

AL/1792

Proposed Admission of Girls to University Local Examinations.

17, CUNNINGHAM PLACE, LONDON, N.W.

Nov. 20th 1863.

Dear Mr. Acland

I wrote to Mr. Griffiths,
according to your suggestion,
& he advises us to make our
application to Oxford at once.
He says the Vice-Chancellor will
move the renewal of the Statute
in the Hibernian Council
almost immediately, so there
seems to be no time to lose.

Our notion is to have a Memorial signed by teachers, & supported by Members of Parliament & noble Ladies, &c. Mr. Griffiths thinks this would do. But I do not see how we can get up a Memorial in less than three or four weeks at least. Do you think the Vice-Chancellor could be induced to delay his Motion for the presentation of the Memorial, so as to give the subject the chance of a hearing?

I enclose a copy of a Memorial which was drawn up about a year ago, & which with modifications, may perhaps answer our purpose now. Do you think it necessary to mention the subject of expense in the Memorial? I do not quite see how a Committee like ours can make itself responsible for carrying out the details of a measure which is to be permanent & extending all over the country; & if, as we intend, the girls pay the same fees as the boys, I suppose their fees would cover ~~any~~ ^{the} extra

expense. This might be mentioned
in a "fly leaf", which Mr Griffiths
kindly offers to circulate for us.
I believe the whole matter might
be quite safely left to the Local
Committees. Except for being
present at the Examination,
we find our Ladies' Committee
quite superfluous here. The simpler
plan would be to add a few
ladies to the local Committees,
but if that was objected to,
the local Sec. could, I should
suppose, easily invite two or
three ladies to take part in the
superintendence of the examination.

AL 11792 copy

I suppose it might be as well
to wind up the Memorial to
be read by some allusion to
the approaching renewal of the
Statute. We should wish to make
the same Memorial serve as
nearly as possible for both
Universities, as we shall, I think,
ask people to sign the two
together. I am afraid we
could not ^{get} two separate Memorials
signed & supported, within a
few weeks of each other. But
that, the Committee will decide.
We shall meet some day next
week, & if in the meantime you

can kindly give us any advice
about the Memorial, I shall
be glad to lay it before the
Committee.

The Cambridge Sec. seems rather
frightened at the amount of
extra work we have provided
for the Examiners. The girls,
numbering a hundred, all want
to be examined in English, which
makes it come very heavy upon
some of the Examiners.

I remain, Dear Sir

Yours very truly

Emily Davies.