

Teacher, Complaining of Alleged Libellous
Letter from one of the Parents

Public School at Gowrie

May 14th 1886

Sir,

I have the honour to enclose letter from
Mr. H. Whitten. In reply to this insulting and libellous
communication I have written to Mr. Whitten informing
him that I will request you to investigate the matter.

Taking into consideration the fact that you will probably
soon visit my school to inspect it, I respectfully beg
you to fully inquire into the allegations contained in Mr.
Whitten's letter. Impartial investigation will, I am sure,
elicit facts which should be known to the Department.

With Mr. Whitten's letter before you, it would be needless
to remark that he is either vindictive or has been very
much misled by idle tales - he has never visited the
school to inquire into the truth, or otherwise expressed
dissatisfaction & just simply written the appended abusive
missive.

I have the honour to be,

Sr^{ts},

Your Most Obedient Servant

L. J. Blumer Esq
Inspector of Schools
Tarnworth

John Rely

14th May 1886

My dear Sir

Did it not only come to my knowledge yesterday, the way you have been talking on children at school lately it seems you blame our child amice for not working her own head in her book and abused and teased the child with threats of dismissal from the school and other punishment that she actually said she did not do what she really did do. Now, Sir, spare her book and can you promise that she shall do every page of the same honestly. You have marked her as a liar in the presence of all the pupils and wrongfully to credit now Sir I want you to undo the wrong that you have done her and restore her truthfulness in the presence of the

Copy
Public School at Enniscorthy,
Corner's Row,
14.5.86.

Sir

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 4 days and in reply thank you for my inability to comply with your request. I have, however, forwarded your letter to the Inspector together with my request that he will investigate the matter.

I have also to add that I never willingly imposed any child and making all allowance for a father's feeling, try to point out that your letter is wholly and entirely in the extreme. Your further service would have been to come to the school and inquire personally of the teacher. As it is I can come only to one of two conclusions: either you have been grossly misled, or your action amounts of injustice.

An investigation will enlighten you on all the

To H. Martin Esqr.
Spring Creek
Enniscorthy

School. And again you told our children they were a big part of the school that sounds rather hard after ten two years or more and in constant attendance under your influence and we have never had a complaint from you in any way. Not as a rule our children are ~~but~~ full kind and obedient you have told me so myself and should with severe punishment for falsehood. But you have grossly wronged our child and if the truth is not explained to the school I shall take all my children from under your charge and think I can give just cause for taking my two eldest Boys also. Hop you will put this matter right without farther interference on my part

Henry Patton

matters mentioned. Meanwhile you can remove your children if you think proper - in any case they will never be wronged by me. I would be deeply grieved if I unwittingly wronged the humblest child in my school.

But I think you must be aware of the course you are taking, and it only remains for me to defend myself and reputation from the attacks of you and others, which, rest assured, I will do to the utmost of my ability.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Most Obedient Servant

John Rich

Souris: Chas. against Teachers:

Winnipeg, Manitoba

22nd May 1886

To the Inspector
of Public Schools

Sir,

I wish to make a complaint against Mr. J. Riley, the teacher of the Public School at Souris, on two grounds that he is very untruthful to our children and treats them in a manner unbecoming the position of a school teacher using language which tends to create a dislike on the part of the children towards him and I do believe that his conduct verges on immorality and in fact I consider that he is quite unfit to teach our children. I hope you will hold an investigation as soon as possible that you may see the correctness of my statements and I appeal to you for protection for my children as I believe you have the welfare of all

Spring Creek

10th May 1886

Souris

We the Parents of children
attending school at Souris
do hereby protest against Mr
John Riley as a fit and proper
person to have charge of our
children and ~~of the~~

Henry Whitten 5

Patrick Hough 5

J. M. McElwain 4

Edward Burt 1

William Morrow 3

F. Wilson

John McNamee 5

The children at heart

Worman Dr

Your obedient servant

Henry Thullen

Dear Sir, the reason I ask you to hold
the investigation as soon as possible is
that I depend chiefly on the truthfulness
of the pupils to prove the correctness
of my statements

I am Sir your

Obedt servant Henry Thullen

Public School at Gowrie,

Teachers,

Goonoo Goonoo,

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 ^{their} 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 Peck

L. Blumer Esqr.
Inspector of Schools
Tamworth

Attested Copy of Letter to Mr. Whitten.

Pub. School at Gowrie,
Goroo Gowoo

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 Peely

To

Mr. H. Whitten

Goroo Gowoo

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 Kelly

Gourie 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 uncouthness or improper language used
by Mr Riely to the children. At my own place, I have
heard Mr Riely use the expression "By Heavens" & "By
Hell" - not inside my house but on the way to the house.
He said the P.C.'s were using their influence to get him
shifted.

Signature omitted

AB

Michael Hough, a pupil, states I am 13½ yrs old,
I have heard McRiely 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
gardens, bullocks, or Kangaroos.

By McRiely:—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. McTiely 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 Shunder" in school.

By McTiely:- 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 McTiely call John Whitten "long leg" but not any other name. The worst I ever heard McTiely say was "By Shunder".

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

Ellen Burke

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

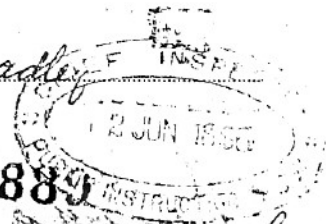
I admit making use of the word "By Thunder" but
not in an improper ~~school~~ manner - but in school
injuring an Object Lesson having a moral tendency
"By Thunder - Scaling thro' the air etc". I have treated
Mr Whittens' children with kindness & consideration &
with a due regard to their advancement.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

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

John Reily

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

Catherine Egan



17/21
10889
Gouern Public relchays made against the
Teacher by M^r Jy Whitten

M^r Jy Whitten charges the Teacher, M^r J. Neely,
1. With uncouthness towards the children, with
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, M^r Whitten called
five of the pupils, including his own two sons. These assert
that M^r Neely, upon one occasion ejaculated "By Thunder",
and upon other occasions called the boys Whitten "A long-legged
ghost", "A Kanyaroo", "A Billy the Bullock".

M^r 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 & does corroborate
his statement or did not hear him use the words at all.

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

Inspector.

Place Jamworth

Date 29th May 1886.

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

By Mr. Reily:— One day at writing you said to my brother "By Thunder, 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. Cullloch

John Whitten, son of the complainant, says 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 Thunder" & "By Jays" in the schoolroom. I 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 Kelly say "By Thunder" or call any body any names. I have not known Mr Kelly 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 Kelly say "By Thunder".

Cornelius Eagan

Mr 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 Kelly towards the children.
I am an intimate friend of Mr Kelly.

Emley 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. D. 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. 28-5-86.

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 son are at full liberty to return to school.

Bl. 28-5-86.

A. B.

Chief Inspector

I concur in action taken

1873,

Bl. 31.5.86

In support of charge 2. the only evidence is that of Mr Whitten, who testifies to having heard Mr Kelly say "By Heaven" & "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.

Recommend

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

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.

Deputy

Inspector

Submitted

I concur

2073.

21.31.5.86

RECORDED FOR THE YEAR 1886

11.5.86

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 N.

J.C.M.
2.6.86.

CI 8 JUN 86

B.C. 7 JUN 1886

Ret^d
11.6.86

Lehr and Delint
10.6.86
Complaint into
Sh 11.5.86

C. B. 9999

86.4958

Memorandum to District Inspector Bradley

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

Mr. Kiely 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. Kiely'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