

(1916) Department.

Miscellaneous SERIES.

G.O. No. 436

DATE 19. 4. 16

17

[Despatch Abstract.]

Legislative Council

Recording notes connected with the question on the incident of flogging the boys in the Wesleyan Mission College, Madras, asked by the Hon. Rao Bahadur B. Narasimham Sarma at the meeting of the — held on 5-4-16.

CN. 1199 28

27. 3. 16

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LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.



QUESTION.—No. 105

for the meeting of the Legislative

Council to be held on the

5-4-1916.

SUBMITTED that two copies of this Question may be forwarded to the
Eol Department with reference to Nos. (1) and (4) of the
rules regulating Secretariat procedure in dealing with these Questions in the
Legislative Council. Orders regarding admission will be communicated in due
course.

U. P. K.
26.3.16

* U.O. No. 882-96 dated 26.3.16

To

The

Eol

Department.

with Q. 105

Sa

3
Legislative Department.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur B. Narasimheswara Sarma Garu.

Educational Department.

105. Will the Government be pleased to direct
an exhaustive enquiry into the recent
incident in the Wesleyan Mission College
Madras and call for a report on the
subject ?

4
Educational Department

A few cuttings from the New India & incident in question are put up. A letter has also been received from some student the 6th form in the College. It is contained in linked file.

2. It is observed that corporal punishment ~~has~~ is not ~~too~~ completely prohibited by the Educational Rules. It can be inflicted in grave cases and is ~~even~~ ^{even} then limited to six cuts on the hand ~~administered~~ given by or under the supervision of the headmaster - Rule 89 of the Madras Educational Rules. It has also to be noted that this rule is applicable only to institutions under public management, while the Wesley College is an aided institution under private management. ~~Apparantly the~~ ^{Apparantly the} ~~governing body~~ ^{governing body} ~~has~~ ^{has} ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~asked~~ ^{asked} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~Govt.~~ ^{Govt.} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~ask~~ ^{ask} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~D.I.D.~~ ^{D.I.D.} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~cause~~ ^{cause} ~~an~~ ^{an} ~~inquiry~~ ^{inquiry} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~be~~ ^{be} ~~made~~ ^{made} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~report~~ ^{report} ~~its~~ ^{its} ~~result.~~ ^{result.} ~~Also,~~ ^{Also,} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~additional~~ ^{additional} ~~member~~ ^{member} ~~may~~ ^{may} ~~be~~ ^{be} ~~told~~ ^{told} ~~accordingly~~ ^{accordingly}

3. For orders whether the Govt. should ask the D.I.D. to cause an inquiry to be made and to report its result. Also, the additional member may be ~~to~~ told accordingly

27.11.15. It is doubtful whether ~~an~~ ^{an} ~~inquiry~~ ^{inquiry} into the scandal will serve any useful purpose. The College authorities seem to have recognized the ~~blunder~~ ^{blunder} committed by the two missionary teachers and made them express their regret for their

Their action. Already one of the teachers has been transferred to a mosque station and it is probable that others also will soon be sent out of College. In these circumstances it would seem advisable to leave the matter alone. For order to be given the following reply may be given to the question: "The Govt. do not consider that an official enquiry into the matter is necessary or will serve any useful purpose. The mission authorities may be trusted to deal with the offending teachers properly."

28/3/16.

The

The following reply may be given:—

The Govt. do not consider it necessary to order an enquiry or call for a report.

Box No. 8
28-3-16

Please dispatch answer to return file to me at 30-3-16

Assured

3/13/16

believe that they are fully acquainted with the facts of the case and

29.3.16.

28/3/16

J. D. [Signature]
~~30/3/16~~

He wants to reply to
 be revised as notified in
 red ink on the previous
 page. Please give answer
 the revised reply. He sent
 answer also to Gen. Stone
 Copies of the petition and
 the answer proposed to be
 given are at his to ac-
 quaint himself with the facts
 of the case.

[Signature]
~~31/3/16~~

Copies of the revised answer have been
 despatched to Legislative.

2. A draft d.o. to Mr. Stone is
 submitted for approval.

[Signature]
 31.3.16. 25
 31/3/16.

[Signature]
 31.3.16

N^o 1199-122

31.3.16

Dear Stone,

Enclosed is a copy of the question which the Hon^{ble} B. Narasimheswara Sarma will ask ~~about the~~ regarding recent incident in the Wesleyan Mission College at the next meeting of the Legislative Council, together with the answer which the Govt. propose to give. I am to ask you to acquaint yourself with the facts of the case ~~so that you may if necessary inform the Council~~ without delay. Yours sincerely

31.3.16

To The Hon. Mr. J. H. Stone, C.I.E.

31/3/16

8/6/16

2/10

31/3/16

31/3/16

and send memo to Mr. J. H. Stone, C.I.E. enclosing a copy of the question which the Hon^{ble} B. Narasimheswara Sarma will ask regarding recent incident in the Wesleyan Mission College at the next meeting of the Legislative Council, together with the answer which the Govt. propose to give. I am to ask you to acquaint yourself with the facts of the case so that you may if necessary inform the Council without delay.

The following is a copy of the question and answer as given at the meeting of the Legislative Council:—

101 Q.—Will the Government be pleased to direct an exhaustive inquiry into the recent incident in the Wesleyan Mission College, Madras, and call for a report on the subject?

Inquiry into the recent incident in Wesleyan Mission College.

(Mr. Narasimheswara Sarma.)

101 A.—The Government believe that they are fully acquainted with the facts of this case and do not consider it necessary to order an inquiry or call for a report.

The papers may now be
order
"Recorded"

436 Edt. mis. 319. 4. 16

Sg
14.4.16.

CR
17.4.16

Elk
19.4.16

1916.
Educational DEPARTMENT.

CUTTINGS FROM NEWSPAPERS.

1. Name of Paper—

New India

2. Published at—

Madras

3. Dated—

23. 8. 16

DISGRACEFUL SCENES IN WESLEY COLLEGE
HIGH SCHOOL

ILLEGAL FLOGGING OF BOYS

LARGE NUMBER OF VICTIMS

By AN INDIAN FRIEND OF STUDENTS

A SCENE of most revolting and indecent brutality occurred yesterday noon at the Wesley College, Madras. Students of the Sixth Form, "A" Division, were stripped naked from the waist downward and flogged mercilessly on the bare flesh, in some cases blood being drawn.

This is the culmination of a series of incidents of a most unpleasant type, though not equally criminal. What actually happened yesterday was as follows: "At twelve noon, the students of the "A" Division were told that the Superintendent of the High School Section, one Rev. Mr. Brunt, wished to see them in the Intermediate class-room. The students thought that on the eve of the close of the term, he intended to address them as is usually the custom on such occasions. But on arrival at the destination, a horrible scene awaited them. The Superintendent, and another Missionary, one Rev. Mr. Williams, were seen there, with two strong canes in their hands. As soon as all the victims were gathered in, the main doors were closed—a section of the victims assert that all were closed—and two peons were stationed outside to guard against any untoward intrusion. Then one by one the students were called, and the Rev. Mr. Brunt, with his watch in hand, told each that they had to make up their minds to receive a flogging on the loins or be dismissed from the school for having been absent on the previous day. The boys were too stunned to do anything but submit. One by one each was thus forced to lean on the desk, having stripped the lower part of his body, and the two Missionaries flogged them in turn. Only two are said to have resisted.

The Previous Scenes

This revolting performance of the two Missionaries was, as I said above, only the culmination of scenes little less disgusting. This miserable story has been going on for the past two months. The fact that the text-books had not been finished, that some students were put to great worry in their selection for the public examination, and the repeated use of vulgar abusive language in addressing the students, had been exasperating them for the past few weeks. At such a juncture, when the tension was so severe, the Rev. Mr. Brunt decided not to permit the students of the Sixth Form the usual preparation period of holidays prior to the public examination. Two petitions were addressed to him, which only resulted in the "fools" being asked to keep quiet. The Principal of the College was then appealed to, but he, in the strictest Red Tape style, transferred the matter for suitable action to his subordinate, against whose decision the petition had been submitted. The latter, the Rev. Mr. Brunt again, severely took the students to task, condemning their "impertinence," and in the heat of his anger, he seems to have made some sweeping generalisations concerning Indians as a whole. The students thought about the matter, and since there was no way of redress, they thought it best to absent themselves, willing to pay the customary fine for the breach of the disciplinary rules thereby entailed. This course of action was adopted by a large section of the class, and the powers that be inferred that there was a strike. Having come to know of the misunderstanding, some residents of Royapetta strongly advised the students not to absent themselves

any longer, and most of them were influenced to put in their appearance yesterday morning.

1916.

Educational DEPARTMENT.

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CUTTINGS FROM NEWSPAPERS.

1. Name of Paper— *New India*
2. Published at— *Madras*
3. Dated— *23. 3-16*

The Scene and After

What happened subsequently has already been narrated. It may, however, be added that the students had been the recipients yesterday of no small number of characteristic epithets, and these foreigners were never tired of dinning into the ears of students that "Indians are cowards." The students were greeted, on returning to the class, with these appropriate words: "You are cowards. I never thought you would return." I am also informed by not a few of the students that the term "despicable rascals" was repeatedly used.

What took place after the flogging may be of interest to some of our readers. All the teachers are reported to have protested against the action of their two superiors and they are said to have opened the eyes of the latter to the fact that flogging is not permitted by the Rules, and that it is therefore a legal offence. Here I may add that some developments may be expected in that line, and also that some of the victims have already been examined by capable doctors, as the first scene in that drama.

To continue my story, when Mr. Brunt left the School, all the boys cried "shame," as they did in the streets whenever they saw him, and in the School at every step he turned back furiously, to find out the miscreants, whom perhaps he would have flogged more severely if any could have been caught hold of.

What Will the Education Department Do?

The action of the two Missionaries is contrary to the Educational Rules, which do not permit flogging. The question is what does the Educational Department propose to do in the light of these facts? Its Rules have been violated in the most revolting manner by a recognised institution. Is the Director of Public Instruction going to allow the guilty institution to escape after so heinous an offence? We shall await his action.

Secondly, what are the parents intending to do? Their duty is clear—to prosecute the offenders. Unfortunately they are in an awkward situation. The examination is close upon the students. And the public examination is to be followed by the School Examination, in which the two Missionaries will have something to do. But still, is there no remedy? Cannot the guilty persons be suspended before the Examination?

Thirdly, what do the Missionaries propose to do? Is flogging the young Indians in so indecent a way one of their self-imposed duties, in the course of their mission?

Fourthly, what are our leaders willing to do? Members of the Legislative Council have an effective way of dealing with the matter.

Finally, will the apologists of the Missionaries—we have several of them in this city—ask themselves whether their mission in life cannot be less ignoble?

2-45 P.M.

MR. KHAJA KHAN, Asst. Inspector of Schools, accompanied by a Sub-Inspector of Police, called on the Principal. The school assembled at 10 o'clock, the Principal presiding. The students complained that the flogging of the students of the School Final Class by a Vice-Principal was below the dignity of the Institution, and they put questions to Mr. Brunt. The latter apologised. The Principal asked the students to excuse the Superintendent and to tell the parents not to be wounded! The class insisted on a written apology to be published in the newspapers, and the Principal took time to consider. The meeting was adjourned until to-morrow.

It is, of course, proper that the Vice-Principal and Superintendent should apologise, but that is not enough for such an outrage.

Lu
24

1916.

Educational DEPARTMENT.

CUTTINGS FROM NEWSPAPERS.

1. Name of Paper— *New India*
2. Published at— *Madras*
3. Dated— *23-3-16*

THURSDAY EVENING, MAR 23, 1916

WHAT IS TO BE DONE?

WHEN THE NEWS OF THE EVENTS SAID TO have taken place in the Wesley College High School came to us last evening, we deemed it incredible, and thought that the gentleman who came to us must have been misinformed. We asked him to make further enquiries. Meanwhile a very trustworthy member of our staff made enquiries on his own account, saw some of the boys concerned, some of whom were shown to a reliable doctor, who is prepared to give evidence on the results of his examination. Before this final scandal, the above member had been actively trying to persuade some of the boys who had stayed away from school to return, and an article on the difficulties of the students—without naming the institution—would have appeared to-day. After the explosion of yesterday, it is useless to comment on the anxiety felt by the students, approaching their examination, on which so much depends, with their text-books unfinished, handicapping them in the examination. That very serious grievance is swallowed up in the face of the furious indignation now felt in the school over the treatment of a large number of the senior boys.

Even in England, where very serious moral offences are still, unfortunately, punished by flogging, some semblance of decency is observed. Only the headmaster is allowed to inflict this degrading punishment, and no one is present except the flogger, the victim, and the school porter. Even under this restricted publicity, the punishment is degrading enough, though sanctioned by English tradition. But here, in India, such exposure is regarded with the deepest disgust, and such nakedness, after a lad is nine or ten, is regarded as an offence against both religion and morals. Flogging is, therefore, very properly forbidden by the Educational Rules. In this case,

between thirty and forty boys of the senior class were forced to play a part in this orgy of indecency and cruelty. In some cases the blows were so severe that blood was drawn, but even the brutality of the punishment is forgotten in the disgrace, so keenly felt by sons of a proud race, jealous of its

dignity. One of the floggers seems to have gone out of his way to taunt the boys with cowardice for returning to school after they had been away, using language only fitting for the type of man he showed himself to be later.

What is to be done? The Calcutta Presidency College was closed for a trifling assault on a Professor. What is to be done to a School where such men as Messrs. Brunt and Williams are in authority? They can be summoned for assault by the father or guardian of every boy they struck, and this of course should be done immediately. And the Education Department should demand the dismissal of the men concerned in the outrage, on pain of the disaffiliation of the School. For the harm done by these men is far-reaching. Every boy in the Wesley College School has had sown in his heart by their cruel hands the seeds of hatred against missionaries and white men, and these can only be uprooted by the prompt punishment of the offenders, so that the Department, the Christian religion, and the white race may not suffer from the conduct of the few.

The duty of the Indians is clear; to summon the offenders and to withdraw their boys from the institution in which they have been so scandalously misused. If they do not take decisive action, they will be looked on with contempt by every Englishman who hears the story. As Sir Rabindranath Tagore well said in the *Modern Review*:

If we allow Englishmen to go on despising us and treating us with contempt, then we shall never win their hearts. We must claim respect from them. And at such a time as this, we shall not turn the other cheek when struck by the Principal of a Mission College.

The school and college population is in no mood to stand brutality, and it is necessary that the proper authorities should win its confidence by prompt action, and by doing justice. Unless the lads feel that public opinion will demand protection for them, and that the authorities will punish the guilty aggressors, revenge will take root in their hearts. The harm can be stopped if the Department at once interferes. Otherwise it may spread far and wide.

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CUTTINGS FROM NEWSPAPERS. 12

1. Name of Paper—
2. Published at—
3. Dated—

INDIAN STUDENTS

II

BY ANNIE BESANT

IT IS A PITY THAT OUR ENGLISH CONTEMPORARIES treat so lightly the trouble at Wesley Collegiate School, for a little sympathy from them would do much to heal the wound which they deepen by their flippancy. I do not remember ever hearing of a sixth form boy at an English school being flogged. No English gentleman, even if he should be unwise enough to think that it is good for a small boy to be whipped, would dream of stripping and flogging on his bare back a young man of nineteen, as was done in this case. I have seen to-day for the first time one of the victims; my other two articles were written from the accounts of the boys who suffered, excitedly given to Indian friends, but they appear to be accurate, save in the fact that while all were stripped of coat and shirt (save those who had no shirt) only some were forced to also let down their cloths. The fact of the blows drawing blood in some cases is vouched by a doctor, not only by the boys. The student who came to me to seek advice was not a boy, but a young man of 19, and on my asking why he submitted, he answered that he did resist, but was threatened with a revolver, and was then given three additional cuts. He stated that two of the young men flogged were older than himself. Would any decent Englishman justify the flogging of young men, past their majority? Every gentleman regards a blow as dishonour. Is it then wonderful that these young men and their fellow-students are furious? I advised an appeal to the law, as the only remedy left, and the constitutional remedy. A fine for each assault would restore the young men's faith in British Justice, and check all inclination to violence.

The scene yesterday was regrettable, but the boys only burst into anger when the Principal ordered the boys of the B Division, who had not been flogged, to come up on Monday morning—the day of their examination—to receive cuts on their hands. And to write their answers afterwards with their wounded hands, let alone the pain and shock? Mr. Neil is generally a kindly hearted man; what moved him to an action so unlike himself? He gave an alternative of a fine of a rupee, hard enough for the parents to give after the high term fees and heavy examination fee. And so a riot broke out, and the police were called in, who seem to have behaved better than the school authorities.

A large number of letters are coming in, of which I omit the most violent, and one protest I would enter. The behaviour of the Rev. Messrs. Williams and Brunt ought not to be used as a weapon against Christianity and Missionaries. All religions have among their adherents men who do cruel things, but their religion is not responsible for these. It has always seemed to me to be unfair to blame a religion except for its teachings and their logical results, and to blame it for the actions of these particular Missionaries is "hitting below the belt". They did not beat the boys *because* they were Missionaries, and in it they were unworthy of their religion. It is true that old Solomon bids a father beat his son, but he is in many ways not a gentleman worthy of imitation in modern times. Let the educational battle be fairly and honourably fought out, but do not let religious bitterness be added to it. It is enough that, by the suffering of these young men, Indian boys shall hereafter be free from the cruelty of the rod. That must be our aim, and nothing else. Let the fathers of the minor boys do their duty, and prosecute, and the majors summon for assault on their own account.

CUTTINGS FROM NEWSPAPERS.

1. Name of Paper—
2. Published at—
3. Dated—

THE WESLEYAN COLLEGE
SCANDAL

UNTRUTHS AND HALF-TRUTHS

THE *Madras Times* has chosen to adopt a very critical attitude towards the students of the Wesley College for the recent scandal, but if we examine closely why it has so given up its wonted fairness in the present instance, the reason is not far to seek. The "facts" on which our contemporary bases its information do not stand a moment's scrutiny. We shall indicate a few of them, adding that there has been no denial in their case from the official quarters. The *Times* observes: "That all of them should have stayed away from class, in spite of a written notice that they were not to do so, is a bad enough sign," indicating that "the pupils of the institution were by no means in a well disciplined condition". Is that a fact? The written notice was put up on Monday after the classes met, and the students who had absented themselves put in their appearance on Tuesday, the earliest possible occasion. Thus the person to whom the *Madras Times* is indebted for its information has totally deceived our contemporary. The students did not stay away at all after the notice was put. In view of this mistake, will the *Madras Times* own its misplaced criticisms, and not run down the students as it has been doing these two days?

Provocation for Uproar

Nor is this the only error which the *Madras Times* has committed in its impossible task of defending the two teachers. "According to our information," it writes, "the High School students came to the College yesterday morning at 10 o'clock as usual; but, instead of settling down to work, some of them went upstairs into their class-room and made an uproar which prevented any work being done in the adjoining class-rooms." This is another bit of news, at least if we note the way in which it is put. The students did not begin the "uproar" as soon as they went to the class-rooms, but only when the Principal told them that he would not permit any questions, but that on Monday morning the students of the "B" Division should receive three or four cuts on the hand or pay a fine of one rupee. The students thought it monstrous that the authorities should ask them to receive cuts just before attending the public examination which begins on Monday morning. It was only after that announcement that the disorder began, and not before any provocation was given, as the *Madras Times* wants us to believe.

The Mysterious Police

How determined the *Times* has become to whitewash the performances of the College authorities is evident from the following additional passage: "Some police officers appeared upon the scene, but the Rev. Mr. O'Neill, the Principal, appropriately requested them not to interfere, and set about his own arrangements." But this is ridiculous! How did the Police Officers mysteriously "appear upon the scene"? What business had they there if they were not called in? What right have they to enter a private institution in a body without any authority? As a matter of fact, a peon of the College came along with the Police, and whether his presence in their company is due to some coincidence or not, we have no desire to discuss. But this much is clear. The Police are generally too discreet a set of people to force themselves into a College seething with such excitement unless they were invited.

Plea for Fairness

In the light of these facts, even the dullest mind can have no difficulty in concluding how the whole blame lies on the authorities. If any sensible person blames the students, he should surely also make full allowance for their age and their deeply sensitive nature. When it is definitely known that they were goaded to do what they have done, that the two teachers committed an illegal assault and the breach of the Educational rules deliberately and after previous warning, that there was never any organised strike, that the students put in their presence immediately the notice was posted, that the authorities asked them to receive cuts just before attending the public examination—if after knowing all these unchallenged facts, there should be some persons upholding the performances of the College officials, all that is possible to say is that such critics are too prejudiced against the students, or too anxious to whitewash the scandal, to be amenable to reason, fairness or justice.

CUTTINGS FROM NEWSPAPERS. 14

1. Name of Paper—
2. Published at—
3. Dated—

THE WESLEY COLLEGE INCIDENT

An Old Student

AN old student, writing from the Christian standpoint regrets that missionaries should have showed themselves so unfeeling. He says:

If they had found that some of the seeds they sowed fell on a rocky and a thorny ground, then they could have transformed carefully, in the first place, the rocky and the thorny nature of the ground into a good one. Such were the Sowers I found, in Mr. Cox, Mr. Kellett and Mr. Cooling. It would, indeed, be a deplorable thing that the College should gradually manifest bad signs, when, as a matter of fact, those who left the College in the present state have done so by espousing the cause of humaner methods in the propagation of the Word and the Gospel of the Kingdom of God. At the present situation, the only remedy seems to be in bringing a harmonious relationship between the teachers and the taught through the intervention of the parents or the guardians of the affected students.

Protest from "A Methodist Born"

Mr. James H. Cousins writes:—

A hot flush of shame went over me when I read of the disgraceful doings in Wesley College, for I was born and reared in the Wesleyan Methodist community. I was for years a choir secretary, a Sunday School teacher, and a leader in Christian Endeavour, and though the development of my life has taken me beyond the immediate sphere of my first thirty years, I feel as if a personal injury had been done to myself, and to the saintly souls in my own family circle, who live up to the spirit of the teaching and life of John Wesley.

At the same time I am inclined to feel towards the Reverend tyrants much the same as the old lady in an out-of-the-way district of Ireland felt towards a German professor who was introduced to her with a regret that he could not speak her native tongue. She looked at him with pity and remarked: "Poor creature! I don't blame him so much: I blame the place he was reared in." The gentlemen are, I think, the victims of the un-Wesleyan spirit that has come over that body, particularly in its foreign propaganda, and are victims of the entirely foolish pedagogy that usurps real education in the West, and is the result of an incomplete knowledge of the constitution of the immortal souls that come into the blind charge of teachers.

I have seen the same thing in my own experience as a teacher in Ireland. Assistant masters have come from England full of academic honours, and in a month have had classes in a state of revolution, simply because Irish boys, who were accustomed to being on friendly terms with their masters, could not stand the dragooning and unimaginative method of another country, or even another province where the temperamental attitude was less sensitive and volatile.

For years I taught boys at all ages from seven to nineteen, and I never had anything but kindness and attention—with of course an occasional human lapse which a remembrance of one's own boyhood helped to smooth over. This was entirely due to my acceptance of a principle of equality with my boys. I had no soft talk of sympathy; I did not use the professional smile and hand-shake of superiority which can so easily turn into the vulgar expletive or cowardly blow of injured *amour propre*.

The more stolid temperament of the English lad may stand the vulgarian method that the preachers of the love of Christ have tried at Wesley; but it was not the method for Irish lads, and it certainly is not the method for Wesleyan lads who add an early maturity to the tradition of an ancient and gentle race.

I trust that the pair of ordained anachronisms in an age of advancing spiritual and educational thought will be sent back to Britain to make room for someone possessing more of the spirit of the true Christian and the true teacher than the published facts of this disgraceful incident disclose.

[Unfortunately one of them has been posted to a Muffasal place, and leaves at once for his new sphere.]

A Scotsman writes:—

Much as I should like to be able to repudiate corporal punishment as an un-British practice, I am sorry to have to admit that it is one of the relics of barbarism still dear to the hearts of parents and schoolmasters even in the West, where, I understand, it is still legal, though fortunately not as prevalent as in my own school days.

In India, however, where, I understand that the offence is illegal, why should the law be allowed to remain a dead letter? I have reason to believe that Indian schoolmasters are also among the guilty. Of course, it is doubly repulsive that such methods should be adopted by the Missionaries of Christ under the pretence of spreading His message of brotherhood, but it seems to me that the present occasion is too important to be frittered away in racial recrimination.

Cannot decent men and women of all races unite to wipe out this blot on education by insisting that the law be carried out in this respect, and not invoked for the convenience of the offenders, as at the Wesleyan College?

From an English Educationist

Mr. Ernest Wood writes:—

Permit me to add my voice to the cry of indignant disgust at the occurrences described in the Wesley Institutions. The indignation of every decent Englishman engaged in Educational work in India must rise up at what has appeared.

DEPARTMENT.

CUTTINGS FROM NEWSPAPERS.

1. Name of Paper—
2. Published at—
3. Dated—

Mr. S. V. Khandekar, Assistant Secretary, the League of Parents and Teachers, writes:—

As the Assistant Secretary of the League of Parents and Teachers I have had assurances, from people connected with the Educational Departments in all parts of India, to the effect that corporal punishment in school is prohibited as illegal. To quote one of the correspondents: "In Panjab there is a 'Panjab Education Code', enforced since 1884, under which corporal punishment is strictly forbidden. There were rare instances when unfortunate teachers still administered it, but they were promptly dismissed and forfeited their certificates." So we see that from one end of India to the other corporal punishment is set aside in the educational field. Two teachers from the Wesleyan Collegiate School however seem to have confidence in the efficacy of that treatment in moulding character, and they gave a dose of the same to some students in their class. But while they are watching results, they find that the whole country is keeping watch with them—wondering what the boys would do next.

With that Government resolution against them, our two old-fashioned friends will hardly get any more opportunities of trying that experiment again on boys.

The story will not suffer by being retold shortly in a different way. Certain students of the school felt the necessity of being given leave in order to prepare themselves for their examination. Two of their teachers did not think that the leave would do them any good, but they had not the wit to explain to the students and make it clear to them that on the whole their interests could be better served by attending the school. In the absence of such a conviction the students followed the usual plan and stayed away.

The Principal of the College tells us that the pair are ready with their expression of regret; if the regret is genuine, and not the outcome of any cowardly fear of ugly consequences, let them submit an unconditional apology to the aggrieved parties including the parents. To express regret and then fail to apologise means admitting an action is wrong and then challenging the injured person to do his worst.

T. Srinivasa Rao, an old Wesley College student, writes:—The whole student population of Madras is extremely grateful to you for so ably defending the cause of the students in the recent Wesley College affair. May *New India* live for ever, so that it may do such patriotic services to our country in future.

The Rev. Mr. Williams, in explanation of his action seems to have stated, as it appeared in yesterday's *Hindu*, that this is the most common punishment in England, which the students will receive in the most "sportsman-like manner". Perhaps during his younger years, he thought it a privilege to receive flogging, but it is highly regrettable that he does not know even at this advanced age the different view taken here. Senior Intermediate students of the Wesley College last year will remember that this is not the first time when the Rev. Mr. C. K. Williams has offered an English custom as an excuse for similar action here. When he was one day asking questions in Roman History sitting on the ridge of the table, he pointed at one student who was sitting in front of him with his well polished boots, and asked him to answer the question. The student resented his action, and Mr. Williams gave

the vexed English custom—explanation. Again, another day, when the Principal was about, the Senior Intermediate students made a little noise, at once Mr. Williams came from his room, and with his characteristic felicity of address towards his class, dubbed them a "set of disorderly ruffians." I am extremely sorry that Mr. Williams and his companion Mr. Brunt, a youngman just arrived from England, are treating the students in this way. The worst part of their fault is, that they have not only disgraced themselves, but have also cast a slur on the fair name of our popular Principal, the Rev. Mr. E. Neil.

"An Indian" says:—The further development of the Wesley College School affair reported to-night only enhances the guilt of the two Missionaries. Mr. Neil, the Principal, is reported to have said that he would get the two Missionaries to "express regret". The offence is so revolting and barbarous that nothing short of criminal prosecution of the two offenders ought to satisfy the Indian public. It is the sacred duty of every parent concerned, as a father and as an Indian, to vindicate National self-respect by bringing the offenders to book. Let no financial considerations deter them from their duty. The Indian public have only to be informed of the course of action proposed to be taken for funds to flow from all quarters to wipe out this national wrong. Will Indians do their duty, or will they silently submit to this indignity and thus justify the alleged characterisation of Rev. Mr. Brunt that "Indians are cowards"?

Mr. M. Narayanaswami, Kumbhakonam, writes.

The indignation of every civilised man will bubble up, when he reads the graphic account, given by "An Indian Friend of Students," in your *New India* March 23rd, of the most disgraceful treatment given to the Senior Students of the Wesley College High School by the missionary magnates of the Institution. These people may be told plainly that their recent conduct, immortalised on the loins of the poor students, is a glaring violation of the ideals, they are supposed to preach, and is condemnable in the eyes of cultured humanity. To add gross insult to injury, Mr. Brunt has taken the liberty of using abusive epithets and making some sweeping statements about the Indian population as a whole. I am not prepared like him to make any such statements about the whole missionary body, simply because Mr. Brunt is guilty of illegal flogging of students and irrational and illogical abuse of Indians. I am certain that the missionary population, of course exclusive of Messrs. Brunt and Co., will unanimously discontinue such conduct.

And what has the Principal of the Institution done, by way of bringing to book the offenders? The report says, "the Principal asked the students to excuse the superintendent and to tell the parents not to be wounded!" A highly judicious conduct on the part of a Principal to whom all students look for Justice! Mr. Brunt is prepared to absolve himself easily by apologising. A splendid strategy! It is the bounden duty of the Educational Authorities, the parents of the students and the Members of the Legislative Council to take immediate measures to bring the offenders to book and thus put an end once for all to this Williams-Brunt system.

CUTTINGS FROM NEWSPAPERS. 16

1. Name of Paper—

2. Published at—

3. Dated—

A Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, (Edin.) writes:—

In his *quasi* apologetic letter to the Press, in explanation of the recent trouble in the Wesley College, Royapetta, the Principal, while expressing regret for the sort of punishment which was doled out to the erring students by his Assistants, as the Indian feelings were found out to be against it, seems to justify the use of the birch in that particular manner. May I point out to him as a medical man, that apart from the fact that that particular form of punishment is disallowed by the Educational Code, flagellation in itself is a moral crime? Although the English Public Schools are still too lazily conservative and ancient to wake up to the evil consequences that follow the frequent use of the birch on the nates of young boys. Ignorance more than anything else leads the schoolmaster to the adoption of this antiquated custom (which, by the way, has a very interesting psychopathic history of its own and into which it will not be profitable to enter in a lay journal) and the missionary turned-pedagogue will be the last person, I am sure, to resort to the use of the rod if he is only made acquainted with what a medical authority has to say on the subject of flagellation:—"Libido Sexualis may be induced by stimulation of the gluteal regia. This is important for proper understanding of certain pathological manifestations. It sometimes happens that in boys the first excitation of the sexual instinct is caused by a spanking and they are thus initiated into . . . This should be remembered by those who have care of children. On account of the dangers to which this form of punishment of children gives rise, it would be better if parents, teachers and others were to avoid it entirely."

The Secretary of the Royal Athletic and Literary Union, Pudupakam, sends the following resolution in a meeting convened yesterday in the Union premises:

We here express our deep indignation at the brutal and detestably new treatment meted out to our young brethren of V.L.A. Wesley College, Royapettah, which is quite indecent and illegal.

DATED
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RESUMES TO C No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT

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