussil Colleges it has lately been the practice to transfer all third year Students who wish to prosecute their studies for the B.A. Degree to Presidency College, the only Government Institution in Bengal which has any claim to be considered a College in the University sense of the term, and they have been permitted to attend the Professor's Lectures there on the payment of the same fees as levied in the Mofussil Colleges, viz. Rupees 2-8 per mensem at Dacca, and Rupees 3 at Kishnaghur; the fee in the General Department of the Presidency College being Rupees 10, and the fee for Out-students of the Law Classes, i.e., those who attend the Law Classes of the College only, being also Rupees 10.

3. It is only right, I think, that some concession of this kind should be continued to the Mofussil Colleges so long as they are not placed in a condition to work up efficiently to the standard for the B.A. Degree, though at the same time it is open to consideration whether a higher fee than at present may not be fairly be expected from Students preparing for a University Degree.

4. But it is a somewhat different question whether Mofussil Students, whose object is to obtain, not a general, but a professional education, should be allowed to do so on easier terms than the Students of Presidency and its neighbourhood. If it should be considered, for the advantage of the public service, as perhaps it may be, to induce a large number of young men to qualify themselves for the professions of Law and Civil Engineering, then it will no doubt be advisable to hold out to Mofussil Students the inducement of low fees to allure them to the professional Colleges of the Presidency, notwithstanding the apparently inadequate payments they make for the advantages held out to them. But in this and many other questions which are daily arising in this Department the educational and political views are so diametrically opposed to the financial one, that, though competent to settle the point without a reference to

Government, I prefer to solicit an expression of His Honor's opinion before passing any order on the subject.

5. The Law Session has already commenced, and, as it is very desirable that all the Students who intend to join the Classes should do so without delay. I venture to request that you will move His Honor to give early consideration to the question referred for his decision.

[No. 21]

From RIVERS THOMPSON, ESQ., Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Director of Public Instruction, — (No. 57, dated the 16th February 1861.)

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 271 dated the 2nd instant, soliciting the orders of the Lieutenant-Governor on the application of certain third year students of the Dacca and Krishnaghur colleges to be transferred to the Law Department of the Presidency College on the Same terms with regard to fees as those which obtain in their respective Colleges.

2. As the Lieutenant-Governor understands the subject, the ground on which third and fourth year Students of the Dacca and Krishnaghur Colleges are allowed to come to the Presidency College, paying only the fees that they would have to pay at their own Mofussil Colleges. Now this ground, I am to observe, applies even more fully in the case of Law Students than it does in the case of Students in Arts, because for Law there is as yet absolutely no provision in these Mofussil Colleges.

3. The Lieutenant-Governor is therefore of opinion that the rule for general Students should be applied equally to Law Students.

4. But it is for consideration, in regard to future years, whether Rupees 2-8 or Rupees 3 are not too low rates for the degree of instruction given at the Presidency College. If the same degree could be given at the Mofussil Colleges, the Lieutenant-Governor apprehends that the charge there for Advanced students would be more. It would seem that Rupees 5 a month, being half the rate charged at Presidency College, would in that case be a fairer rate to charge at the Mofussil Colleges; and, if so, the Lieutenant-Governor is of opinion that that rate, or something approaching to it, should be charged to all third and fourth year Mofussil Students who transfer themselves to the Presidency College.

5. You will be so good as to consider and report on this subject after communication with the Inspector of Schools. Meanwhile the Lieutenant-Governor desires that the rule applicable to general Students may be applied to Law Students; for it is only for want of funds that Law Professorships are not

constituted in the Mofussil Colleges. In this respect I am to observe that there is a material difference between the Law Department of the Presidency College and the Medical College.