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No. 1473.

FROM C. BERNARD, Esq.,

Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal,

TO THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

Calcutta, the 29th April 1872.

GENERAL DEPARTMENT.

Education.

SIR,

WITH reference to your letter No. 1456, dated the 10th April, and other correspondence regarding the provision of accommodation for the Presidency College, I am directed to inform you that the Lieutenant-Governor has very anxiously considered the subject, and he now desires to communicate the following remarks and orders.

2. His Honor is, as he has several times said, far from grudging money to encourage higher education, and has only been restrained by a consideration of the pressing necessity of finding means for the primary education of the people. His Honor has not reduced, but at the same time has not thought himself at liberty very largely to increase, the ordinary grants for higher education. Money spent on buildings for educational purposes is just as much spent on education as the sums included in the ordinary grants, and the Lieutenant-Governor has hesitated about providing the large sum required for a new College.

3. Since, however, after full inquiry and personal examination, it appears to His Honor that not only is the present accommodation of the Presidency College totally inadequate to so great and flourishing an institution, but that in reality there is no College building at all, the classes being accommodated partly in the school buildings and partly in a hired house,—and seeing how great an engine is this College in the education and development of the natives of Bengal, and how great a hold it has on the interests and affections of the highly enlightened native community in and about Calcutta,—His Honor has come to the conclusion that he is justified in building a new College. It will be undertaken and pressed on to completion as rapidly as possible, money for immediate operations having been already provided in the budget. His Honor the more readily accepts this conclusion, because the tendency of recent arrangements has been to concentrate the highest education more than ever in this great Metropolitan Institution.

4. The Lieutenant-Governor had approved of a plan costing something more than two lakhs of rupees, but he has had misgivings whether it would meet all our needs. It seems to his Honor that, if we are to have a new College, we had better make the building complete and ample for all our requirements. We must arrange to accommodate not only the arts classes, but also the law and civil engineering departments, and his Honor has come to the conclusion that all questions lately discussed regarding practical training for Government employ, and special classes, will be best and most satisfactorily settled by the establishment of a regular civil service department, regarding which detailed instructions will shortly be issued. His Honor has therefore thought it desirable to extend the plan by adding a third story, if this can be safely done, or otherwise as may be found best; and he has directed the Chief Engineer

to prepare plans within a rough estimate of three lakhs of rupees. I am to desire that you will, together with the Principal of the Presidency College, place yourself in communication with Mr. Leonard, in order that the plans for the new College may be elaborated with complete regard to all requirements.

5. Sufficient provision must be made for civil service classes, which will probably comprise an ordinary two years' course, and an upper course for more advanced students, who having completed the university science course, may desire to qualify in scientific agriculture and other advanced knowledge suitable to students who aspire to offices leading to high administrative posts.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

C. BERNARD,

Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

No 1705-

Copy forwarded to the Principal —
Presidency College for information with refce to his No
40 dated 8th April 1872 with an intimation that Mr
Leonard has been asked to fix a time for a meeting

W. H. D'C.

To Mr William }
The 1st May 1872 } Director of Public Instruction

W. H. D'C.