

9th January 30.

My dear Stapleton,

I have been considering your confidential D.O. 64 of 8th January 1930. The tone of the Modern Review appears to be very markedly anti-British. The question is whether any useful purpose will be served by proscribing it so far as Government Schools and Colleges are concerned.

The whole question of censorship is of course a very difficult one, and one on which there will always be differences of opinion, based on differences of temperament. Broadly speaking I dislike censorship, and should like to keep it within the narrowest possible limits: But only a fanatic would deny that some censorship, at least among certain classes of the community, is necessary. For example, there was a good deal of discussion last year in England about the censorship of books on the ground of obscenity; but I suppose no one would object to the proscription of the books that were in question among children.

Government exercises a certain amount of censorship in regard to publications calculated to arouse ill-will among various sections of the community. Is anything further required, or would anything further be beneficial, in regard to Government Schools and Colleges ?

I think that a distinction may fairly be drawn between Schools and Colleges. But as regards Colleges I really think special proscription is likely to ^{do} more harm than good, especially where a Review of some pretensions to merit is concerned. I do not for a moment question the harm which the tone of the Review may do. But to proscribe it would instantly produce a wave of criticism and excitement, and probably cause a great many people to read it who otherwise would never look at it. And further I have a strong feeling that, when you are dealing

with College students in Calcutta, the proscription of one particular paper or magazine is a futile proceeding. A flood of anti-British^{and} anti-Government propaganda is poured out every day in a number of newspapers. No doubt it affects many people: others manage to keep their heads. What is the good of banning one particular review ?

I should leave the matter alone.

I return the copy you sent me.

Yours sincerely,

W. G. [Signature]

To

H. E. Stapleton, Esq., M.A., B.Sc.(Oxon), I.E.S., M.L.C.,
Director of Public Instruction, Bengal.

Craft

My dear Stapleton,

I have been considering
your craft-d.o.ble of 8/1. The tone of the
modern Review appears to be very ~~and~~
markedly anti-British. The question is
whether any useful purpose will be served
by proscribing it so far as Govt. Schools &
colleges are concerned.

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course a very difficult one, and one on
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Broadly speaking I dislike censorship, and
should like to keep it within the narrowest
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the ^{proscriptions} ~~censures~~ of the books that were in question
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no doubt it affects many people; others buy up to keep their heads.
A number of newspapers, what is the point
of banning one particular review?

I should have the matter alone.

(return the copy) You sent me.
Yours sincerely,
M. M. 9/11