

AL/1788

Proposed Admission of Girls to University Local Examinations.

17, CUNNINGHAM PLACE, LONDON, N.W.

May 5th 1863.

Dear Sir

Your kind letter received
this morning, gives us some
hope as regards Oxford.
What you said to us in the
beginning of the year as to
the state of feeling there, was
so discouraging, that we
decided to concentrate our efforts
on Cambridge. An additional
reason for doing so was that

Mr. Tomkinson, the London Sec. for Cambridge, was ready to help us, while the Oxford London Sec. appeared unfavourable to our plans. Mr. Tomkinson is now on our Committee & has proposed a plan somewhat similar to the one you suggest. He proposes to obtain first, the consent of the Local Examiners to the presence of girls in the Examination rooms, & then, to ask for as many additional copies of the Examination papers, enclosing the fees, but without the usual forms of application.

He thinks the papers would be sent without further inquiry, but that of course remains to be seen. The Committee are quite ready to guarantee all expenses, & it was arranged with Mr. Tomkinson that the girls should pay their full share, even if no extra expenses are incurred. We should find it in some respects easier to try the experiment in London than elsewhere, because the Ladies on our Committee could themselves be present at the Examination, & because London is the largest centre from which to draw our

Candidates. The Professors of Bedford College are, I believe without exception, favourable to the proposal, + would be ready to send in candidates.

But in connexion with Oxford, I believe it might be more easily managed at Brighton or Leeds.

The local Sec. at Brighton has already received applications from candidates + he is looking forward to presenting his own daughter for examination at some future time. The Leeds Sec. Mr. Barnett Blake, was in London a few weeks ago, + he assured me

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that there would be no local difficulties at Leeds. He mentioned having had an application from a schoolmistress at Malton some time ago. The Birmingham Local Committee have passed a favourable Resolution, but we do not know how far they would be ready to cooperate in any reformal plans.

The Committee entirely agree with you as to the desirableness of proving that the thing is feasible before asking the sanction of the Universities. The difficulty

appears to be to contrive a scheme in which everything shall be open & above board & fair towards the Universities, on our part, without committing the official persons connected with the Examinations.

I shall have the pleasure of bringing before the Committee the plan you have sketched out, & also your suggestion for circulating a "fly sheet" at Oxford. In case the Committee should wish to have the actual letters printed, should you object to having your own printed also,

& giving it the form of a correspondence?

I cannot remember whether I sent you before, the enclosed short statement of our views. The Committee are very clear & decided in wishing for the admission of girls to the Exams^{ns}, as they are. To our thinking, modern languages & the Arts are fairly provided for by the existing Scheme, looking upon them as studies, & as mere accomplishments, they really do not want encouragement.

May I ask you to be kind enough
to let us hear from you again,
with Dr Temple's view of the
subject + any further suggestions
that may have occurred to you.

I remain

Yours sincerely

S. E. Davies.