

the Sanskrit subjects, I can say from personal knowledge that particular subjects may be safely neglected when, by care and diligence bestowed on the others, comparatively high aggregates can be secured.

2. The proposed abolition of pass-marks would be likely, therefore, I think, to have a prejudicial effect on the studies of the pupils of our colleges. The change proposed, if effected, may lead, I am afraid, to a neglect of such important subjects in the A Course as Logic and Philosophy.

3. On the supreme importance of Logic, the most fundamental of the Sciences, it is unnecessary to dwell. There is a saying in Sanskrit, *युको न्याय विवर्जितः* (one without Logic is dumb). Philosophy indeed still continues to be the battle-field of opposed schools of thought. But in spite of this a liberal course of education would, I humbly think, be incomplete, if it imparted no knowledge of what has been achieved in this field. Both Logic and Philosophy would seem, therefore, to have strong claims to be compulsory subjects at the B. A. Examination. This they are not, and I think it, therefore, all the more desirable that those who at all take up one or other of these subjects should be under some sort of compulsion to devote considerable attention to it.

4. The subjects in which it is proposed that pupils should attain 33 per cent. of the total marks in order to pass, could not certainly be neglected, and if, in addition to these, the comparatively unimportant subject of History were carefully got up, I think an A Course student could manage to pass without much knowledge of either Philosophy or, alternatively, Logic.

5. If pass-marks are to be abolished at all, they should be abolished, I think, for all the subjects except English, which, being now the language of culture and public business throughout the country, possesses a commanding importance. As for Mathematics, I know of boys who, otherwise very intelligent, have possessed small aptitude for it. Others again I have known who, though very clear-headed and good in mathematics, have possessed so weak a verbal memory that the acquisition of language has been a great difficulty to them. The knowledge of a dead classical language is comparatively unprofitable, considering the labor that has to be bestowed upon it. Taking all these things into account, I venture to think that if pass-marks are abolished, they should be abolished for all the subjects except English.

SANSKRIT COLLEGE,  
The 24th March 1877. }

MAHESA CHANDRA NYAYARATNA,  
Offg. Principal, Sanskrit College.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge receipt of your circular letter dated the 13th instant, intimating that the Syndicate has raised the passing-marks at the B. A. Examination, and asking my opinion regarding the proposal to abolish the passing-marks in all subjects with certain specified exceptions.

My opinion is strongly in favor of the proposal, which, if adopted, will undoubtedly tend to raise the standard of scholarship; since students will feel themselves more at liberty, than under the present system, to concentrate their attention on those subjects for which they may have a special liking or aptitude. Their knowledge may thus be somewhat narrowed in its range, but it will be much less superficial.

The introduction of the measure would not, I apprehend, in this College, where the number of the students in the B. A. classes is necessarily small, have any appreciable effect either on the teaching or the discipline. It is not likely that students, especially since the passing-marks have been raised, will entirely neglect any of the subjects in which they are to be examined. That would imperil too much their chance of success. They will, therefore, I think, eliminate from their private reading those non-imperative subjects for which they have no particular liking, but will endeavour to gain some smattering of them by close attention to the lectures upon them in the class-room. I may add that the other members of the College staff entirely concur with me in this view.

PATNA,  
The 26th March 1877. }

J. W. McCRINDLE,  
Principal, Patna College.

WITH reference to your letter dated 13th March 1877, I have the honor to state that my opinion is in favor of the alteration proposed. The change, so far as it goes, is, no doubt, a radical one, being one that affects the whole character and original constitution of the B. A. Examination. That examination will now pass the line of a mere Pass Examination and begin to approximate to an Honor Examination, which I should regard as a result to be desiderated. The alteration proposed will bear upon our school education in this way. Some few successful B. A. students and a considerable number who have read up to the B. A. standard, but have failed to pass the examination, become Head Masters of our higher class English schools.

After the alteration comes into force, the having passed or having read for the B. A. Examination will, of course, cease to carry with it, as it does now, the presumption that the student has a fair B. A. standard knowledge of all the B. A. subjects. He may, for instance, have neglected the study of History altogether, and so far his excellence as a general instructor and supervisor of all the teaching carried on in his school may be impaired. I regard, however, the fact that such a student must have passed the F. A. Examination as a sufficient guarantee that he possesses the general knowledge of the non-obligatory subjects that is required for the post in question, while I think that his superior attainments in the more important branches of study more than compensate any loss of general efficiency that may possibly result.

DACCA,  
The 26th March 1877. }

W. T. WEBB,  
Offg. Insp. of Schools, E. B. Circle.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter without number, dated 13th March 1877, on the subject of certain modifications of the Course for the B. A. degree.

2. With regard to the point on which you do me the honor of asking my opinion, I beg to reply that the proposal to abolish "the passing-marks" in such subjects as History, &c., has my cordial approval, as calculated to ensure a much more complete mastery of the smaller number of subjects, the majority of which candidates will, in all probability, thenceforward take up.

3. As regards the effect which this change is likely to have upon the discipline and teaching in the Colleges, I am able to speak from my experience of Dacca College only. I expect nothing but good from the change. The Principal of the College, while he will consult as far as possible the wishes, and consider the special talents of the under-graduates under his charge, will be enabled to economise the teaching power at his disposal to much better purpose. He will not be obliged, for instance, to make a teacher strong in Mathematics waste his energies in superintending the cramming of History or Physical Geography, in addition to teaching his own subject. In a college, officered as the Presidency College is lectures may be delivered on all of the subjects in the Course. But in the smaller colleges, the Principal will arrange the lectures with regard to the teaching power supplied him, one or other of the optional subjects being excluded as this consideration may dictate. As to discipline, the under-graduates may be required to attend all the lectures so arranged, or in certain cases they may be allowed to attend some only, and to get up other subjects by themselves, at the discretion of the Principal. The discipline of the College need be affected no more than was the case when the B. Course was introduced, and the small colleges had to economise their teaching force accordingly, or when the system of allowing ex-students to attend certain lectures only was introduced.

CAMP RAMPOREHAT,  
The 26th March 1877. }

A. W. GARRETT,  
Inspector of Schools, P. C.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 13th instant, (1) informing me of the fact that the Syndicate have raised the passing-marks at the B. A. Examination, according to a scale therein specified, and (2) requesting my opinion on a proposal to abolish the passing-marks in all subjects except English, Mathematics and the second language for the A Course, and English, Mathematics and Chemistry for the B Course.

2. It is my opinion that this proposal should be adopted. If it is adopted, justice will at last be done to a deserving class of our students. I regard this proposal as a further step in the same direction as that which was taken when the system of options was introduced,—a step towards recognizing the differences which naturally exist between different minds, but which do not imply any inferiority on the part of the one or of the other. From this alteration I do not anticipate any injurious effect upon the discipline or teaching of the colleges, because I think that none of the students will be so confident of their success in the compulsory subjects (especially since the aggregate of marks for passing has been raised) as to neglect those subjects in which the passing marks are abolished. In fact, these voluntary subjects, if I may so call them, are regarded as somewhat easier than the others, and will be studied for the special purpose of obtaining the additional marks now required by the Syndicate. I may add that the raising of the passing-marks, with which the proposed alteration is to be accompanied, is regarded as a great hardship by many of the students, namely, those whose moderate attainments do not justify them in hoping for more than a bare "pass" in the all subjects.

CALCUTTA,  
The 27th March 1877. }

JAMES WILSON,  
Offg. Principal, Genl. Assembly Institution.