

THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL,

COWBRIDGE, January, 1882.

SIR,

I earnestly beg your kind attention, in the interests of Welsh Intermediate Education, to the following facts:—

Cowbridge Grammar School is one of the six Schools in Wales recommended by the Welsh Education Committee, (Report p. 54), as First-grade Schools, a position it has always held.

The respective annual incomes, from Endowment, of these six Schools are as follows:—

Bangor . . .	£776	per annum.	
Ruthin . . .	£555	„ „	
Llandoverly .	£700	„ „	
Brecon . . .	£1076	„ „	
Ystrad Meurig	£390	„ „	
Cowbridge . .	£50	„ „	(incl. of £30 in Exhibitions).

Subsequently to my appointment to the Headmastership of Cowbridge School in 1875 I found that, were the property of the late Sir Leoline Jenkins, a Benefactor both of the School and of Jesus College, Oxford, equitably distributed in the spirit of his Will, the income of the School, available for Welsh Intermediate Education, would be increased at *least tenfold*.

My grounds for thinking so were briefly these:—

Sir Leoline Jenkins, a distinguished Welshman, born in the neighbourhood of Cowbridge, and educated at Cowbridge School, bequeathed the bulk of his property, (both personal and real estate), under trust to Jesus College, for the benefit both of the College and of his old School, (viz. Cowbridge School), in certain proportions, the date of his Will being 1685. The proportion left to the College represented, in the then value of his estates,

£50 per annum to the Principal, making his full stipend £100 per annum.	
£20 „ „ each for certain Fellowships	} £120.
£10 „ „ each for certain Scholarships	

The proportion left to the School was

£20 per annum to the Head Master,	} tenable at the School.
£30 „ „ to five Monitors, (£6 each),	
£30 „ „ to three Monitors, (£10 each), tenable at Jesus College.	

All estates, so devised, were to bear a charge of “pious and charitable uses,” as aforesaid; and a perusal of the Will, (an abridged copy of which is sent herewith), undeniably shews that, so far was the Testator from intending that the College *solely* should profit by any increase in the value of the estates, and the School *not at all*, that there are clear indications of their being intended, in such case, to be at least on an equal footing, or even of a preference shewn, throughout the Will, for the School.

That the value of these estates did enormously increase the following instances prove:—

(a). Part of the estates, chargeable as above, is situate in the parish of S. Mary, Lambeth, London, and its value, in Sir Leoline's Will, is stated to be £85 *per annum*. Its value in 1877, as may be gathered from the returns presented by Jesus College to the Oxford University Commission in that year, was at the very least £1600 *per annum*; representing an increase, since 1685, of *twenty-fold*; and, allowing for the increase since 1877, this property would now be yielding about £2000 *per annum*.

(b). The value of each Fellowship had increased, in 1879, from £20, the amount stated in the Will, to over £300 each *per annum*, and each of the £10 Scholarships of the Will had become worth £80 each *per annum*, representing an increase, in the one case, of *over fifteen-fold*, in the other, of *eight-fold*.

(c). The value of the Principalship of Jesus College is stated, in the Will, to be £100 *per annum*. It is now worth £1800 *per annum*, having thus increased *eighteen-fold*.

Yet the Endowments of Cowbridge School have, in spite of this great increase in the value of its Benefactor's estates, been kept by its Trustees, the Principal and Fellows of Jesus College, at exactly the same figure as in the time of Sir Leoline Jenkins' Will, 200 years ago.

Feeling that this state of things was an anomaly, I put the case of the School before the Oxford University Commission in 1879, with the result that, in their proposed new statutes for Jesus College, the moral claim of the School to increased endowment and improved buildings is recognised, though, as I venture to think, and shall try to shew, *sufficient provision is not made therein in aid of the education of deserving Welsh boys, and even such provision as is suggested is not made immediately binding on the Society of Jesus College, and thus tends, as the School's experience for the past two centuries has taught it, to become null and void.*

I shall proceed to point out how these two defects neutralise the attempt of the Oxford University Commission to rectify the abuse, and render amendment of their suggestions necessary. I have enclosed, with this letter a copy of the proposed new statutes for Jesus College, and shall refer to it under the three headings of (1) School buildings, (2) Headmaster's endowment, (3) Aid towards the education of poor boys.

(1) School buildings. The nearest approach to any mention of this point is in Statute x. 6, but it is no more than an approach; for the clause does not explicitly bind Jesus College to touch a stone of the Cowbridge School buildings, in the way of enlargement or improvement, or even to keep the fabric in decent repair. Yet, as I write these words, the School buildings are not merely in disrepair, but lamentably inadequate to the requirements of the present day. We have neither play ground nor class rooms. The first want I supply by renting a field at my own expense: the second my colleagues and myself meet, to some extent, by sacrificing our private sitting-rooms. We have neither fives-courts nor a gymnasium. There is no laboratory, and there is but one study for the use of senior boys. In wet weather most of the boys have to stay in the Schoolroom, which is exceedingly trying to those who wish to work there out of School-hours. Up to 1881 I have had to pay £20 *per annum*, (*all the money endowment of my office*), in rent to Jesus College for some School premises, which are now in a ruinous condition. I see not the remotest prospect of our having proper buildings here, unless the clause referred to distinctly enacts it, instead of, as at present worded, vaguely suggesting it.

(2) Headmaster's endowment. Statute iv. 31 suggests that the Headmaster be appointed to a Fellowship of the College of the yearly value of £200, presumably for the purpose of helping him to pay Assistant Masters suitable to a First-grade School, an expense which, at present, he has to meet, entirely at his own risk, out of the profits of the School. But the suggestion is weighted with the proviso, "that no person shall be so elected, except by a majority of two-thirds of the votes of the Principal and Fellows," and the clause may thus, as is clearly shewn by the past history of the School, become inoperative. It is difficult to see why Jesus College should have option allowed it in this matter any more than in the case of a Celtic Professor. (See p. 19 in proposed new statutes). In the immense majority of Headmasterhips of Grammar Schools which are managed by Schemes of the Endowed Schools Commission, the fee attached to the office is not less than £200 a year. The Oxford Commissioners were probably influenced in making this suggestion by the fact that the Fellowship fund supplies the office with an endowment of that value ready-made. The vital importance to the School of such a fund towards providing efficient teachers must be my apology for touching on a point which has a personal bearing.

(3) Aid towards the education of poor boys. Statute x. 7 deals with this point and suggests, "in aid of the education at Cowbridge School of deserving boys, whose parents are not well able to maintain them at School, (in addition to such sums as are now payable for that purpose), or in aid of the expenses of any examinations or prizes at the said School, or partly for the one, and partly for the other of those objects, a sum not exceeding £100 per annum." Surely these words are a solemn mockery of the great moral responsibility which rests on the Trustees of Sir Leoline Jenkins' estates! It is forsooth a moot point whether the sum of £30, *now payable for that purpose*, shall be increased at all, or not! But this is not all. There is not one single word in the Clause restricting even such niggard aid as this to WELSH boys. As the Statutes stand, there is absolutely nothing to prevent one of the English Fellows of the College, wholly free from Welsh sympathies, being appointed to the Headmastership, and filling the Exhibitions with English boys of good family, who might be supposed likely to give the School social prestige, the Welsh boys meanwhile, whom Sir Leoline Jenkins meant to befriend, being left out in the cold. That such a case is not only possible, but has actually occurred, is proved by the researches of the Welsh Education Committee, who, (Report p. 54), give an instance of a Welsh Grammar School, with an endowment of £1000 a year, "becoming the perquisite of an enterprising schoolmaster, who made use of his position to develop what practically became, in his hands, a flourishing private Boarding School, not half a dozen of the deserving poor boys of the County being in the School." We ask that Cowbridge School should be put quite out of danger of such a fate by a rich endowment, from Sir Leoline Jenkins' estates, of exhibitions to aid struggling Welsh boys, and by the utmost stringency in the application of such endowment in a proper manner. This is by far the most important of the three heads; and it will be seen that the suggested amendment of the clause deals with it accordingly. No advocacy of a thorough change in this respect, for the sake of Welsh Intermediate Education, could be more eloquent than a plain statement of the actual state of things now existing in the School. The Headmaster has now to supplement, *out of his own professional income*, the strictly literal interpretation by the College of Sir Leoline Jenkins' Will. He has thus to raise the value of each Monitorship from £6 to £16 10s. per annum by remitting the tuition fees in each case; and what are now called, with grim irony, "Sir Leoline Jenkins' Scholarships" simply mean that he charges each of the boys, so privileged, only four guineas a year. Thus the burden of carrying out, in any degree, the spirit of the Will is laid on his shoulders, in spite of the increased cost of Grammar School Education in these days, which, to quote the authority of the Welsh Education Committee, necessitates a fee of at least ten guineas a year. And there are now in the School at least half a dozen boys, of promise but narrow circumstances, who are charged practically only half fees, the Headmaster in fact doing, or trying to do, the work,

not only of a teacher, *but of an endowment too*. I have only to add, on this head, that, in this clause also, a proviso is inserted that "the time of the commencement of such payments shall be in the discretion of the Principal and Fellows", which simply means that nothing may be done for an indefinite time.

Before proceeding to lay before you the amendments which are proposed to be made of the Statutes quoted, I would draw your attention to the significant fact that the Welsh Education Committee, on the strength of evidence as to the claims and circumstances of the School laid before them at Cardiff in December, 1880, inserted in their Report, (p. 69), a strong recommendation that either the provisions of the Oxford University Commission should be carried out, or that an increased grant should be made to the School out of the revenues of Sir Leoline Jenkins' estates.

My position is thus fortified by the sense of two Commissions, (one of them specially appointed for Wales), both of which fully admit the existence of the abuse by recommending its redress.

It will be seen, from the figures given, that, considering the enormous extent to which the School, (and the Principality), might have benefited, had its due share in the increased value of the property been assigned to it from the beginning, (a sum, at the very least of £30,000), and the present and still increasing value of such property, it is not unreasonable to take the standard of *tenfold* as the measure of the increase henceforth, in equity, due to the endowments of the School, and which it is desirable should be secured to it by Parliamentary action. And, in evidence of this standard not being taken at random, I may appeal to the fact that the Oxford University Commission actually proposes to increase the Headmaster's £20 in that ratio. Accordingly this is the standard chosen in the suggested amendments. The sum thus available for exhibitions, tenable at the School, would be increased, from its present figure of £30 per annum, to £300 per annum. At this point there meets us the question of what is to be done with the increase due to the £30 to three Monitors of the School entering Jesus College, Oxford, which equally belong to the School. There are two alternatives; either to increase the £10 each of such Monitorships, tenable at the College, to £100 each per annum, or to distribute the sum of £300 in exhibitions, &c., tenable at the School. In the present state of Welsh Intermediate Education, and in the light of the information gleaned by the Welsh Education Committee, and in accordance with the opinion of Dr. Harper, and other competent judges, there seems little doubt that more good would be done to Wales by adopting the latter course than the former. If we adopt this view, it enables us to suggest that £600 should be awarded yearly in the form of exhibitions, &c., at the School in aid of Welsh Intermediate Education.

It is further proposed that such award should be after due and independent examination, and wholly irrespective of the religious tenets of the competitors, and that the competition should, after reasonable consideration of local claims, be open to the whole of Wales and Monmouthshire.

I earnestly invite your comparison of the amendments based on the foregoing grounds with the proposed new statutes of the Oxford University Commissioners, in Statute x. 2 of which you will see that it is provided that "*the surplus revenues of Sir Leoline Jenkins' estates shall not be divided among the Principal and Fellows;*" from which remarkable words it is obvious that the abuse of the trust was patent to the Oxford Commission.

No apology is made for the length of the most important amendment, as experience has shewn that the right working of the principles involved in it can be secured only by the

disposition of the portion of Sir Leoline Jenkins' estates falling to Cowbridge School being henceforth clearly laid down in the College Statutes, inasmuch as these estates form an integral part of the property managed by Jesus College.

SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS.

That in statute iv, clause 31, the paragraph marked (c) be struck out, and that, after the words, "may be re-elected from time to time," the following words be inserted:

"But the present and each future Headmaster of Cowbridge School, if and so long as the site and buildings of the School continue to be vested in the College, and the School itself to be under its sole government, and so long as such Headmaster shall continue to discharge the duties of his office, shall, in addition to the fee of £20 per annum now payable to him, be a Fellow of the College, under this clause, by virtue of his office, and without the necessity of any election, and the emoluments of such Fellowship shall begin to run from the day on which the approval of Her Majesty in Council shall be given to these Statutes."

That in Statute iv, clause 35, after the words, "Governing Body of which the College is represented," the following words be inserted, "priority under this clause being given to Cowbridge School, as having the first claim to any such surplus revenues."

That in Statute x, clause 6, after the words, "sum raised under this clause," the following words be inserted,

"The buildings of Cowbridge School shall forthwith, under this clause, be put into thorough repair, and so enlarged and improved as to render them suitable, in themselves and all their appurtenances, to the requirements of a First-grade School, and to the efficient conduct thereof, and they shall afterwards be kept in repair by the College out of the revenues of Sir Leoline Jenkins' estates."

That clause 7 of statute x, be struck out, and the following clause substituted:

"The Principal and Fellows shall, by virtue of clause 2 of this Statute, and of Statute xi (c) iii, and under the powers given to the Visitor under Statute xii. 3, pay and apply out of the increased revenues of Sir Leoline Jenkins' estates, including the fund accumulating from such Fellowships of his creation as may be now in abeyance, a yearly sum of £600, in addition to such sums as are now payable for that purpose, for the benefit of Cowbridge School, if and so long as the College retains its present power of government over the said School, in manner following: (videlicet)

i. To increase the five Monitorships, now tenable at the School for four years, from their present value of £6 per annum each to, £60 per annum each, the sum of £270 per annum — such Monitorships, on their avoidance by their present holders, to be offered, by advertisement in the leading Welsh Newspapers, for competition to all such candidates, (including Day-boys at the School), without distinction of creed, as, being under fifteen years of age on the day of election, and sons of parents not well able to maintain them at School, shall be either natives of Wales or of Monmouthshire, or have a knowledge of, or be able to speak the Welsh language, or shall have been educated at a School or Schools in Wales or Monmouthshire for the three years last preceding the day of election, or whose parents are or have been resident in Wales or Monmouthshire for a period of not less than seven years last preceding the day of election: all such Monitors, on election, to be subject to such deduction or deprivation of income, in case of absence from School or misconduct, as may seem fit to the Headmaster, provided that any moneys resulting from such

deduction or deprivation, or from any postponement of election, be applied by the Headmaster, subject to the approval of the College, to the improvement of the School Library, or such other School appliances as he may think fit.

ii. To the founding of four Exhibitions, tenable for four years at the said School, two of the annual value of £40 each, and two of the annual value of £25 each, the sum of £130 yearly: such Exhibitions to be subject to the same conditions of eligibility as the Monitorships, and to the same penalties for misconduct or absence from School, and to the same regulation as to postponement of election, the Examiner, or Examiners, of candidates both for the Monitorships and for the Exhibitions to be appointed by the Principal of Jesus College, and the Professor of Celtic for the time being, but the time, place, and subjects of Examination to be arranged by the Headmaster.

iii. To the endowment, at £10 per annum each, of ten "Sir Leoline Jenkins' Scholarships," tenable by Day boys only at the said School, being sons of parents resident in the town of Cowbridge or the neighbourhood, who are not well able to pay for their Schooling, the sum of £100 yearly; such Scholarships, on their avoidance by their present holders, to be filled by the Headmaster by the election of such boys only as shall, in addition to the aforesaid conditions, not have exceeded 13 years of age on the day of election; the length of tenure of such Scholarships to be in the discretion of the Headmaster, who shall likewise have the same powers in the case of such Scholars as are given him in the case of the Monitors and Exhibitioners.

No boy however shall, at the same time, enjoy more than one of the privileges described under i, ii, and iii, whether Monitorship, Exhibition, or Scholarship: but it shall be competent to the holders of privileges of inferior value to compete, subject to the aforesaid conditions, for those of higher value, always providing that success in such competition shall, ipso facto, vacate the privilege they previously enjoyed.

iv. To enable the Headmaster of the said School to rent suitable playgrounds and School premises, and in aid of the expenses of any examinations, or advertisement of examinations at the said School, or of any donations to boys who shall have gained distinctions from the said School, at the discretion of the Headmaster, subject to the approval of the College, a yearly sum of £100; provided that any residue from such sum of £100 be applied by the Headmaster to the improvement of the appliances of the School, in any way he may think fit.

The first annual payment of such sum of £600, under this clause, to be made within twelve calendar months of the approval of Her Majesty in Council being given to these Statutes, and such first payment, and all subsequent ones, to be applied only to the meeting of such charges and claims, authorised by this clause, as shall arise or be created in the twelve calendar months last preceding such payment in each case. And the Headmaster shall, at the end of each such year, present to the Bursar of Jesus College a written statement of the particulars of the payments which, under the powers of this clause, he shall have made within that year, together with vouchers for all such payments."

Such are the suggested amendments. They are of a nature, if carried, greatly to aid the cause of education, which is now a burning question throughout the Principality. Whatever theories may be broached as to means of supplementing the present inadequate provision for Welsh Intermediate Education, whether by State aid, or by a "County rate," (see Dr. Harper's Scheme in the Report of the Welsh Education Committee), there can surely be but one opinion as to the advisability of insisting on the equitable claims of the Welsh people to bequests of patriotic Welshmen for the Education of Welsh boys, such as this of Sir Leoline Jenkins.

On behalf then of all whom the fair and just developement of that illustrious Welshman's testamentary intentions might benefit in the country of his birth, and whom the present one sided interpretation of them seriously injures, I ask your vote and influence in Parliament in favour of these amendments of the proposed new Statutes for Jesus College; and I do so the more earnestly as this opportunity of rectifying a long standing wrong is one the like of which may not occur again.

I may mention that full office copies of the Will and Codicils of the late Sir Leoline Jenkins have been laid before Mr. B. T. Williams Q.C., and from his opinion thereon, which is given below, it will be seen that he considers the Cowbridge School morally entitled thereunder to endowments almost equal to those of Jesus College.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

M. PRICE WILLIAMS, M.A.,

Headmaster of Cowbridge Grammar School.

COPY OF COUNSEL'S OPINION.

2, PUMP COURT, TEMPLE, LONDON, E.C.,

December 16th, 1881.

MY DEAR SIR,

Re The Cowbridge School.

Having ceased to be a Member of Parliament, I regret to say I cannot now give you the assistance which I intended in bringing before the House of Commons the claims of Cowbridge School to a fairer share of the trusts of Sir Leoline Jenkins' Will than it now has. While I cannot advise the institution of legal proceedings in the Courts, I think you have a strong case to present to Parliament on behalf of the School. I think it appears from the general tenor of the Will that Sir Leoline Jenkins intended to benefit Cowbridge almost equally with Jesus College. You will have an excellent opportunity of raising the whole question by a motion on the second reading, when the Jesus College Bill comes before the House, and, after the second reading, by putting on the paper amendments for Committee which shall embody a reasonable scheme. If you place the matter in the hands of a Welsh Member, I should be glad, if he wishes, to confer with him as to the best form in which this motion and these amendments ought to be put. I think the case of the Cowbridge School is deserving of the best attention of any Member who is interested in the cause of Intermediate Education in Wales, and I beg to assure you that you have my best wishes for the success of any effort you may make.

Yours most truly,

B. T. WILLIAMS.

T. REES, Esq.,
SOLICITOR,
Cowbridge.

