

Public School at Gowrie,

Teacher,

Goonor Goonor,

Notifying suspension of May 26th. 1886.

Two Pupils.

Sir,

I have the honour to notify that I have been under the necessity of suspending the attendance of John Whitten aetat 16, and Roland Richard Whitten aetat 14 years, pending investigation.

This course has been rendered absolutely necessary for the honour of the Department, the moral condition of the School, and in the interests of justice.

In the latter case R. R. Whitten has been convicted of pouring into the ears of two younger children the vilest obscenity. Whitten senr. only sent these boys for a day or two, to create mischief. As this man has already been guilty of the vile practice of subornation, as he has tampered unsuccessfully with most of the parents of children attending my school, the wisdom of refusing ^{them} re-admittance will be at once apparent. Moreover I have grave reasons to suspect that hostile ecclesiastical influence is at the bottom of the whole affair.

I may add that it pained me very much to have to send the boys home, even for a brief period, and that I shall have much pleasure in re-admitting them if such be the Minister's pleasure. But I fear the pending investigation will reveal circumstances which will render their re-admission an impossibility. I beg you also to note Mr. Whitten's statements ^{to you} and ask why he sent his boys to me after preferring such a complaint?

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Most Obedient Servant

John Pely

L. Blumer Esqr.
Inspector of Schools
Tamworth

Attested Copy of Letter to Mr. Whitten.

Pub. School at Gowrie,

Gornoo Gornoo

May 26th. 1886.

Sir,

I have been under the necessity of sending your two boys home until this disagreeable business concerning your charges against me are settled finally by the Inspector. I am surprised that you should send these boys to me after charging me with gross cruelty to them! Do you wish them to experience more cruelty? As soon as investigation has fully proved to you that you have encouraged your children to rebel against the discipline of the school; that they have by some person or persons been incited to misconduct, that, in fact, while the school has been acting in a manner beneficial, outside influence has been demoralising to the last degree, and that your boys have been guilty of repeated breaches of Regulation 125, viz: gross insolence, persistent disobedience, and profanity.

You will please bear in mind that this very painful course is the result of your own hostility to the school. You have specially charged me with gross cruelty (and other malpractices) to these very boys you now send. Nothing will give me greater pleasure than to admit them after you have been fully satisfied as to the general conduct of the school; and, after you have signified your wish for their real moral welfare, and consented to their being rendered amenable to the discipline of the school. This of course, subject to the approval of the Minister,

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Most Obedient Servant

John Peck

S

Mr. H. Whitten

Gornoo Gornoo

over

I hereby certify that this is a true copy of the letter
forwarded, per Annie Whitten, to Dr. H. Whitten.

Date. 26. 5. 86.

Catherine Egan
Margaret M. Kelly

1.

Source Public:-

Complaints preferred against the
Teacher, Mr John Riely, by Mr Hy. Whitten

Charge 1. Mr Riely is uncouth to our children &
" 2. Treat them in a manner unbecoming his
position as School Teacher using language which
tends to create a dislike on the part of the children
towards him.

Charge 3. "I do believe that his conduct verges on
immorality."

Mr Riely denied all the charges.

Hy. Whitten states I am a farmer residing
in the school locality. My children have attended
the school since its opening. I have never witnessed nor
heard any uncouth nor improper language used
by Mr Riely to the children. At my own place, I have
heard Mr Riely use the expression "By Heaven" & "By
Hell" - not inside my house but on the way to the house.
He said the P.O.'s were using their influence to get him
shifted.

Signature omitted

AB

Michael Hough, a pupil, says I am 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ years old,
I have heard Mr Riely call John Whitten a
"longlegged Kangaroo" but no other name. He called
him this name in school, on only one occasion so
far as I can recollect. I have heard him call
Richard Whitten "Billy" while in the pants, & Whitten
did not like it. I have never seen the boys playing at
yarding bullocks or Kangaroos.

By Mr Riely:—I have never been punished unless I
deserved it, and not always then.

Michael Hough

Rowland Richard Whitten, son of the complainant, states I am 14 yrs old and was a scholar at this school until yesterday. McNeely hunted us away yesterday - he told us to go away, that he would not let us stop. I have heard him call me + my brother John names - Long-legged ghost + Long-legged Kangaroo - Billy the Bullock. I have heard him say "By Shundes" in school.

By McNeely:- We used to play at "Kangaroo" but my brother had left school before that. We never played at "Bullocks"

Rowland Richard Whitten

Ellen Burke, 12 years old, states I have been a pupil of this school since it opened first. I have heard McNeely call John Whitten "long leg" but not any other name. The worst I ever heard McNeely say was "By Shundes."

By McNeely:- I have seen the boys playing at "yarding bullocks". I do not know whether Whittens were doing so.

Ellen Burke

3.

John Riely states I am Teacher of the Coarvic
Public School & took charge of the school when it
was first opened on 25th Feby. 1884.

I admit making use of the word "By Thunder" but
not in an improper ~~school~~ manner - but in school
injuring an Object Lesson having a moral tendency,
"By Thunder - Sealing thro' the air &c". I have treated
McWhittan's children with kindness & consideration,
with a due regard to their advancement. I have never
been cruel to any child under my care. I believe
McWhittan's motive in bringing this charge is sinister.

I admit having called the lad Whittan a "Kangaroo"
it was said in fun & had reference to drill matters,
& his brother, "Billy the Bullock", but only in joke.

John Riely

Catherine Eagan states I am pupil of this school
and am 14 yrs old. I heard Mr Riely say "By
Thunder" during an Object Lesson on Lightning &
Telegraph and not in an improper manner. I have
never heard Mr Riely call any children names ^{that I} or seen
him illuse any of them. No one has talked to me
about this or told me what to say.

Catherine Eagan

Bradley
1885
JUN 1886

Gouern Publice relays made against the
Teacher by Mr. J. Whitten

- Mr. J. Whitten charges the Teacher, Mr. J. Neely,
1. With uncourtesy towards the children, frosh beating them in a manner unbecoming his position as a Teacher, using language which tends to create a dislike on the part of the children towards him.
 2. With conduct verging on immorality.
- The Teacher indignantly denies both charges.

In Support of the first charge, Mr. Whitten called five of the pupils, including his own two sons. These assert that Mr. Neely, upon one occasion ejaculated "By Thunder," and upon other occasions called the boys Whitten "A long-legged ghost," "Kanyaroo," "Bill, the Bullock."

Mr. Neely states that he made use of the expression "By Thunder" - pealing through the air - we are reminded to; that the words were not used as alleged. He is witness either corroborates his statement or did not hear him use the words at all.

Mr. Neely admits calling the lads "Kanyaroo" & "Bill, the Bullock," but says they were used in a jocular & in by no means an offensive manner. His explanation may be accepted as correct.

Inspector.

Place Jamworth
Date 29th May 1886.

Bridget McCulloch states I am 16 yrs old left school about a week ago. I have on different occasions heard Mr. Reily say "By Thunders" and call Johnny Whitten a long-legged ghost. On one occasion he called me a "beat". He has never behaved rudely to me.

By Mr. Reily:- One day at writing you said to my brother "By Thunders, I'll bring you out on the floor & can you." No one has been telling me what to say at this inquiry. My father & you have been bad friends, but I do not know whether you are good or bad friends now.

Bridget M. McCulloch

John Whitten, son of the complainant, states I am 16 yrs old and was a pupil in this school. In the presence and hearing of the other children, Mr. Reily has often called me a "long-legged Kangaroo" & a "long ghost". I have heard him say "By Thunders" & "By Jays" at the schoolroom left school about six months ago because of Mr. Reily's habit of calling me names. I have never seen or heard Mr. Reily say or do anything worse than what I have said.

By Mr. Reily:- I did not state that I was kept at home to help my father.

John Whitten

Mahlda Funston states I am 11 yrs old & have attended the school since it opened. I have never heard Mr Nelly say "By Thunder" or call any body any names. I have not know Mr Nelly to be unkind to any of the children.

Mahlda Funston

Cornelius Eagan states I am a pupil of the school and am 10 yrs old. I have never heard Mr Nelly say "By Thunder"

Cornelius Eagan

Mrs Robt. Bailey states I have frequently been in the school during school hours and noticed the working of the school. I have never seen or heard anything rude, or uncouth, or unkind on the part of Mr Nelly towards the children.
I am an intimate friend of Mr Nelly.

Emily Bailey

Dist. Insp't.

On the 22nd instant during an
Incidental visit to the school, I held an inquiry
of an informal character, and ^{was} satisfied that the
trouble is not of such a nature as to require a formal
investigation. The matter was simply the word of the
child against that of the Teacher. Neither could
produce supporting evidence.

Pl. 28-5-86

J.B.

Chief Inspector

I concur.

Report upon investigation of
Complaints preferred by Mr. Whitten in letter dated
22nd inst is forwarded herewith.

J.D.B.

Pl. 31-5-86

Dist. Insp't.

The Teacher acted hastily in suspending these boys from attendance, it accordingly, I have directed him to admit them to the school and have informed the father that his sons are at full liberty to return to school.

B6 28-5-86.

AB

Chief Inspector

I concur in action taken

1913,

At. 21. 5-86

In support of charge 2. the only evidence is that of Mr Whitten, who testifies to having heard Mr Kelly say, "By Heavens" & "By Hell" on one occasion far from the school premises. This charge must be considered unfounded.

Mr Kelly has by some means rendered himself very unpopular with a certain section of the parents, and his usefulness is proportionately diminished thereby. He alleges that it is on account of his pronounced religious views. It may be so, but I am of opinion that his unpopularity is mainly attributable to his want of tact in dealing with a body comparatively ignorant, but withal good-natured people. At the close of the inquiry a paper (attached) protesting against his retention at Louisa & signed by a number of the parents was placed in my hands.

I recommend

1. That Mr Kelly be informed that his conduct in calling pupils by such names as "Kangaroo" & "Bully the Bullock" is highly objectionable & unjustifiable.

2. That in consideration of his unpopularity with a large section of the parents, it is deemed desirable, in the interests of the school, to remove him to another locality.

Chief Inspector

Inspector

Submitted

I concur

2073.
21. 31. 5. 86

Received by Mr. [unclear] 6. 1886

5. 5. 86

Approved

Under Secretary

I concur in 1. No 2 might

2. 6. 86 be acted on without making it appear as the result of this investigation.

5. 2. 86

The Chief Inspector
To note and return for further action.

J. M.
2. 6. 86.

CI 8 JUN 86

B.C. 7 JUN 1886

Rel.
11. 6. 86

John and Mrs. [unclear]
10. 6. 86

Complainant info
11. 5. 86

C. B. 9999

86. 4958

Est 1
No. 8. 9999^B

Memorandum to District Inspector Bradley

Gowrie charges preferred against
Teacher by Mr. N. Whitten
Mr. Blumer's report of 29th ultimo

Mr. Riely has been informed
that his conduct in calling pupils
by such names as "Kangaroo"
and "Billy the Bullock" is highly
objectionable and unjustifiable,
and must not be repeated.

In view of Mr. Riely's
unpopularity with a large section
of the parents the Minister deems
it desirable in the interests of
the school, to remove him to
another locality. It is accordingly
requested that you will submit
arrangements for his removal
as soon as practicable.

(signed) J. C. Maynard
Chief Inspector