

New College, Hackney
(1786-96): A Selection of
Printed and Archival
Sources

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Studies

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In my efforts to identify the students, tutors, governors and benefactors of New College I have drawn on a range of sources which are listed in the bibliography. I am indebted, however, to three key sources in particular:

British History Online: Committees for Repeal of the Test and Corporation Acts - Minutes 1786-90 and 1827-8

<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/source.aspx?pubid=232>

The Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

<http://www.oxforddnb.com/public/index.html?url=%2Findex.jsp>

The Surman Index Online

<http://surman.english.qmul.ac.uk/>

ABBREVIATIONS

Belsham	Thomas Belsham, <i>Memoirs of the Late Reverend Theophilus Lindsey</i> (London, 1812)
BHO	British History Online, Committees for the Repeal of the Test and Corporation Acts, http://www.british-history.ac.uk/source.aspx?pubid=232
Birm. MS 281	Birmingham University, MS 281, 'A View of Academical Institutions founded by Protestant Dissenters in the 17 th , 18 th , and 19 th Centuries', fols. 123-125
Birtwhistle	John Birtwhistle, 'An Ardent Naturalist - William Russell Notcutt (1774?-1800): Chemist, Botanist and One of Davy's First Nitrous Oxide Subjects', <i>The History of Anaesthesia Society Proceedings</i> , 28 (2000), 60-66.
Burke	J. Bernard Burke, <i>A Genealogical and Heraldic Dictionary of the Landed Gentry of Great Britain and Ireland</i> 2 vols. (London, 1852)
Clayden	Peter William Clayden, <i>The Early Life of Samuel Rogers</i> (London, 1887)
Debrett	John Debrett, <i>The Peerage of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland</i> 2 vols. (London, 1822)
Ditchfield	G. M. Ditchfield, ed., <i>The Letters of Theophilus Lindsey (1723-1808)</i> 2 vols. (Woodbridge, 2008)
DWL	Dr Williams's Library, London
Gorton	John Gorton, <i>A General Biographical Dictionary</i> 4 vols. (London, 1851)
Haakonssen	Knud Haakonssen, ed., <i>Enlightenment and Religion: Rational Dissent in eighteenth-century Britain</i> (Cambridge, 1996)
Hirschberg	Julius Hirschberg, <i>The History of Ophthalmology</i> 11 vols. (London, 1982)
JRUL	John Rylands University Library, Manchester

- Lankester Edwin Ray Lankester, *The History of the Collections Contained in the Natural History Department of the British Museum* (London, 1904)
- McCarthy William McCarthy, *Anna Letitia Barbauld: Voice of the Enlightenment* (Baltimore, MD, 2008)
- Nightingale Benjamin Nightingale, *Lancashire Nonconformity, or, Sketches, Historical and Descriptive of the Old Congregational and Presbyterian Churches in the County* 6 vols. (Manchester, 1890-93)
- ODNB Oxford Dictionary of National Biography
<http://www.oxforddnb.com/public/index.html?url=%2Findex.jsp>
- Sikes H. M. Sikes, ed., *The Letters of William Hazlitt* (New York, 1978)
- SIO The Surman Index Online
<http://www.english.qmul.ac.uk/drwilliams/research/surman.html>
- Stephenson H. W. Stephenson, *William Hazlitt and Hackney College* (London, 1930)
- Stone *The Whole Proceedings of the Trial of Mr. William Stone, on a Charge of High Treason* (London, 1796)
- Thomas David Oswald Thomas, *The Honest Mind: The Thought and Work of Richard Price* (Oxford, 1977)
- Wade Richard Wade, *The Rise of Nonconformity in Manchester* (Manchester, 1880)
- Wu Duncan Wu, *William Hazlitt: The First Modern Man* (Oxford, 2008)

1. GENERAL INTRODUCTION

The story of New College, Hackney begins in the London Coffee House, Cheapside on 13 December 1785. On that evening an eclectic group of wealthy, reform-minded Protestant dissenters convened to discuss the problems that they and their brethren faced in securing suitable educational opportunities for their sons. Unable to take degrees from the universities at Oxford and Cambridge unless they pledged allegiance to the Thirty-Nine Articles of the Church of England, they had also recently witnessed the closure of two major dissenting academies at Warrington and Hoxton. Without suitable academies to educate and train new generations of nonconformist ministers, the future of liberal Protestant dissent appeared to be at stake. Exactly one month later, on 13 January 1786, they therefore resolved to establish a new academy in or near to London. This was the beginning of New College, Hackney (1786-96), perhaps the most ambitious and controversial of the eighteenth-century academies.

The early history of New College is one of rapid growth and development. Although the first five students began a course of lectures at Dr Williams's Library in Cripplegate in October 1786, it was not until the following year that New College, Hackney was formally inaugurated. Late in 1786 a magnificent property set in eighteen acres of carefully manicured pleasure gardens had been purchased, and work had begun to convert it into a residential academy. Originally built in the 1720s for the governor of the Bank of England, Stamp Brooksbank, Homerton Hall was the finest stately residence in one of the most exclusive areas in the country. By mid-1787 the new academy was ready to receive its first students and on 29 September 1787 New College, Hackney opened its doors for the first time. Twelve students (eight lay and four ministerial) were admitted and immediately took up residence. The College stood as an important symbol of the heightened aspirations and ebullient spirit of Protestant dissent in the late 1780s. At this time British nonconformists looked ahead to a new era of religious toleration as the campaign to repeal the Test and Corporation Acts gathered momentum. Once the legal penalties against dissenters were removed, New College, it was hoped, would nurture the rising generation, providing a broad, liberal education superior to that offered by the English universities. Addressing the supporters of New College on 27 April 1790, Thomas Belsham, the Divinity Tutor, captured the sense of excitement when he declared that New College 'shall burst like the morning sun through every mist of prejudice, envy and calumny; and [...] diffuse light, and truth, and virtue, and happiness to generations yet unborn.'¹

Belsham was speaking at a time when New College was flourishing. After its inception in 1787, the academy quickly developed into a centre of intellectual excellence. Among its students, tutors, and governors can be found some of the foremost writers, scientists, theologians, philosophers, parliamentarians, merchants and bankers of the day. In

¹ Thomas Belsham, *The Importance of Truth and the Duty of Making an Open Profession of it* (London, 1790), 47.

addition, New College gained prominence as a key metropolitan centre of reformist and radical endeavour. In forging close connections with the London Revolution Society, the Society for Constitutional Information, and the Society of the Friends of the People, New College emerged at the very centre of the tight network of metropolitan organisations which inspired reformist initiatives throughout the 1780s and '90s. As a result, the formal events of the College – the governors' meetings, annual dinners and anniversary sermons – brought together the leading dissenting and radical figures of the era.

Amidst the crucible of counter-revolutionary turmoil in the early 1790s, however, it did not take long for New College to be identified as a hot-bed of sedition. A series of events worked to associate the academy with ideas of radicalism and revolution. In June 1792, for example, Thomas Paine was the guest of honour at a republican supper held at New College, only a month after he had been summoned to answer a charge of seditious libel for the second part of *The Rights of Man*. Three months later a French spy, François Noël, formerly Professor of Belles Lettres at the University of Paris, dined with Joseph Priestley at the College. Noël had been introduced to Priestley by the College's tutor of French and Italian, John Scipio Sabonadière (1752-1825), a man with high political connections who may well have been working as a French agent throughout this time at Hackney.² Finally, in May 1794, William Stone, a prominent New College governor, was arrested on a charge of High Treason. He was accused of providing military intelligence to the new French republic. At the heart of the case was his correspondence with William Jackson (1737?-95), an Irish journalist who was also working as a French spy. Three other New College governors, Benjamin Vaughan, John Hurford Stone, and the chairman, William Smith, were implicated in the plot. Although they were not charged, William Stone was tried early in 1796. After a lengthy trial he was acquitted.³ Within months of his release, however, New College was closed for good.

The early success of the College did not, therefore, last for long. External factors such as the outbreak of the French Revolution in July 1789, and the failure to repeal the Test and Corporation Acts in Parliament in May 1790 contributed to its problems, but internal difficulties proved to be decisive in its demise. From the beginning New College had suffered as a result of poor financial management, divisive arguments between the tutors, and the increasingly controversial behaviour of many of its students, tutors, and governors. By the early 1790s its reputation was on the wane, and, as several of its wealthy benefactors began to turn away, student numbers declined rapidly. The debts soon spiralled out of control and the institution appeared to loom over the precipice of bankruptcy. Although the academy struggled on until 1796, its closure had been debated since 1791. After much deliberation among the governors, the decision to close was finally taken. In a letter to William Tayleur, one of the College's most generous benefactors, Theophilus Lindsey announced the sad news on 14 December 1795: 'It will give you concern to be informed, that our college at Hackney, to which you have been such a signal and generous benefactor, must now at last be broken up, and the premises

² For more on Sabonadière's activities in the early 1790s see McCarthy, 286-7, 328-9.

³ See John Barrell, *Imagining the King's Death: Figurative Treason, Fantasies of Regicide 1793-1796* (Oxford, 2000), 192.

disposed of, on account of the debts incurred and the clamours of the creditors.'⁴ The academic year ended in June 1796 for the last time and, a few days later, the College buildings and grounds were sold at auction. The failure of the academy was seen as a momentous victory for the forces of loyalist conservatism: a jubilant contributor to the *Gentleman's Magazine* captured the reactionary spirit of the day when he proclaimed that 'Babylon is fallen, is fallen.'⁵ In contrast, Joseph Priestley lamented that 'The giving up of the college is certainly very mortifying to the friends of liberty [...] but we must give way to the times, which are unfortunately against the good cause in England.'⁶

In 1800, four years after its closure, New College was razed to the ground by developers. Today, the site where it once stood is home to the Jack Dunning Estate, a group of council blocks situated between Homerton University Hospital and Lower Clapton Road. No trace of the College survives. In fact, since its demise over two hundred years ago little effort has been made to revive its memory or to evaluate its cultural, educational, intellectual, and political significance. Despite the remarkable history of the institution, New College has been neglected by scholars for nearly a century. J. H. McLachlan's article, 'The Old Hackney College, 1786-96', published in the *Transactions of the Unitarian Historical Society* in 1925, remains the standard account and, whilst this has served as an invaluable resource, a thorough reappraisal of the institution is long overdue.⁷

The following publication is therefore part of a wider endeavour to resituate New College at the heart of late eighteenth-century culture. It presents an online, annotated edition of some of the rich archival and printed materials relating to the history of New College held at Dr Williams's Library, London. A wealth of extant material sheds light on almost every aspect of the life of the academy. Among the surviving documents are sermons, lectures, textbooks, student notebooks, minute books, subscription lists, governors' reports, correspondence, polemics, poetry, and biographical memoirs. Whilst some of the important printed sources are beginning to appear online at ECCO and Google Books, much of the archival material remains inaccessible. As a result, it is hoped that the following edition of New College documents will provide a useful resource for scholars of the late eighteenth century.

The following sections include a detailed chronology of the institution; comprehensive lists of students, tutors, governors and benefactors; correspondence, minute-book entries, and other documents relating the origin and development of the College; selections from manuscript letters and newspaper articles discussing events at the academy; and also poems composed to celebrate the liberal and progressive spirit of the institution. Each

⁴ JRUL, MS Autograph Letters of Theophilus Lindsey, 1785-1800, fol. 88 [to William Tayleur].

⁵ *Gentleman's Magazine*, 66 (1796), 458-9.

⁶ J. T. Rutt, ed., *Life and Correspondence of Joseph Priestley*, 2 vols. (London, 1832), I, 360-1.

⁷ H. J. McLachlan, 'The Old Hackney College, 1786-96', *TUHS*, 3.3 (1925), 185-205. In addition, H. W. Stephenson published two articles on William Hazlitt's experiences at New College which were later issued as a pamphlet. See H. W. Stephenson, 'Hackney College and William Hazlitt 1', *TUHS*, 4.3 (1929), 219-47; 'Hackney College and William Hazlitt 2', *TUHS*, 4.4 (1930), 376-411; and *William Hazlitt and Hackney College* (London, 1930).

section is prefaced by a brief introduction that provides further information and commentary on the material presented. Over time I hope to create additional sections, and develop the site further. I would therefore be delighted to hear from anyone who is able to shed further light on the history of the academy or on those who were associated with it.

2. NEW COLLEGE CHRONOLOGY, 1786-96

1785

- 13 December** A group of thirty-seven men meet in the London Coffee House to discuss the educational opportunities for liberal dissenters in the wake of the closure of the academies at Hoxton and Warrington.

1786

- 13 January** The decision is taken to establish a new academy in or near to London.
- 11 February** Samuel Kenrick (1728-1811) of Bewdley reports that benefactors have donated £10,000 in support of the new academy.
- 22 February** Manchester Academy is officially launched. It did not admit its first students, however, until 14 September. Thomas Barnes (1747-1810) and Ralph Harrison (1748-1810) were its founding tutors.
- 26 April** Andrew Kippis delivers the inaugural sermon to the supporters of the 'new academical institution' (subsequently New College, Hackney) at the Old Jewry. This is followed by a celebratory dinner at the Half Moon Tavern in Cheapside.
- 23 June** Andrew Kippis (1725-95), Richard Price (1723-91), Abraham Rees (1743-1825) and Hugh Worthington (1752-1813) are appointed founding tutors of New College.
- 5 July** The governing committee of the recently closed Warrington Academy (1756-86) take the decision to donate their library to Manchester Academy, their scientific apparatus to New College, and to divide the remaining funds equally between the two institutions.
- 18 October** New College is granted use of the library of Exeter Academy (1760-71); Dr Williams's trustees permit lectures to be delivered in its library on Red Cross Street, Cripplegate; five students commence their studies.
- 24 November** The New College governors purchase Homerton Hall in Hackney; building works begin to convert the property into a residential academy.
- 20 December** The widow of Dr William Harris (1720-70) donates her husband's collection of books to the College.

Andrew Kippis, *A Sermon Preached...on Occasion of a New Academical Institution among Protestant Dissenters.*

1787

- 25 April** Richard Price delivers the New College anniversary sermon at the Old Jewry.
- 9 June** Theophilus Lindsey reports that Robert Newton (1713-1789), a Derbyshire landowner, has donated £1500 to the College.
- 29 September** New College, Hackney officially opens; 12 students (8 ministerial and 4 lay) take residence and begin their studies.
- Richard Price, *The Evidence for a Future Period of Improvement in the State of Mankind.*
- [Anonymous], *Salutary Admonitions to the Dissenters, in a Letter to Thomas Rogers.*

1788

- 30 April** Abraham Rees delivers the New College anniversary sermon at the Old Jewry.
- 30 September** Hugh Worthington gives notice of his resignation as Classical Tutor at the College.
- 4 November** Andrew Kippis delivers the London Revolution Society's anniversary sermon at the Old Jewry.
- 19 November** Theophilus Lindsey notes that Thomas Corbyn (1711-91) has bequeathed £2000 and Peter Emans (d.1810) has donated £500 to the College.
- 2 December** Thomas Broadhurst (1767-1851) is appointed assistant tutor.
- Abraham Rees, *The Advantages of Knowledge: Illustrated and Recommended in a Sermon...to the Supporters of a New Academical Institution Among Protestant Dissenters.*
- Andrew Kippis, *A Sermon Preached at the Old Jewry, on the 4th of November 1788, Before the Society for Commemorating the Glorious Revolution.*

1789

- 8 February** Thomas Belsham announces his resignation as the Divinity Tutor of Daventry Academy.
- 6 May** Hugh Worthington delivers the New College anniversary sermon at the Old Jewry.
- 21 May** David Jones (1765-1816) is appointed assistant tutor at the College.
- 1 July** Thomas Belsham accepts the offer to become resident tutor at New College.
- September** George Cadogan Morgan begins his duties as Classical Tutor. Morgan had worked as an assistant tutor at the College since 1786.
- 4 November** Richard Price delivers the London Revolution Society's anniversary sermon at the Old Jewry, *A Discourse on the Love of our Country delivered...to the Society for Commemorating the Revolution in Great Britain*.
- Hugh Worthington, *A Sermon Delivered on...6th of May 1789 ...to the Supporters of a New Academical Institution among Protestant Dissenters*.

1790

- 6 April** George Cadogan Morgan gives notice of his resignation as Classical Tutor at the College.
- 27 April** Thomas Belsham delivers the New College anniversary sermon at the Old Jewry.
- 6 June** Gilbert Wakefield, in a letter to Thomas Rogers, accepts the offer of becoming Classical Tutor at New College with effect from September 1790.
- 29 July** A letter dated 29 July, published in *The Gentleman's Magazine* (60 [1790] 693), claims that New College is £6200 in debt; this is first of several hostile letters regarding New College published in the journal.
- 20 December** John Scipio Sabonadière (1752-1825) is appointed tutor of French and Italian at New College. Sabonadière was expelled from England as an enemy alien in 1793 and may have been working as a French agent during his time as a tutor at the College.
- Thomas Belsham, *The Importance of Truth and the Duty of Making an Open Profession of it ... A Sermon delivered to the supporters of the New College at Hackney*.

1791

- 1 February** Andrew Kippis gives notice of his resignation, but is subsequently persuaded to continue in his role as tutor of Belles Lettres at the College.
- 21 March** Gilbert Wakefield gives notice of his resignation as Classical Tutor at New College.
- 19 April** Richard Price dies.
- 27 April** Joseph Priestley delivers the last recorded New College anniversary sermon at the Old Jewry.
- 2 June** As the financial crisis mounts Joseph Priestley writes in a letter to Theophilus Lindsey, 'I fear that the attempt to save the college will be ineffectual'.
- 14-17 July** Rioters in Birmingham rampage through the city targeting the businesses, chapels and homes of dissenters. Joseph Priestley's house, library and laboratory are destroyed.
- 16 July** John Pope (1745-1802) accepts the offer of becoming Classical Tutor at New College.
- 21 July** In the aftermath of the Birmingham Riots, Joseph Priestley writes to William Russell (1740-1818) that 'had Dr Price been living it is taken for granted that Hackney would have suffered as much as Birmingham, and that the College would not have been spared.'
- September** Priestley begins lecturing on History and Natural Philosophy at New College.
- 6 November** Priestley is elected pastor of the Gravel Pit ministry, succeeding Richard Price.
- M.O.N., An Address to the Students at the New College, Hackney, occasioned by Dr Priestley's Answer to their Address.*
- Joseph Priestley, The Proper Objects of Education in the Present State of the World.*
- Gilbert Wakefield, An Enquiry into the Expediency and Propriety of Public and Social Worship.*

1792

- 29 February** Thomas Belsham fails to be elected co-pastor of the Gravel Pit ministry alongside Priestley.
- June** Thomas Paine is the guest of honour at a republican supper held at New College.
- September** A French agent, François Noël, formerly Professor of Belles Lettres at the University of Paris, dines with Joseph Priestley at New College.
- Joseph Priestley, *Letters to a Young Man, occasioned by Mr Wakefield's Essay on Public Worship*.
- Gilbert Wakefield, *Short Strictures on the Rev. Dr. Priestley's Letters to a Young Man* .
- Gilbert Wakefield, *Memoirs of the Life of Gilbert Wakefield*.
- John Pope, *Divine Worship Founded in Nature, and Supported by Scripture Authority. An Essay with Remarks on Mr. Wakefield's Arguments against Public Worship*
- , *Observations on the Miraculous Conception...to which are added Remarks on Mr Wakefield's Opinion Concerning Matt. xxvii. 5*.
- [George Cadogan Morgan], *An Address to the Jacobine and other Patriotic Societies of the French*.

1793

- 10 February** Thomas Belsham writes, 'It is determined, and it is a just and necessary resolution, that the College shall cease at the vacation, at least shall be transferred to some other location.'
- June** Thomas Rogers, the New College chairman of governors, dies; William Smith (1756-1835) is appointed in his place.
- 5 August** The governors announce their decision to continue with the College at Hackney; William Smith launches a new appeal for financial support.

1794

- 22 January** James Wodrow (1730-1810) reports that only 'about 20 students' attend New College, a substantial reduction from the 49 in residence in 1791.

- 23 March** Thomas Belsham is finally elected as pastor of the Gravel Pit meeting, as Priestley prepares to emigrate to America.
- 7 April** Joseph Priestley emigrates to America.
- May** William Stone, a New College governor, is arrested on a charge of High Treason. Three other prominent governors, William Smith, Benjamin Vaughan and John Hurford Stone, are subsequently implicated in the plot to provide information to a French agent, William Jackson, on the possibility of a French invasion of Britain.
- Joseph Priestley, *Heads of Lectures on a Course of Experimental Philosophy...delivered at the New College in Hackney.*
- Andrew Kippis, ed., *A Course of Lectures on the Principal Subjects in Pneumatology, Ethics and Divinity...by the Late Rev. Philip Doddridge* (3rd edition, 2 vols.)
- 1795**
- 12 July** Joseph Priestley records that 'infidelity has made great progress at the college.'
- 8 October** Andrew Kippis dies.
- 14 December** Theophilus Lindsey writes to William Tayleur (1712-96), 'It will give you concern to be informed, that our college at Hackney, to which you have been such a signal and generous benefactor, must now at last be broken up, and the premises disposed of, on account of the debts incurred and the clamours of the creditors.'
- Thomas Belsham, *Knowledge the Foundation of Virtue: A Sermon Addressed to the Young Persons who attend the Gravel Pit Meeting, Hackney.*
- Abraham Rees, *A Sermon Preached ...Upon the Occasion of the Much Lamented Death of the Rev. Andrew Kippis.*
- 1796**
- January** William Stone is tried and acquitted.
- June** A contributor to *The Gentleman's Magazine* announces the closure of New College: "'Babylon is fallen, is fallen!" Hackney College, a spacious building, fitted up at an immense expence, is to be sold by auction, or private contract, before the extirpation of next month, in one lot, and the house occupied by Dr. Rees in another.'

23 June New College is put up for auction: the main building and grounds are sold for £5700; the resident tutor's house is sold to Abraham Rees for £1050.

4 November Joseph Priestley writes to Thomas Belsham, 'The giving up of the college is certainly very mortifying to the friends of liberty, and I doubt not the occasion of much triumph to its enemies; but we must give way to the times, which are unfortunately against the good cause, in England.'

William Russell Notcutt, *Heads of Lectures of Philosophical Chemistry, Delivered at New College, Hackney.*

Joseph Priestley, *Observations on the Increase of Infidelity.*

3.1 COLLEGE MEMBERS

Introduction

New College was an important centre of intellectual endeavour in the late eighteenth century. Many of its students went on to distinguished careers as poets, playwrights, journalists, editors, theologians, scientists, and politicians. Among its tutors were numbered some of the most celebrated intellectuals of the era. Similarly, the governing body of the College consisted of an array of influential and powerful men. Committee meetings were attended by lawyers, merchants, bankers, manufacturers, MPs, and tutors, many of whom were involved in a range of reformist initiatives in the metropolis. At every level, New College members made influential and lasting contributions to the cultural life of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. No attempt, however, has previously been made to uncover the identities of the students, tutors, governors and benefactors of the College.

This section seeks address this by providing comprehensive lists of New College members. The student lists have been compiled largely from two extant sources: DWL MS 38.14, Hackney College Minute Book, 1785-91; and University of Birmingham Archives MS 281, 'A View of Academical Institutions founded by Protestant Dissenters in the 17th, 18th, and 19th Centuries'.¹ The key extant source for identifying the governors and benefactors of New College is the published *List of Subscribers to the New Academical Institution Established in the Neighbourhood of London in 1786* (London, 1788), available at Eighteenth Century Collections Online:

<http://www.gale.cengage.com/DigitalCollections/products/ecco/index.htm>

This provides the names of over 400 governors and annual subscribers registered in 1788. The following lists, however, include only the names of 'active' governors (those who are known to have attended committee meetings), and the most notable benefactors of the institution.

¹ I am very grateful to Dr David L. Wykes and Dr Simon Dixon for their generous help in identifying New College students.

3.2 NOTABLE STUDENTS

STUDENT	BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS
Aikin, Arthur (1773-1854)	Natural scientist and author who studied at New College from 1786. After completing his studies he served as assistant minister to the dissenting congregation in Shrewsbury with John Rowe until theological doubts compelled him to resign the ministry in 1795. He developed a particular interest in geology and chemistry. In 1799 he became a member of the British Mineralogical Society. He was also a founding member of the Geological Society of London and, in 1817, became the Secretary of the Society for Arts. From 1802 to 1808 he was editor of the <i>Annual Review and History of Literature</i> . He was also the author of numerous works including <i>Journal of a Tour through North Wales and Parts of Shropshire</i> (1797) and <i>A Dictionary of Chemistry and Minerology</i> (1807). [ODNB]
Bostock, John (1772-1846)	Physician and chemist born in Liverpool, the son-in-law of the Unitarian minister John Yates (1755-1826). He studied at New College in the early 1790s, attending Joseph Priestley's lectures on natural philosophy. In 1794 he moved to Edinburgh, where he was elected President of the Medical Society. After graduating at Edinburgh he returned to Liverpool and worked as a physician. He played a key role in the founding of the Liverpool Literary and Philosophical Society in 1812. He subsequently moved to London, where he renounced the practice of medicine and became chemical lecturer at Guy's Hospital. He published numerous works including <i>An Account of the History and Present State of Galvanism</i> (1818) and <i>A Sketch of the History of Medicine</i> (1835). [ODNB]
Broadhurst, Thomas (1767-1851)	Dissenting minister and author educated at Shrewsbury Grammar School by Dr Samuel Butler. He went on to study at Hoxton Academy until its closure in 1785. He was one of the first students admitted to New College in 1786 and was subsequently appointed assistant tutor at the College. He remained there until 1791, when he accepted an invitation to minister to the dissenting congregation in his hometown of Blackley in Manchester. In 1793 he moved on to the ministry at Tancred Street, Taunton and then, in 1795, to the Northgate End Chapel in Halifax. He finally settled in Bath, where he ministered to the Unitarian congregation and established a ladies' school with his wife. He was an accomplished musician and scientist, and was the author of several works including <i>Advice to Young Ladies on the Improvement of the Mind and the Conduct in Life</i> (1808), and

Consolations in Sickness (1841). He translated *Funeral Orations in Praise of Military Men* from the Greek in 1811. [ODNB, SIO]

Corrie, John (1769-1839) Dissenting minister and author who began his ministerial training at Daventry Academy. He left in 1787 along with a number of students following the prohibition of written forms of prayer by the Coward Trustees. He entered New College in 1787 and completed his studies in 1790. He was immediately appointed assistant tutor at the College. In 1795 he accepted an invitation to minister to the dissenting congregation at Bromsgrove, and he later preached at the Old Meeting, Birmingham from 1817-19. He ran a successful school in Woodville near Birmingham for several years, and was recognised as a distinguished scientist and writer. He was elected Fellow of the Royal Society and chairman of the Birmingham Philosophical Institution, a post that he held to the end of his life. He was also Vice-President of the British Association of the Advancement of Science. His publications include *Reflections on the State of Public Affairs* (1803) and *Reflections on the Exercise of Private Judgment in Matters of Religion* (1804). [ODNB, SIO]

Hare, Richard, Viscount Ennismore (1773-1827) MP and son of William Hare, Baron Ennismore of Co. Kerry. Subsequently MP for Co. Cork for fifteen years; served as colonel in the army. He married Catherine Bridget Dillon, with whom he had eight children. He died in 1827 at the age of fifty four. [Debrett, ii. 1181]

Hazlitt, William (1778-1830) Writer and painter born in Maidstone, Kent. He began his ministerial studies at New College in 1793 with the support of a scholarship from the Presbyterian Fund. In 1795, however, he renounced his training, and pursued a career as an artist, philosopher, and journalist. Now considered as one of England's finest prose writers, his first work, *An Essay on the Principles of Human Understanding*, was published by Joseph Johnson in 1805. His interest in metaphysics continued throughout his life and in 1811 he delivered a series of lectures on the history of English philosophy at the Russell Institution. Best known for works such as *Characters of Shakespear's Plays* (1817) and *The Spirit of the Age* (1825), he spent the final years of his life composing a three-volume *Life of Napoleon Buonaparte* (1827-30). [ODNB]

Hincks, Thomas Dix (1767-1857) Presbyterian minister and academic born in Dublin. Intended for a career in medicine, he was apprenticed to an apothecary in 1782 but entered Trinity College, Dublin two years later. He did not, however, finish the course and went on to study at New College, Hackney from 1788 to 1790. He served as assistant minister to Samuel Perrott of Cork and in 1791 he established a school there. He subsequently succeeded Dr Adair as tutor at Fermoy Academy. A distinguished scientist and lecturer, he also

published several textbooks. In 1834 he was made LLD of Glasgow. [ODNB]

Jones, David (1765-1816) Author and barrister, began his ministerial training at Homerton Academy before moving to New College following a change in theological beliefs. He was appointed assistant tutor at New College in 1789 and remained there until 1791. In 1792 he succeeded Joseph Priestley as minister of the New Meeting in Birmingham. Adopting the pseudonym *A Welsh Freeholder*, he wrote a number of theological pamphlets in defence of Unitarianism in the early 1790s. He was also the author of a passionate vindication of Priestley following the Birmingham Riots of 1791. In 1795, however, he became disillusioned with religion and refused to participate further in theological or political debate. He became a student of Lincoln's Inn in 1795 and was called to the Bar in 1800. He went on to take BA and MA degrees from Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge. His publications include *A Letter to the Right Rev. Samuel Horsley* (1790) and *Reasons for Unitarianism* (1792). [ODNB]

Jones, John (c. 1766-1827) Unitarian minister and classical scholar who studied at New College from 1786 to 1792. Reputed to be the favourite student of Gilbert Wakefield, he was appointed as assistant tutor at the Presbyterian college in Swansea in 1792. He was, however, dismissed from his post after two years following a theological disagreement with the principal tutor William Howell. He went on to minister to dissenting congregations in Plymouth and Halifax. In 1804 he settled in London as a tutor of classics and subsequently married the daughter of Abraham Rees. He published more than twenty works of theology, classical lexicography and grammar, including *Ecclesiastical Researches* (1812) and *The Principles of Lexicography* (1824). In 1825 he became a member of the Royal Society of Literature. [ODNB, SIO]

Joyce, Jeremiah (1763-1818) Unitarian minister and writer who studied at New College from 1786 to 1790. He was a member of the Society for Constitutional Information and in 1790 was appointed tutor to Earl Stanhope's two sons. His persistent criticism of the British response to the French Revolution brought him under suspicion and on 4 May 1794 he was arrested and interrogated by the Privy Council. He was subsequently indicted on a charge of High Treason before being released on 23 November 1794. He regularly preached at the Essex Street Chapel but was unable to secure a regular ministerial position. He was the author of numerous scientific, mathematical and religious works including *Scientific Dialogues* (1807) and, with Lant Carpenter and William Shepherd, *Systematical Education* (1816). [ODNB]

Kentish, John (1768- Unitarian minister who began his ministerial training at Daventry Academy before leaving in protest, with John Corrie

- 1853)** and William Shepherd, at the prohibition against written forms of prayer. He studied at New College from 1788 to 1790 before becoming minister to the Unitarian congregation at Plymouth Dock. In 1795 he became afternoon preacher at the Gravel Pit Meeting, Hackney, later working as morning preacher at Newington Green. He was subsequently appointed minister of the New Meeting in Birmingham. He frequently expressed displeasure at radical activity and became known as a profoundly conservative Unitarian. He was a frequent contributor to the *Monthly Repository* and *Christian Reformer*. He was also the author of numerous sermons and theological works including *Notes and Comments on Passages of Scripture* (1844). [ODNB, SIO]
- Marsh, Charles (1774-1835)** Barrister and politician, educated at Norwich Grammar School and New College, Hackney before going up to St. John's College, Cambridge as a pensioner. He studied at Lincoln's Inn and was called to the Bar in 1797. In 1804 he obtained an Indian judicial appointment before being elected as MP for East Retford in 1809. He supported Catholic relief and opposed measures to impose Christianity in India. He unsuccessfully contested seats in Sudbury and Petersfield in 1818 and 1831 respectively. A renowned orator, he also contributed to the radical Norwich journal *The Cabinet* in the 1790s, and later to the *Monthly Magazine*. He published several pamphlets including *An Appeal to the Public of Great Britain* (1803). [ODNB]
- Mason, James (1778/9-1825)** Political writer and playwright born in Shrewsbury. Mason was a student at New College in the early 1790s, before returning to Shrewsbury to pursue a career as a writer. He was the author of a number of political pamphlets advocating parliamentary reform and Catholic emancipation, including *Considerations of the Necessity of Discussing the State of the Irish Catholics* (1804) and *Observations on Parliamentary Reform* (1811). In addition, he was also a published playwright, novelist and translator. He was the author of *The Natural Son* (1805) and *Literary Miscellanies* (2 vols., 1809). In 1810 he also produced a verse translation, *The Georgics of Publius Virgilius Maro*. [ODNB]
- Maurice, Michael (1766-1855)** Unitarian minister and father of the nineteenth-century Anglican theologian F. D. Maurice. He was educated at Leeds Grammar School before training for the ministry at Hoxton Academy and then New College from 1786 to 1787. For the next five years he worked as co-pastor of the Old Meeting in Great Yarmouth. Following Thomas Belsham's failure to be elected co-pastor of the Gravel Pit Ministry in 1791-2, Maurice was invited to take the position. He preached there until 1794, when he moved with his new wife to a hamlet on the Norfolk-Suffolk border. Here he took a number of students and developed a prosperous school. In 1812 Maurice moved to the outskirts of Bristol and later

ministered to a dissenting congregation at Frenchay. He was the author of *An Account of the Life and Religious Opinions of J. Bawn* (1824). He died in Southampton in 1855. [ODNB, SIO]

**Norgate, Thomas
Starling (1772-1859)**

Writer who was born in Norwich and studied under Samuel Parr at Norwich Free School. He entered New College in 1788. He was subsequently apprenticed to a firm of solicitors and studied at Lincoln's Inn but disliked the profession of law and instead pursued a career as a writer. He contributed to the *British Critic*, *Analytical Review*, *Monthly Magazine*, and to Arthur Aikin's *Annual Review*. He also contributed to the radical Norwich journal *The Cabinet* (1794-5). He published a number of works including poetry, reviews, essays and agricultural pamphlets. He was the author of *Essays, Tales and Poems* (1795). [ODNB]

**Notcutt, William
Russell (1774-1800)**

Scientist born in Ipswich, the fourth child of the linen draper William Notcutt (1743-1809). He studied at New College in the 1790s, before being appointed a tutor of Natural Philosophy after Priestley's emigration to America in 1794. In 1796 Notcutt published *Heads of Lectures on Philosophical Chemistry, delivered at New College, Hackney*. He was a fellow of the Linnean Society and after moving to Bristol in the late 1790s, he became friendly with Humphrey Davy and Thomas Beddoes. He was involved in their experiments at the Pneumatic Medical Institution. At the turn of the century he embarked on a scientific expedition to Surinam, where he died of yellow fever on 25 April 1800, aged only 26. [Birtwhistle]

Reid, John (1776-1822)

Physician educated by the dissenting minister Phillip Holland of Bolton. He was a ministerial student at New College from 1789 to 1794. He went on to study medicine at Edinburgh University, obtaining an MD in 1798. In 1804 he became a licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians. He married the daughter of the wealthy Unitarian and New College governor, William Sturch. Reid wrote and translated a number of notable works including *An Account of the Savage Youth of Avignon* (1801), *A Treatise of Consumption* (1806), *Essays on Insanity* (1816) and *Essays on Hypochondriasis and other Nervous Affections* (1821). He lectured on the theory and practice of medicine and was a contributor to the *Monthly Magazine*. [ODNB]

Rowe, John (1764-1832)

Unitarian minister educated by the Rev. Joseph Bretland and then at Hoxton Academy. In 1786 he entered New College following the dissolution of the academy at Hoxton. In 1787 he was elected as co-pastor of the High Street Chapel in Shrewsbury, where, in 1789, he became sole pastor. In 1798 he moved on to Lewin's Mead Chapel, Bristol, where he became renowned for his extempore preaching. He founded the Western Unitarian Society in 1792. He died in Sienna and was buried in Leghorn. He published a number of sermons and pamphlets

including *A Letter to Dr Ryland* (1801). [ODNB, SIO]

**Shepherd, William
(1768-1847)**

Unitarian minister and politician, born in Liverpool and educated at academies in Rainford, Bolton and Daventry before studying at New College from 1788 to 1790. Minister of the Unitarian chapel at Gateacre, he was a member of William Roscoe's circle. In 1803 he published a *Life of Poggio Bracciolini* and pursued a life-long interest in Italian literature. In 1815 he produced *Systematic Education*, with Jeremiah Joyce and Lant Carpenter, a work heavily informed by the writings of David Hartley and Joseph Priestley. After his death on 21 July 1847, he was buried in the grounds of his chapel at Gateacre. [ODNB, SIO]

**Smith, James (1775-
1839)**

Writer and humorist educated at Chigwell School in Essex before going on to study at New College. He began life by taking articles but greatly preferred theatrical and literary pursuits. He contributed to numerous journals including the *Gentleman's Magazine*, *Pic Nic*, *The Cabinet*, *Monthly Mirror*, and *New Monthly Magazine*. With his younger brother Horatio Smith (1779-1849), he co-authored works such as *Rejected Addresses* (1812) and *Horace in London* (1813). He contributed much comic and occasional verse to periodicals, including his anti-Napoleon parody, *The Mammoth*. He was a friend of the poet John Keats. [ODNB]

**Towers, Joseph Lomas
(1770-1831)**

Unitarian preacher educated at St Paul's School, London and then, from 1786 at New College. The son of the biographer and Presbyterian minister Joseph Towers (1737-99), he preached to a number of Unitarian congregations without being appointed to one on a regular basis. In 1792 he succeeded Roger Flexman as Dr Williams's Librarian. He resigned in 1804 to pursue a career as a writer. He was the author of numerous religious and economic works including *Illustrations of Prophecy* (2 vols., 1796) and *The Expediency of Cash Payments by the Bank of England* (1811). He suffered from the onset of insanity in 1830 before his death a year later. [ODNB]

**Wellbeloved, Charles
(1769-1858)**

Unitarian minister and tutor who entered Homerton Academy in 1785. On account of his heterodox theological views he left and began studying at New College in 1787. His first ministerial appointment was at St Saviourgate Chapel in York where he became sole minister in 1800. In 1795 he also started his own school in York which developed into a prosperous academy. In 1797 he declined the offer of succeeding Thomas Barnes as Divinity Tutor at Manchester Academy. He was the author of several theological works including the popular *Devotional Exercises for Young Persons* (1801). [ODNB, SIO]

3.3 FULL STUDENT LIST

i) DIVINITY STUDENTS

	NAME	SOURCE	INFORMATION
1	Aikin, Arthur (1773-1854)	DWL MS 38.14, fol. 120; ODNB	Daventry Academy, 1788-89; entered New College Sept. 1789; see List of Notable Students
2	Broadhurst, Thomas (1767-1851)	Birm. MS 281, fol. 123; DWL MS 38.14, fol. 49	Hoxton Academy; entered New College Sept. 1786; dissenting minister; see List of Notable Students
3	Corrie, John (1769-1839)	DWL MS 38.14, fol. 90, 158; Stephenson 21-3	Daventry Academy, 1783-88; entered New College Sept. 1788; completed 1790; tutor and scientist; see List of Notable Students
4	Drummond, [Thomas (1764-1852)?]	Birm. MS 281, fol. 123	From Hoxton Academy [Presbyterian minister at Filby, Ipswich, and Derby; founder of the Rosary, Norwich, the first non-denominational cemetery in England] ¹
5	Fletcher, John	DWL MS 38.14, fol. 140	Daventry Academy; entered New College 1790 and admitted to third year; chosen to Plymouth Dock, but died of an apoplexy soon after finishing his studies
6	Francis	DWL MS 38.14, fol. 118	Entered Sept. 1789
7	Hincks, Thomas Dix (1767-1857)	Birm. MS 281, fol. 123; DWL MS 38.14 fol. 90; ODNB	Entered Sept 1788; completed July 1790; tutor and scientist; [Dublin]; see List of Notable Students
8	Hazlitt, William (1778-1830)	Birm. MS 281, fol. 125; ODNB	Entered Sept. 1793; left July 1795; writer; [Shropshire]; see List of Notable Students

¹ I am very grateful to Melanie Winterbotham for raising the possibility that Thomas Drummond (1764-1852) was a New College alumnus.

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| 9 | Hughes, Stephen | Birm. MS 281, fol. 123;
DWL MS 38.14, fol. 122 | Entered October 1789; completed July 1790; the Minute Book records that 'Mr Stephen Hughes - a Student who has completed his course at Swansea, & who has declined a settlement for the sake of pursuing his Studies at the College, be admitted as a student on the foundation for One Year' (122) |
| 10 | Johnstone, Thomas | DWL MS 38.14, fol. 118 | Daventry Academy, 1783-89; entered New College Sept. 1789; completed July 1790; dissenting minister at Westgate Chapel, Wakefield |
| 11 | Jones, David (1765-1816) | Birm. MS 281, fol. 123;
DWL MS 38.14, fol. 79;
ODNB | Homerton Academy; entered New College Sept. 1786; completed July 1789; author and barrister; see List of Notable Students |
| 12 | Jones, John (1766?-1827) | Birm. MS 281, fol. 123;
DWL MS 38.14, fol. 79;
ODNB | Homerton Academy; entered New College Sept. 1786; completed July 1792; dissenting minister and classical scholar; see List of Notable Students |
| 13 | Jones, William | DWL MS 38.14, fol. 49,
131 | Entered Sept. 1786; previously expelled from Hoxton Academy; see List of Tutors |
| 14 | Joyce, Jeremiah (1763-1818) | Birm. MS 281, fol. 123;
DWL MS 38.14, fol. 49,
90; ODNB | Entered Sept. 1786; completed July 1790; dissenting minister and scientist; see List of Notable Students |
| 15 | Kentish, John (1768-1853) | DWL MS 38.14, fol. 90;
ODNB | Daventry Academy, 1784-88; entered New College Sept. 1788; completed July 1790; student under Thomas Belsham at Daventry Academy; dissenting minister; see List of Notable Students |
| 16 | Lewin | DWL MS 38.14, fol. 140 | Entered Sept. 1790; son of Rev. Robert Lewin (1739-1825); [Liverpool] |
| 17 | Martin, Thomas | Birm. MS 281, fol. 123;
DWL MS 38.14, fol. 29 | Entered Sept. 1787; New College librarian |
| 18 | Maurice, Michael (1766-1855) | Birm. MS 281, fol. 123;
DWL MS 38.14, fol. 49;
ODNB | Hoxton Academy; entered New College Sept. 1786; dissenting minister and author; [Leeds]; see List |

of Notable Students

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| 19 | Reid, John (1776-1822) | DWL MS 38.14, fol. 121; Sikes 64 | Daventry Academy, 1788-89; entered New College Sept. 1789; completed July 1794; physician and author; [Bolton]; see List of Notable Students |
| 20 | Rowe, John (1764-1832) | Birm. MS 281, fol. 123; ODNB | Hoxton Academy; entered New College Sept. 1786; completed July 1787; dissenting minister; see List of Notable Students |
| 21 | Shepherd, William | DWL MS 38.14, fol. 83; ODNB | Daventry Academy, 1785-88; entered New College Sept. 1788; dissenting minister, politician and author; see List of Notable Students |
| 22 | Tayler, James (1765-1831) | Birm. MS 281, fol. 123; DWL MS 38.14, fol. 90; SIO | Entered Sept. 1788; subsequently minister at Walthamstow (1794-96), St. Thomas's, Southwark (1796-1802), and High Pavement, Nottingham (1802-31); father of J. J. Tayler, principal of Manchester College; [London and Nottingham] |
| 23 | Tingecombe, John (1771-1848) | DWL MS 38.14, fol. 121 | Daventry Academy, 1788-89; entered New College Sept. 1789 |
| 24 | Towers, Joseph Lomas (1770-1831) | Birm. MS 281, fol. 123; DWL MS 38.14, fol. 49; ODNB | Entered Sept. 1786; son of Joseph Towers (1737-99); dissenting minister and librarian; [London]; see List of Notable Students |
| 25 | Wellbeloved, Charles (1769-1858) | Birm. MS 281, fol. 123; DWL MS 38.14, fol. 79; ODNB | Homerton Academy; entered New College Sept. 1787; dissenting minister and tutor; see List of Notable Students; |
| 26 | Wells | DWL MS 38.14, fol. 121 | Entered Sept. 1789; son of Revd. William Wells; [Bromsgrove] |
| 27 | Wilch, John | DWL MS 38.14, fol. 139 | Daventry Academy; entered New College Sept. 1790; recommended by Josiah Wedgwood |
| 28 | Willets, John | DWL MS 38.14 | Daventry Academy, 1785-88; Northampton Academy, 1788-89; entered New College 1789; recommended by Wedgwood; [Burton upon Trent] |

ii) LAY STUDENTS

	NAME	SOURCE	INFORMATION
1	Ashton	DWL MS 38.14, fol. 132	Entered Sept. 1790; the Minute Book records a resolution that 'two sons of Mr Ashton of Woolston Hall, near Liverpool, recommended by Rev ^d Mr Yates of Liverpool, be admitted as lay students at the commencement of the next Session' (132)
2	Ashton, [J?]	Birm. MS 281, fol. 125; DWL MS 38.14, fol. 132	See (1) above.
3	Bayley	DWL MS 38.14, fol. 121	Entered Jan. / Sept. 1790; the Minute Book records that Mr Bayley Sr. requested 'that one of his Sons may be admitted in January & the other in September 1790' (122); [Hope, near Manchester]
4	Bayley	DWL MS 38.14, fol. 121	See (3) above
5	Barnes, Morgan	Birm. MS 281, fol. 125	[London]
6	Barron, Edmund	Birm. MS 281, fol. 124; DWL MS 38.14, fol. 120	Daventry Academy, 1788-89; entered New College Sept. 1789; son of wealthy saddler or leather merchant of Norwich
7	Bather, Marchmont	Birm. MS 281, fol. 125	
8	Battier	DWL MS 38.14, fol. 159	Entered Sept. 1791
9	Blunt, Charles William	DWL MS 38.14, fol. 132	Entered March 1790; recommended by Benjamin Travers (1752-1818)
10	Bostock, John (1772-1846)	Birm. MS 281, fol. 124; DWL MS 38.14, fol. 140; ODNB	Entered Sept. 1790; recommended by the Revd. John Yates (1755-1826); Physician; [Liverpool]; see List of Notable Students
11	Brewin	Birm. MS 281, fol. 125; DWL MS 38.14, fol. 140	Entered Sept. 1790; [Yorkshire]
12	Brown	DWL MS 38.14, fol. 90	Entered Sept. 1788

13	Buncombe, John	Birm. MS 281, fol. 124; DWL MS 38.14, fol. 121	Entered Sept. 1789; [Taunton]
14	Carr	DWL MS 38.14, fol. 81	Entered Sept. 1788
15	Chamberlain	DWL MS 38.14, fol. 140	Entered Sept. 1790
16	Cooke, William	Birm. MS 281, fol. 123; DWL MS 38.14, fol. 90	Entered Sept. 1788
17	Cookson	DWL MS 38.14, fol. 90	Entered Sept. 1788
18	Creagh, Michael	Birm. MS 281, fol. 124	
19	Crompton, Woodhouse (1771?-1807)	Birm. MS 281, fol. 124; DWL MS 38.14, fol. 80	Entered Sept. 1789; merchant; [Warwick]; buried Old Meeting House, Birmingham
20	Davis	DWL MS 38.14, fol. 112	Entered Mar. 1789
21	Domville	Birm. MS 281, fol. 124; DWL MS 38.14, fol. 140	Entered Sept. 1790; lawyer; [London]
22	Downe	DWL MS 38.14, fol. 140	Entered Sept. 1790
23	Edey, John	Birm. MS 281, fol. 124; DWL MS 38.14, fol. 108	Entered Sept. 1789; [Dorset]
24	Edwards, William	Wu 359	Resident of Paris in 1820s where he hosted weekly literary gatherings
25	Esdaile, James	Birm. MS 281, fol. 124	[London]
26	Garfitt, William	DWL MS 38.14, fol. 159	Bapt. 22 July 1775; son of William Garfitt of Boston, Lincs.; entered New College Sept. 1791; of Boston, Lincolnshire; son of William Garsitt; [banker]
27	Hare, Samuel	Birm. MS 281, fol. 124; DWL MS 38.14, fol. 118, 155	Entered Sept. 1789; [Essex]; withdrawn from New College in June 1791 on 'account of natural disabilities and indisposition' (118)
28	Hare, Richard, Viscount Ennismore (1773- 1827)	Birm. MS 281, fol. 123; DWL MS 38.14, fol. 90	Entered Sept. 1788; colonel and MP; see List of Notable Students
29	Harris [Harries?]	DWL MS 38.14, fol. 121; Birm. MS 281, fol. 125	Entered Sept. 1789

30	Harrison	Birm. MS 281, fol. 124; DWL MS 38.14, fol. 129	[Worcestershire]
31	Harrison, James (Jr.)	Birm. MS 281, fol. 125; DWL MS 38.14, fol. 128	Entered September 1791; [Manchester]
32	Hoare	DWL MS 38.14, fol. 90	Entered Sept. 1788
33	Hogg, Thomas	Birm. MS 281, fol. 124; DWL MS 38.14, fol. 106	Entered Sept. 1789; [Exeter]
34	Hope	Birm. MS 281, fol. 123; DWL MS 38.14, fol. 90	Entered Sept. 1788
35	Humphrys [Humphries?], John	DWL MS 38.14, fol. 116	Entered Sept. 1789
36	Hunt, Harry	Birm. MS 281, fol. 124	Bapt. 13 Aug. 1777 (Presbyterian), Old Meeting Birmingham; son of Harry and Sarah Hunt
37	Hunt, John	Birm. MS 281, fol. 124	Bapt. 26 Mar. 1779 (Presbyterian), Old Meeting Birmingham; son of Harry and Sarah Hunt
38	Jillard, William Peard (d. 1849)	Birm. MS 281, fol. 123; DWL MS 38.14, fol. 79	Bapt. 10 May 1768 at Oakhill, Somerset; son of Rev. Peard Jillard of Shepton Mallet; Daventry Academy from 1784; entered New College Sept. 1787; dissenting minister, then brewer at Old Down near Bath
39	Kemble	Birm. MS 281, fol. 125	[London]
40	Kemble, Nash (1773-1830)	Birm. MS 281, fol. 123; DWL MS 38.14, fol. 80, 90	Bapt. 31 July 1773 at Saint Mary Abchurch, London; entered Sept. 1787; admitted at Lincoln's Inn, 1794; fellow-commoner of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, 1798; Anglican minister; Rector of Little Parndon, Essex, 1812-1829
41	Marsh, Charles (1774-1835)	Birm. MS 281, fol. 124; DWL MS 38.14, fol. 140; ODNB	Entered Sept. 1790; subsequently pensioner at St. John's College, Cambridge; barrister and MP; son of Edward Marsh MP of Norwich; see List of Notable Students;

42	Mason, James (1779-1827)	Birm. MS 281, fol. 125; Sikes 61; ODNB	Student at New College in 1790s; political writer and playwright; [Shrewsbury]; see List of Notable Students
43	McKenzie	DWL MS 38.14, fol. 90	Entered Sept. 1788
44	Nash, William	Birm. MS 281, fol. 125; DWL MS 38.14, fol. 159	Entered Sept. 1791
45	Norgate, Thomas Starling (1772-1859)	DWL MS 38.14, fol. 90; ODNB	Entered Sept. 1788; writer; [Norwich]; see List of Notable Students
46	Notcutt, William Russell (1774?-1800)	Birtwhistle	Studied at New College in 1790s; scientist who lectured on Electricity; [Ipswich]; see List of Notable Students
47	Olive, Jeremiah	Birm. MS 281, fol. 123; DWL MS 38.14, fol. 90	Daventry Academy from 1782; entered New College Sept. 1788; subsequently wine merchant and banker
48	Paget, Thomas (1778-1862)	<i>Leicester Chronicle</i> , 2 December 1862; <i>Gentleman's Magazine</i> 214 (1862), 381-2	Born Ibstock, Leicestershire; of Paget & Co. Bank from 1813; MP for Leicestershire 1831-32
49	Pardoe, Robert	DWL MS 38.14 fol. 159; DWL MS 24.157, (188) i	Bapt. 10 April 1777 at Ribbesford, Worcester; son of Thomas and Elizabeth Pardoe; entered Sept. 1791; Anglican; lawyer; appointed Major of the Militia for Worcestershire; [Bewdley]
50	Perkins, Richard	Birm. MS 281, fol. 124; DWL MS 38.14, fol. 108	Entered Sept. 1789; recommended by John Prior Estlin (1747-1818); [Bristol]
51	Prime, Richard	Birm. MS 281, fol. 124; DWL MS 38.14, fol. 90	Entered Sept. 1788; [London]
52	Reid [Read?], Samuel	Birm. MS 281, fol. 125; DWL MS 38.14, fol. 159	Entered Sept. 1791; [Bristol]
53	Richards, James	Birm. MS 281, fol. 124	[London]
54	Rogers, Henry	Birm. MS 281, fol. 124; DWL MS 38.14, fol. 140	Entered Sept. 1790; banker; son of Thomas Rogers, chairman; younger brother of Samuel Rogers, poet; [Stoke Newington]

55	Russell, Thomas	Birm. MS 281, fol. 124	[Birmingham]
56	Sansom	Birm. MS 281, fol. 124	[London]
57	Scott	DWL MS 38.14, fol. 140	Entered Sept. 1790
58	Scottowe, Edmund	DWL MS 38.14, fol. 121	Entered Oct. 1789
59	Scottowe, John	DWL MS 38.14, fol. 121	Entered Oct. 1789
60	Seales, Edward Home	Birm. MS 281, fol. 125; DWL MS 38.14, fol. 159	Entered Sept. 1791; [Stoke Newington]
61	Shearney, Richard	Birm. MS 281, fol. 124	
62	Simpson, William	Birm. MS 281, fol. 123; DWL MS 38.14, fol. 80	Entered Sept. 1787; [Derby]
63	Skey, Joseph (1773-1866)	Birm. MS 281, fol. 124; DWL MS 24.157, (188) i	Student at New College in 1790s; Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians; Physician to the Royal Forces; [Bewdley, Worcestershire]
64	Smith, James (1775-1839)	DWL MS 38.14, fol. 90; ODNB	Entered Sept. 1788; writer; friend of John Keats; see List of Notable Students
65	Smith, Richard	Birm. MS 281, fol. 124; DWL MS 38.14, fol. 119	Entered Sept. 1789; [London]
66	Stock, John Edmund	Birm. MS 281, fol. 124; DWL MS 38.14, fol. 108	Entered Sept. 1789; recommended by Revd. G. C. Morgan; physician (MD); [Bristol]
67	Stuckey (Jr.)	DWL MS 38.14, fol. 129	Entered Sept. 1790, [Langport]
68	Swanwick, Joseph (1777-1841)	Sikes 64	Bapt. 8 Jun. 1777 at the Presbyterian chapel in Wem; son of John and Mary Swanwick; educated by Revd. William Hazlitt in Wem; studied at New College in 1790s; merchant; [Shropshire]
69	Tonson	Sikes 62	In a letter of 6 Oct. 1793, Hazlitt wrote, 'I believe I am liked very well by the students in general. I am pretty well intimate with one of them, whose name is Tonson.'
70	Walker, William	Birm. MS 281, fol. 123; DWL MS 38.14, fol. 80	Entered Sept. 1787; lawyer

71	Wall, William	Birm. MS 281, fol. 124; DWL MS 38.14, fol. 107	Entered Sept. 1789
72	Wansey, William	Birm. MS 281, fol. 124; DWL MS 38.14, fol. 107	Bapt. 25 Aug. 1777 at Presbyterian Old Meeting at Warminster; son of William Wansey and Sally (Jefferies); entered Sept. 1789
73	Wilson, John	DWL MS 38.14, fol. 152	Entered Sept. 1791; recommended by the New College Tutor of French and Italian, John Scipio Sabonadière; [Portman Square, Baker Street]
74	Wilson, W.	Birm. MS 281, fol. 125	
75	Yates	Birm. MS 281, fol. 124; DWL MS 38.14, fol. 155	Entered Sept. 1791; [Edford, Devon]
76	Yates, James	Birm. MS 281, fol. 125	[Liverpool]

3.4 TUTORS

NAME	BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS
Belsham, Thomas (1750-1829)	Dissenting minister and tutor who studied at the academies at Kibworth and Daventry. On completing his course at Daventry in 1770 he was appointed assistant tutor. In 1778 he was appointed minister to the Independent congregation at Worcester and in 1781 became Divinity tutor at Daventry Academy on the retirement of Thomas Robins. In 1789 he publicly embraced Unitarian theology, prompting him to relinquish his tutorship. He was, however, appointed Divinity tutor at New College soon afterwards. He remained in Hackney after the closure of the academy in 1796, continuing his ministry at the Gravel Pit Chapel and teaching private students. In 1805 he succeeded John Disney at the Essex Street Chapel, London. He was a prolific writer and his works include <i>A Review of Mr Wilberforce's Treatise A Practical View</i> (1798), and <i>Elements of the Philosophy of the Mind</i> (1801). [ODNB, SIO]
Broadhurst, Thomas (1767-1851)	Dissenting minister and author educated at Shrewsbury Grammar School by Dr Samuel Butler. He went on to study at Hoxton Academy until its closure in 1785. He was one of the first students admitted to New College in 1786 and was subsequently appointed assistant tutor at the academy. He remained there until 1791, when he accepted an invitation to minister to the dissenting congregation in his home town of Blackley in Manchester. In 1793 he moved on to the ministry at Tancred Street, Taunton and then, in 1795, to the Northgate End Chapel. He finally settled in Bath, where he ministered to the Unitarian congregation and established a ladies' school with his wife. He was noted as an accomplished musician and scientist, and was the author of several works including <i>Advice to Young Ladies on the Improvement of the Mind and the Conduct in Life</i> (1808), and <i>Consolations in Sickness</i> (1841). He translated <i>Funeral Orations in Praise of Military Men</i> from the Greek in 1811. [SIO]
Corrie, John (1769-1839)	Dissenting minister and author who began his training at Daventry Academy. He left in 1787 along with a number of other students following the prohibition of written forms of prayer by the Coward Trustees. He entered New College in 1787 and completed his studies in 1790. He was immediately appointed as an assistant tutor at the academy. In 1795 he accepted an invitation to minister to the dissenting congregation at Bromsgrove, and he later preached at the Old Meeting, Birmingham from 1817 to 1819. He ran a successful school in Woodville, near Birmingham, for several years and

was recognised as a distinguished scientist and writer. He was elected Fellow of the Royal Society and chairman of the Birmingham Philosophical Institution, a post that he held to the end of his life. He was also Vice-President of the British Association for the Advancement of Science. His publications include *Reflections on the State of Public Affairs* (1803) and *Reflections of the Exercise of Private Judgment in Matters of Religion* (1804). [SIO, Stephenson 21-3]

Creswick, William

An actor; appointed Tutor of Elocution on 24 November 1787 (DWL MS 38.14, fol. 54). I am unable to uncover any further information about Creswick.

Jones, David (1765-1816)

Author and barrister, began his ministerial training at Homerton Academy before moving to New College following a change in his theological beliefs. He was appointed assistant tutor at New College in 1789 and remained there until 1791. In 1792 he succeeded Joseph Priestley as minister of the New Meeting in Birmingham. Adopting the pseudonym *A Welsh Freeholder*, he wrote a number of theological pamphlets in defence of Unitarianism in the early 1790s. He was also the author of a passionate vindication of Priestley following the Birmingham Riots of 1791. In 1795, however, he became disillusioned with religion and refused to participate further in theological or political debate. He became a student of Lincoln's Inn in 1795 and was called to the Bar in 1800. He went on to take BA and MA degrees from Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge. His publications include *A Letter to the Right Rev. Samuel Horsley* (1790) and *Reasons for Unitarianism* (1792). [ODNB, SIO]

Jones, William

A New College student who had previously been expelled from Daventry Academy. He was appointed on 23 February 1790 to deliver lectures on Chemistry (DWL MS 38.14, fol. 131). I am unable to uncover any further information about Jones.

Kiddle, John (1720-1810)

Dissenting minister and tutor, educated at the dissenting academies at Bridgwater, before studying under John Eames at Moorfields in London. From 1742 until 1787 he served as the co-pastor with John Rudge at the dissenting meeting-houses at Puddington and Tiverton in Devon. He was appointed assistant tutor at New College in 1787, and taught Classics at the academy for two years. His wife served as housekeeper during this period. The New College minute book describes him as 'an elderly man of Tiverton, Devonshire who is well acquainted with Greek, Latin and modern languages.' [SIO, DWL MS 38.14]

Kippis, Andrew (1725-1795)

Dissenting minister and biographer educated at Doddridge's Northampton Academy. His first ministerial appointment was at the Independent congregation in Sleaford in 1746. In 1753 he was appointed minister to the Presbyterian congregation in Princes Street, Westminster, a post which he held to the end of his life. He gradually built a reputation in literary circles for his contributions to *The Gentleman's Magazine*, *The Monthly Review*, *The History of Ancient Literature*, and *The Review of Modern Books*. He also edited *The Library and Moral and Critical Magazine* and *The New Annual Register*. He was heavily involved in organising petitions to parliament to secure rights for the dissenters. From 1763 to 1784 he was Classical and Philological Tutor at Hoxton Academy. He was a founding governor and tutor at New College, teaching Belles Lettres until his resignation in 1791. A fellow of the Antiquarian Society and the Royal Society, he was also the author of numerous works including *The Life of Captain James Cook* (1788). With the assistance of Joseph Towers, he produced a new edition of *Biographia Britannica* (6 vols. 1778-93). [ODNB, SIO]

Morgan, George Cadogan (1754-98)

Dissenting minister and scientist who matriculated at Jesus College, Oxford in 1771. He went on to study at Hoxton Academy until 1776. He was appointed minister of the Octagon Chapel, Norwich at the age of twenty-two and in 1787 he moved to Hackney where he was appointed as a tutor at New College, assisting his uncle, Richard Price, with the ministry of the Gravel Pit Chapel. He was in Paris at the outbreak of the French Revolution and his report of events was published in *The Gazetteer*. He delivered lectures on Classics and electricity to the students at Hackney until his resignation in 1791. He was the author of *Lectures in Electricity* (1794) and a radical pamphlet *An Address to the Jacobine* (1792). [ODNB, SIO]

Notcutt, William Russell (1774-1800)

Scientist born in Ipswich, the fourth child of the linen draper William Notcutt (1743-1809). He studied at New College in the 1790s, before being appointed a tutor of Natural Philosophy after Priestley's emigration to America in 1794. In 1796 Notcutt published *Heads of Lectures on Philosophical Chemistry, delivered at New College, Hackney*. He was a fellow of the Linnean Society and after moving to Bristol in the late 1790s, he became friendly with Humphrey Davy and Thomas Beddoes. He was involved in their experiments at the Pneumatic Medical Institution. At the turn of the century he embarked on a scientific expedition to Surinam, where he died of yellow fever on 25 April 1800, aged only 26. [Birtwhistle]

Pope, John (1745-1802)

Dissenting minister and theological writer educated at Exeter academy, where he was noted as a talented classicist. At the age of twenty-one he was appointed to his first congregation in Blackley, Manchester. Here he also taught at a small endowed

school at Stand in Pilkington. In 1791 he was appointed as Classical Tutor at New College, following the resignation of Gilbert Wakefield. In 1793, however, he resigned and returned to his duties in Blackley, taking over from Thomas Broadhurst. He remained there until his death in 1802 and was buried in a vault in the chapel walls. He published a number of sermons and theological works including *Religious Improvement of Awful Events* (1777), *A Letter to the Rev. Mr Nisbett on the Miraculous Conception* (1792) and *Divine Worship founded in Nature and Supported by Scripture Authority* (1792). [Nightingale v. 34-5, SIO]

Price, Richard (1723-91)

Dissenting minister, philosopher, demographer and economist, educated in Wales before going on to study under John Eames at Moorfields in London. His first appointment was as family chaplain in the household of George Streatfield in Stoke Newington. He combined this with his role as assistant minister at the Old Jewry Lane. In 1762 he became minister at Poor Jewry Lane, officiating also at Newington Green in the afternoons. In 1770 he was appointed morning preacher at the Gravel Pit Meeting in Hackney. He was a member of the Earl of Shelburne's Bowood circle and the Club of Honest Whigs. In 1765 he was elected a fellow of the Royal Society. He was a founding governor and tutor at New College. He delivered lectures at the College in 1786-7, but his health declined and his nephew, George Cadogan Morgan, took over his duties. He was a prolific writer in a number of disciplines. His works include *A Review of the Principal Questions and Difficulties in Morals* (1758), *Observations on Reversionary Payments* (1771), *An Essay on the Population* (1780) and *A Discourse on the Love of our Country* (1789). [ODNB]

Priestley, Joseph (1733-1804)

Theologian and natural philosopher, educated at Daventry Academy under Caleb Ashworth. After graduating in 1755 he assisted at the dissenting chapel in Needham Market, before moving on to Nantwich in 1758 where he ran a successful school. In 1761 he was appointed Tutor of Languages and Belles Lettres at Warrington Academy. He remained there until 1767, before accepting the invitation to become minister to the dissenting congregation of Mill Hill Chapel, Leeds. In 1773 he moved to Calne in Wiltshire where he was employed in the service of the second earl of Shelburne, William Petty. In 1780 he moved on to Birmingham and ministered to the New Meeting for over a decade. In July 1791, however, his house, library and laboratory were destroyed in the Church and King Riots and he subsequently found refuge in Clapton, near Hackney. Here he became minister of the Gravel Pit Meeting and lectured on History and Natural Philosophy at New College. In 1794, he emigrated to the United States where he and his family settled in Pennsylvania. Priestley was recognised

as one of the leading intellectuals of his day, noted for his scientific discoveries and his educational, philosophical, political and theological writings. His publications include *Essay on a Course of Liberal Education* (1765), *The History and Present State of Electricity* (1767), *The Doctrine of Philosophical Necessity* (1777), and *An History of the Corruptions of Christianity* (1782). [ODNB]

Rees, Abraham (1743-1825)

Dissenting minister and encyclopaedist who studied under David Jennings at the academy in Wellclose Square in London. Before he had completed his course, he was appointed assistant tutor in Mathematics and Natural Philosophy. Following the academy's move to Hoxton in 1762 he became resident tutor until its closure in 1785. He was a founding tutor and governor at New College, the only tutor to remain there during its ten-year existence. Here he taught Hebrew and Mathematics. He was the minister of the Old Jewry congregation from 1783 until his death. In the 1770s he edited Ephraim Chambers's *Cyclopaedia*, before beginning work on his own *The New Cyclopaedia; or Universal Dictionary of the Arts and Sciences*, which was completed in 1820. In 1786 he was elected fellow of the Royal Society and was also a member of the Linnean Society, The American Philosophical Society and the Royal Society of Literature. [ODNB]

Sabonadière, John Scipio (1752-1825)

A French Protestant minister and tutor. The son of a Nimes silk merchant, Sabonadière emigrated to England in 1774. Following a short period in America during the American War of Independence he returned to London, taking orders in the Church of England. He ministered at the French Protestant Church on Crown Street, Soho in the early 1790s. In the summer of 1790 he was recommended to the post of tutor of French and Italian at New College by Rochemont Barbauld. He was duly appointed and remained at the College until he was expelled from England as an enemy alien when war with France broke out in 1793. On his return to France he was, however, saved from beheading only by the testimonials of Rochemont Barbauld, John Aikin and Joseph Priestley. During his years at New College he was involved in high-level diplomatic negotiations between the new French republic and William Pitt's administration: he introduced a French agent, François Noël, to Priestley and William Smith early in 1792. Indeed, he may himself have been working as an agent of the new French republic during this period. [McCarthy 247, 328-9]

Trew, William (1756-1824)

Tutor of elocution, born at Havant near Chichester. He was appointed master of elocution at Kensington School and then, in 1792, at Loughborough House School. He delivered public readings alongside Thomas Sheridan in London and Oxford. He was the tutor of elocution to Princess Charlotte, and also

taught elocution at New College, Hackney. He died on 8 September 1824. [Gorton iii. (Trew)]

Wakefield, Gilbert (1756-1801)

Biblical scholar, theologian and writer who entered Jesus College, Cambridge on a scholarship in 1773. Excelling in classics, he received his BA in 1776 and was appointed to a fellowship three months later. He was ordained in 1778. In 1779 he resigned his curacy for doctrinal reasons, rejecting the doctrine of the Trinity. In that year he was appointed Classical Tutor at Warrington Academy, where he stayed for four years. He settled in Nottingham in 1784 but in 1790 accepted the Classical tutorship at New College. He resigned after only one year in the post. He wrote prolifically throughout the 1790s. In 1798, however, he was prosecuted and convicted for his response to a pamphlet written by the Bishop of Llandaff. He was sentenced to two years in Dorchester gaol and a fine of £500. He was released in May 1801 but soon after his health failed and he died in September. His publications include *Silva Critica* (1782), *An Enquiry into the Expediency and Propriety of Public Worship* (1792) and *The Spirit of Christianity Compared with the Spirit of the Times* (1794). [ODNB]

Worthington, Hugh (1752-1813)

Dissenting minister and mathematician who studied at Daventry Academy under Caleb Ashworth. He briefly worked as Classical Tutor at the academy, but resigned after less than a year in order to become afternoon preacher at Salter's Hall. He was a founding tutor and governor of New College, Hackney, where he lectured in Classics and Logic until his resignation in 1789. He published a number of sermons and mathematical works including *The Progress of Moral Corruption* (1778) and *An Essay on the Resolution of Plain Triangles* (1780). [ODNB, SIO]

3.5 GOVERNORS

i) NOTABLE GOVERNORS

- Aikin, John (1747-1822)** Physician and writer; educated at Warrington Academy before being apprenticed as a surgeon and apothecary in Uppingham; collaborated with his sister, Anna Letitia Barbauld, in producing *Miscellaneous Pieces in Prose* (1773). [ODNB]
- Beaufoy, Henry (1750-1795)** Politician and MP; educated at the academies at Hoxton and Warrington before studying at Edinburgh University in the early 1770s; staunch parliamentary advocate of the Repeal of the Test and Corporation Acts, 1786-90. [ODNB]
- Belsham, Thomas (1750-1829)** See List of Tutors.
- Blackburn, William (1750-1790)** Architect and surveyor; largely self-educated Presbyterian; famous for his innovative prison designs in the wake of the Penitentiary Act (1779); he was surveyor to St. Thomas's Hospital and Guy's Hospital in his native Southwark; designed and supervised the conversion of Homerton Hall to New College, Hackney. [ODNB]
- Boddington, Benjamin (1730-1791)** West India merchant; director of the South Sea Company and Million Bank; treasurer and governor of the City of London lying-in hospital, City Road; Dissenting Deputy. [BHO]
- Boddington, Thomas (1736-1821)** Merchant and banker; West India merchant; director of the Bank of England, 1782-1809; treasurer of the dissenting deputies, 1793-1805. [BHO]
- Brooksbank, George (d. 1792)** Descendant of Stamp Brooksbank (1694-1756), the former governor of the Bank of England whose residence in Hackney (Homerton Hall) was converted into New College; benefactor of the Essex Street Chapel.
- Disney, John (1746-1816)** Unitarian minister and writer; active member of the Feathers Tavern Association before resigning from the Church of England in 1782; minister of the Essex Street Chapel from 1793; inherited the estate of Thomas Brand Hollis. [ODNB]

- Dodson, Michael (1732-1799)** Barrister and biblical scholar; a prominent Unitarian who contributed several papers to the Society for Promoting the Knowledge of the Scriptures; treasurer of New College. [ODNB]
- Esdaile, Sir James (1714-93)** Banker; cartouche maker to the army; Lord Mayor of London; Knight of Great Gains in Essex; descendant of French Huguenots. [BHO]
- Esdaile, William (1758-1837)** Banker; fourth son of the above Sir James Esdaile; renowned print collector; married Elizabeth Jeffries, daughter of Edward, the New College governor. [Burke i. 381]
- Heywood, Samuel (1753-1828)** Judge and author; educated at Warrington Academy and Trinity Hall, Cambridge, leaving without taking a degree; studied law at the Inner Temple before pursuing a successful career in the legal profession; author of *High Church Politics* (1790). [ODNB]
- Hoghton, Sir Henry (1728-1795)** Politician and MP; born at Lancaster and educated at Northampton Academy; a representative of moderate dissent, he was a member of the committee dedicated to the Repeal of the Test and Corporation Acts in 1787. [ODNB]
- Hollis, Thomas Brand (1719-1804)** Political reformer; educated at Glasgow University; inherited the estate of Thomas Hollis in 1774; a founding member of the London Revolution Society. [ODNB]
- Hopkins, Benjamin Bond (1745?-94)** Politician and MP; Surrey landowner and MP for Ilchester (1784-90) and Malmesbury (1790-94); former owner of Homerton Hall, later converted into New College. [BHO]
- Jeffries, Edward (1726?-1814)** London factor of Blackwell Hall; Treasurer of St. Thomas's Hospital; Chairman of the Committee for the Repeal of the Test and Corporation Acts. [BHO]
- Jervis, Thomas (1748-1833)** Dissenting minister and tutor; educated at Hoxton Academy under David Jennings; tutor at Exeter Academy (1770-2) and then tutor to the sons of the Earl Shelburne at Bowood; subsequently dissenting minister at St Thomas's, Southwark, before succeeding Andrew Kippis at Princes Street, Westminster. [SIO]
- Kippis, Andrew (1725-1795)** See List of Tutors.

- Lindsay, James (1753-1821)** Dissenting minister and tutor; graduated from Aberdeen University with an MA in 1773; ministered at Silver Street, London (1783-1821) and was afternoon preacher at Newington Green Chapel (1787-1803); he ran an academy at Newington Green and was awarded LLD by Aberdeen University in 1805. [SIO]
- Lindsey, Theophilus (1723-1808)** Unitarian minister and theologian; educated at St. John's College, Cambridge; resigned from the Church of England in 1773; founder of the Essex Street Chapel in 1774. [ODNB]
- Lofft, Capel (1751-1824)** Radical editor and writer; educated at Peterhouse, Cambridge; founding member of the Society for Constitutional Information; admirer of Bonaparte and close associate of Coleridge, Hazlitt and Crabb Robinson. [ODNB]
- Martin, James (1738-1810)** Banker and politician; member of the Martin family bank of Lombard Street; MP for Tewkesbury, 1776-1807. [BHO]
- Morgan, Thomas (1752-1821)** Dissenting minister educated at Hoxton Academy (1768-73?); ministered at Abingdon and Goodman's Fields before serving as Dr Williams's Librarian, 1804-21. [SIO]
- Morgan, William (1750-1833)** Actuary and author born in Bridgend; nephew of Richard Price; studied medicine in London, entering St. Thomas's Hospital, but through the influence of his uncle he was appointed assistant actuary and then chief actuary at the Equitable Insurance Society; author of numerous works on insurance and economics. [ODNB]
- Pickbourn, James (d. 1814)** Dissenting minister and schoolmaster; educated at Hoxton Academy under David Jennings; served for a short period as minister at Harleston in Norfolk (c. 1759); Dr Williams's Librarian at Red Cross Street, 1770-77; kept a school in Hackney for 27 years. [SIO]
- Price, Richard (1723-91)** See List of Tutors.
- Rees, Abraham (1743-1825)** See List of Tutors.
- Rogers, Samuel (1763-1855)** Poet educated in Newington Green by James Burgh; at his father's desire he entered the family banking

firm but quickly turned to poetry; he established a high reputation and was a central figure within the literary culture of his day; he became a governor of New College following the death of his brother, Thomas, in 1788. [ODNB]

Rogers, Thomas (1735-1793)

Banker of Cornhill, London who lived at Newington Green; son of a Stourbridge glass manufacturer who was also a merchant in Cheapside; MP for Coventry 1780-81; a member of the Society for Constitutional Information and also the Society of the Friends of the People; Chairman of the New College governing committee from 1786 until his death in 1793. [Thomas 16-17]

Rutt, John Towill (1760-1841)

Politician and writer; educated at Taunton under Joshua Toulmin and then at St. Paul's School, London; leading member of the Gravel Pit Meeting, Hackney; member of the Society for Constitutional Information and also the Society of the Friends of the People; published poet and editor of Priestley's life, work and correspondence. [ODNB]

Sanderson, Sir James (1741-98)

Politician and banker; of East Hill, Wandsworth; MP for Malmesbury (1792-6) and Hastings (1796-8); Lord Mayor and Alderman of the City of London; head of a banking house in Lombard Street. [BHO]

Shore, Samuel (1738-1828)

Sheffield iron manufacturer of Norton Hall in Derbyshire; an active member of Christopher Wyvill's Yorkshire Association and trustee of the Essex Street Chapel; vice-president of the Society for Constitutional Information, 1788. [BHO]

Shore, Samuel Jr. (1761?-1836)

Manufacturer and son of the above Samuel Shore; educated at Warrington Academy before entering Lincoln's Inn; member of the Society of the Friends of the People. [BHO]

Smith, William (1756-1835)

Politician; MP for Sudbury (1784-90 and 1796-1802), Camelford (1791-6) and Norwich (1802-30); member of the Committee to Repeal the Test and Corporation Acts (1786-90) and its chairman in 1827-8; Chairman of the New College governing committee, 1793-6. [ODNB, BHO]

Stone, John Hurford (1763-1818)

Printer and merchant; a member of the London Revolution Society who presided over the reception of two delegates from the Nantes Jacobin Club in 1790; moved to France with his wife in 1792 and

began a love-affair with the writer Helen Maria Williams; fled France in 1794; active member of the New College governing committee. [ODNB]

Stone, William

Merchant; brother of the above John Hurford; established a sal-ammoniac factory in Paris 1792; arrested and charged with High Treason in 1794 for providing a French spy named William Jackson with information about the potential success of a French invasion of England and Ireland. [Stone]

Sturch, William (1753-1838)

Theological writer and ironmonger; born in Newport, the son of a General Baptist minister; an early member of the Essex Street Chapel; member of the Society for Constitutional Information; contributor to the *Monthly Repository* and author of *Apeleutherus, or, An Effort to Attain Intellectual Freedom* (1799). [ODNB]

Towers, Joseph (1737-1799)

Presbyterian minister and biographer; bookseller in Fore Street, Cripplegate where he acquired a reputation as a biographer and political writer; appointed editor of the *British Biography* (1766-72); became minister of the Presbyterian congregation in Southwood Lane, Highgate in 1774 and then at Newington Green from 1778; he assisted Andrew Kippis in producing the second edition of *Biographia Britannica* (1778-93); author of *The Life and Work of Frederick the Great* (1788). [ODNB]

Towgood, Matthew (1732- 91)

Merchant and banker of Clement Lane, London; educated at Bridgwater Academy under John Moore; Presbyterian minister at Bridgwater (1747-55) before becoming a London banker in 1773; Dr Williams's Trustee; dissenting deputy; trustee of the Presbyterian Fund. [BHO]

Towgood, John (d. 1837)

Banker who lived in Hackney; son of the above Matthew Towgood; married Martha Rogers, elder sister of the poet Samuel; member of the London Revolution Society and also the Society of the Friends of the People; dissenting deputy and Dr Williams's Trustee; treasurer of New College. [BHO]

Vaughan, Benjamin (1751-1835)

Political reformer, MP and author; educated at Warrington Academy and Trinity College, Cambridge, before studying law at the Inner Temple; elected MP for Calne in 1792 but fled to France in 1794 in the wake of the arrest of William

Stone for High Treason; he later settled in America. [ODNB]

Vaughan, William (1752-1850)

Merchant and reformer; younger brother of the above Benjamin Vaughan; resided with Joseph Priestley when studying at Warrington Academy; director and then governor of the Royal Exchange Assurance Corporation (1783-1829); fellow of the Royal Society, the Linnean Society and the Royal Astronomical Society. [ODNB]

West, James

Linen-draper and insurance broker of Chatham Place; director of the Hand-in-Hand Fire Company; member of the London Revolution Society and Whig Club. [BHO]

Worthington, Hugh (1752-1813)

See List of Tutors.

ii) OTHER GOVERNORS

Amory, Samuel

Of 29 Clement Lane

Amory, H. G.

Of 29 Clement Lane

Barnardiston, Nathaniel (1755-1837)

Of Harpur Street, Red Lion Square

Buller, William

Of Wilton

Cooke, Richard

Of Crutched Friars; dissenting deputy

Cooper, John

New College Clerk 1790-96

Cotton, Thomas

Of Hackney; dissenting deputy 1767-88; Secretary of the Committee to Repeal the Test and Corporation Acts [BHO]

Downer

Of Aldermanbury

Grubb, Edward

Of Fishmongers' Hall, Thames Street; dissenting deputy; possibly clerk of the Fishmongers' Company [BHO]

Hawker, William

Of Poundisford, near Taunton

Heinekin, Christian

Of Peckham

Henshaw, Edward

Of Southwark

Ingram, John

Of Billiter Square; member of the London Revolution Society [BHO]

Jeffrey, George	Of Throgmorton Street
Jellicoe, Adam	Of Highbury Place, Islington
Lawrence	Of Cheapside
Lees, John	
Lees, Thomas	Of Newington
Lewis	Of Mansion House Street
Mallett	
Maltby, Brough	Of Barge Yard / Old Jewry
Newman, William	Of Hatton Street
Macmurdo, Edward	Of Cheapside
Philips	
Read	New College Clerk 1786-90
Rickards, Thomas	Of Clapton
Savery, John	Of Butcombe Court, near Bristol
Scullard, William	Of Goodman's Fields
Simpson, John	Of Woodhouse, near Leeds
Slater, Philip	Of Poultry
Spurrell	
Thompson, Isaac	Of St. Mary Hill
Travers, Benjamin (1752-1817)	Merchant and sugar-refiner of Queen Street
Wansey, John	Of Lothbury
Webster, George	Of Buckslersbury
Wright	
Yerbury, John	Of Gracechurch Street; dissenting deputy; director of the Union Fire Office; possibly of John Yerbury and Co., hosiers [BHO]

3.6 NOTABLE BENEFACTORS

NAME	BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS	BENEFACTION
Aikin, John (1747-1822)	Physician and writer; educated at Warrington Academy before being apprenticed as a surgeon and apothecary in Uppingham; collaborated with his sister, Anna Letitia Barbauld, in producing <i>Miscellaneous Pieces in Prose</i> (1773). [ODNB]	£3.3 per year
Barbauld, Rochemont (1749-1808)	Dissenting minister; educated at Warrington Academy; minister at Palgrave in Suffolk where he ran a celebrated school with his wife, Anna Letitia Barbauld; minister at Hampstead from 1787 and then Newington Green from 1802; a member of the examining committee at New College. [McCarthy 133-141]	£3.3 per year
Beaufoy, Henry (1750-95)	Politician and MP; educated at the academies at Hoxton and Warrington before studying at Edinburgh University in the early 1770s; staunch parliamentary advocate of the repeal of the Test and Corporation Acts, 1786-90. [ODNB]	£100
Boddington, Benjamin (1730-1791)	West India merchant; director of the South Sea Company and Million Bank; treasurer and governor of the City of London lying-in hospital, City Road; Dissenting Deputy. [BHO]	£50
Boddington, Thomas (1736-1821)	Merchant and banker; West India merchant; director of the Bank of England, 1782-1809; treasurer of the dissenting deputies, 1793-1805. [BHO]	£50
Bright, Richard (1754-1840)	Merchant and banker of Ham Green, near Bristol; educated at Warrington Academy; founder of the Bristol Institution (1822). [Lankester 271]	£105
Brooksbank, George (d. 1792)	Descendant of Stamp Brooksbank (1694-1756), the former governor of the Bank of England whose residence in Hackney (Homerton Hall) was converted into New	£100

	College; benefactor of the Essex Street Chapel.	
Cadell, Thomas (1742-1802)	Publisher and bookseller of The Strand; eminent publisher of works by Edward Gibbon, Robert Burns, Catherine Macaulay and Hannah More. [ODNB]	£50
Corbyn, Thomas (1711-91)	Pharmaceutical chemist and apothecary; a wealthy Quaker, born in Worcester; his £2000 bequest to New College is recorded by Theophilus Lindsey. (Ditchfield i. 560)	£2000
Disney, John (1746-1818)	Unitarian minister; active member of the Feathers Tavern Association before resigning from the Church of England in 1782; minister of the Essex Street Chapel from 1793. [ODNB]	£3.3 per year
Dodson, Michael (1732-99)	Barrister and biblical scholar; a prominent Unitarian who contributed several papers to the Society for Promoting the Knowledge of the Scriptures; treasurer of New College. [ODNB]	£50
Emans, Peter (d. 1810)	Dissenting minister from Coventry; contributed £500 toward the cost of building works in 1788. (Ditchfield i. 560)	£500 + £2.2 per year
Enfield, William (1741-97)	Unitarian minister; educated at Daventry before being appointed minister at Benn's Garden Chapel in Liverpool; tutor of Belles Lettres at Warrington Academy from 1770-83; editor of popular literary anthology <i>The Speaker</i> (1774). [ODNB]	£3.3 per year
Esdaile, Sir James (1714-93)	Banker; cartouche maker to the army; Lord Mayor of London; Knight of Great Gains in Essex; descendant of French Huguenots. [BHO]	£100
Esdaile, William (1758-1837)	Banker; fourth son of the above Sir James Esdaile; print collector; married Elizabeth Jeffries, daughter of Edward, the New College governor. [ODNB]	£50
Heywood, Samuel (1753-1828)	Judge and author; educated at Warrington Academy and Trinity Hall, Cambridge, leaving without taking a degree; studied law at the Inner Temple before entering in the legal profession; author of <i>High Church</i>	£3.3 per year

Politics (1790). [ODNB]

Hoghton, Sir Henry (1728-95)	Politician and MP; born at Lancaster and educated at Northampton Academy; a representative of moderate dissent; a member of the Committee for the Repeal of the Test and Corporation Acts in 1787. [ODNB]	£10.10 per year
Hollis, Thomas Brand (1719-1804)	Political reformer; educated at Glasgow University; inherited the estate of Thomas Hollis in 1774; a founding member of the London Revolution Society. [ODNB]	£100
Hopkins, Benjamin Bond (1745?-94)	Politician and MP; Surrey landowner and MP for Ilchester (1784-90) and Malmesbury (1790-94); former owner of Homerton Hall, subsequently converted into New College. [BHO]	£105
Jeffries, Edward (1726?-1814)	London factor of Blackwell Hall; Treasurer of St. Thomas's Hospital; Chairman of the Committee for the Repeal of the Test and Corporation Acts. [BHO]	£100
Johnson, Joseph (1738-1809)	Bookseller of 72 St Paul's Churchyard; close friend of Joseph Priestley and publisher of Godwin, Wollstonecraft, Paine and Fuseli among others; New College's publisher. [ODNB]	£5.5 per year
Kenrick, Samuel (1728-1811)	Banker in Bewdley, Worcestershire; son of the dissenting minister, John Kenrick; educated at Glasgow University. [Haakonssen 65-66]	£3.3 per year
Kippis, Andrew (1725-95)	Dissenting minister and biographer; tutor of Belles Lettres at Hoxton Academy and New College, Hackney; famed for the second edition of <i>Biographia Britannica</i> (6 vols., 1778-93). [ODNB]	£5.5 per year
Lindsey, Theophilus (1723-1808)	Unitarian minister and theologian; educated at St. John's College, Cambridge; resigned from the Church of England in 1773; founder of the Essex Street Chapel in 1774. [ODNB]	£5.5 per year
Lofft, Capel (1751-1824)	Radical editor and writer; educated at Peterhouse, Cambridge; founding member of the Society for Constitutional	£1.1 per year

	Information; an admirer of Bonaparte and close associate of Coleridge, Hazlitt and Crabb Robinson. [ODNB]	
Martin, James (1738-1810)	Banker and politician; member of the Martin family bank of Lombard Street; MP for Tewkesbury, 1776-1807. [BHO]	£50
Morgan, William (1750-1833)	Actuary and biographer; nephew of Richard Price; chief actuary of the Equitable Insurance Society (1775-1830); author of several works on insurance, and a biography of Price in 1816. [ODNB]	£42
Newton, Robert (1713-89)	Derbyshire landowner; proprietor of Norton House, Derbyshire; educated at Findern Academy with Theophilus Lindsey; benefactor of the Essex Street Chapel. [Belsham 99]	£1500
Paice, Joseph (d. 1810)	Director of the South Sea Company; Coward Trustee; member of the dissenting congregation on Cater Lane; described by Charles Lamb as 'the most consistent living model of modern politeness' in the essay 'Modern Gallantry'; corresponded with Thomas Rogers over the closure of Hoxton Academy and establishment of New College. [DWL MS 187/2/3-12, BHO]	£50
Price, Richard (1723-91)	Dissenting minister, philosopher and demographer; founding tutor and governor of New College; author of <i>A Review of the Principal Questions and Difficulties in Morals</i> (1758). [ODNB]	£50
Priestley, Joseph (1733-1804)	Dissenting minister, theologian and natural philosopher; educated under Caleb Ashworth at Daventry academy; tutor at Warrington Academy (1761-7) and New College, Hackney (1791-4); prolific writer of scientific, theological, educational and political works. [ODNB]	£2.2 per year
Rees, Abraham (1743-1825)	Dissenting minister and encyclopaedist; educated at the academy in Wellclose Square; tutor at Hoxton Academy (1762-85) and New College, Hackney (1786-96); editor of <i>The New Cyclopaedia</i> (1802-20). [ODNB]	£5.5 per year

Rogers, Samuel (1763-1855)	Poet educated in Newington Green by James Burgh; at his father's desire he entered the family banking firm but quickly turned to poetry; he established a high reputation as a poet was a central figure within the literary culture of his day; he became a governor of New College following the death of his brother, Thomas, in 1788. [ODNB]	£50
Rogers, Thomas (1734/5-93)	Banker of Cornhill, London; son of a Stourbridge glass manufacturer who was also a merchant in Cheapside; MP for Coventry 1780-81; a member of the Society for Constitutional Information and Friends of the People who lived at Newington Green; Chairman of the New College governing committee until his death in 1793. [Thomas 16-17]	£50
Rogers, Thomas Jr. (1761-88)	Banker; second son of the above Thomas Rogers; governor of New College until his premature death at the age of twenty-seven; alluded to in his brother's poem <i>The Pleasures of Memory</i> (1792). [Clayden 82-83]	£50
Rowe, John (1764-32)	Dissenting minister; educated at Hoxton Academy and New College, Hackney; minister of the High Street Chapel, Shrewsbury and, from 1798, Lewin's Mead Chapel, Bristol; he was the founder of the Western Unitarian Society. [ODNB]	£3.3 per year
Russell, William (1740-1818)	Merchant and reformer born in Birmingham; close friend of Joseph Priestley; regional leader in the campaign to Repeal the Test and Corporation Acts; member of the Society for Constitutional Information. [ODNB]	£10.10 per year
Sanderson, Sir James (1741-98)	Politician and banker; of East Hill, Wandsworth; MP for Malmesbury (1792-6) and Hastings (1796-8); Lord Mayor and Alderman of the City of London; head of a banking house in Lombard Street. [BHO]	£50
Scott, Thomas (1723-1816)	Politician and brickmaker; MP for Bridport, 1780-90; member of the Whig Club and the Committee for the Repeal of the Test and Corporation Acts. [BHO]	£50

Shore, Samuel (1738-1828)	Sheffield iron manufacturer of Norton Hall in Derbyshire; an active member of Christopher Wyvill's Yorkshire Association and trustee of the Essex Street Chapel; vice-president of the Society for Constitutional Information, 1788. [BHO]	£100
Shore, Samuel Jr. (1761?-1836)	Manufacturer and son of the above Samuel Shore; educated at Warrington Academy before entering Lincoln's Inn; member of the Society of the Friends of the People. [BHO]	£50
Smith, William (1756-1835)	Politician; MP for Sudbury (1784-90 and 1796-1802), Camelford (1791-6) and Norwich (1802-30); member of the Committee for the Repeal of the Test and Corporation Acts (1786-90) and its chairman in 1827-8; Chairman of the New College governing committee, 1793-6. [ODNB, BHO]	£100
Stone, John Hurford (1763-1818)	Printer and merchant; a member of the London Revolution Society who presided over the reception of two delegates from the Nantes Jacobin Club in 1790; moved to France with his wife in 1792 and began a love-affair with the writer Helen Maria Williams; active member of the New College governing committee. [ODNB]	£50
Stone, William	Merchant; brother of the above John Hurford; established a sal-ammoniac factory in Paris 1792; arrested and charged on a charge of High Treason in 1794 for providing a French spy with information about the potential success of a French invasion of England and Ireland. [Stone]	£50
Tayleur, William (1712-96)	Shropshire landowner; educated at Westminster School and Christ Church, Oxford, where he subsequently held a junior lectureship; benefactor of the Essex Street Chapel. [Ditchfield]	£200
Toulmin, Joshua (1740-1815)	Dissenting minister and historian; educated at the academy in Wellclose Square and then minister of the Taunton General Baptist congregation; author of	£1.1 per year

Memoirs of the Life, Character, Sentiments, and Writings, of Faustus Socinus (1777). [ODNB, SIO]

Turner, William (1714-1794)	Dissenting minister; born in Preston, Lancashire and educated at Findern Academy and Glasgow University; an intimate friend of Joseph Priestley and Theophilus Lindsey; a contributor to the <i>Theological Repository</i> . [ODNB, SIO]	£2.2 per year
Vaughan, Benjamin (1751-1835)	Political reformer, MP and author; educated at Warrington Academy and Trinity College, Cambridge, before studying law at the Inner Temple; elected MP for Calne in 1792 but fled to France in 1794 in the wake of the arrest of William Stone for High Treason; subsequently settled in America. [ODNB]	£10.10 per year
Wathen, Jonathan (d. 1831?)	Surgeon; author of numerous medical works on the treatment of cataracts and venereal disease including <i>A Dissertation on the Theory and Cure of the Cataract</i> (1785). [Hirschberg iii. 378]	£100
Wedgwood, Josiah (1730-95)	English potter born in Stoke-on-Trent; credited with the industrialisation of the manufacture of pottery; prominent abolitionist and member of the Lunar Society. [ODNB]	£5.5 per year
West, James	Linen-draper and insurance broker; of Chatham Place; director of the Hand-in-Hand Fire Company; member of the London Revolution Society and Whig Club. [BHO]	£100
Whitbread, Samuel (1764-1815)	Politician and MP; educated at Eton College and Oxford University; elected MP for Bedford in 1790, ousting his father from the seat; member of the Whig Club and leading figure in the Society of the Friends of the People. [ODNB]	£50
Whitmore, Thomas (1743-95)	Politician and MP for Bridgnorth, 1771-95; member of the Whig Club. [BHO]	£100
Worsley, Thomas Carill	Son of John Lees, the New College	£100

(1739-1809)	governor who assumed the name Carill Worsley; resident of Platt Hall, near Manchester. [Wade 72]	
Yarmouth Dissenting Congregation	George Cadogan Morgan, the minister at Yarmouth, was the nephew of Richard Price and went on to become Classical Tutor at New College. [SIO]	£120
John Yates (1755-1826)	Dissenting minister educated at Warrington Academy; minister of the Kaye Street (1777-91) and Paradise Street (1791-1823) chapels in Liverpool. [ODNB, SIO]	£3.3 per year

4.1 THE NEW COLLEGE CURRICULUM

Introduction

The New College curriculum was largely the product of the reforms that had taken place at Warrington Academy in the 1760s. Joseph Priestley had outlined several important revisions of the Warrington curriculum in his *Essay on a Course of Liberal Education for Civil and Active Life* (1765), a work that became an educational manifesto for the liberal dissenting academies. As a result of its influence, new subjects such as History, Economics, Law, and Political Science began to develop heightened significance as the educational schism between the English universities and the dissenting academies widened. Whilst the universities remained largely centred on a classical curriculum of Latin, Greek and Mathematics, the academies began to introduce new subjects in response to the demands of the growing mercantile classes.

This section presents the most important extant sources relating to the New College curriculum, beginning with Thomas Belsham's account of the course of study pursued by the students at Daventry Academy (the content of which mirrored that which was adopted at New College). This is followed by four letters written by the academy's most celebrated alumnus, William Hazlitt.¹ Hazlitt's letters to his father from New College in 1793 contain information regarding the textbooks he used, the tutors he studied under, and the content of his lectures. Finally, the section ends with Gilbert Wakefield's extended critique of the New College curriculum in his *Memoirs* (1792).

¹ Hazlitt's letters from Hackney are published in H. M. Sikes's edition of *The Letters of William Hazlitt* (1978). Sikes's edition does contain some errors and for this reason my texts are taken from their earliest printed source in William Carew Hazlitt's *Lamb and Hazlitt: Further Letters and Unpublished Records* (1900). I do, however, follow Sikes's sequencing of the letters, which differs from that of Carew Hazlitt. With the exception of the letter of 20 October 1793 (Section 3.4), the original manuscripts of Hazlitt's letters from New College are not extant.

4.2 BELSHAM ON DAVENTRY ACADEMY

TEXT: John Williams, *Memoirs of the Late Reverend Thomas Belsham* (London, 1833), pp. 224-5.

An outline of the general course of study pursued at Daventry is given by Mr. Belsham,¹ in a letter addressed to Samuel Heywood, Esq., Harpur Street, London,² upon an occasion which will hereafter be noticed; and though deviations from this plan were occasionally made, as circumstances required, it was generally observed during Mr. Belsham's continuance at Daventry.³

Mr. Belsham states, "The grand object which the patrons of this Academy have always had in view, has been the education of candidates for the Christian ministry among the Dissenters; and the course of study has generally been conducted in such a manner as was thought to be best calculated for this important end. The usual period is five years,⁴ and the business proper to each year will appear in the following schedule:

First Year.

Short-hand, Classics, Hebrew; by the Classical Tutor.

Geography, Logic,⁵ Six books of Euclid; by the Mathematical Tutor.

Second Year.

Classics and Hebrew, continued.

The eleventh and twelfth books of Euclid, Algebra, Trigonometry.

The doctrine of the Human Mind—the Divine existence and attributes⁶—the first principles of Ethics,⁷—of Civil Government, and of the British Constitution;⁸ by the presiding Tutor.

¹ Thomas Belsham (1750-1829), dissenting tutor and theologian. From 1781 to 1789 Belsham was Divinity Tutor at Daventry Academy. He was at the centre of a cause célèbre in the world of dissent when he announced his resignation from Daventry on the grounds of his conversion to Unitarianism. In the summer of 1789 he was appointed as resident tutor at New College.

² Samuel Heywood (1753-1828), judge and author. Heywood had been educated at Warrington Academy and was a founding governor of New College.

³ The course of study outlined by Belsham mirrors that which was adopted at New College.

⁴ The course of study for students in the academies was five years for ministerial students and three years for lay students.

⁵ The substance of the lectures on Logic at Daventry and New College was published as the first part of Belsham's *Elements of the Philosophy of the Mind, and of Moral Philosophy* (1801) entitled 'The Compendium of Logic.'

⁶ The substance of Belsham's lectures on Divinity at Daventry and New College was published in his *A Calm Enquiry into the Scripture Doctrine Concerning the Person of Christ* (1811).

⁷ The substance of Belsham's lectures on 'The doctrine of the human mind' and 'The first principles of ethics' was published in his *Elements of the Philosophy of the Mind, and of Moral Philosophy* (1801). A manuscript version of the Hackney lectures on Moral Philosophy is held at Harris Manchester College, Oxford (MS Belsham 34).

⁸ Priestley's *Lectures on History and General Policy* (1788) covered topics including 'Civil Government' and 'the British Constitution.'

Third Year.

The Classics, and Hebrew, continued.

Conic Sections, Natural Philosophy, including Mechanics, Hydrostatics, Pneumatics, with the new discoveries upon Air, Optics, Astronomy, and Electricity.⁹

Evidences of Revealed Religion, a comprehensive system of Ethics, connected with the discoveries and precepts of Revelation.¹⁰

Fourth Year.

Conic Sections, and Natural Philosophy, continued.

Classics, Hebrew, Divinity, Ecclesiastical History; by the presiding Tutor.

Fifth Year.

Critical Lectures on the New Testament, Jewish Antiquities, and Lectures on the Office of the Ministry."

Mr. Belsham adds, "Two or three orations are delivered every week by the students, and every gentleman intended for the learned professions takes his turn in these exercises, after having finished the first six months of his course. Every candidate for the ministry, from the commencement of his second year, takes his turn in prayer in the family in an evening; and from the commencement of his third year, he takes his turn to pray in the pulpit on the Lord's-day evening, previous to the delivery of the sermon.

During the course, some convenient opportunity is taken to read a set of lectures against Popery, a few lectures upon Anatomy, and a short course upon Oratory.¹¹ The senior students frequently shew up schemes of sermons to the Tutor for his correction, and the French language is taught to those who are desirous to learn it.

Gentlemen of fortune, not intended for the ministry, usually continue three years, and are conducted through the course of lectures for the first three years: when they cannot spend so much time at the Academy, the course is proportionably contracted, and the less important parts are omitted.

The library consists of about three thousand volumes. It is excellently well furnished in the department of Theology, and principally defective in Classics and the Belle Lettres. The philosophical apparatus is very complete in Mechanics, Hydrostatics, Pneumatics, Electricity, and the Airs; its principal defects are in the Optical and Astronomical departments."

⁹ See Joseph Priestley's *Heads of Lectures on a Course of Natural Philosophy...Delivered in the New College, Hackney (1794)* and William Russell Notcutt's *Heads of Lectures of Philosophical Chemistry, delivered at New College, Hackney (1796)*.

¹⁰ The substance of the lectures on Ethics was subsequently published in Belsham's *Elements of the Philosophy of the Mind, and of Moral Philosophy (1801)* and that for Divinity in *A Calm Enquiry into the Scripture Doctrine Concerning the Person of Christ (1811)*.

¹¹ Priestley's *A Course of Lectures on Oratory and Criticism (1777)* was an influential textbook in the liberal academies.

4.3 HAZLITT, 6 OCTOBER 1793

TEXT: *Lamb and Hazlitt*, pp. 41-44

London, Oct. 6th, 1793¹

Dear father, - I rec^d your very kind letter yesterday evening. With respect to my past behaviour, I have often said, and I now assure you, that it did not proceed from any real disaffection, but merely from the nervous disorders to which, you well know, I was so much subject.² This was really the case; however improbable it may appear. Nothing particular occurred from the time I wrote last till the Saturday following. On the Wednesday before, C[orrie] had given me a thesis.³ As it was not a subject suited to my genius, and from other causes, I had not written anything on it; so that I was [not] pleased to hear his bell on Saturday morning, which was the time for shewing our themes. When I came to him, he asked me whether I had prepared my theme. I told him I had not. You should have a very good reason, indeed, sir, says he, for neglecting it. Why really, sir, says I, I could not write it. Did you never write anything, then? says he. Yes, sir, I said, I have written some things. Very well, then, go along and write your theme immediately, said he. I accordingly went away, but did not make much progress in my theme an hour after, when his bell rang for another lecture. My eyes were much swollen, and I assumed as sullen a countenance as I could, intimating that he had not treated me well. After the lecture, as I was going away, he called me back, and asked me very mildly if I had never written anything. I answered, I had written several things. On which he desired me to let him see one of my compositions, if I had no objection. I immediately took him my essay on laws, and gave it to him.⁴ When he had read it, he asked me a few questions on the subject, which I answered very satisfactorily, I believe. Well, sir, says he, I wish you'd write some more such things as this. Why, sir, says he, I wish you'd write some more such things as this. Why, sir, said I, I intended to write several things, which I have planned, but that I could not write any of them in a week, or two or three weeks. What did you intend to write? says he. Among other things I told him that I intended to enlarge and improve the essay he had been reading. Aye, says he, I

¹ Hazlitt was a ministerial student at New College from September 1793. He left prematurely, however, in June 1795 an embarked on a career as an artist, philosopher, and writer.

² Hazlitt's sister Margaret discusses her family's experiences in Wem in Shropshire in her journal. She records that William 'attended so closely to his studies...[that] his overexertion (when about fifteen) brought on a fit. And although he had no return of it, it was long before he recovered [from] the effects of it.' *The Journal of Margaret Hazlitt*, ed. Ernest J. Moyné (Lawrence, KA., 1967), 105.

³ John Corrie (1769-1839), Tutor of Classics and Geography.

⁴ This was an early draft of Hazlitt's 'Project for a New Theory of Civil and Criminal Legislation' which he had begun in Wem in 1792. The essay was first printed posthumously in *Literary Remains* (1836), see *The Complete Works of William Hazlitt*, ed. P. P. Howe, 21 vols. (London, 1930-34), 302-320.

wish you would. Well! I will do it then, sir, said I. Do so, said he; take you own time now; I shall not ask you for it; only write it as soon as you can, for I shall often be thinking of it, and very desirous of it. This he repeated once or twice. On this I wished him a good morning, and came away, very well pleased with the reception I had met.

My course is as follows: on Monday at eleven I attend Dr. Rees on mathematics and algebra.⁵ This lecture lasts till twelve. At two I have a lecture, with several others, in shorthand, and one in Hebrew with Jo. Swanwick.⁶ These two detain us till dinner-time, and we have another lecture in shorthand and another in Hebrew at eight at night. On Tuesday we have a lecture with Corrie, at eleven, in the classics, one week Greek, another Latin, which continues till twelve; and another lecture with Corrie, on Greek antiquities, from one to two. On Wednesday we have the same business as on Monday, on Thursday as on Tuesday, and so on.

The greek class which I have been in this week consists of two old students, J. Mason, and myself.⁷ I think that I translate more correctly and much better than any of them. The other day Mason was laughing at me, while I was translating a passage, on account of my way of speaking. Says Corrie to him, 'Mr. Mason, you should be sure you can translate yours as well as Mr. Hazlitt does his, before you laugh at your neighbours.'

I believe I am liked very well by the students in general. I am pretty well intimate with one of them, whose name is Tonson. J.Swanwick has been hitherto in a different class. But on applying to Corrie, he has been put into the same class with me. Farewell.

I am, your aff. Son,
W. HAZLITT.

⁵ Abraham Rees (1743-1825), dissenting minister, tutor and encyclopaedist.

⁶ Joseph Swanwick (1777-1841), a family friend of the Hazlitts from Wem in Shropshire. Swanwick had attended Hazlitt Sr.'s school in Wem before entering New College with William in 1793.

⁷ James Mason (1779-1827), political writer, playwright and translator from Shrewsbury.

4.4 HAZLITT [OCTOBER 1793]

TEXT: *Lamb and Hazlitt*, pp. 36-38¹

Sunday Evening. [October 1793]²

Dear Father, - I rec^d your letter safely on Monday.³

On the preceding Saturday, I finished the introduction to my essay on the political state of man, and shewed [it] to Corrie.⁴ He seemed very well pleased with it, and desired me to proceed with my essay as quickly as I could. After a few definitions, I give the following sketch of my plan.

'In treating on the political state of man, I shall, first, endeavour to represent his natural political relations, and to deduce from these his natural political duties, and his natural political rights; and secondly, to represent his artificial political relations, and to deduce from these his artificial political duties, and his artificial rights.' This I think an excellent plan. I wish I could recite⁵ it to my own satisfaction. I hope, however, to do it tolerably by Christmas. I have already got the greatest part of the ideas necessary, though in a crude and undigested state; so that my principal business will [be] to correct and arrange them. But this will be a terrible labour, and I shall rejoice most heartily when I have finished it.

Corrie seems much pleased with some of my translations this week.

I passed the Ass's Bridge very safely, and very solitarily, on Friday.⁶ I like Dominie⁷ (that is the name Dr Rees gave him⁸) and his lectures very much.

¹ Of the four letters that Hazlitt wrote from New College in 1793, this is the only one for which the original manuscript is extant. It is in the possession of Professor Duncan Wu and has been edited, along with three other previously unpublished Hazlitt letters, by Professor Charles E. Robinson of the University of Delaware. I am extremely grateful to Professor Robinson for sharing his work on this letter with me, and I am indebted to him for many details, including the date of the letter. My text has been edited from W. C. Hazlitt's *Lamb and Hazlitt*. I have, however, highlighted important differences between this and the manuscript letter in the footnotes. For the version of the letter edited from manuscript, see Professor Robinson's forthcoming contribution to the special Hazlitt issue of *The Wordsworth Circle* for April 2010.

² Robinson notes that although the postmark is 22 October, Sunday evening would have been 20 October.

³ Unfortunately, Hazlitt Sr.'s letters to his son do not appear to have survived.

⁴ An early draft of Hazlitt's 'Project for a New Theory of Civil and Criminal Legislation' which he had begun in Wem in 1792. The essay was first printed posthumously in *Literary Remains* (1836), see *The Complete Works of William Hazlitt*, ed. P. P. Howe, 21 vols. (London, 1930-34), xix. 302-320. John Corrie (1769-1839), was Hazlitt's Tutor of Classics and Geography.

⁵ Robinson notes that the word 'execute' has been inserted in the holograph letter at this point in a different hand. This, he suggests, is presumably a correction added by Hazlitt's father.

⁶ The Asses Bridge, or *Pons Asinorum*, is the name given to Euclid's fifth proposition in the first book of his *Elements* of Geometry. It is renowned as the first real test for students of the *Elements*.

A young fellow, whose name is Reid,⁹ is by much the cleverest of the students.

Since I wrote last, I have had seven more lectures in the week; and at a little after ten on Tuesday with Dr. Priestley on history,¹⁰ and one every morning at nine in the greek grammar with Corrie.

I have been in town to-day, as I generally go once a fortnight. J.Swanwick was with me.¹¹ John and Mary are very well.¹² They are to come and drink tea with me on Saturday. Since I came here I have spent above eight guineas. You need not, however, be alarmed at this, as in future I shall not spend, or, at least, shall not spend more than five shillings a week. About a shilling a week for washing; about two for fire; another shilling for tea and sugar; and now another for candles, letters, etc. Books, furniture, and other necessaries have run away with a good deal, but these expenses are extraordinary.

J. S.¹³ has had nine guineas from Mr. Lawrence,¹⁴ and being entirely stripped, he called at Lawrence's when we were in town to day. When he had told him his errand, the little gentleman seemed very much surprized, and said that he must write to his father about it. But, sir, says Jo, I have a farthing, and I'd be glad if you'd let me have a guinea. Well, well, if you want it, you may. But, as he did not offer to get it and as we were rather in haste, I whispered to Jo, that I would lend him some money, till he could procure his; and so away we came, a good deal diverted with the citizen's prudence.

The weather here is charming. We had some of the clearest days last week I ever saw. My love to mother and Peggy.¹⁵

I am you affectionate son,
W. HAZLITT.

I have not read this letter; so you will correct any slips.

⁷ Dr Rees.

⁸ Robinson notes that the holograph letter reads 'goes there' rather than 'gave him', thus altering the interpretation of the sentence considerably. Abraham Rees (1743-1825), dissenting minister, tutor and encyclopaedist, was Hazlitt's Mathematics Tutor at Hackney.

⁹ John Reid (1776-1822), a ministerial student who subsequently went on to be a distinguished physician and author.

¹⁰ See Joseph Priestley, *Lectures on History, and General Policy* (London, 1788).

¹¹ Joseph Swanwick (1777-1841), a family friend of the Hazlitts from Wem in Shropshire. Swanwick had attended Hazlitt Sr.'s school in Wem before entering New College in 1793 with William.

¹² A reference to Hazlitt's brother, the artist John (1767-1837) and his wife, Mary Pierce. They were married in 1793. John Hazlitt was a distinguished miniature and portrait painter who exhibited at the Royal Academy every year from 1788 to 1819.

¹³ Joseph Swanick.

¹⁴ Robinson suggests that Lawrence may have been a cousin of Joseph Swanwick.

¹⁵ A reference to Hazlitt's mother, Grace Loftus Hazlitt (1746-1837), and his sister Margaret (1770-1841).

4.5 HAZLITT [NOVEMBER 1793]

TEXT: *Lamb and Hazlitt*, pp. 33-36.

[Hackney College, 1793.]

Dear father,

I rec^d. your kind letter of Monday evening at five o'clock, the usual time. I was very much pleased you liked the plan of my essay. You need not fear for the execution of it, as I am sensible that, after I have made it as perfect as I can, it will have many imperfections, yet I know that I can finish in a manner equal to the introduction. I have made some progress, since I wrote last. The essay on laws will make a part of it.¹ I will here give you an account of my studies, etc. On Monday I am preparing Damien's lectures from seven until half-past eight, except the quarter of an hour in which I say Corrie's grammar lecture,² and from nine till ten. From ten till twelve we are with him. His lectures are Simpson's elements of gram. [sic] and Bonnycastle's algebra.³ By the bye, the Ass's bridge is the tenth proposition of the geometry.⁴ From twelve to two I am preparing Belsham['s] lectures in shorthand, and the Hebrew grammar, which I am saying till then. The shorthand is to write out eight verses, [of the] Bible. From half-past three till five I walk. From five to six, I have my g[reek] grammar for the morning. At liberty from six to seven. From seven to eight, preparing Belsham's evening lectures in L[atin?]⁵ and Heb[rew]. With them from eight to nine. And from half after nine till eleven I am reading Dr. Price's lecture for the next day.⁶ On Tuesday I am from seven till h[alf]. p[ast]. eight preparing Corrie's classical lecture, only the time that I am saying my grammar. And again from nine to h. p. ten, from which time to h. p. eleven I attend Dr Priestley's lecture in history.⁷ From then till a little after twelve is C[orrie]'s classical lecture, which is Sophocles one week and Quintillian the next. In the greek we have two of the old students, in

¹ This formed part of an early draft of the 'Project for a New Theory of Civil and Criminal Legislation' which Hazlitt had begun in Wem in 1792. The essay was first printed posthumously in *Literary Remains* (1836), see *The Complete Works of William Hazlitt*, ed. P. P. Howe, 21 vols. (London, 1930-34), xix. 302-320.

² John Corrie (1769-1839), Tutor of Classics and Geography.

³ Hazlitt refers here to Thomas Simpson's, *Elements of Geometry, with their Application to the Mensuration of Superficies and Solids*, a fourth edition of which was published in 1780, and John Bonnycastle's *An Introduction to Algebra*, the second edition of which was published in 1788 by Joseph Johnson.

⁴ A mistake by Hazlitt. The Asses Bridge, or *Pons Asinorum*, is in fact the name given to Euclid's fifth proposition in the first book of his *Elements of Geometry*.

⁵ W. C. Hazlitt suggests 'lectures in L[eviticus?]', but Sikes's claim that Hazlitt refers to his Latin lectures is more probable.

⁶ A reference to Richard Price's *A Review of the Principal Questions and Difficulties in Moral* (1758), a third edition was published in 1787.

⁷ See Joseph Priestley, *Lectures on History, and General Policy* (London, 1788).

the latin five. J[oseph] S[wanwick] is now in my classes, at first he was not. But on his requesting it, he is now with me. You will take care not to mention this. From twelve till one, I am at Corrie's lecture in g[reek]. antiquities. With him till half past one. From which till three I study my essay. Walking as before. From five till six, preparing my evening lecture in geography with Corrie, and my g[reek]. for the next day. And from seven to nine, except for about half-an-hour at geography with Corrie, I again study my essay. From half-past-nine to eleven, reading David Hartley.⁸ I go in the same course [for the] rest of the week, except the difference that not having Dr. P[riestley]'s lecture makes, and that I now study after supper on Saturday night. On Sundays, too, I am always idle. I like Hebrew very well, the mathematics very much. They are very much suited to my genius. The Reid whom I mentioned is about eighteen, a Bristol lad, and a pupil of Mr Estlin.⁹ I was in town to-day. I was glad to hear of the increase of my yearly allowance, and of what Corrie told Rowmann.¹⁰ They are very well. I am sorry to hear that my mother is poorly. My love to her and Peggy.

I am,
Your affectionate son,
W. HAZLITT.

I forgot to give you an account of my expenses, and, as I am tired, shall defer till next time. I have spent only 8s. since Thursday fortnight, though I have had everything I wanted. Adieu.

⁸ David Hartley's *Observation on Man, His Frame, His Duties, and His Expectations* (1749). In 1775 Joseph Priestley produced an abridged version entitled *Hartley's Theory of the Human Mind*, reprinted in 1790, which may also have been used at New College.

⁹ In Hazlitt's previous letter, he alludes to his fellow student John Reid (1776-1822). John Prior Estlin (1747-1817) was a Unitarian minister from Bristol, a friend of Anna Letitia Barbauld and Samuel Taylor Coleridge.

¹⁰ Sikes notes that Rowmann was 'A trustee of the College Fund' (66). Hazlitt was studying at New College on a scholarship from the Presbyterian Fund.

4.6 HAZLITT [LATE AUTUMN 1793]

TEXT: *Lamb and Hazlitt*, pp. 38-41.

[Hackney College, 1793.]

Dear father, - I was very sorry to hear from your two last letters that you wish me to discontinue my essay, as I am very desirous of finishing it, and as I think it almost necessary to do so. For I have already completed the two first prop. and the third I have planned and shall be able to finish in a very short time; the fourth prop., which will be the last, will consist only of a few lines. The first section you know I have done for some time; and the first, second, and fourth propositions are exactly similar to the first, second, and fourth of the second section, so that I have little else to do than to alter a few words. The third will consist principally of observations on government, laws, etc., most of which will be the same with what I have written before in my essay on laws.¹ My chief reason for wishing to continue my observations is, that, by having a particular system of politics I shall be better able to judge of the truth or falsehood of any prevarication which I hear, or read, and of the justice, or the contrary, of any political transactions. Moreover, by comparing my own system with those of others, and with particular facts, I shall have it in my power to correct it and improve it continually. But I can have neither of these advantages unless I have some standard by which to judge of, and of which to judge by, any ideas, or proceedings, which I may meet with. Besides, so far is my studying this subject from making me gloomy or low-spirited, that I am never so perfectly easy as when I am, or have been, studying it.² With respect to theories, I really think them rather disserviceable than otherwise. I should not be able to make a good oration from my essay.³ It is too abstruse and exact for that purpose. I shall endeavour to write one on providence, which will, I think, be a very good subject. I shall certainly make it my study to acquire as much politeness as I can. However, this is not the best place possible for acquiring it. I do not at all say that the fellows who are here do not know how to behave extremely well; but the behaviour which suits a set of young fellows, or boys, does not suit any other society. This

¹ This is a reference to an early draft of Hazlitt's 'Project for a New Theory of Civil and Criminal Legislation' which he had begun in Wem in 1792. The essay was first printed posthumously in *Literary Remains* (1836), see *The Complete Works of William Hazlitt*, ed. P. P. Howe, 21 vols. (London, 1930-34), xix. 302-320.

² It seems that Hazlitt Sr. was worried about his son over-exerting himself. In her journal, Hazlitt's sister Margaret describes the family's time in Wem in Shropshire. She records that William 'attended so closely to his studies...[that] his overexertion (when about fifteen) brought on a fit. And although he had no return of it, it was long before he recovered [from] the effects of it.' *The Journal of Margaret Hazlitt*, ed. Ernest J. Moyne (Lawrence, KA., 1967), 105.

³ The ministerial students were expected to deliver an oration at the end of each term to the New College examining committee, of which Theophilus Lindsey was a member. For an account of this process see Lindsey's letter to William Tayleur of 26 June 1795, JRUL, MS Autograph Letters of Theophilus Lindsey, fol. 85.

disadvantage, however, is of very little consequence, as little else is necessary to politeness than care and a desire of pleasing.

I have nothing new to add. My lectures go on as usual. We began the lectures on logic on Friday last.⁴ These, I fancy, will be easy and entertaining, though the students who have gone through them say they are not. We have two lectures a week on logic, which are on Wednesday and Friday. I was in town this day week. My brother and sister were very well.⁵ But I suppose you have heard from him since that time. He has not been here to-day. I wrote to J. Wickstead Friday week.⁶ Present my respects to Mr. Jenkins; also to Mr. Rowe.⁷ Compliments to all inquirers. I hope my mother and P[eggy]. are quite well before this time. I long to see you. I wish they would come too.

I am, dear father,
Your aff. Son,
W. HAZLITT.

I forgot to tell you that Corrie has not returned me the first part of my essay.

⁴ See Thomas Belsham's 'Compendium of Logic' which forms the first section of his *Elements of the Philosophy of the Mind, and of Moral Philosophy* (1801).

⁵ A reference to Hazlitt's brother, the artist John (1767-1837) and his wife, Mary Pierce (or Peirce). John Hazlitt was a distinguished miniature and portrait painter who exhibited at the Royal Academy every year from 1788 to 1819.

⁶ John Wickstead of Shrewsbury, grandfather of Philip Henry Wickstead (1844-1927), author and translator.

⁷ Thomas Jenkins (1746-1815), dissenting minister of Whitchurch, and John Rowe (1764-1832), dissenting minister of Shrewsbury.

4.7 GILBERT WAKEFIELD'S MEMOIRS (1792)

TEXT: Gilbert Wakefield, *Memoirs of the Life of Gilbert Wakefield* (London: J. Deighton, 1792), pp. 348-68

Before I proceed any farther in the narration of the *personal* circumstances of this connexion with the *college* at *Hackney*, I shall make some observations upon the mode of education among *dissenters*, and on that institution in particular; for which province my *experience* at least has amply qualified me:¹ and the *dissenters* may assure themselves, that their interest and respectability as a body are very materially concerned in what I am now proceeding to remark. I speak with such conviction and demonstration of truth to my own mind, as persuades me, that an inattention to these admonitions of their truest friend will be, and will be accounted by the impartial, as nothing less than a continuance of blind infatuation to their own welfare.

Their manner of education for the *ministry* is so prodigiously absurd, as to exceed all adequate representation of it in characteristic language, so as to avoid at the same time an appearance of prejudice and animosity [sic]. But this unqualified condemnation of it will be most effectually justified by comparing what evidently *ought* to be done with what *is* done, in these seminaries: a subject which I have heretofore discussed with DR. AIKIN, our *divinity-tutor* at *Warrington*;² who, not to mention every other person with whom I have conversed, acknowledged the rectitude of my ideas upon the question.

*The best is he, whom native sense inspires
With providential wisdom; nor is he
Inferior much, whom Wisdom's lessons warn.
But who, devoid of inborn sense, rejects
Wise counsel, proves himself absurd indeed.*³

The scriptures of the *Old and New Testaments* are, as all parties allow, the sole repositories of divine truth, and the *store-houses*, whence all our materials of a *religious creed* are to be derived. What then is the first step necessary? undeniably, an intimate acquaintance with the language and *phraseology* of the sacred volume, in conjunction with those indispensable assistances, which an accurate and extensive

¹ Wakefield had been a fellow of Jesus College, Cambridge from 1776 to 1779. From 1779 to 1783 he worked as Classical Tutor at Warrington Academy, before being appointed at New College, Hackney in 1790. He resigned from his tutorship after only a year at New College.

² John Aikin (1713-80), Tutor of Belles-Lettres, Divinity and Classics at Warrington Academy.

³ These lines appear to have no printed source. It is perhaps possible that Wakefield wrote them himself to give an impression of heightened authority to his controversial argument.

knowledge of the *Greek* and *Roman* writers is capable of furnishing. – Let us now turn our eyes to the *negative* and *positive* violation of these indisputable maxims among *dissenters*.

They learn, what little *Hebrew* is learned, with *points*: an ignorant and barbarous method! long since exploded and discontinued by all the learned;⁴ and so absurd in itself as to pronounce, on the statement of it, it's own confutation: not to mention the intolerable difficulty attendant on this horrid barbarism; the vexation and discouragement to the student, sometimes to a final relinquishment of his purpose; the time, which it plunders from other occupations; and the perfect nullity of the acquisition, when attained. And, as to the *Greek Testament*, a man among the *dissenters*, as far as education at their *academies* are concerned in his acquirements, who is competent to a genuine *philological* disclosure of the *phraseology* of that volume, is, and must be, from the inconveniences of their education, all but a *black swan*.

----- Numero vix sunt totidè, quot
Thebarum portæ vel divitis ostia Nili.⁵

Such instruction, as I am now specifying, is made the least important part of their system of *theological* institution. So far upon the *negative* infringement of our *theological axiom*. Now for the *second* consideration, which we proposed to take in hand.

Every philosophical mind will readily grant me, that no system of religious doctrine can be valuable to the possessor, or useful to the promotion of gospel truth, which is not the result of an impartial and unbiased perusal of the scriptures. The *New Testament* should be read as if the book were newly published in the world, and every interference of any sentiments professed among different sects of *Christians*, most scrupulously, if possible, prevented. Let the student thoroughly understand the diction and style of his author's composition, and deduce his own *creed* accordingly. Where is the meritorious difference between *Socinian* and *Trinitarian*, if the respective doctrines have been poured into the mind through the funnel of a lecture? Of what value is the fire of zeal, without the illumination of knowledge? A direct consequence of such discipline is the production of sects and divisions in society, rather than edification in *gospel* truth and *gospel* manners. I feel no difficulty therefore in condemning most decisively and severely that plan of lecturing in *Trinitarianism*, *Arianism*, and *Socinianism*, the pre-existence of *Christ*, &c.; whence springs, with other evil fruit, a harvest of *theological coxcombs*, devoted to a system, and puffed up with a vain conceit of profound knowledge, not worth possessing. The building may look fair and stately to the eye of an unskilful or inaccurate observer; but it's *foundation* is

⁴ Hebrew points (or Niqud) are used to indicate vowels and other details affecting pronunciation.

⁵ '[...] in number they are scarcely as many as the gates of Thebes or the mouths of the Nile' (Juvenal).

on the sand. The absurdity, however, and inefficacy of this method is sufficiently apparent from one obvious circumstance; which is, that the ingenuous youth (and to such I appeal) eager for knowledge and burning for improvement, is wearied and disgusted by this tedious process, unsuitable to his taste and years. He struggles against nature, but in vain. The weaknesses of mortality are no match for such an adversary.

----- succombant sous l'effort,
Soupire, étend les bras, ferme l'œil, et s'endort.⁶

Now in this, and in all that I shall say upon the subject, when no name is specified, I solemnly declare, that I have no particular individuals in view, but argue for the *genius* of their plans, connected only with their inevitable effects; and that the office of *divinity-tutor*, wherever I have been concerned in these institutions, was, *injudiciously*, ably, and laboriously discharged.⁷

Nor is a want of judgement much less conspicuous in the *mathematical* and *philosophical* operations of these seminaries.⁸

The student is too long detained in the *elements* of science, considering the customary term of his continuance; which are dry, and abstract, and, as experience proves, exceedingly unpalatable to the generality of young minds. The pupil should be carried forward with all the expedition, that a faithful and accurate initiation will admit, to a practical application of his principles; to the striking, amusing, and instructive truths of the *four* branches of *natural philosophy*, and to the sublime demonstrations of the *Newtonian* system of the universe. But how can he be expected to relish those tedious theories, of which he sees no end and application? This is so abundantly authorised by fact, and is in itself so self-evident, as to render a further discussion of the point nothing less than an inexcusable insult to the understanding of the reader.

With respect to *metaphysics*, *morals*, *history*, and *politics*,⁹ young men in these institutions are dosed with such infusions to a degree, that makes even the strongest stomach regurgitate under the operation. These lectures are of little utility in such an *early* stage of life: the faculties are not yet qualified to love or comprehend them: and

⁶ From Pierre-Joseph Thoulier D'Olivet's *Traité de la prosodie françoise* (1737): 'Succumbing under the effort, he sighs, extends the arm, closes the eye, and falls asleep.'

⁷ Although Wakefield does not name his target, he is in fact attacking the system of teaching Divinity introduced at New College by Thomas Belsham. Belsham's lectures on the subject were subsequently published in revised form as *A Calm Enquiry into the Scripture Doctrine Concerning the Person of Christ* (1811).

⁸ Abraham Rees (1743-1825) was the Tutor of Mathematics at New College. Joseph Priestley was the Tutor of Natural Philosophy from 1791 to 1794. In 1794 he published *Heads of Lectures on a Course of Natural Philosophy...Delivered in the New College, Hackney*.

⁹ The substance of the lectures on Metaphysics and Morals was subsequently published in Thomas Belsham's *Elements of the Philosophy of the Mind, and of Moral Philosophy* (1801); the lectures on History and Politics were published in Priestley's *Lectures on History, and General Policy* (1788).

words are employed, and questions answered, without any distinct or correspondent ideas upon the mind. I know from experience, that what I say is very near the truth: besides that I condemn exceedingly, as prejudicial and even ruinous, this method of conveying knowledge in precomposed lectures, which leave no proper independent exertion for the understanding and industry of the student. The greatest service of tuition to any youth, is to teach him THE EXERCISE OF HIS OWN POWERS; to conduct him by that gradual progress to the hill of knowledge, in which he sees and secures his own way, and rejoices in a consciousness of his own faculties and his own proficiency. Nothing but puppies and sciolists can be expected to be formed by any other process. An able tutor, therefore, at a proper period of the student's life, should point out to him the most valuable authors in these different provinces of literature for his own private studies, with leave to consult him in difficulty and confer with him on stated occasions; and as for *lectures* in these branches, they destroy *time* only, tempt patience, and are an affront to an understanding moderately endowed by nature. A capacity for employing time with pleasure and advantage, the grand security from immorality and dissipation! is the most useful consequence of instruction: but how can this valuable end be attained, where the pupil has every thing provided to his hands in a stated course of traditionary lectures; which, in some cases, he is expected to transcribe? This may be called the mere *Poper*y of education.

To instance particularly in the case of *history*, where every student of moderate faculties is competent in his own instruction; and the *belles-lettres*, in which the *classical tutor* will teach all, that is valuable, in his regular course, if he have abilities equal to his office; what can be more contemptible, than for a youth to be descanting upon the style of *Thucydides* and *Demosthenes*, who has never read one syllable of the *orator* or the *historian*? Is not this *implicit faith* and *foppishness* in perfection? – Away with these whimsies, away with such trumpery, from the earth!

As for *classical literature* it is very imperfectly known among the *dissenters*, and, what is infinitely worse, and makes the case almost desperate, in little estimation with them. *Damnant quod non intelligunt*.¹⁰ This is true, I am sorry to declare, even of some, whose characters are deservedly on other accounts high among the learned of every description. We need to go farther in seeking a motive to this conduct, than to an application of *Æsop's* fable of the *Fox and Grapes* to the particular case under contemplation.¹¹ "It is," say these self-complacent *philosophers*, "a mere knowledge of WORDS only." And what are *words*, we might ask them on their own assertion, but expressions of *ideas*? And *whose* ideas can be better worth acquiring, than those of the most accomplished *Poets, Orators, Moralists, Historians, and Politicians*, that ever adorned human nature, under the reign of freedom, when authors spake what they thought without impediment? Besides, whatever is excellent in modern times owes

¹⁰ 'They condemn what they do not understand' (Cicero).

¹¹ In *Æsop's* 'The Fox and the Grapes' the fox, on failing to reach the grapes hanging on a vine, commented that 'The grapes are probably sour anyway'.

at least *half* it's acquisitions to these parents of all science – these universal instructors of mankind; without whom our philosophical objectors would still have been, in all probability, but *painted barbarians*. And what soul of any *curiosity* or *ambition* will chuse to receive so considerable a proportion of their information at *second hand*? Why need I mention, that the extraordinary pains, which these ancients took in their compositions, have made their works the completest specimens of elegance and correctness, that human wit will probably ever be able to produce? And is not a correct and elegant style an excellent accomanyment in any literary composition? Where can the student cull such flowers of sentiment, favourable to civil liberty, as in the *orators, moralists, and historians, of Greece and Rome*? And why need I mention that exquisite *feast of soul*, which the *poetry* of the ancients furnishes to the taste, and which the greatest geniuses of later days, the best judges of such excellence, have venerated to idolatry?

And surely no ingenuous mind will unrelentingly acquiesce in an ignorance of those writers, which the first characters in every department of letters have agreed to admire and praise. Indeed, it may be asserted as a *general*, and almost an *universal*, truth, that our country has given birth to no *philosophers, moralists, metaphysicians, divines, politicians, lawyers*, and even but few *poets*, of distinguished eminence, who have not laid the foundation of their acquirements deep in ancient literature, which indeed may be justly denominated the sinews of all proficiency: and, where they have been deprived of this advantage by the untowardness of birth and education, they have deeply regretted their infelicity. – Go now, vain babbler! Decide where thou art ignorant; and call this, *pedantry* – a mere knowledge of *words*, and not *things*! “I have never yet seen a despiser of *verbal criticism*,” says my learned and amiable friend DR. EDWARDS of *Cambridge*, in his edition of *Plutarch's Treatise on Education*,¹² “who was remarkable for strength of reasoning, for correctness of style, or for accuracy of erudition. When these scoffers favour the public with their own matchless productions, they excite in the readers the most lively sensations of disgust, either by the poverty of their conceptions and diction, or by an awkward affectation of sublimity and pathos, or by an unskilful selection and confused arrangement of their materials. I am so far from lamenting the years, which are usually passed in a grammar school, that I consider them, *if well employed*, as the most important period of life. The peculiar exercise of the understanding, which is requisite to investigate and ascertain the precise meaning of an ancient author, is the best, if not the only method of training up the juvenile mind to form just conclusions on more momentous subjects. If, on the other hand, boys are permitted or encouraged to wander from one pursuit to another, and to remain satisfied with a superficial knowledge of each; we shall in vain look forward to those mature fruits, without which it will be impossible to establish a character. When I have once found a sciolist, who, on any topic whatever, can manifest the same cogency of argument,

¹² Thomas Edwards, *Plutarchi de Educatione Liberorem Liber* (1791).

which DR. BENTLEY displayed in his dissertation on *Phalaris*;¹³ or the same energy of language, which DR. PARR has lately exhibited in his republication of the tracts of a Warburtonian;¹⁴ (or, let me add, the same comprehension and sagacity in adjusting evidence and detecting ignorance and imposture, discovered by my friend PORSON in his letters to *Archdeacon Travis*);¹⁵ “then, and not till then, I will relinquish verbal criticism as pedantic and useless.”

With these masterly observations, which leave me nothing to add upon the subject, I shall conclude this disputation on *classic learning*.

In general, a great deal too much, beyond what either *experience* or *philosophy* will authorise, is undertaken to be done in a *little time* at *dissenting institutions*. As we have heard of a machine for grinding old people young, so here is a machine set up for grinding young men scholars. The mind is bewildered, the attention palled, by such a multiplicity of pursuits. Nothing is laid hold on, so as to continue with the student for his future profit, but *conceit*. It is an *eel*: you handle the creature from head to tail; every part passes regularly through your fingers, but the whole slips away at last, and leaves only *slime* behind it. You may get a *mouthful* of learning, as *Dr. Johnson* expresst it, but not a *belly-full*.¹⁶ The student grows fatigued, and sickens: he comes to his lecture as to a *task*; listens without *delight*, and consequently without *improvement*. It is a serious evil; and a truth, to which those, who are the best judges, the *Hackney students* themselves, will, I dare say, at this moment bear ample testimony.

Instead of baiting for the public with a bill of fare, that engages for a digestion of the whole *Encyclopædia* in *three years*, the very quintessence of *empyricism*! parents should honestly be told what *experience* dictates to be just, and what the *human faculties* will bear. The rider's speed must be regulated by the abilities of his horse. If you expect more than this, the tutor should say, you expect what is impossible. We have no *strong food* in our literary larder, that will nourish up your puny bantling in so short a compass into a son of *Anac*.¹⁷ – We might make loud and confident pretensions; but we should wrong you, and deceive the public.

Upon the strength, therefore, of these glaring improprieties, uninforced by the accession of the auxiliary objections, abundant in the present case, without arrogant pretensions to superior foresight, I may now say to the *committee* of *Hackney-college*; “Gentlemen! if some essential reformation is not adopted in these points of education, on which I have so long descanted, your foundation, without any other disadvantage, will speedily come to desolation.” And I wish that part of the

¹³ Richard Bentley (1662-1742), theologian and classical scholar. His *The Dissertation upon the Epistles of Phalaris* was first published in 1697.

¹⁴ Samuel Parr, *Tracts by Warburton and a Warburtonian* (1789).

¹⁵ Richard Porson, *Letters to Mr Archdeacon Travis, in Answer to his Defence of the Three Heavenly Witnesses* (1790).

¹⁶ In *Anecdotes of the Late Samuel Johnson* (1786), Hesther Piozzi records Johnson's comment that knowledge was divided among the Scots 'like bread in a besieged town, to every man a mouthful, to no man a bellyful' (203).

¹⁷ In the Book of Joshua, xv 13-14, Caleb drives the three giant sons of Anac - Sezadi, Haiman, and Thalmai - out of Judah.

community, which feels itself really interested in a scheme of truly liberal education, unshackled by servile and immoral conditions of admittance, to turn their attention to the subject, in connexion with what I have advanced, and consider how far it can be prudent in them to patronise such an institution in it's present state, so little calculated to answer the true ends of education. I am conscious of a severe interest in the welfare of the *dissenters*: I most heartily wish to see every branch of useful and ornamental learning flourish in this most respectable class of men: and I here encounter, without one particle of selfishness, which can hardly be supposed to operate in this case, all the malice and opprobrium and misrepresentation of my views from *evil tongues*, which this unreserved declaration of my sentiments will not fail to bring upon me.

5.1 ORIGINS

Introduction

The purpose of this section is to present some of the earliest surviving documents relating to the establishment of New College, Hackney. The material covers a four month period of rapid development from December 1785 to April 1786.

The first recorded meeting of the fledgling body that later became the New College governing committee was held on 13 December 1785 at the London Coffee House. The meeting was chaired by the banker Thomas Rogers, father of the poet Samuel. Before resolving to establish a new metropolitan academy, the committee first sought to ascertain whether Hoxton Academy, which had closed earlier in 1785, had been permanently dissolved or temporarily suspended. Rogers began a correspondence with Joseph Paice (d. 1810), one of the Coward Trustees who was responsible for the governance of the academies at Hoxton and Daventry. Although Rogers failed to elicit a definitive response, the committee proceeded in their efforts to establish a new academy. A publicity campaign was launched appealing for support throughout the country. Within a few months considerable benefactions had been received, experienced tutors had been appointed, and a suitable library and scientific apparatus had been acquired. These developments, however, attracted hostile attention and the first of several stinging attacks on New College was published on 19 April 1786.

The documents presented in this section, both printed and archival, illustrate these early developments. They combine entries in the New College Minute Book, DWL MS 38.14 and selected transcripts from DWL MS 187.2 fols. 1-13. At the first meeting of the governing committee, two meetings in fact took place: firstly, the general meeting attended by thirty-seven men; and subsequently, a meeting of the sub-committee deputed to negotiate with the Coward Trustees. As records for both meetings survive, they are presented as Sections 5.2i and 5.2ii.

5.2i **FIRST MEETING, 13 DECEMBER 1785**

MS: Dr. Williams's Library, MS New College Collection 187.2 fol. 3

London Coffee House Tuesday 13th December 1785

Present	Thomas Rogers Esq. in the Chair ¹	
Mr W Vaughan ²	Mr W ^m Morgan ³	Mr Dodson ⁴
Rev ^d Dr Price ⁵	Mr Towgood ⁶	Mr Slater ⁷
Mr Mallett	Rev ^d Dr Towers ⁸	Mr Downer
Mr T Morgan ⁹	Mr Cotton ¹⁰	Rev ^d Mr Worthington ¹¹
Rev ^d Dr Kippis ¹²	Mr Henshaw ¹³	Mr J Towgood ¹⁴
Mr Newman ¹⁵	Mr Stone ¹⁶	Mr Jellicoe ¹⁷
Mr [Collier?]	Mr Buller ¹⁸	Mr H Amory ¹⁹
Mr Sturch ²⁰	Rev ^d Mr Lindsey ²¹	Mr [Hancott?]
Mr J Stone ²²	Mr B Vaughan ²³	Rev ^d Dr Rees ²⁴

¹ Thomas Rogers (1734/5-93), banker.

² William Vaughan (1752-1850), merchant and reformer.

³ William Morgan (1750-1833), actuary, nephew of Dr Richard Price.

⁴ Michael Dodson (1732-99), barrister and biblical scholar.

⁵ Richard Price (1723-91), dissenting minister and philosopher.

⁶ Matthew Towgood (1732-91), merchant and banker.

⁷ Philip Slater of Poultry.

⁸ Joseph Towers (1737-99), Presbyterian minister and biographer.

⁹ Thomas Morgan (1752-1821), dissenting minister and Dr Williams's Librarian.

¹⁰ Thomas Cotton, dissenting deputy and secretary of the repeal committee.

¹¹ Hugh Worthington (1752-1813), dissenting minister and tutor.

¹² Andrew Kippis (1725-95), dissenting minister, tutor and biographer.

¹³ Edward Henshaw of 154 Denmark Hill, Camberwell.

¹⁴ John Towgood (d. 1827), banker.

¹⁵ Alderman Newman of Hatton Street, or his son William.

¹⁶ William Stone, merchant and radical.

¹⁷ Adam Jellicoe of Highbury Place, Islington.

¹⁸ William Buller of Wilton.

¹⁹ H. G. Armory of 29 Clement Lane.

²⁰ William Sturch (1753-1838), theological writer and ironmonger.

²¹ Theophilus Lindsey (1723-1808), Unitarian minister and theologian.

Mr Blackburn²⁵

Mr Lewis

Mr Philips

Mr Wansey²⁶

Mr Heywood²⁷

Mr Wright

Mr Macmurdo²⁸

Mr Amory²⁹

Mr Lawrence

Agreed Unanimously

That a Committee of Two Ministers & Seven Lay Gentlemen be deputed from this Meeting to wait upon the Trustees of the late Mr W Coward Esq. to express to them our Concern at the Dissolution of the Hoxton Academy & to request Information whether they have any Intention to re-establish that Academy on the same plan with that by which it was lately conducted.³⁰

Agreed Unanimously

That the following Gentlemen be that Committee

Rev^d Dr Price

Matt Towgood Esq^r

Rev^d Mr Worthington

Benj Vaughan Esq^r

Tho^s Rogers Esq^r

Mr Slater

S. Heywood Esq^r

Mr Wansey

Mich Dodson Esq^r

²² John Hurford Stone (1763-1818), merchant, printer and radical.

²³ Benjamin Vaughan (1751-1835), political reformer and MP.

²⁴ Abraham Rees (1743-1825), dissenting minister, tutor and encyclopaedist.

²⁵ William Blackburn (1750-90), architect.

²⁶ John Wansey of Lothbury.

²⁷ Samuel Heywood (1753-1828), lawyer and author.

²⁸ Edward Macmurdo of Cheapside.

²⁹ Samuel Amory of 29 Clement Lane.

³⁰ William Coward (1647/8-1738) was a London merchant and generous benefactor to the cause of Protestant dissent. On his death, he left considerable funds in trust for the education and training of prospective dissenting ministers. The Coward Trust supported two academies at Daventry and Hoxton. In 1785, however, financial difficulties and the resignation of tutors resulted in the closure of Hoxton Academy.

5.2ii FIRST MEETING, 13 DECEMBER 1785¹

MS: Dr Williams's Library 38.14, Hackney College Minutes 1785-91, fols. 1-2.

London Coffee House Dec^r 13th 1785

Present Thomas Rogers Esq^r in the Chair
D^r Price, M^r Dodson, M^r Worthington, M^r Towgood, M^r Heywood, M^r Vaughan, M^r Wansey.

The resolutions of the Governing Committee appointing this Committee were read and are now as follows:

Resolved Unanimously, that a Committee of two Ministers and seven lay Gentlemen be deputed from this Meeting to wait upon the Trustees of the late William Coward Esq^r to express to them our concern at the dissolution of the Hoxton Academy, and to request information whether they have any intention to reestablish that Academy on the same plan with that by which it was lately conducted.

Resolved unanimously, that the following Gentlemen be that Committee viz. Thomas Rogers Esq^r Sam^l Heywood Esq^r Michael Dodson Esq^r Matthew Towgood Esq^r Benjamin Vaughan Esq^r M^r Slater² M^r Wansey Rev^d D^r Price, Rev^d M^r Worthington: and that any five of them have power to act in pursuance of the resolutions of this Meeting.

Resolved, that the resolutions of the General Meeting appointing this Committee be enclosed in a letter directed to Joseph Paice Esq^r of which a copy is subjoined.³ And that an answer be requested informing the Committee, when they shall have an interview

¹ These minutes relate to the meeting of the sub-committee deputed to correspond with the Coward Trustees regarding the closure of Hoxton Academy. This followed the meeting of the general committee, the minutes of which as transcribed in Section 5.2i.

² Philip Slater of Poultry.

³ Joseph Paice (d. 1810), Coward Trustee and Director of the South Sea Company.

Copy of the letter of the Committee

London Coffee House Dec^r 13th 1785

Sir,

I have the honour to enclose a list of the names of a number of respectable Gentlemen in the Dissenting Interest, who met at the London Coffee House this evening, and came to the resolutions which you will find subjoined to it. In the name of their Committee I take the liberty of requesting to be informed by you of the earliest day, when yourself and the other Gentlemen Trustees under the Will of William Coward Esq^r will favour the Committee alluded to with an interview on the subject expressed in the enclosed resolutions, at such place as the Trustees shall be pleased to appoint.

I remain with the greatest respect, Sir

Your most obed^t Servant
Thomas Rogers

Resolved that the Chairman summon the Committee as soon as he has received an answer from M^r Cowards Trustees.

5.3 SECOND MEETING, 16 DECEMBER 1785

MS: Dr Williams's Library 38.14, Hackney College Minutes 1785-91, fols. 2-3.

Norths Coffee House Dec^r 16th 1785

Present Thomas Rogers Esq^r in the Chair
Mr Towgood, Mr Dodson, Mr Vaughan, Mr Slater,
Rev^d Mr Worthington, D^r Price.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read & confirmed. A letter from the Trustees of William Coward Esq^r signed Joseph Paice and directed to Thomas Rogers Esq^r was read and is as follows.

Bread Street Hill Dec^r 15th 1785

Sir,

I am directed by my fraternity of Mr Cowards Trustees to transmit to you our unanimous determination, after deliberating on the letter you favoured me with, and the resolutions therein contained. The resignation of the Tutors at the Hoxton Academy have ever since that period required so much deliberation and created so many difficulties to the Trustees,¹ that they have yet been unable to come to any determination, whether they can or cannot continue an Academical institution in the Neighbourhood of London. But if, in answer to this letter, the Trustees, by a line from you, Sir, shall be informed that any valuable interest may be affected by delay, the Trustees, having never detained the expectations of the Public in uncertainty by any voluntary act or omission on their part, will immediately come to a determination, which only the presupposed consideration could influence them to believe is as yet their duty to do. [End of Paice's letter]

A letter was prepared and read, in reply to that of Mr Paice, of which a copy is subjoined.

¹ In the summer of 1785 Andrew Kippis and Abraham Rees resigned as tutors of Hoxton Academy, prompting the dissolution of the institution. Kippis and Rees were both founding governors and tutors at New College, Hackney.

London Dec^r 16th 1785

Sir,

I am honoured with your letter of the 14th instant, which I have had the pleasure of communicating to the Committee. They have desired me to say, that if the Trustees of Mr Coward will be so good as to appoint an early day for the conference requested, they have no doubt of stating such reasons as shall incline you and the Gentlemen with whom you act to favor us with an immediate and explicit reply to the request we have been directed and again take the liberty to offer viz. of being informed whether the Trustees design to re-establish the Hoxton Academy on the same plan by which it was lately conducted.²

Resolved that this letter is approved and the Chairman is desired to subscribe his name to it and convey it to Mr Paice.

² For the original copy of Rogers's letter to Paice, see DWL MS New College Collection 187.2 f. 4.

5.4 THIRD MEETING, 4 JANUARY 1786

MS: Dr Williams's Library 38.14, Hackney College Minutes 1785-91, fols. 3-6.

Norths Coffee house Jan^y 4th 1786

Present Thomas Rogers Esq^r in the Chair
Mr Towgood, Mr Vaughan, Mr Slater, Rev^d Mr Worthington,
Mr Dodson, D^r Price.

The Chairman communicated to the Committee a letter, which he received from Mr Cowards Trustees signed Joseph Paice which is as follows:

Bread Street Hill Dec^r 29th 1785

Sir

I have embraced the first opportunity of laying before Mr Cowards Trustees the last letter, which I had the honour of receiving from you; to which they make the following reply. When the Tutors at Hoxton resigned, the Trustees were desirous of continuing the institution on the same principle upon which it had been conducted: and accordingly used their endeavours to fill the Theological Chair, as it had been always filled,¹ with a person, who, to the necessary qualification of learning joined, what is no less necessary, a proper regard to the right of private judgment and the object of Mr Coward's trust, and would take upon himself the government of the family. In these endeavours they have not hitherto succeeded; but are determined to wait some time longer to see, whether any events in providence will turn up, that may enable them to re-establish the Academy at Hoxton. Whenever they either obtain the object of their wishes or entirely abandon the pursuit of it, they will give notice to you, Sir: or any other Gentleman.

As you are now in possession of an explicit declaration of their intentions, there can be no occasion for the interview you request in order to inform them what reasons you had for asking them to make that declaration.

¹ Samuel Morton Savage (1721-91), a moderate Calvinist, had been Divinity Tutor at Hoxton Academy since the institution had moved from Wellclose Square to Hoxton in 1762. William Coward's will required the Divinity tutors at the academies under the direction of his charity to uphold the principles of Calvinism. When Savage resigned from Hoxton in 1785, neither Kippis (a Socinian) nor Rees (an Arian) were able on theological grounds to replace him. In 1789 Thomas Belsham's conversion to Unitarian doctrine resulted in his resignation as Divinity Tutor at Daventry Academy, the other institution under the control of the Coward Trust. Daventry closed shortly afterwards.

Mr Coward appointed four Trustees to manage his Charities, and left them free from every controul but that of their own consciences. Were they to subject themselves to any other, impossible would it be for them to discharge their duty with fidelity and honour. Nor do they see occasion for the interference of any Gentlemen of any description, as the Trustees are competent to their office, and are in no danger of falling into any great error, having a plain rule to go by, no private or party views to bias their judgment, and being governed solely by a regard to the faithfull execution of their Trust.

I am sincerely Sir

You respectful and very humble Servant Joseph Paice

Resolved, that the Chairman transmit to the Trustees of Mr Coward the following reply

London Jan^y 7th 1786

Sir

I have received the letter dated the 29th of last month, with which you have favoured me, containing the answer of Mr Cowards Trustees to the request which I transmitted to you from the Committee, of which I am Chairman.²

Our request was, that the Trustees would be so good as to tell us, whether they do or do not intend to re-establish the late Hoxton Academy, on the same plan with that on which it has hitherto been conducted; And also that they would allow us, by an interview, to state our reasons for desiring that this information might be given us explicitly and without delay.

The answer that you have conveyed to us is, "that the Trustees are determined to wait in order to see whether any events in Providence will turn up, that may enable them to re-establish that academy; and that whenever they shall obtain the object of their wishes, or abandon entirely the pursuit of it, they will give notice not only to us, but to any other Gentleman."

I am directed to acquaint you, that we feel ourselves disappointed by this answer; and that it does not give us the information we wished for and which we had important reason for desiring.

We shall, however, as soon as possible report it to the Gentlemen, who have deputed us.

Some expressions having fallen from the Trustees, which will be thought by the Public to imply, that the Committee have attempted to controul them in the Execution of their Trust, we find ourselves obliged to observe, that we have given no reason for any such charge; having only requested the information just stated and an interview for obtaining it, as a step necessary to be taken before we come to a final determination with respect to Measures, which we think of the last importance to

² At this stage the fledgling body which later became the governing committee of New College was known as the 'Committee for Establishing a New Academical Institution in or near to the Metropolis'.

that denomination of Protestant Dissenters to which we belong, and to the Protestant Dissenting Interest in general.³

At the same time, however, they must add, that had they instead of confining themselves to a mere request for information, proceeded so far as to give an opinion or even advice on the subject of a public Trust which if improperly conducted, would injure an Interest they have deeply at heart, they would not have needed an apology.⁴

I am, Sir

Tho^s Rogers.⁵

Adjourned to the half moon next Saturday at 2 ° Clock

³ Rogers refers to the proposal to establish a new academy in or near to London.

⁴ The Coward Trustees had been criticised for their role in the closure of Hoxton Academy, see DWL, MS 187.2 f.1.

⁵ For the original copy of Rogers's letter to Paice see DWL MS New College Collection 187.2 f. 5.

5.5 RESOLUTIONS, 28 JANUARY 1786

TEXT: Dr. Williams's Library, New College Collection 187.2 fol. 6 [printed broadside]

ADDRESS: Mr Paice N^o 27 Breadstreet Hill

LONDON, *January 28th*, 1786.

SIR,

The Resolutions, a copy of which we now send you, will inform you of an undertaking, in which a considerable number of Dissenting Ministers and Laymen have engaged. Deeply impressed by a conviction of the importance of a liberal plan of education, they think nothing so necessary to the prosperity of the interest, to which, as Protestant Dissenters, they are attached, as proper Institutions for the education of their Youth; and more especially for preserving a succession of able Ministers, by communicating to candidates for the Ministry such instructions, and, subjecting them to such discipline, as shall best assist them in judging for themselves, improve them in valuable knowledge, guard them against bigotry and party prejudices, and at the same time form their characters to a rational piety and zeal; and thus qualify them for doing honour to their profession, and for conducting the services of religion among us with credit and success.

After enjoying the benefit of such Institutions, formerly at Taunton, under Mr. Grove and Dr. Amory;¹ at Bridgwater, under Mr. Moore;² at Findern near Derby, under Dr. Latham;³ and at Kendal, under Dr. Rotheram⁴; and lately at Warrington, Exeter, and Hoxton;⁵ we now see ourselves reduced to a single Academical Institution at Daventry, in Northamptonshire, supported by the late Mr. Coward's Trust.⁶ We think highly of this Institution; we respect the tutor at the head of it; and we wish it all possible success. But it is by no means adequate to all our exigencies, nor does it answer all our views. In consequence of its distance, that part of the Dissenting Interest which is situated in and

¹ Henry Grove (1684-1738) and his nephew Thomas Armory (1701-74) were principal tutors at Taunton Academy (1670?-1759).

² John Moore (1643?-1717) established an academy at Bridgwater, c. 1688.

³ Dr Ebenezer Latham (c.1688-1734) succeeded Thomas Hill as the principal tutor at Findern Academy (1710?-54).

⁴ Caleb Rotheram (1694-1752) established a dissenting academy at Kendal in 1729.

⁵ Warrington Academy had closed in 1783, Exeter in 1771, and Hoxton in 1785.

⁶ Daventry Academy closed shortly after Thomas Belsham's resignation as Divinity Tutor in 1789.

near London, and in the prosperity of which the General Interest is so materially concerned, is subject to many discouragements. And we think it necessary to observe, that whatever inconveniences may be apprehended from establishing the proposed Institution in the vicinity of London, the experience of similar Institutions gives just reason to expect, that such inconveniences may, with proper attention, be avoided or counterbalanced. The Metropolis is the centre to which all orders of men naturally direct their attention. It is the place where most persons have some relations or friends – where able tutors in every branch of literature and science can be most easily procured – where supplies for Congregations are most frequently wanted – where Students will have opportunities of forming important connections, of hearing a variety of Preachers, and of procuring access to valuable libraries – and where Divinity-students in particular may obtain the assistance of donations and funds, more ample and numerous than any that are to be found elsewhere. But above all, it is the situation, where *alone* can be enjoyed the *essential* advantage of a superintending Committee, *always present*, for regulating and governing an Academical Institution.⁷

Under the influence of these and other considerations, the annexed Resolutions have been unanimously agreed to; and if they should be approved and supported in other parts of the kingdom with an ardour like that with which they have been adopted in London, they will answer the farther very desirable purpose of cementing together a body of men at present too little known to one another, and too unconnected.

It is obvious, that the extent of our plan, comprehending two great objects, expressed in the 4th and 5th Resolutions, must depend, in a great measure, on the degree of encouragement which will be given to it. We, therefore, request the favour of you to acquaint us, by a letter directed to our Chairman, or any friend in the Committee, how far our views meet with your approbation and that of your friends.

We shall thankfully receive any information or advice: and if favoured with your concurrence, shall continue to transmit to you an account of our proceedings.

Should we be so happy as to find, that the liberal minded in general among the great body of Dissenters are disposed to unite their zeal and exertions to ours, the undertaking, in its utmost extent, will be no less practicable than important: and we shall reflect with pleasure that, by such concurrence, we are enabled to serve a cause, which we think in the highest degree friendly to truth and free inquiry, and consequently to genuine Christianity and the best interests of mankind.

We are, Sir, with great respect,

Your most humble servants,

⁷ The New College superintending committee was designed to deal effectively with all disciplinary issues. The committee, however, proved to be a remarkable failure. As Thomas Belsham noted, instead of addressing disciplinary problems, it had the effect of adding to them as a consequence of its own inefficiency. See Thomas Belsham, *Memoirs of the Late Reverend Theophilus Lindsey* (London, 1812), 283.

THOMAS ROGERS, Chairman, Newington Green,
MICHAEL DODSON, Boswell Court,
SAMUEL HEYWOOD, Harpur-Street,
ADAM JELLICOE, Highbury-Place, Islington,
ANDREW KIPPIS, Crown-Street, Westminster,
WILLIAM NEWMAN, Snow-Hill,
RICHARD PRICE, Newington-Green,
ABRAHAM REES, Old Jewry,
THOMAS RICKARDS, Hackney,
SAMUEL SHORE, JUN., Lincoln's Inn,⁸
PHILIP SLATER, Poultry,
MATTHEW TOWGOOD, Hackney,
BENJAMIN VAUGHAN, Jeffries-Square,
JOHN WANSEY, Lothbury,
HUGH WORTHINGTON, Highbury-Place, Islington.

LONDON, *January 13th, 1786.*

At a numerous and respectable Meeting of PROTESTANT DISSENTERS, held by adjournment, to consider their situation with regard to Seminaries for the education of their Ministers and Youth on liberal principles; the proceedings of a former Meeting of December 13th having been read, as well as those of the COMMITTEE then appointed to make application to Mr. Coward's Trustees concerning the revival of the Hoxton Academy; THOMAS ROGERS, Esq. was called to the Chair, and the following Resolutions were agreed to.

- I. RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY, That the declaration made on the part of Mr. Coward's Trustees contains no satisfactory information respecting the revival of the Hoxton Academy on its late plan; and does not render unnecessary the vigorous exertions of others for the immediate establishment of a similar Institution.
- II. RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY, That it is of the greatest importance to PROTESTANT DISSENTERS, that proper Seminaries should be established, on liberal principles, for the education of their Ministers.
- III. RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY, That the dissolution of the Academies at Hoxton, Warrington, and Exeter, renders the most serious and general attention to this important subject immediately necessary: the Academy at Daventry alone, though highly respectable and useful, being inadequate to the exigencies of our present situation.

⁸ Samuel Shore Jr. (1761?-1836), manufacturer.

- IV. RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY, That, in these circumstances, we esteem it our duty to attempt, without delay, the establishment of an ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION, in or near the Metropolis, for the education of Ministers.
- V. RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY, That it will be right so to form the proposed Institution, that Young Men, not intended for the Ministry, may be admissible thereto, under proper restrictions and regulations.
- VI. RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY, That Mr. Coward's Trust has been of very great use to the Dissenting Interest: and that, by these resolutions, we only mean to promote a common Cause, in the support of which Mr. Coward's Trustees and ourselves are equally interested.
- VII. RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY, That the Chairman be desired to transmit a copy of these resolutions to Mr. Coward's Trustees, that they may be acquainted with the real intentions of this Meeting.
- VIII. RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY, That the Chairman be desired to transmit a copy of these resolutions to the Trustees of the late Warrington and Exeter Academies; and to request their concurrence in favour of the object of them.
- IX. RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY, That the thanks of this meeting be given to the Committee for their conduct in the application to Mr. Coward's Trustees.
- X. RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY, That the present Committee, consisting of the following nine Gentlemen, viz. Thomas Rogers, Rev. Dr. Price, Rev. Hugh Worthington, Matthew Towgood, Michael Dodson, Samuel Heywood, Benjamin Vaughan, Philip Slater, and John Wansey, be continued: and that the following six Gentlemen, viz. Rev. Dr. Kippis, Rev. Dr. Rees, Adam Jellicoe, William Newman, Samuel Shore, jun. and Thomas Rickards, be added to it: and that any Seven of them have power to act.
- XI. RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY, That, the subject of these resolutions being of a nature equally affecting the PROTESTANT DISSENTERS in every part of the kingdom, the Committee be instructed to request the concurrence and support of the friends to such an Institution, and be desired to take measures preparatory to another GENERAL MEETING and the choice of a GENERAL COMMITTEE.
- XII. RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY, That the thanks of this Meeting be given to the Chairman for his zealous and impartial conduct.

(Signed)

THOMAS ROGERS.

5.6 RESOLUTIONS, 10 MARCH 1786

TEXT: Dr. Williams's Library, New College Collection 187.2 f. 8 [printed
broadside]

ADDRESS: Josh^h. Paice Esq^r, N^o 27 Breadstreet Hill

LONDON, *March* 10th, 1786.

At a numerous and respectable Meeting of the Friends of a New ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION among Protestant Dissenters, for the education of their Ministers and Youth, THOMAS ROGERS, Esq. was called to the Chair; and the proceedings of the last General Meeting of January 13th having been read and unanimously confirmed, the Chairman made the following Report from the Committee: viz.

GENTLEMEN,

In pursuance of the Instructions of the last General Meeting, your Committee have endeavoured to accomplish the end of their appointment. For this purpose, they have transmitted to the Trustees of Warrington and Exeter Academies copies of the resolutions of the last said Meeting; and have circulated other copies through various parts of the kingdom, accompanied with a letter representing the importance of the intended Institution.

Your Committee have made particular application to the Trustees of Warrington Academy for the use of the Library and apparatus of that Institution, and for Assistance out of its remaining funds, under such restrictions as might be thought necessary:¹ and they have received letters, in return, from several of the Trustees, containing assurances of their disposition to promote your Plan, and to favour the attainment of the object of your wishes.

Letters have also been received from some of our Friends who are Trustees of the Exeter Academy, expressing their approbation of the Design.

¹ The New College governors applied to the governing committee of the Warrington Academy for the use of its library, scientific apparatus, and remaining funds. Eventually, it was decided that the remaining funds would be equally divided between New College and Manchester Academy. The library was donated to Manchester Academy and the scientific apparatus given to New College.

Your Committee have the pleasure of adding, that many respectable persons, in different parts of the kingdom, have communicated their sentiments to the same effect; and afforded us good reason to hope for their zealous concurrence and support.

Besides these general expressions of approbation and encouragement, many Friends of the Institution, both in town and country, have explicitly declared their intention of aiding it by liberal contributions, as soon as a subscription is opened for that purpose.

In addition to the extensive correspondence which has been carried on by your Committee, they have employed themselves in preparing a number of Propositions relative to the establishment and external regulation of the intended Academy, in order to submit the same to your consideration. Having proceeded thus far in the business, they have called you together to lay before you a Report of what they have done, that you may determine upon such measures as you shall now judge to be proper for the completion of the great Object in view.

When your Committee reflect on the zeal and liberality of the Friends to the present Plan; on the expected permanence of the Institution; on the benefits likely to result from it to the interest of truth and religion, learning and liberty; and, especially on the effect it may have on the knowledge and virtue, the reputation and happiness of the rising generation among Protestant Dissenters; - they come before you with peculiar satisfaction; not doubting that your proceedings on this occasion will have an unanimity and a spirit, worthy of the important Design which you are met together to protect, to encourage, and to carry into full execution.

The Report having been read, the following Resolutions were proposed and UNANIMOUSLY agreed to, viz.

- I. THAT it is the opinion of this Meeting, that there is sufficient encouragement to establish an Academical Institution for the education of our Ministers and Youth, on liberal principles, and to hope that it will be permanent: and, therefore, that the business of forming such an Institution be undertaken without farther delay, and vigorously pursued: that the situation of it be in the neighbourhood of London: and that it be opened, if possible, for the reception of Students, on or before the 29th of September next.²
- II. THAT a payment of forty guineas or upwards, in one sum, shall constitute a Governor for life; and that the payment of two, three, four, or five guineas, or upwards, before the 24th of June next, as an annual subscription, shall constitute an Annual Governor:³ but that, in order to give stability to the proceedings of General Meetings, and permanence to the Institution, some farther regulations be adopted

² New College, Hackney received its first students on 29 September 1787. For the academic year from September 1786 to July 1787 it was conducted in Dr Williams's Library on Red Cross Street, Cripplegate.

³ For an important list of more than 400 governors for life and annual governors for 1786, see *List of Subscribers to the New Academical Institution Established in the Neighbourhood of London in 1786* (London, 1788) [available on ECCO].

as to those who shall become Annual Subscribers after the 24th of June, or the 25th of December, immediately preceding the time of subscription; and that they be collected for the ensuing year. – That Governors shall have a right to vote at all General Meetings, and be eligible into the General Committee: except such Annual Governors whose subscriptions are in arrears.

- III. THAT a General Annual Meeting of the Governors of the Institution be held on the third Wednesday in January, to elect officers, receive reports, and transact other business respecting the Institution.
- IV. THAT A GENERAL COMMITTEE, consisting of 60 members, of whom a proportion shall be elected from among the Governors in the country, be chosen by the next General Meeting: and that this Committee have power to take such measures as they shall think most proper for the establishment and support of the Institution; to direct the appropriation of its funds and other property; and to contract and fulfil the engagements necessary for attaining the objects of it: and that they have power also, subject to the control of General Meetings, to form rules and orders for the internal management of the Institution; particularly respecting the admission, education, or exclusion of the Students; and the means proper to be used for promoting their religious temper, and moral conduct.
- V. THAT six vacancies shall be declared in the General Committee at each General Annual Meeting; being such as shall be occasioned by death, resignation, or failure of subscription: or, if the vacancies so occasioned shall not amount to six, this number shall be completed by lot, confined to the Members of the original Committee, while any such remain; and afterwards by rotation, and lot if necessary.
- VI. THAT all vacancies in the General Committee shall be filled up at the General Annual Meeting in January: and that the Members, whose place therein shall have been vacated, shall not be thereby incapacitated for re-election.
- VII. THAT four Governors be chosen by the General Meeting out of the general Committee as Trustees; who shall sign a proper declaration, or deed of trust, so that all property, real or personal, vested in them for the benefit of the Institution, together with the issues or profits thereof, may be laid out and transferred upon land, buildings, or other property, or upon real or government securities, or applied for the immediate use and support of the Institution, as the general Committee shall direct: such persons to be permanent Members of the Trust, and of the General Committee, while they remain qualified as Governors; and all vacancies in the Trust to be filled up by a General Meeting.
- VIII. THAT three Governors be chosen by the general Meeting out of the general Committee, as a Committee of Treasury, who shall receive and disburse the current

cash of the Institution, and superintend the collection of subscriptions, under the direction and control of the General Committee.

- IX. THAT three Governors, not being members of the General Committee, be appointed by each Annual General Meeting, to audit the accounts of the Institution, and report thereon to the ensuing General Meeting.
- X. THAT an Officer, under the denomination of a Clerk or Collector, be annually chosen by the General Committee, at such a salary as they shall appoint; who shall enter the accounts of the Institution in a book, circulate notices for the General Meetings and the Meetings of Committees, attend such Meetings, keep minutes of all proceedings, and collect the annual subscriptions: and that such Officer shall enter into a bond to the Trustees, with one or more sureties, in the penalty of 500l. or of any other sum which the Committee shall appoint, for the due payment into the hands of the Treasurers of all monies, which he shall collect or receive for the use of the Institution.
- XI. THAT the General Committee shall meet at six o' clock in the afternoon, on the first Tuesday after each Quarter-day, or oftener, if necessary, four of their number having power to summon any extraordinary Meeting; and thirteen having on all occasions, power to act: that they keep regular minutes of their proceedings, to be reported to the ensuing General Meeting: and that they have power at any time to summon a General Meeting, on giving ten days notice of the time and place, and of the purpose for which it is summoned.
- XII. THAT the General Committee do appoint from among themselves, at every Quarterly Meeting, a SUPERINTENDING COMMITTEE, consisting of seven Members, to meet once a month, or oftener; three of them having power to act; for the purpose of visiting the Institution; of attending to the execution of the rules and orders for the management of it; of inquiring into the conduct and improvement of the Students, and of maintaining the authority of the Tutors, and enforcing proper discipline;⁴ particularly by suspension, during pleasure, of any Student, if it should be found necessary. And that the Superintending Committee have power to summon a Meeting of the General Committee, and that any one of the Tutors shall have power to assemble the Superintending Committee.
- XIII. THAT Gentlemen of ability and character be engaged as soon as possible as Tutors: due regard being had in the appointment of such to the funds and the objects of the Institution.

⁴ For Thomas Belsham's account of the failure of the New College superintending committee, see his *Memoirs of the Late Theophilus Lindsey* (London, 1812), 283.

- XIV. The Chairman having reported, that he has reason to hope, that the reverend Dr. Price, Dr. Kippis, Dr. Rees, and Mr. Worthington,⁵ may be prevailed upon to take a part in the conduct of this Institution as Tutors: Resolved, that application be made to these Gentlemen for this purpose; and that an addition be made of such Tutor, or Tutors, as shall seem necessary for attaining the ends of the Institution.
- XV. THAT all vacancies among the Tutors of the Institution be filled by the General Committee.
- XVI. THAT the students will lodge and board in a house to be provided for that purpose, at the expence of the Institution: and that one or more of the Tutors be resident: one of whom shall have the governance of the family.
- XVII. THAT no Divinity-students be admitted under the age of 16 years; nor any Lay-students under the age of 15 years nor above the age of 18 years – that no Student be admitted without sufficient testimonials – and that the rules and orders formed for the internal government of the Institution be read, in the presence of at least three Members of the Superintending Committee, to each Student at his admission, who shall declare his resolution of conforming to them.
- XVIII. THAT there be an annual examination of the Students on the Tuesday after the first Sunday in October, in the presence of such Members of the General Committee as shall chuse to attend, and such friends as may be invited: and that one day in the month, during the session, be set apart for the delivery of compositions of different kinds by the Students, before the Tutors, and any Members of the Committee, or any of their friends, who may attend.
- XIX. That the students be required to assemble on or before the third Monday in September; and that the session begin on the Monday, next after the 29th of September, and close on the 1st of July.
- XX. THAT on the last Wednesday in April an Annual Sermon shall be preached before the friends of the Institution, by a Minister appointed by the General Committee, on some subject relating to religious liberty, the rights of private judgement, or other fundamental principles of the Institution; and that previous notice be given of the same.⁶

⁵ Richard Price (1723-91), Andrew Kippis (1725-95), Abraham Rees (1743-1825) and Hugh Worthington (1752-1813) were the founder tutors of New College. Price, however, suffered from ill health and his nephew, George Cadogan Morgan (1754-98), quickly assumed his duties.

⁶ Annual sermons were delivered from 1786 to 1791 and each was published by Joseph Johnson (see bibliography). The sermons are provide an important insight into New College life. They were delivered by Andrew Kippis (1786), Richard Price (1787), Abraham Rees (1788), Hugh Worthington (1789), Thomas Belsham (1790), and Joseph Priestley (1791). There is no record of annual sermons after 1791.

XXI. THAT on the same day, the Supporters and Friends of the Institution be invited to dine together, at a place to be appointed by the General Committee.

XXII. THAT it be requested, that all legacies of money, books, philosophical instruments, or other property intended for the uses of the Institution, be bequeathed (for the present) according to the following form: viz.

I give and bequeath the sum of pounds [or other property, according to the case] to Thomas Rogers, Esq. of Newington Green, in the county of Middlesex, to be by him applied to the use of the Academical Institution among Protestant Dissenters in the neighbourhood of London, for the Education of Ministers and Youth, founded in the year 1786.

XXIII. THAT as a permanent fund is of great importance to the prosperity and continued subsistence of this Institution, it be most earnestly recommended to the general Committee to form a plan for the establishment of such a fund, as soon as possible.

XXIV. THAT no laws passed by a General Meeting shall be repealed, or altered, unless two-thirds of two succeeding General Meetings respectively concur in the determination: the interval between such meetings not being less than a month.

THE following Resolutions were then proposed and carried UNANIMOUSLY, viz.

THAT the thanks of this Meeting be given to the Committee for their past services – that the present Committee, consisting of the following 15 gentlemen, viz. Thomas Rogers, Esq. Andrew Kippis, D. D. Richard Price, D. D. Abraham Rees, D. D. Rev. Hugh Worthington, Michael Dodson, Samuel Heywood, Adam Jellicoe, William Newman, Thomas Rickards, Samuel Shore, jun. Philip Slater, Matthew Towgood, Benjamin Vaughan, and John Wansey, Esqrs. be continued. And that the following 14 Gentlemen be added to it, viz. Nath. Barnardiston,⁷ Henry Beaufoy MP,⁸ Richard Cooke, Edward Grubb, Christian Heinekin, Thomas Brand Hollis,⁹ George Jeffery, Edward Jeffries,¹⁰ John Ingram, John Lees, Brough Maltby, William Smith M.P.,¹¹ George Webster, and John Yerbury, Esqrs.

THAT the Committee be instructed to renew their endeavours for obtaining the use of the Library and Apparatus belonging to the late Warrington Academy, and any other assistance, which the Trustees and Subscribers to that Institution may think proper to grant: - and that the Committee be farther directed immediately to open a subscription in London, and to circulate proposals for the same through different parts of the kingdom – and to take any other measures, subject to the approbation of the next General Meeting, for establishing and perfecting the proposed Institution: and that such General Meeting be convened as soon as it shall be found expedient.

⁷ Nathaniel Barnardiston (1755-1837), of Harpur Street, Red Lion Square.

⁸ Henry Beaufoy (1750-95), politician and MP.

⁹ Thomas Brand Hollis (1719-1804), political reformer.

¹⁰ Edward Jeffries (1726-1814), Treasurer of St. Thomas's Hospital and Chairman of the Committee for the Repeal of the Test and Corporation Acts.

¹¹ William Smith (1756-1835), politician and MP; New College chairman, 1793-96.

THAT the thanks of this meeting be given to the Chairman for the judgement, impartiality, and zeal, with which he has conducted the business of it.

(Signed) THOMAS ROGERS, Chairman.

N. B. Subscriptions for this Institution will be received by the Chairman, or any other Gentleman of the Committee.

5.7 GOVERNORS' LETTER, 28 MARCH 1786

TEXT: Dr. Williams's Library, New College Collection 187.2 f. 11 [printed broadside]

ADDRESS: Jos. Paice Esq^{re}

LONDON, *March* 28, 1786.

SIR,

Having on a former occasion communicated to you a proposal for establishing an Academical Institution in the vicinity of London, for the Education of Ministers and Youth among Protestant Dissenters, and requested the favour of your concurrence; we have now the pleasure to inform you that this business is actually undertaken. The inclosed Resolutions of a respectable Meeting, held on the 10th March, contain the outlines of the Plan upon which the Institution is to be formed and conducted: they will enable you to judge of our Proceedings: and we hope they will meet with your approbation.

Our Views are directed to an Object, which is not only important in itself, but which, we trust, will be extensive in its utility, and permanent in its duration. Apprized of the difficulties attending the accomplishment of the Design, we endeavour to avail ourselves of the Judgement and experience of its Friends in every part of the kingdom; and we have no doubt of obtaining their assistance in such a manner, as to render our resources adequate to the magnitude and extent of the Object. A Subscription has already been opened, in pursuance of the 2^d Resolution; and the generosity of those who have had an opportunity of contributing, encourages us to proceed with alacrity and vigour. But being desirous of transmitting the Resolutions of the General Meeting of our Friends without loss of time, and apprehending that it would be agreeable to you to know what we have done in the course of a few days, since the commencement of the Subscription, we inclose the List of present Subscribers: which we expect will be considerably enlarged by the names of persons in London, to whom we have not yet had leisure to apply.

After the most mature deliberation, we have determined to establish the proposed Institution in the neighbourhood of London; but at such a distance from it as may best tend to unite the benefits of the Country with those of the Capital: and this situation, we have reason to believe, is, all circumstances considered, the most favourable for our

purpose. Whilst we are fully convinced of the advantages that recommend it, we are not unapprised of the objections to which it is liable; but most of these objections are common to it with other situations, and all of them, we apprehend, will be effectually obviated by the system of internal regulation and discipline which we propose to adopt, and for the conduct of which a Committee will be appointed, who, in aid of the resident Tutor, or Tutors, and by a support of their authority, without intruding on their province, will make it the object of their diligent attention. Under such a system of discipline, comprehending without discrimination Students for the Ministry and Lay-Students, we have no doubt that their union, so far from being detrimental, will be beneficial to those of both descriptions. The Education proper for the former will, in most of its parts, and in a variety of respects, be highly advantageous to the latter. It will give them such an enlarged acquaintance with the Principles of Religion and Liberty, and cherish in their minds such a lively sense of the importance of these Principles, as will conduce to prevent that indifference to them which is equally reproachful and injurious, and to guard them, at a period of danger, from the snares of scepticism and infidelity. We, therefore, indulge the hope, that the Institution we have in view, by answering these important and useful purposes, will contribute towards supplying the Community with enlightened and well-principled Citizens, as well as our several Congregations with able and faithful Ministers. Not to add, that the attachments of Youth will be productive, in advancing years, of mutual benefit both to Ministers and to Lay-Gentlemen.

With respect to our choice of Tutors, we think it necessary to inform you, that by directing our attention to the Gentlemen whose names occur in the 14th Resolution, we do not mean to confine our views to London Ministers.¹ On the contrary, it is our earnest desire, and, we are happy to add, our reasonable expectation, that our fund may soon become sufficiently ample to admit of granting such Appointments to Professors, as shall induce the ablest and best Men, wherever they may reside, to relinquish their other emoluments, and to devote themselves, as far as shall be thought requisite, to the service of the Institution.

As this Institution is designed to comprehend the Great Body of Dissenters, with which we are connected, through the kingdom, and any others whose views may coincide with ours, and as the benefits of it are likely to be generally diffused, we are induced to apply to you, as to our other Friends, for patronage and assistance. Our Plan admits of various Subscriptions; and we shall thankfully receive any Donation, or annual Contributions, which those, who are convinced of the importance and utility of our Design, may be disposed to remit to us.²

We beg leave to add, that we are taking every prudent and practicable measure for securing permanence to the Institution, and for preventing its being hereafter conducted on Principles different from its Founders. The regulations suggested in the 2[n]d

¹ Richard Price (1723-91), Andrew Kippis (1725-95), Abraham Rees (1743-1825), and Hugh Worthington (1752-1813) had been appointed the founding tutors at New College.

² Joseph Paice (d. 1810), one of the three Coward Trustees, donated £50 to the establishment of New College.

Resolution, with regard to those who become Subscribers after the 24th of June next, will be formed with this view; so that the Contributions of the present Friends of the Institution may not be alienated or misapplied in any future period: and we shall appropriate, as soon as possible, a part of our income towards establishing a durable Fund.

In this Undertaking our zeal is quickened by reflecting on the general state of Education in this kingdom, on the want of due attention to this important object, which has too much prevailed in that Body of Dissenters, to which we belong, and on the tendency of a liberal Plan of Education to promote the spread of Truth, and the improvement and happiness of Mankind. We, therefore, trust, that no difference of opinion will arise, which may weaken our Strength by dividing it; but that we shall by united endeavours accomplish a service, that will be substantial and effectual.

We rejoice in the prospect of success: and hope, that the Patrons and Promoters of this Institution will derive from it an increasing recompence of their liberality and zeal; and that future generations will have cause to review their exertions with gratitude and pleasure.

We are, Sir, with great respect,

Your most humble Servants,

THOMAS ROGERS, CHAIRMAN, NEWINGTON GREEN,

Nathaniel Barnardiston, Fenchurch Buildings;
Henry Beaufoy, Great George Street;
Richard Cooke, Crutched Friars;
Michael Dodson, Boswell Court;
Edward Grubb, Fishmongers Hall, Thames Street;
Christian Heinekin, Peckham;
Samuel Heywood, Harpur Steet;
Thomas Brand Hollis, Chesterfield Street, Mayfair;
George Jeffery, Throgmorton Street;
Edward Jeffries, St Thomas's Hospital, Southwark;
Adam Jellicoe, Highbury Place, Islington;
John Ingram, Billiter Square;
Andrew Kippis, Crown Street, Westminster;
Thomas Lees, Newington;
Brough Maltby, Barge Yard;
William Newman, Snow Hill;
Richard Price, Newington Green;
Abraham Rees, Old Jewry;
Thomas Rickards, Hackney;
Samuel Shore, Jun. Lincoln's Inn;

Stephen Burley (stephenburley@hotmail.com)
New College, Hackney (1786-96): A Selection of Printed and Archival Sources
Dr Williams's Centre for Dissenting Studies

Philip Slater, Poultry;
William Smith, Clapham;
Matthew Towgood, Hackney;
Benjamin Vaughan, Jeffries Square;
John Wansey, Lothbury;
George Webster, Bucklersbury;
Hugh Worthington, Highbury Place, Islington;
John Yerbury, Gracechurch Street.

5.8

PRINTED SATIRICAL LETTER, 19 APRIL 1786

TEXT: Dr. Williams's Library, New College Collection 187.2 f. 13
[Anonymous printed broadside without title]¹

ADDRESS: Joseph Paice Esq. Bread Street Hill

A very strenuous Application being made, at this Time, for the Purpose of raising a Sum of Money, amongst the Dissenters, to establish a Seminary for Education: It becomes necessary to examine, whether such Institution is likely to answer any valuable End, either to the Dissenters as a Body, or to the Cause of Religion in general; and more especially as it is apprehended some opulent Dissenters have been induced to contribute to this Fund merely out of Respect to the Solicitation of their Friends, or from a generous Design of promoting every Cause which is connected with the Dissenters, without being in Possession of any convincing Arguments in Favour of the intended Institution.

In Regard to the Rise of the Scheme, it were unnecessary to enter into any private Disputes between COWARD's Trustees and the Tutors of their Academy; for an useful Plan may originate from circumstances very remote or Motives very unworthy.

What is the design, what the Bond of Union, of this Society, the Public have yet to learn. The general Meeting, that voted this Institution necessary, (and which general Meeting might consist of forty or fifty Persons), determined, that it was expedient to have an academy, for the Instruction of Pupils in Divinity, in the Neighbourhood of London; but, on what Principles do they ground this Expediency? It is an easy Matter for threescore Persons, met together and selected for a particular Purpose, to come to a Resolution declarative of an abstract Proposition. - If the suspension of the Hoxton Academy is likely to be productive of fatal Consequences to the Metropolis, the Public is naturally led to enquire what beneficial Effects were derived to the Metropolis from its Continuance; and the Result of such Enquiry is, that most of the Gentlemen at the Head of the Congregations in London, amongst what are called free Dissenters, received their Educations at the Country Academies.

It may, however, be urged, that, though no very apparent Advantage has been derived from the Hoxton Academy, yet this Institution is to be conducted upon so much more

¹ There is no indication of the identity of the author of this broadside. It seems likely, however, that it was written by an Anglican or a Calvinist dissenter anxious about the rise of heterodox theology.

liberal Principles, and with such superior Advantages, that no Comparison will hold. – It were worth while, then, to consider what these superior Advantages are, and who are the ostensible Persons that propose to conduct this Seminary; and no personal Offence should be taken by Gentlemen who stand forth on this Occasion, for the Characters of public Men must be the Subject of public Examination: As private Individuals, there are Characters in the Committee who would do Honour to any Society whatever.

A very respectable Gentleman appears at the Head of the Divines, whose station and Years command Weight and Influence;² but who of late has not made any considerable Figure as a Divine, and for some Years has been lost amongst Speculations of Finance and Politics; and, though so popular a Name may render essential Service to the Formation of an Institution, yet, it cannot be supposed that Gentleman will devote much of his Time to the laborious Part of Management.³

Two of the other reverend Gentlemen,⁴ who are held up to the Public as being willing to accept the Office of Tutors in the present Instance, have acted as Tutors under the Direction of Coward's Trustees; and, having themselves relinquished that Situation, it may naturally be presumed their Endeavours have, in some degree, failed.

The other Divine,⁵ to whom many of the Friends of the Institution look as their chief Support for active Exertion, must have many other Avocations, when he is considered as the Pastor of a very numerous Congregation.

It is more probable, therefore, some other Gentleman must be found to undertake the arduous Office of Resident; and the Character, the sentiments, the Views, and Designs, of this Embryo-Tutor are at present totally unknown to the Public.

A superintending Committee will, however, be always present; (the Term *always* must not, it is presumed, be taken in a literal Sense.) What a situation must a Tutor find himself in, who, instead of having his Authority enforced by every strong Power from his Constitutors, is to be continually hampered with their Operation as a Committee, ready to interfere, and always present to hearken to the little Disputes and Differences so frequent amongst young Men impatient of Controul! – The superintending Committee is to be chosen from the general Committee; and of that Body it may be said, with the same Propriety as the List of Divines, there are Names who do Honour to the religion they profess; but there are also Names of those who would think it no Honour to be called either Dissenters or Christians; there are Names which may be found in the Journals of the house of Commons, but not amongst the Worshippers in any House of Religion; there are Names of those that profess themselves Friends to Unitarianism, Socinianism, and all the Sects which the Wildness of modern Freethinking has branched into; yet these

² Richard Price (1723-91), dissenting minister and philosopher.

³ This was a prescient comment. Price was unable to continue his teaching duties after only a few months as a tutor.

⁴ Andrew Kippis (1725-95), dissenting minister, tutor and biographer, and Abraham Rees (1743-1825), dissenting minister, tutor and encyclopaedist.

⁵ Hugh Worthington (1752-1813), dissenting minister and tutor.

Persons are to quit extensive mercantile or literary Connections, to form themselves into a superintending Committee for the Government of a Seminary, which is to raise Religion, Liberty, and the dissenting Interest, to the Summit of the highest Perfection.

Dissenters, a celebrated writer of the present Day has observed, "should not be too fond of rich Converts;" but surely they were never more the Dupes of Riches than in the present Instance, by supposing that the heterogeneous Founders of this Institution are to combine together in forming a Pillar to their Honour.

When the Friends of this Scheme are pressed hard on the Subject of Divinity-Students, it is not unfrequent for them to urge the Usefulness of the Plan of Education of young Gentlemen of Fortune, and to plead the Opinion of Tutors of other Seminaries, that the Union of Divinity with Lay Students is reciprocally advantageous. On this Head, perhaps, the Judgement of modern Tutors is hardly a fair Reference, as they are in some Degree interested; the Profits, arising from the Tuition of young Gentlemen, may be some Bias on their Minds. But the judgement of the late Dr. Doddridge,⁶ a Man in the Habit of seeing so much of the World, and well acquainted with the Mode of academical Education, is decidedly against the Mixture of Pupils designed for the Ministry with those who are to be afterwards engaged in the civil Employments of Life. In Truth it must be apparent, that the Views of young Men, Candidates for the Ministry amongst the Dissenters, can hardly be too much confined in the Articles of Expence and the Elegances of Life, while Gentlemen of Fortune have a Claim to many Indulgences which Divinity-Students should be totally strangers to.

Such Objections apply to the Constitution of the Academy, which is held up as an Imitation of an University: - Others might be applied to the Situation; the Neighbourhood of London being, of all others, the most improper for the Seat of Instruction, and for the Retirement which the Acquisition of Learning requires. - More important Objections will arise in the Minds of that Class of Dissenters, who think the Doctrines of the Divinity of their divine Master and Efficacy of his Atonement the Foundation of their religious Hopes; such Persons cannot entertain very flattering Ideas of an Institution, at the Head of which, or at least amongst the active Managers of which, are Gentlemen (however respectable in their private Characters) who utterly deny those Doctrines, and are busied in propagating Sentiments which such Dissenters esteem diametrically opposite to the fundamental Truths of Revelation.

Is it not, therefore, highly desirable, (notwithstanding the violent Importunity with which Subscriptions are solicited), that the opulent Dissenters, and those who wish well to the Cause of Religion, should not be too hasty in their Benefactions to an Institution, which, from its Nature, seems little calculated for Permanency; and which, by turning a considerable Sum into a Channel that may prove useless, will render it difficult, in future, for the Dissenters to raise Money for Purposes of real Advantage to their Interest?

⁶ Philip Doddridge (1702-51), Independent minister and tutor at Northampton Academy.

Many of those Gentlemen, who have already contributed, doubtless consider this as a Speculation which may or may not be attended with Utility; but, if the foregoing Thoughts are well founded, this Seminary is to support the dissenting Interest without a Principle of Dissent, the education of Youth without a Plan of Education, and the Cause of religion without a belief in the Doctrines of Christianity.

April 19, 1786.

6.1 THE NEW COLLEGE MINUTE BOOK, 1786-91

Introduction

The New College Minute Book (Dr Williams's Library MS 38.14) is the most significant extant source for the institution. It contains records of the governors' meetings (1786-91), and details concerning financial and administrative matters, student admissions, disciplinary and academic standards, as well as important correspondence relating to the appointment and resignation of tutors.

The minutes of the meetings from September 1791 until the closure of the College in 1796 do not, however, survive. Furthermore, no anniversary sermons were published after Joseph Priestley's *The Proper Objects of Education in the Present State of the World* (1791). Whilst it is possible to recover the history of the institution in considerable detail from 1786 to 1791, relatively little information survives relating to the period 1792-96. The key extant sources for the final years of the College include the manuscript correspondence of Theophilus Lindsey (1723-1808), held at John Rylands University Library, Manchester, and a recently discovered printed letter written by William Smith (1756-1835) dated 5 August 1793, published below as Section 7.2.

The purpose of this section is to present a comprehensive selection of entries from the Minute Book, illustrating important developments in the College's history from 1786 to 1791. The selection begins on 27 June 1786 with the governors' first official report and ends on 6 March 1791 with the resignation letter of Gilbert Wakefield.

6.2 GOVERNORS' MINUTES, 27 JUNE 1786

MS: Dr Williams's Library 38.14, Hackney College Minutes 1785-91, fols. 40-43.

[f. 40] Half Moon June 27th 1786.

Present	Mr Rogers in the Chair		
Mr Ingram, ¹	Mr Dodson,	Mr Towgood,	Mr Jellicoe
Mr Slater	Mr Worthington	Dr Kippis	Mr Vaughan
Mr Shore	Mr Rickards ²	Dr Price	Mr Newman
			Dr Rees

Dr Rees reported, that a Letter, of which a Copy is subjoined has been prepared & sent to the President & Trustees of the Warrington Academy

[f. 41] London June 23^d 1786

Gentlemen,

The Committee for establishing a New Academical Institution, in the vicinity of London, take the Liberty to renew to you, as a body, the application, which they have already presumed to make to you, individually; and to request the favour of your granting them, the use of the Library & apparatus of your Institution, and such assistance out of its remaining funds, as you may think proper, subject to any restrictions which you shall prescribe.

We beg leave to repeat what we have before suggested, that the fundamental principles, and distinguishing objects of our proposed Institution, are the same with those of the Institution, which you supported & conducted for many Years with so much Honour to yourselves & so much advantage to Protestant Dissenters, and to the community in general.

It is designed not only to provide for the liberal Education of our Ministers, but to preserve our Youth among the Layity from the Snares & Dangers incident to their years, and to afford them, that kind of instruction and discipline, which shall best conduce to render them the Advocates & the Ornaments of Liberty & Religion, both as usefull Citizens & as virtuous Men. With this View, Students of both descriptions

¹ John Ingram of Billiter Square.

² Thomas Rickards of Hackney.

are to be incorporated into One Society under the Superintendence of One, or more Tutors. This is a part of our Plan, which has already received the sanction of Your approbation, as Directors & Supporters of the late Warrington Institution.³ And we beg leave to suggest, that the Library and Apparatus, are in no Situation, more likely to afford substantial advantages, or to be guarded from injury, than where the students are resident in One House and subject to a system of internal regulations

The probable permanence of this Institution is an Object [f. 42] which, We conceive, merits particular attention.

The Liberal contributions which we have already received, and which we have reason further to expect, together with the Plan which we are prepared to recommend for establishing a durable fund, and the opportunity which our situation gives us of appointing a Superintending Committee and of securing a variety, and succession of proper Tutors encourage the hopes that our Institution will be, not only usefull & extensive in its present Effect, but, a lasting source of benefits to Posterity

It is with great chearfullness that we refer to your Candour and impartiality, the consideration of these, & other Particulars which, We trust, will recommend our cause to Special regard.

If We should be so happy as to succeed in our request upon this Occasion, when You deliberate concerning the final disposal of the property at Warrington, which has been contributed by your generosity and that of our other Friends We beg leave to assure You, that no labour shall be wanting on our part, to carry on, and accomplish the general Objects of our wishes, and to render the application of such property satisfactory to You, and usefull to those for whom it was designed. In this, we have no doubt of obtaining the unanimous concurrence of those numerous Friends who have exerted their Zeal & Liberality inpromoting [sic] the Institution, to which We are ardently devoted and whose anxiety for its credit & success will ensure to You their gratefull acknowledgments

We are Gentlemen, with the greatest Respect and esteem,

Your most Obed^t humble Servants
Signed by order of the Committee
Tho^s Rogers, Chairman.

[f. 43] Resolved that the Chairman be requested to return the Thanks of the Committee, to those Gentlemen, who have, either individually or collectively contributed to the support of the New Academical Institution.

³ Warrington Academy had closed in 1783.

6.3 GOVERNORS' MINUTES, 5 JULY 1786

MS: Dr Williams's Library, 38.14, Hackney College Minutes 1785-91, fols. 43-5.

[f. 43]

Half Moon July 5th 1786

Present Mr Towgood in the Chair

Mr Grubb, ¹	Mr Webster, ²	Mr Jellicoe,	Mr Shore,
Mr Ingram	D ^r Price,	Mr Rickards	Mr Worthington,
Mr Wansey	D ^r Kippis	Mr Vaughan,	Mr Beaufoy
D ^r Rees			

[f. 44] A Letter from Mr Thomas Caryl Worsley³ to Mr Rogers was read; which Letter contains information, that the Trustees & Subscribers at their Meeting held at Warrington on the 29th of June, agreed, that the Surplus arising from the Sale of the Buildings (after paying the expence due from the late Academy should be equally divided between the two Institutions, near London, and at Manchester,⁴ in trust for the permanent fund of each Institution and that the Apparatus be sent to the Academy at London, and the Library to the Academy at Manchester upon the same trusts

Resolved, that application be made to the Trustees of the Exeter Academy⁵ requesting the use of their Library under such restrictions as they may think proper: and that a Letter be prepared for this purpose by

The Chairman, Mr Vaughan & D^r Rees

Resolved that Mr Blackburne be requested to prepare a plan of such a Building as may answer the purposes of the New Academical Institution, to be laid before the Committee at their next Meeting

¹ Edward Grubb, dissenting deputy of Fishmongers' Hall, Thames Street.

² George Webster of Bucklersbury.

³ Thomas Carill Worsley (1739-1809), of Platt Hall, near Manchester; a governor at Warrington Academy and, later, at New College, Hackney.

⁴ Manchester Academy opened on 14 September 1786. Thomas Barnes (1747-1810) and Ralph Harrison (1748-1810) were its founding tutors. The academy exists today as Harris Manchester College, Oxford.

⁵ The dissenting academy at Exeter closed in 1771.

Resolved that Mr Worthington be desired to accompany Dr Price & Mr Rogers & to make the necessary enquiries relating to the House at Newington Green, formerly in the possession of Mr Dunn⁶

Resolved that a General Meeting of the Subscribers to the New Institution be summoned for Friday the 21st inst. at 7 precisely: and that this meeting be advertised twice in 3 Morning Papers - viz.^t *Gazeteer - Public Advertiser and Morning Herald*, and twice in 3 Evening Papers - viz.^t *General, Whitehall & St James's*

[f. 45] Copy of the Advertisement

---- New Academical Institution ----

A General Meeting of the Subscribers and Friends of the New Academical Institution, among Protestant Dissenters, will be held at the New London (late Half Moon) Tavern in Cheapside, on Friday the 21st of this Month at Six o'Clock in the Afternoon,

NB. The Chair will be taken at 7 Precisely

Adjourned to July 12th 1786

⁶ No further reference to this enquiry is made in the minute-book.

6.4 GOVERNORS' MINUTES, 18 JULY 1786

MS: Dr Williams's Library, 38.14, Hackney College Minutes 1785-91, fols. 46-7.

[f. 46]

Half Moon July 18. 1786

Present	Mr Rogers in the Chair		
Mr Towgood,	Mr Jellicoe,	Mr Slater,	Mr Dodson
D ^r Price,	Mr Rickards	Mr Vaughan,	Mr Newman
D ^r Rees			

Mr Towgood reported, that a letter had been sent to the Trustees of the Academy at Exeter, a Copy of which is subjoined

To the Trustees of the Library belonging to the late Academy at Exeter

London July 11th 1786

Gentleman,

The Committee for establishing a New Academical Institution in the Neighbourhood of London, take the liberty of requesting the favour, of your granting them the use of Your Library, under any restrictions which you may think proper to propose.

The Trustees of the late Academy at Warrington have already favour'd them with the Philosophical Apparatus belonging to their Institution & a Moity of their remaining Funds but the valuable Library of that Institution having been appropriated to the use of an Academy at Manchester, the Committee indulge the hope, that you will incline to comply with their request in the disposal of your Library.

You Gentlemen, must be apprized of the unavoidable expence that is likely to attend the first establishment of our Institution, and of the trouble, as well as of the charge of collecting a Library, which shall, in any considerable degree answer our purpose, And therefore, if you favour us merely with the loan of your Books for a few Years, on condition of our [f. 47] returning them, free of expence, when ever You shall require them, this would be an essential Benefit to Us in the infancy of our Institution; We beg leave to add, that the Sentiments & Views of the Committee in the undertaking, to which, much of our Time & Attention has been devoted, coincide, as far as we are able to judge, with those of the founders & supporters of

the late Academy at Exeter: And, having already received from the half yearly Assembly in your City, an honorable testimony of approbation, which will animate our further exertions, We are encouraged to hope, that our present application will not be unsuccessfull. We shall wait with perfect confidence in your disposition to serve our Institution for the result of your deliberation; If it should be consistent with your views, to comply with our request, the favour will be gratefully acknowledged by the numerous friends of the Institution in general, And by the Committee in particular, We are Gent.ⁿ with the greatest respect & esteem

Your most Obed^t humble Servants
Signed (by order of the Committee)
Tho^s Rogers, Chairman.

The Committee deliberated upon the Report, for the ensuing General Meeting

Adjourned to July 20th

6.5 GOVERNORS' MINUTES, 24 NOVEMBER 1786

MS: Dr Williams's Library, 38.14, Hackney College Minutes 1785-91, fols. 51-4.

[f. 51]

New London Tavern

Nov^r 24: 1786

Present Mr Rogers in the Chair

Mr Jeffries, Mr Lindsey, Mr Grubb,

Dr Kippis Mr Mallet Mr Dodson

Mr Shore Mr Wansey Mr Jeffery

Mr West¹ Dr Price Mr Ingram

Mr B. Hollis Mr Towgood,

Mr Beaufoy Dr Rees

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read, and all of them Confirmed, the resolution relating to the choice of a Clerk excepted.

Resolved that a Clerk or Collector, agreeable to the 10th resolution of the General Meeting of the 10th of March be chosen at the next Meeting; and that Notice of the same be inserted in the Summons

The Chairman reported that Mr Stone and Mr Blackburn have agreed with Mr Hubbert for the purchase of his House called Homerton Hall,² and the land &c.^t belonging to it, as in the annexed Copy [f. 52] of the Agreement between them, for £5600: - : -

Copy of the Agreement

November the 18th 1786

Memorandum, It is this day agreed by and between Thomas Hubbert Esq.^r of Homerton Hall, in the County of Middlesex of the one part, and John Hurford Stone & Will.^m Blackburn on the behalf of the Trustees and body of Dissenters associated for establishing an Academy for the Education of Youth of their own Body. Viz.^t

¹ James West, linen-draper and insurance broker of Chatham Place.

² Homerton Hall was completed in 1732 for the governor of the Bank of England, Stamp Brooksbank MP (d. 1756). It was re-named Hackney House and passed through several hands after the death of Brooksbank. It was bought by the governing committee of New College from Thomas Hubbard in 1786.

The said Tho^s Hubbert agrees to sell, and the said Committee agrees to purchase for the sum of Five Thousand Six Hundred Pounds, all that House called Homerton Hall, Out Offices, Interior Offices, Walls Sheds - Buildings Fences, and every other matter or thing fixed to & set up on the Freehold, together with the Land, Crop, Plant and every article growing upon the Land, and the articles called fixtures in and about the Dwelling House, Out houses & Offices including every thing but movable furniture Also the Wood Timber, Bricks Stone &c^t now lying on the Ground. The money to be paid upon the conveyance being made out, with a good & Sufficient Title by the said Tho.^s Hubbert Esq.^r The premises to be surrender'd to the Committee, on or before the thirty first of December next

Resolved that this Committee approve of the purchase, on the Terms specified in the Agreement

Resolved that the thanks of this Committee be given to Mr Stone & Mr Blackburn for their attention and judgement in conducting this business

Resolved that the following Gentlemen Viz.^t Mess.^{rs} Rogers - Towgood, Dodson & Grubb be a Sub [f. 53] Committee for superintending the conveyance of Mr Hubberts House & Land to the Trustees appointed by the resolution of the General Meeting of the 21.st of July last: and that Mr Cotton³ be desired to prepare the same

Resolved that the Gentlemen, who are the Committee of Treasury to the Academical Institution, sell out as much of the Stock now vested in their Names in the public funds, on account of the said Institution as will be sufficient to pay Mr Hubbert, for the above purchase, and that they pay the same to the following Gentlemen, as Trustees, or to the Order of any Two of them --- pursuant to the 9.th Resolution of the General Meeting of the 21st July 1786 Viz^t N. Barnardiston Esq^r Mr Smith Esq^r MP Mr Sam^l Shore Jun^r Esq^r and Mr John Wansey.

Resolved that two Deeds of trust agreeable to the 7th Resolution of the 10th of March, and also to the 2.^d 3.^d 4.th 5th & 6th Resolutions of the 21.st of July - be prepared under the direction of Michael Dodson & Edw.^d Grubb Esq^{rs} as soon as possible

Resolved that Mr Creswick⁴ be employed for the present Session to assist the Students in a proper mode of Elocution at the consideration of Twenty Guineas

Resolved that Mr. Towgood, Mr. Rickards and Mr. Stone be a Sub-Committee, to take such Measures, as they shall think most proper for preserving the House & Garden at Homerton

Resolved that John Jones⁵ - well recommended and aged Nineteen, be admitted as a Student, at the New Academical Institution from Xmas next with such an Exhibition as the Committee shall, hereafter think proper to appoint

Whereas it appears that Students in Dissenting Academies are not exempted by any clause in the Militia Acts,⁶ from serving in the Militia, Resolved that this Committee for

³ Thomas Cotton, dissenting deputy and secretary of the Committee for the Repeal of the Test and Corporation Acts.

⁴ William Creswick, teacher of elocution and actor.

⁵ John Jones (c.1766-1827), Unitarian minister and classical scholar.

Establishing a New Academical Institution, express their respectfull acknowledgements to Henry Beaufoy Esq^r for declaring his readiness to apply to Legislature for obtaining necessary relief [f. 54] & request his concurrence with our other Friends in Parliament for extending the exemption, now comprehending Students at the Universities – to all Students in our Dissenting Academies or Colleges

Adjourned to Wed.^y the 6th of December

Signed Thomas Rogers.

⁶ The Militia Act of 1757 re-established local part-time forces of one or more regiments for each county. They were chosen by ballot from among the male inhabitants of each parish and men who were drawn could only avoid service if they got another man to replace them. I can find no suggestion that Beaufoy was successful in his efforts to secure exemption for students at dissenting academies.

6.6 GOVERNORS' MINUTES, 2 MAY 1787

MS: Dr Williams's Library, 38.14, Hackney College Minutes 1785-91, fols. 65-8.

[f. 65]

New London Tavern

May 2^d 1787

Present M^r Rogers in the Chair

M^r Towgood, D^r Price, M^r B. Hopkins,¹ M^r Beaufoy

D^r Rees, M^r Rickards, D^r Kippis, M^r Simpson (of Leeds),²

M^r Worthington, M^r Shore

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read & adjourned for consideration to the next Meeting

M^r Towgood reported that he has received a Letter from Miss Freeman relating to the Books of the late D^r Harris, which his Widow has given to the New Institution,³ which letter was read & the part of it which concerns the Institution is as follows ----

“While my Aunt with pleasure, sends the Books for a perpetuity to the Trustees of the New Academical Institution, She directs me to add, that she requests leave to urge one point, that should any unfortunate event, ever occasion this Institution to break up, as that of Warrington, It is her will, that the Books shall not be sold, or become in any Mode, private property, but be given to another Seminary founded on Liberal principles – which the Trustees may prefer; and it is her desire that the Gentlemen would enter these Her directions into their Books for the information & Government of future Trustees

Resolved that this present is accepted under the above Conditions & that M^r Towgood is requested to inform M^{rs} Harris that her desire is fulfilled,

¹ Benjamin Bond Hopkins (1745?-94), politician and MP.

² John Simpson of Woodhouse, near Leeds.

³ Vivian Harris, widow of the Presbyterian minister and biographer, Dr William Harris (1720-70), donated her late husband's collection of books to New College.

The Chairman reported last Wednesday the 25th of April the Subscribers to the New Institution dined together at the London Tavern, after a Sermon preached at the Old Jewry by Dr Price which they requested him to print.⁴

The Chairman reported that the Stewards for the ensuing Year are

[f. 66] Sir Henry Hoghton Bart. MP.⁵ Sir James Esdaile⁶

Sir James Sanderson⁷

James Martin Esq^r MP⁸

Tho.^s Boddington Esq^r⁹

Tho.^s Rickards Esq^r

Nath.^l Barnardiston Esq^r

Chrisⁿ Heinekin Esq^r¹⁰

The Chairman also reported from the Committee for settling the Terms of Admission into the New Institution, that they have prepared & printed, the following Advertisement Viz^t

--- New Academical Institution ---

The Committee for establishing the New Academical Institution among protestant Dissenters, for the Education of Ministers & Youth, have now the pleasure to inform the public that the Spacious & Eligible House, which they have purchased in the parish of Hackney, will be opened for the reception of Students on the 29th Day of September next. The Situation of this House, is recommended by a variety of Local Conveniences, and advantages; and the Committee will assiduously avail themselves of every circumstance that may be conducive to the Health, Moral Conduct & Literary improvement of the Young Gentlemen, who shall be entrusted to their Care.

They beg leave to add, that it is a fundamental principle of this Institution, that it will be open to persons of all Denominations who will be encouraged in favouring their Religious Sentiments without restriction, or imposition.

The course of Education, will be comprehensive & Liberal and adapted to Youth, in General, whether they are intended for Civil or Commercial Life, or for any of the Learned Professions.

This Course, will include the Latin, Greek & Hebrew Languages, Greek & Roman Antiquities - Ancient & Modern Geography - Universal Grammar, Rhetoric & Composition, Chronology - History Civil & Ecclesiastical, the principles of [f. 67]

⁴ Richard Price, *The Evidence for a Future Period of Improvement in the State of Mankind, with the Means and Duty of Promoting it* (London, 1787).

⁵ Sir Henry Hoghton (1728-95), MP and politician.

⁶ Sir James Esdaile (1714-93), Knight of Great Gains in Essex and formerly Lord Mayor of London.

⁷ Sir James Sanderson (1741-98), MP, banker and alderman of the City of London.

⁸ James Martin (1738-1810), politician, MP and banker.

⁹ Thomas Boddington (1736-1821), merchant and banker; director of the Bank of England.

¹⁰ Christian Heinekin of Peckham.

Law & Government, the several Branches of Mathematics' [sic] – Astronomy – Natural & Experimental philosophy & Chemistry, Logic, Metaphysic's & Ethic's [sic] – the Evidences of Religion Natural & Revealed, Theology – Jewish Antiquities - & Critical Lectures on the Scriptures

The Gentlemen who have engaged to conduct this Plan of Lectures are

The Rev ^d Richard Price	D.D. F.R.S.
Rev ^d Andrew Kippis	D.D. F.R.S & S.A
Rev ^d Abr ^m Rees	D.D. F.R.S
Rev ^d Hugh Worthington	
Rev ^d George Cadogan Morgan ¹¹	
Rev ^d John Kiddle ¹² –	

The Students will be instructed in the practice of Elocution, by a Person appointed for that purpose -

The usual Course for Young Gentlemen, not intended for the Ministry, will be completed in 3 Years – and with respect to those who shall continue longer in College, a proper plan of Education will be pursued –

The Commons will be provided by the Committee; and the Students will be under the more immediate direction and Government of D^r Rees, who will reside in a House contiguous to the Main Building; and of M^r Kiddle, who will live in the House, with the Students.

The Terms for each Session, commencing on the Third Monday in September, and closing on the first day of July are Sixty Guineas – which will include Apartments, Board & Education¹³

Students on the foundation, will be provided for, in these respects without Expence: and the Committee will encourage Young Persons intended for the Ministry, whose friends are willing to defray the charges of their Board & Education, by a considerable abatement in the above Terms – It is scarcely necessary to observe that the situation of [f. 68] this Institution affords opportunity of obtaining the best means of Instruction on the French & other modern Languages Drawing &c.^t at a Separate Expence

¹¹ George Cadogan Morgan (1754-98), dissenting minister, tutor and scientist; nephew of Richard Price.

¹² John Kiddle (1720-1810), dissenting minister and tutor.

¹³ In 1786 the tuition fees at Manchester Academy were set at 15 guineas per session, or academic year (excluding the cost of board and lodging); see the appendix to Ralph Harrison's *A Sermon Preached in the Dissenting Chapel in Cross Street, Manchester...On the Occasion of the Establishment of an Academy* (Manchester, 1786), 10.

No Divinity Students will be admitted under the Age of Sixteen Years; nor any Lay Students under the age of Fifteen Years - nor above the Age of Eighteen Years - and it is expected that all Students be well recommended, both as to conduct and Qualifications.

Applications for the Admission of Students may be made to

Tho^s Rogers Esq^r Cornhill

Matt^w Towgood Esq^r Clements Lane

Mich^l Dodson Esq^r Boswell Court Carey Street

D^r Price - Hackney

D^r Kippis - Crown Street, Westminster

D^r Rees - Old Jewry

Rev^d H. Worthington - Islington

London April 24th 1787

N.B. Subscriptions to this Institution will be received by the Chairman, or any other Gentlemen of the Committee.

Resolved that D^r Price be requested to print One thousand Copies of his Sermon, and that one thousand copies of the last report and advertisement be also printed

Resolved that the Clerk summon the Committee to take into consideration Business - of peculiar importance

Adjourned.

6.7 GOVERNORS' MINUTES, 29 JUNE 1787

MS: Dr Williams's Library, 38.14, Hackney College Minutes 1785-91, fols. 71-7.

[f. 71]

New London Tavern

June 29: 1787

Present Mr Rogers in the Chair

Mr Towgood Mr Jeffries Mr Dodson Mr Ald.ⁿ Newman

Mr Grubb Mr Ingram Mr Lindsey Dr Kippis

Dr Rees Mr Worthington.

The Committee proceeded in their deliberation, with respect to the Laws of the Institution, which were formed & approved, they are as follows -

Part. I.

For Family Government and Order

I. Every Student (those in the first & fifth years course excepted) shall execute by rotation, beginning with the eldest, the Office of Monitor for One Week, whose Business is specified in the following rules - & which he shall regularly perform in person, or in Case of illness, by a Substitute. [f.72] Neglect of Duty shall be consider'd as a Misdemeanour to be recorded & reported to the Superintending Committee.

II.^d The Students shall rise at the Hour of Six in the Morning from the first day of March to the first day of November, And at the Hour of Seven from the first day of November to the first day of March - For this purpose, the Monitor shall ring the Bell at the appointed Hour & again at the interval of Ten Minutes; and at fifteen Minutes after the appointed time. He shall call over the Names of the students in the Common Hall.

Every student who does not appear & answer to his Name shall forfeit three Pence

Repeated defaults, which may be reasonably construed into a Habit of Sloth, shall incur reprehension & Exercises

- III.^d The Students shall attend Morning Prayers at the hour of Eight & Evening Prayer at the Hour of Nine
The Bell for this purpose shall be first rung ten Minutes before each Hour & again within five Minutes of the Time
And at the Hour, the Monitor shall call over the Names of the Students, and if any Student, shall not be present to answer to his Name, he shall forfeit three Pence
No Student shall be allowed to absent himself from Prayer without assigning some reason that shall be satisfactory to One or both of the Resident Tutors – but if no satisfactory reason be assigned, his absence shall be recorded, & reported to the Superintending Committee.
- IV. One of the Resident Tutors, shall pray in the Morning at family Prayer; but at Evening Prayer, every divinity Student unless dispensed with, by the Resident Tutors, shall pray in his turn after the commencement of the Second Year of his Course
- V. Family prayer shall be always accompanied with reading some portion of Scripture, and in the Evening with Singing of Psalms
- VI. Such portion of the Old Testament as is appointed, shall be read in English, from the Hebrew Text, by the Divinity Students, in the [f. 73] three last Years of their Course; and such portion of the New Testament, in like manner from the Greek, by the Students in the two first Classes
- VII. It is expected & required that the Students, who shall not have had leave of absence, from One of the Resident Tutors, shall be within the Boundaries of the Institution at Sun Setting – And that the Resident Tutors be empowered to admonish & restrain those who violate this Rule, & to report to the Superintending Committee.
- VIII. That the Students shall regularly attend some place of Public Worship, both in the Morning & Afternoon of the Lords Day – that they shall dine together at home, on that Day – and that they shall inform the resident Tutor, if required, where they have attended
- IX. That no Student shall receive Visitors on the Lords Day – And that they shall receive no Visitors on any other days, so as to encroach too much on their time; and that they shall not be allowed to entertain them, with any thing besides Tea & Coffee

- X. The Students are required to breakfast, Dine & Sup together at the appointed Hours – and these several meals shall be conducted by Mr & Mrs Kiddle¹
- XI. It is required that there shall be no intercourse, between the Students & the Kitchen, or those parts of the House that are appropriated to the use of the Servants
- XII. The Students who chuse tea, in the Afternoon, must furnish themselves with all the Necessaries for this purpose, at their own Expence; and the Housekeeper is directed to furnish them with Water, in some Room, appropriated to that purpose
- XIII. No Games for Money shall be played by the Students And it is referr'd to the discretion of the Resident Tutors, to restrain immoderate or unreasonable expence of Time, in any Play or Sports whatever
- XIV. No Student shall, on any Occasion, carry any of the Candles out of the Common Hall --- forfeit two pence [f. 74]
- XV. Every Student shall retire into his own Apartment at the hour of Eleven in the Evening, after the Bell has been rung by the Monitor for this purpose
- XVI. No Student shall go to Bed & leave his candle burning, or Read, or Sleep in Bed, either in the Night or Morning, with his Candle, burning by him.
- XVII. The Doors of the House shall be locked at Eleven, and the Keys shall be deliver'd to Mr Kiddle, or some person, appointed by him; and no Student shall leave the House after that Time
- XVIII. Every Student shall have a List of the Articles and Utensils belonging to his Room, and shall return the several particulars Safe, and in good Condition to the Housekeeper, or any other person, appointed to receive them, by the Committee, at the end of every Session -- or shall make good the same
- XIX. If any Student break or damage any of the furniture or Utensils of the House, or any of the Windows, or any of the appurtenances belonging to the House or Ground – the same shall be repaired or replaced at his expence
- XX. If any Student Ring the Bell, beside the Monitor, or without direction from him, or one of the Tutors, he shall forfeit 1^s / --

¹ John Kiddle (1720-1810), dissenting minister and assistant tutor of Classics at New College. He was also resident tutor; his wife was the New College housekeeper.

- XXI. The Monitor shall keep a Register of the Names of the Students according to their Seniority, to be determined by the time of their admission, and also their several defaults, with the penalties annexed to them; and deliver it for the inspection and examination of the Resident Tutors, every Week, at the Time, which they shall appoint
- XXII. The Tutors are expected and desired to make such Reports to the superintending Committee, with regard to the observance or violation of the several Laws, established for the Government of the Institution, as they shall find Necessary
It is the purpose of the Committee to support the Authority [f. 75] of the Tutors, for the Reputation & improvement of the Students & for the General Credit and benefit of the Institution.
- XXIII. A Book shall be prepared, in which the Names of the Students shall be enter'd together with the Monitors register, and any remarks shall be recorded by the Tutors; which Book shall be submitted to the inspection of the Superintending Committee, when they visit the College

Part II.^d

Rules relating to Lectures & Exercises -

- I. That the Students shall be regular in their attendance on their respective Lectures, at the Hours appointed by the Tutors; And if any Student omit attendance, without the consent of the Tutor, from whose Lecture, he desires leave of absence, or some approved reason
he shall forfeit One Shilling
And an Offence, of this kind, if repeated, shall be reported to the Committee -
-- If any Student be not present within five Minutes after the appointed Hour, he shall forfeit 6^d
- II.^d Every Student of Six Months standing, shall in his turn, deliver an Oration, once in a Month;² And every Divinity Student shall deliver at least One Sermon, instead of an Oration, before the close of the fourth Year of his Course, and deliver a Sermon, at least once a Month during his fifth Year: Such Orations & Sermons shall be submitted, after public delivery to the inspection & correction of the Tutor or Tutors, to whose department they belong.

² Theophilus Lindsey's letters to William Tayleur (1712-96) give some account of the orations delivered at New College public examinations. See, for example, letter of 26 June 1795, JRUL MS Letters of Theophilus Lindsey, f. 85.

- III. No Divinity Student shall be allowed to preach in Public, before the last year of his Course, nor even in that Year, before he has passed his Trials - And no Student in the last Year of his Course, and allowed to preach in Public, shall officiate at such a distance, as to interfere with his regular attendance on his Several Lectures, except on some urgent Occasion, and with permission previously obtained from the Divinity Tutors. [f. 76]

Part III^d

Rules for the Library

- I. Every Student who takes a Book out of the Library for his private use, is to make a distinct entry of it in the Library Book prepared for that Purpose, adding his Name at Length, and is in consequence of that entry, to be accountable for that Book, while it stands under his Name,
Penalty for Omission 2^d each Book
- II.^d Each Student shall bring in his Book at 3 o'Clock on Saturday if not before, return them into their proper places in the Library, and cross out the Entry of them; and in Case he neglects to do any of these he shall forfeit --- 2^d for each Book
- III.^d No Student shall take out of the Library - any Dictionary, Lexicon, Concordance, Geographical Atlas - or Chart
Penalty - 6^d
- IV. Reference Books - belonging to any Class shall be enter'd with the Number of the Class - and the Letter & Number of the Book annexed
Penalty for Omission 1^d for each Book
- V. References in any Lecture shall be brought into the Lecture room when the Class meets to receive the next Lecture, in the same branch of Study - and if any Books that were taken out, are missing - the student who has them, shall, for each Book
forfeit 1^d -
- VI. All references shall be taken out of the Library, in rotation by the Students of each Class - and shall be deliver'd immediately after they are taken out of the Library - to the Senior of that Class - to which they belong, who shall keep them a due portion of Time to be determined by the Tutor, to whose department they belong, according to the Number of the Class -; so that each Student may [f. 77] have them as nearly as possible, during the same interval of studying hours; And the Student[s] of each Class shall deliver the

references within a Quarter of an Hour of the time appointed, to the next Student below him in his Class, or forfeit 2^d for each omission

- VII. If any Book be found in any Public Room or Passage, and the Student, in whose Name it is enter'd shall not be in such Room or Passage, the Student to whose care it belongs shall forfeit 2^d for each Folio, or Quarto & 1^d for any smaller Books
- VIII. On Saturday at 3. o'Clock the New Monitor shall ring the Bell to give notice to the Students to bring into the Library all the Books of any kind, that are in their Possession, and which belong to the Library - And at half past 3, he shall Lock the Library Door and together with the Monitor of the preceding week, shall carefully examine the whole Library - and take account of every Book that is wanting; which shall be deliver'd to the Resident Tutor, the same Evening: And the Catalogue of them shall be publicly read to the Students, when the Tutor thinks proper, And every Student in whose Custody - any of the Books shall be found, shall forfeit
Six Pence for each Book.
- IX. If any student shall take the Pen & Ink, or the Library Book or Catalogue of Books out of the library, or Blot or tear, or in any other way deface any of them; for every such Offence, he shall forfeit -- Six Pence -
- X. Included in the 9th
- XI. The forfeits for all Offences against the Institution, shall be laid out for the use of the Students, in procuring Pens & Ink, and a Library Book for the Library, & News Papers - Magazines Reviews &c^t

6.8 GOVERNORS' MINUTES, 10 SEPTEMBER 1788

MS: Dr Williams's Library, 38.14, Hackney College Minutes 1785-91, fols. 89-91.

[f. 89]

Bakers Coffee House

Sept^r 10. 1788

Present Mr Towgood in the Chair

Mr Brooksbank¹ Mr Esdaile Dr Disney² Mr Jeffries

Mr Aldⁿ Newman Mr B. Boddington Mr Slater Mr Sturch,

Mr T. Morgan Dr Rees Mr Mallet Mr West

Resolved, that the Public Day during the next Session be on the last Wednesday in every Month, of which Notice shall be given, & that the Hour shall be Eleven in the Morning Precisely

Resolved that the several Alterations & Additions now read shall be made to the Rules & Orders for the good government of the College, and that a fair Copy with these additions &c^t shall be hung up in some room in the College

Resolved that the Students are expected to pay ready Money to the Tradesmen whom they employ

[f. 90] Resolved that the following Seven Rooms Viz^t - N^o 1. 6. 7. 9. 12. 21. 22 are to be appointed to the following Gentlemen Viz^t

N^o 1 - Mr Broadhurst³ N^o 6. Mr David Jones⁴

N^o 7 - Mr Joyce⁵ N^o 9. Mr Towers⁶

N^o 12 - Mr Jn. Jones⁷ N^o 21. Mr Martin⁸

¹ George Brooksbank (d. 1792) benefactor of Essex Street Chapel, and descendant of Stamp Brooksbank, original owner of Homerton Hall, later New College, Hackney.

² John Disney (1746-1816), Unitarian minister and writer.

³ Thomas Broadhurst (1767-1851), dissenting minister and author.

⁴ David Jones (1765-1816), author and barrister.

⁵ Jeremiah Joyce (1763-1818), Unitarian minister and writer.

⁶ Joseph Lomas Towers (1770-1831), Unitarian minister, Dr Williams's Librarian and author.

Nº 22. M^r Shepherd

The above named Gentlemen are to take their Choice, according to their Seniority, of these rooms which are to be appropriated to the Seven Gentlemen, so that they only & their Successors, shall have the priviledge [sic] of exchanging, according to their Seniority when any vacancy happens in any of these Rooms

Resolved that the following Rooms in the east Wing Viz^t Nº 2. 3. 5. 8. 10. 11. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. are to be appropriated to the following Gentlemen, who are to take their choice of these Rooms according to their Seniority Viz^t –

Nº 1 M ^r Jullard	Nº 9. M ^r Hincks	Nº 17. M ^r Hare
2. M ^r Wellbeloved	10. M ^r Norgate	18. M ^r Corrie
3. M ^r Simpson	11. M ^r Prime	19. M ^r Brown
4. M ^r Walker	12. M ^r Olive	20. M ^r Cookson
5. M ^r Kemble	13. M ^r Taylor	21. M ^r M ^c Kenzie
6. M ^r Crompton	14. M ^r Smith	22. M ^r Kentish ⁹
7. M ^r Carr	15. M ^r Hope	
8. M ^r Cooke	16. M ^r Hoare	

Each Student in this General Class is to take his Choice of the Rooms above mentioned, according to his Seniority & in like manner he may hereafter take any room, which shall become vacant in this Class – by the removal of any Student from College

But in order to preserve a due degree of equality between the chances of the Divinity & the Lay Students, on account of one staying 5 Years & the other only 3 Years – it is order'd that whenever any Room is vacated in this Class – those of the Divinity students, only [f. 91] who have completed two Sessions in the College, shall be intitled to change their room in consequence of such Vacancy.

But as some Gentlemen may be admitted as Students of Divinity who have already spent One or Two Years at some other College or regular Seminary of Education, it is

⁷ John Jones (c.1766-1827), Unitarian minister and classical scholar.

⁸ Thomas Martin, divinity student.

⁹ I am able to identify the following students from the list: William Jillard (lay student); Thomas Dix Hincks (1767-1857), dissenting minister, tutor and scientist; Richard Hare, Viscount Ennismore (1773-1827), MP and Colonel; Charles Wellbeloved (1769-1858), Unitarian minister and tutor; Thomas Starling Norgate (1772-1859), writer; John Corrie (1769-1839), scientist and dissenting minister; William Simpson (lay student); Richard Prime (lay student); William Walker, lawyer; James Taylor (divinity student); Woodhouse Crompton (lay student); John Kentish (1768-1853), Unitarian minister and author; and William Cooke (lay student). See Full List of Students.

order'd that whenever a change of Rooms - is made in consequence of a Vacancy as before mentioned the time so spent at any other College or Seminary shall be counted to such Student, provided it does not prejudice the Succession of any divinity Student who had been admitted into the College two Years before him.

Adjourned

6.9 GOVERNORS' MINUTES, 18 NOVEMBER 1788

MS: Dr Williams's Library, 38.14, Hackney College Minutes 1785-91, fols. 95-101.

[f. 95]

Kings Head Tavern

Nov^r 18. 1788

Present Mr Rogers in the Chair

Mr Smith, Mr J. Towgood, Mr Mallet Mr Sturch, Dr Price

Mr Jeffries Mr Ald.ⁿ Newman, Mr Rickards Mr Dodson

Mr Morgan, Mr Beaufoy Dr Kippis Dr Rees, Mr Scullard¹

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read & Confirmed. The Committee reported from Mr Blackburn that the expence of erecting a New Wing would differ very little from that of the last notwithstanding any alteration in the disposition of the rooms,² but that no plan has as yet been given by him, as he conceives it needless for directing the judgement of the Committee with regard to the necessary expenditure

The following further report from the Sub Committee, was read

Your Committee having met in pursuance of their appointment proceeded to consider

1st The actual State of the Collegiate Fund on the 11th of Nov^r 1788.

2^d The probable State of the Collegiate Fund at Midsummer 1789.

3^d The probable annual produce of the Collegiate Fund after the new wing shall have been completed & the Number of Students shall have been increased to that which the College will then, be capable of containing.³

With a View to the first of these Objects Viz^t the actual State of the Collegiate Fund on the 11th of Nov^r 1788. Your Committee obtained from the Treasurers an Account of the Receipts

¹ William Scullard of Goodman's Fields.

² The committee was in the process of extending the college building, adding new boarding wings to each side of the main house.

³ The governors expected the college to accommodate over seventy students once the new boarding wing was completed. The maximum number of students in residence at New College was, however, forty-nine.

& Disbursements of the College, from its first institution to the 11th day of the present Month -

From this Account it appears that there was

Cash received		Cash expended		
1786.	By Donations	7067: 2: -	Housekeeping	776: 6: 2
	An ^l Subscriptions	543: 18: 6	Taxes	47: 10: 3
1787	By Donations	1057: 1: -	Purchase of Premises	
	D ⁿ for Building	725: -: -	& exp ^e of Buildings	
	An ^l Subscriptions	605: 7: -	& repairs	9396: 9: 4
	Profit on Stock	301: 2: 11	Incidental Expences	146: 3: 2
	Int ^t of Stock	238: 6: 8	Gardening	36: 7: -
			Furniture	849: 19: 1
Car ^d Forw ^d		Car ^d Forw ^d		
[f. 96] Bro ^t Forw ^d		Bro ^t Forw ^d		
1788	By Donations	363: 10: -	Books, Maps & Instrum ^{ts}	66: 8: -
	D ^o for Building	96: -: -	Remov ^l D ^r Harris Library ⁴	5: 5: -
	An ^l Subscriptions	570: 14: -	Incidental Charges	508: 3: 2
	Int. of Stock	107: 0: 10	Paym ^t to Tutors	155: -: -
	Bo. ^d & Tuition	435: 15: -	D ^o to Clerk	70: 10: -
	Subscription Loan	3200: -: -	D ^o to M ^r Cotton	16: 16: 10
			Purchase of Stock for	
			The Permanent fund	2684: 12: -
			Bal. ^{ce} with Treasurers	552: 7: 11
15'310 : 17 : 11		15'310: 17: 11		

Thus it appears that on the 11th day of the present Month, the State of the Collegiate Fund, was as follows

In the Treasurers hands -	552: 7: -	In paying tradesmens bills	
Subscription Loan not rec'd	100: - : -	chiefly for work done at	
Arrears of An ^l Subscriptions	490: 4 : -	the Tutor's house as P[er] Acc. ^t	
		deliv ^d by M ^r Towgood	1534: -

⁴ The library of Dr William Harris (1720-70), Presbyterian minister and biographer, was donated to New College by his widow, Vivian.

Balance against the College	4'143: 9 :-	Compensation	
It appears therefore		for the Tutors for last Year	
that on 11 th Nov ^r 1788 a		D ^r Kippis Attendance and	
further Loan of £843: 9 :-		expences [sic]	100:
would have been requisite		D ^r Rees in lieu of House &c ^t	100:
to discharge the Curr ^t Debt		D ^o for attendance	70:
of the College, supposing		M ^r Morgan for d ^o	70:
every arrear of Subscription		D ^o for attendance in	
to be capable of Collection		Red Cross Street	42:
		*Money advanced on Loan ⁵	3'300:
	5286:		5286:

N.B. the debt on the Loan must be taken at £3'300 altho. £3'200 only has been received because the other £100 has been taken on the C^r side, as a debt due to the College -

[f. 97] With a View to the Second of the Objects. - Viz^t
 The probable state of the Collegiate fund at Mids.^r 1789 - your Committee have prepared the following Account

Probable Statement of the Collegiate Account at Midsummer 1789

Amo ^t of Credit side of Account		Debt due on the 11 th Nov ^r	5'286: -: -
Nov ^r 11: 1788	1'142: 11: -	1788 - as P[er] Account	
Donation rec'd Nov. 14	500: -: -	One Years Interest upon	
Due from the Students		Loan of £3200	150: -: -
at Mids ^r 1789	1600: -: -	Housekeeping &c ^t to	
A Legacy to be rec'd	50: -: -	Mids. ^r (Supposed)	1'100
Div ^d on Stock	53: 9: -	Tutors Salaries to D ^o	500: -: -
An ^l Subscription then due	390: -: -		
£700, but, as an arrear must			
be always supported, let			
<u>it</u> be £390 taken at £310 (£140 less)			
than that of Mids. ^r last	3300: -: -		
Ball ^{ce} due being only the			
Deb ^t upon Loan	7036: -: -		7036: -: -

⁵ Early in 1788 a group of approximately 30 New College governors agreed to loan the college £100 each in order to pay for the completion of the new boarding wing. The minute book for January 1788 explains that 'several subscribers and members of the Committee' had loaned the college a total of £3300 'at an interest of 4 and a half %, secured on the House and land' (DWL, MS. 38.14, fol. 83). A letter from the New College chairman Thomas Rogers to John Rowe (1764-1832) of 2 February 1788 sheds further light on the loan. He lists the names of 31 men who had each contributed £100. He requests that Rowe ask William Tayleur of Shrewsbury to contribute also. See JRUL, MS letters of William Tayleur of Shrewsbury.

From this it appears that between Nov. 11: 1788 & Mids.^r 1789 - the College will be able to discharge a Debt of £823: 9: - chiefly from its internal resources, for 'tho [sic] benefactions & a Legacy appear to the Amo^t of £550: -: - yet it is to be observed that an arrear of Subscription of £310: -: - is supposed, whereas in the former Acc^t the whole Arrear is calculated as paid up -

With respect to the third Object Viz^t the probable Annual produce of the Collegiate Fund - after the New Wing shall have been completed & the Number of Students shall have been increased to that which the College will then be capable of containing, Your Committee on the best information they were able to procure, have prepared the following Estimate -

[f. 98] Probable Receipts

Probable Expenditures

An. ^l Int. ^t of Perman ^t fund	107: -	It appears by Mr Blackburns	
An. ^l Subscriptions estimated		report that the expence of	
at the actual produce in 1788	600: -	the New Wing will amo ^t to -	2'400
Amo ^t of payments from		It appears from a Similar	
Sixty Students at £63: - &		expence already incurr'd that	
Six Students at £42: - / Your		Your the furniture may cost -	900: -
Committee conceiving that		Now, if to these two Sums	
more than 12 Divinity		be added the amount of the	
Students, on an Average		Subscription Loan -	3'200
will not require the aid of		It will be found that the	
the College	4'032	Total of the Debt incurr'd	
Total An ^l Expenditures	4'739	may be estimated at -	6'500
	2'615	But lest the preceeding	
Thus it appears that on the		calculation of the expences	
supposition that the apartm ^{ts}		should prove, less than the Sum	
of the intended Wing will		that will actually be requisite -	
be occupied & that the Amo ^t		Your Committee will state the	
of the Annual Subscriptions		Debt at -	7'000
will continue, undiminished,		Of this Debt the Interest at	
the Receipts of the Collegiate		4½ pct will amount to -	315
fund will yearly exceed its		To which, Add, 1 st	
expences by the sum of	2124: -	Taxes & Incidental Expences -	300
		2 ^d	
		Maintenance of Eighty Persons -	
		Viz ^t 72 Students for 9 months in	
		the year & 8 other persons - Viz ^t	
		Mr & Mrs Kiddle & Six Servants	
		for 12 Months -	2'000
			2615:-

[f. 99] The preceeding [sic] Sum of £2124: - it is evident, will be subject to the following Claims

- 1st To a sinking Fund for the Gradual discharge of the Collegiate Debt.
- 2^d To the payment of the Annual Stipends to the Tutors
3. To incidental expences & such extensions of the College as the objects of the institution may require
To the first of these Objects, Your Committee beg leave to suggest, that not less than £600: - should be annually appropriated which sum will be sufficient to discharge a Debt of £7'000 in the short Space of Ten Years.

The mention of the second Service leads your Committee to remark that the Subject involves in it two distinct considerations

- 1st The Mode in which the Stipends to the Tutors shall be paid
- 2^d The sums to which these Stipends shall Amount
Were we to judge from the Plan of the English Universities, we should be led to conclude, that in fixing the Emoluments of Public Professors, the Rules which in private Life direct the settlement of Salaries; But their Experience corrects the Danger of their Example, Compell'd by the general Indolence, or Inability of their professors, to call to their aid the exertions of private Preceptors - whose emoluments are proportioned to the Number of their Pupils, their System is burdened with the awkward Machinery of a double Establishment - A Machinery as insufficient as it is Cumbrous & expensive - For the Coldness & straitened Limits of Solitary can never adequately supply the want of Ability & Ardour in those Numerous Public Chairs, that announce to the Student, the hope & were anciently meant to convey the possession of Universal Science

In the Edinburgh University, on the other hand, very different is the System, for there the profits of the Professorial Office depend on Eminence of Character, & extent of Exertion, the use of the private Collegiate Tutor is unknown, while, on the Contrary the attendance, on the public Instructors is Crowded & Constant.

[f. 100] On these Grounds Your Committee are induced in the strongest manner to recommend as a General Rule, that the Emoluments of the Tutors shall be increased as the College increases, & shall rise & fall by exactly the same Scale. In this manner the private interests of the Preceptor will be inseparably connected with the prosperity of the Institution.

For every abuse that affects the Character of the Establishment will diminish his own, & every decline in the Number of Students, will operate as a deduction of his

Income. Far from being jealous of the talents of his Colleagues, he will have an immediate Interest in the Success of their Exertions - & whenever Vacancies arise, will feel an earnest solicitude, that the best qualified of the Candidates may be chosen

On the Modes of paying such of your Tutors as are not on the Establishment, the practice already adopted leaves to your Committee nothing to suggest, for they are paid in proportion to their trouble.

And the prudence of encouraging them for only short Periods will always give the College an opportunity, by the expiration of the Contract, of Correcting, without the pain of dismissal, the inconveniences of unexpected Deficiencies - & of obtaining on the proof of actual experience, the Aid of Men of the greatest Assiduity and Skill.

On the Second of the two Considerations that were stated by your Committee, Viz^t the sum to which the Stipends of the Tutors should amount, Your Committee, can only express their Ardent Wish that the Remuneration may be as Liberal as is consistent with the Objects of the Institution & wish the Assignment of a reasonable Sum, for the discharge of the heavy Debt with which the College will be burthened - Your Committee cannot prevail of themselves to conclude their Report without expressing the pleasure they feel in the animating prospect of the important benefits to Science Virtue & Religion, which the College of the Dissenters is calculated to afford. For of the Several Collegiate Establishments in Europe we know not of any other that possesses the advantage of having [f. 101] Originated, in a period, in which the Human Mind, enlightened by discoveries as important as they are New - devotes itself to the investigation of Truth; nor do we know of any other that has been founded expressly for the purpose of teaching & maintaining the Genuine Principles of Freedom, Civil & Religious.

To have seen such a College established, is a subject of Joy - To have been instrumental in its establishment is a source of Satisfaction as durable as the Mind itself.

Resolved that the Committee agree to the above Report.

Resolved that of the sum which shall be due from every Student for each Session, One Moiety shall be paid at Xmas & the other Moiety in the Month of June.

Adjourned.

6.10 GOVERNORS' MINUTES, 13 JANUARY 1789

MS: Dr Williams's Library, 38.14, Hackney College Minutes 1785-91, fols. 101a-103.

[f. 101a]

Kings Head Tavern

Janry 13: 1789

Present	Mr Rogers in the Chair		
Mr Beaufoy	Mr J. Towgood	Mr West,	Mr Mallet
Dr Price,	Mr Sturch,	Dr Kippis	Mr Esdaile
Mr Rickards	Mr Yerbury ¹	Dr Rees	

Mr Beaufoy reported from a Conversation with Mr Blackburn that Mr Blackburn undertook the business of Architect to the New College on an idea that 5 PCent should be paid him, on the Money expended in Buildings

The Commission is meant to include the amount of every charge that otherwise would be made for Plans, Measurements Trouble of contracting, and many other Particulars; but not to comprehend the expence of employing a Clerk of the Works, whose business is to see that the Builders, Labourers &c^t are punctual in their attendance & honest in the use of the Materials & whose usual pay is One Guinea P[er] Week

Resolved that a Committee be appointed to confer with Mr Blackburn on his Charge of 5 PC^t on the Money expended under his direction, on the Collegiate Buildings, and on the extra expence of one Guinea P[er] week for a Clerk of the works

That the said Committee do pay Mr Blackburns Bill, so far as his charges are not unusual & that Mr West, Mr Jeffries – Mr Towgood & Mr Mallet be that Committee

It appearing that the unappropriated Benefactions received in the course of the last year amount to the sum of £374 : - : -

Resolved that the sum of £124: 13: 4 being one third of the same be passed or placed to the account of the Permanent fund – of this Institution agreeably to the 3^d resolution of the 21st day of July 1786 –

¹ John Yerbury of Gracechurch Street, dissenting deputy and director of the Union Fire Office.

The following Report from the Committee to the General Meeting was read & approved ---

[f. 102] Gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure that your Committee now announce to You the prosperous State of the Institution which you have entrusted to their Care. The new Wing was completed in the course of the last Summer & furnished for the reception of Students at the commencement of the Session in September.

The Number of Students is now 34; so that all the Apartments in this Wing, and several of the Lodging Rooms in the Centre Building are occupied - 27 of these Students are upon their own foundation & Seven upon the foundation of the Institution; Twenty One are designed for Civic Life & the remaining 13 are intended for the Ministry ---

Your Committee are happy in this Opportunity of bearing public testimony to the improvement & irreproachable conduct of all the young Gentlemen; and they feel a peculiar satisfaction in the Assurance that several of them are distinguished by their abilities, application & acquirements and are likely to reflect honour on the Institution with which they are connected. They congratulate you on the Success which has already attended this Laudable design and they consider it as a presage of its continued & increasing prosperity. The accession of 20 Students in one Session is very considerable, and affords an encouraging prospect of the extensive utility of this Institution for the diffusion of Knowledge, Liberty & Virtue

In this recompence of the Liberality and Zeal of its founders - and friends - Your Committee rejoice with You - They are animated by it, in every exertion for promoting the improvement of the Students and preserving the discipline of the College, as the necessary means of preserving the favourable opinion which the public seem to entertain of it.

[f. 103] These important objects engage the assiduous attention of the Superintending Committee and Tutors, and they have hitherto found no reason for dissatisfaction and Complaint.

You, Gentlemen, Your Committee are persuaded, will unite with them in wishing that every Young person, possessed of the requisite qualifications, and applying for admission, may be suitably accommodated in this College - and that the benefits of it may be render'd as extensive as possible - With this view Your Committee beg leave to submit for your approbation, the design which they have formed of proceeding with convenient speed to the completion of the Plan, long ago suggested by many friends of the Institution - by erecting an Additional Wing on the West side of the Centre Building corresponding to that on the East - They feel the Necessity of additional accommodation, and they would be sorry to reject any Young Gentlemen, who may apply - for the want of Room - When they recollect the Liberality which they have already experienced, they have no doubt of obtaining further assistance & by adopting a plan similar to that pursued in the last Year, as

well as by a prudent management of their finances – of accomplishing this great Design without charging the Permanent fund of this Institution.

An unknown Benefactor has encouraged your Committee by a very liberal Donation of £500² – they have also resources in a revisionary sum of £2000 bequeathed by a very valuable friend, the late John Brown Esq^r in the savings which time may enable them to obtain from this Annual Income & in the Generous dispositions of those who are A[n]xious for the prosperity of the Institution.

Their expenditures have been very considerable – the Institution is already in debt to the amount of £3'200 to those friends who, in pursuance of the Resolutions of the last General Meeting have advanced Loans for the purpose of preventing any interruption [f. 104] to the increase of the permanent fund, but they confide in the importance of the Cause, in the support of which they are engaged and in the continued Zeal & Liberality of its Friends –

The Treasurers report that £124: 13: 4 being the third part of £374. – the amount of the unappropriated benefactions received in the last Year, hath been passed, or placed to the acc^t of the Permanent fund, in pursuance of the 3^d Resolution of the 21st of July 1786 – and that the Ballance in their Hands on the 31st of December last appears to be £104: 17: 3

Your Committee further beg leave to inform you, that the House of the Resident Tutor is finished & that D^r Rees now resides in it

When your Committee consider the progress that has been already made, in the Accomplishment of an Undertaking that Originated in the Zeal of a few Persons – When they recollect the accession of Countenance & Support which they have derived from the Liberality of the Friends of Science Liberty & Virtue – And when they anticipate the extensive & lasting Benefits which is the probable issue of the present Undertaking they feel no diffidence in the prospect of what now remains to be done.

With assistance in any degree corresponding to what they have already received, their whole plan, will be easily completed And future Generations will applaud the activity & Zeal, which have been the means of transmitting to them, invaluable Blessings

Agreed that the next General Meeting be held at this House – on Wednesday Jan^y 21st at Seven in the Evening Precisely & that the Committee adjourn to five the same afternoon at this Place, precisely – to prepare the Business for the General Meeting.

Adjourned

² Robert Newton (1713-89), Derbyshire landowner and proprietor of Norton Hall.

6.11 GOVERNORS' MINUTES, 24 MARCH 1789

MS: Dr Williams's Library, 38.14, Hackney College Minutes 1785-91, fols. 110-112.

[f.110]

March 24: 1789

Present	Mr Rogers in the Chair		
Mr Jeffries	D ^r Price,	Mr Stone,	Mr J. Towgood
Mr Mallet,	Mr Dodson,	Mr Sturch	D ^r Kippis
Mr Jervis, ¹	D ^r Rees,	Mr Lindsey	Mr West. ²

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read & Confirmed

The Chairman reported from the Building Committee that they have contracted for Building the New Wing at £2250 : - : -

Resolved that the Building Committee be empower'd to employ a Clerk of the Works, if they find it necessary for Security & Expedition in the Completion of the New Wing --- The Chairman reported that he hath receiv'd £500 : - : from Rob^t Newton Esq^r by the hands of D^r Kippis for the purpose of completing the Buildings proposed by the Committee³

[f. 111] Mr Newton's Letter to D^r Kippis on this Occasion is as follows:

Newton House Feb^y 16. 1789

Dear Sir

I am favour'd with your Letter of the 4th Instant by the kind Office of M^{rs} Shore.⁴ I rejoice that the College at Hackney is in so flourishing a State & meets with such Encouragem:^t & think with you, it is highly probable it will be of great utility to the rising Generation informing them to Knowledge, piety and Virtue & to a Zealous attachment to the principles of Civil and Religious Liberty;

¹ Thomas Jervis (1748-1833), dissenting minister and tutor.

² James West, insurance broker and linen draper of Chatham Place.

³ Robert Newton (1713-89), a Derbyshire landowner and proprietor of Norton Hall.

⁴ The wife of Samuel Shore (1738-1828), Sheffield iron manufacturer of Norton Hall in Derbyshire.

And that of the Thirty Five Students there at the present there is no reason to complain of their Moral Conduct or Behaviour

As it is pity that the other Wing – so necessary to receive more Students, should not be built as soon as may be, Be pleased to accept the inclosed to forward that good work

On such an Occasion, please to Notice, Sir, I am not

Anonymous

but,

Your very obed.^t humble Servant

Robert Newton

Resolved that the thanks of the Committee be given to Rob^t Newton Esq^r for his very liberal donation & that D^r Kippis be desired to transmit the same

Resolved that the Anniversary Dinner of the New Academical Institution, be on Wednesday the 6th of May at the London Tavern and that the Sermon be on that Day at the Meeting House in the Old Jewry⁵

Resolved that the Clerk be order'd to wait on the Stewards for the Annual Dinner

Resolved that the price of Tickets be as before, and that the several Regulations respecting the Dinner &c^t in 1787 are approved

[f. 112] Resolved that the following Gentlemen, Viz^t M^r Chairman, M^r Jeffries M^r Stone & M^r Sturch be a Committee for settling how & by whom the Religious Service of the Day of the Anniversary of the Academ^l Institution shall be conducted & also for meeting the Stewards in order to prepare the General Business of the Day

Resolved that M^r Davis be admitted immediately as a Lay Student upon paying 30 Guineas for the remainder of this Session.

Adjourned.

⁵ Hugh Worthington (1752-1813) delivered this sermon. It was later published as *A Sermon delivered...at the Meeting House in the Old Jewry...to the supporters of the New Academical Institution among Protestant Dissenters* (London, 1789).

6.12 GOVERNORS' MINUTES, 20 JANUARY 1790

MS: Dr Williams's Library, 38.14, Hackney College Minutes 1785-91, fols. 124-127.

[f. 124]

Kings Head

Jan^y 20. 1790

Present Mr Rogers in the Chair

D^r Price, Mr Sturch, D^r Kippis, Mr Morgan,

Mr Towgood Mr Stone, D^r Rees, Mr Aldⁿ Newman

Mr Mallet Mr Dodson

[f. 125] The Treasurer reported that the Sub-Committee met & made the following Report

Gentlemen,

Your Committee are happy in the opportunity which this Annual Meeting affords them of congratulating You on the Success & prosperous State of the College at Hackney.

The Second Wing which was begun in consequence of the Resolution of the last Meeting, early in the Spring, is just finished and will be fit for Use in a Month or Six Weeks. Your Committee have been anxious for its completion, and have done every thing in their Power to expedite it. The great accession of Students at the commencement of this Session required accommodations, which the Number of Rooms in the Center House, and other Wing - was not sufficient to Supply: And Your Committee have been under the necessity of providing for some of the Students in a Lodging house in the Neighbourhood & of placing them under the care and inspection of One of the Assistant Tutors - But this inconvenience will be removed as soon as the additional Wing is fit to be occupied.

The Number of Students is now Forty Nine, of whom, Forty are upon their own foundation & Nine upon the foundation of the Institution. Thirty are intended for Civil Life & Nineteen for the Ministry - The improvements of the Students afford a pleasing prospect of the Utility of the Institution, and the Services it is likely to

render to the important Interests of Knowledge - Liberty & Virtue ---- The Tutors concur in expressing a degree of Satisfaction with the Literary proficiency & moral Conduct of the Students in General, which is very encouraging to the friends of the College, and which cannot fail to secure for it increasing patronage & Support. The Discipline of the House is uniformly maintain'd the Lectures are regularly pursued, and every kind of attention to Order & improvement is exercised, both by the Tutors & Superintending Committee, that can conduce to the Regulation & Prosperity of the Institution.

[f. 126] Your Committee beg leave to inform you, that the Rev^d Mr Belsham has resided in the College from the Commencm^t of the Session:¹ And that Mess^{rs} Broadhurst & Jones, late Students, But appointed to be assistant Tutors, have officiated from that time in their respective departments.²

They are happy in expressing their Opinion that the Institution is now provided with ample means of instruction and domestic discipline ---

The Treasurers report that at Michaelmas - to which time the accounts of the College were made up, there remained in their hands the sum of £72. 2. 8 ---

The Building & Furniture have been attended with a very Considerable expence; And your Committee have been already under the necessity of incurring a large Debt, which, together with the Additions that must yet be made to it, will amount in the whole to about £6200 --- at an Interest of 4½ PC^t

Confiding in the Zeal & Liberality of the friends of Science Liberty & Religion, they have proceeded to the Execution of their Plan, & tho much remains to be done for Augmenting the Library, improving the Apparatus & in other Ways - they have no doubt of completing the object that has been undertaken and rendering it as respectable & usefull as its friends can wish.

But for this purpose they are under the necessity of renewing their application, both for further Donations, and Annual Subscriptions - They wish to discharge the Institution, as soon as possible, from the Debt, with which it is incumber'd & to apply the savings that may accrue from the income of the College - to various Literary purposes - subservient to its increasing utility & Credit. The demand upon the College for the Education of Ministers, is likely to increase. It is therefore hoped that the friends of Religion and of the Cause of Dissent, will enable the Committee to pay due attention to cases of this kind that may arise,

[f. 127] May we not reasonably hope, Gentlemen, that the Institution to which we extend our Patronage and Support, and on behalf of which we Sollicit the Generous

¹ Thomas Belsham (1750-1829), dissenting minister and tutor who was appointed Divinity Tutor at New College following his resignation from Daventry Academy in 1789.

² Thomas Broadhurst (1767-1851) and David Jones (1765-1816).

attention of the Public will concur with other Events, which none of us can disregard, in disseminating those principles of Civil & Religious Liberty - that must necessarily conduce to the General improvement of Society & of Mankind? May we not presume that the Cause of Religion & Christianity will be effectually served by the provision which you and others alike disposed have made for connecting Education & Discipline & for promoting Liberal Sentiments, and rectitude of Conduct?

From the time that we first engaged in this undertaking the prospect has been gradually improving. The review of what has been already done, must afford us pleasure, and our just expectations must encourage our perseverance - To You, in your several Connections, and in your occasional intercourse with the Liberal and well disposed, we beg leave to recommend the present circumst^s of the College, not doubting your readiness to imbrace every opportunity that occurs, for engaging an Accession of Support and confident that every Effort of Your benevolence & public Spirit directed to this Object, will be recompensed by its permanent and increasing Success

(Which report was approved)

Resolved that M^r Bostock, Son in Law of the Rev^d M^r Yates of Liverpool be admitted as a Student at the College, for the next Session, agreably to the application of M^r Yates³

At the motion of the Rev^d M^r T. Morgan, agreed that the Rev^d M^r Belsham, be requested to Preach the next Anniversary Sermon before the Governors & friends of the New Institution⁴

M^r Joyce⁵ one of the Students upon the foundation presents his respectfull Compliments to the Committee by D^r Rees, and return'd thanks for the favour which he had received, during the course of his Education

Adjourned

³ John Bostock (1772-1846), physician and chemist, son-in-law of John Yates, the Unitarian minister at Liverpool.

⁴ Belsham's sermon was subsequently published as *The Importance of Truth and the Duty of Making an Open Profession of it* (London, 1790).

⁵ Jeremiah Joyce (1763-1818), dissenting minister, scientist and radical.

6.13 GOVERNORS' MINUTES, 6 APRIL 1790

MS: Dr Williams's Library, 38.14, Hackney College Minutes 1785-91, fols. 133-135.

[f. 133]

Kings Head

6th April 1790

Present M^r Towgood in the Chair

M^r Jeffries, M^r Morgan, M^r Worthington, M^r Belsham

M^r B. Travers, M^r Sturch, M^r Dodson, M^r Stone

M^r Jervis,¹ D^r Rees

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read & confirmed.

Resolved that M^r John Cooper be elected Clerk, agreeably to the resolutions specified in the Minute[s] of the 23^d february ---

M^r John Cooper having deliver'd the names of M^r John Spurrier Broad street, M^r Rich^d Whalley Bridgman Grocers Hall &c M^r John Cooper Jun^r of Great Eastcheap as his securities for the faithfull discharge of the Duties, reposed in him as Clerk

Resolved that they are approved & that a Bond be prepared for that purpose.

Resolved that M^r Jervis be requested to pray before the Sermon & M^r Lewis to introduce the service at the ensuing Anniversary of the Governors & Friends of the New College.

Resolved that the Treasurers be desired to pay to M^r Read² the sum of £50 as a Compensation for his past services

Resolved that every Question in which there shall be a difference in this Committee, shall be determined by Ballot and that a Ballotting Box be procured for the use of the Committee

Resolved that the following Gentlemen, together with M^r Rogers, be the superintending Committee for the year ensuing - Mess^r Jeffries - Towgood - J. Towgood, Sturch, Stone, Travers and Worthington.

[f. 134] The following Letter was read by the Chairman

¹ Thomas Jervis (1748-1833), dissenting minister and tutor.

² Read was the New College clerk, 1786-90.

Gentlemen

Clapton April 2.^d 1790

I am truly sorry that the Engagements of my own Family compell me at the next Vacation, to resign the Classical Tuition at the New College - My Pride was gratified & prospects of Happiness brightened by the Hope I once formed of uniting the ability to serve You, with that of managing my other concerns, But I have been disappointed in this hope, by the experience of unexpected Toils & Anxieties & by a serious intrusion upon my Health & Spirits - I think with pleasure of that favourable Opinion, which at first determined You to honor me with your confidence, Be assured of my Gratitude which I owe to You & of my best wishes for the success of your future Endeavours

Geo: Cad: Morgan³

To the Committee of the New College, Hackney

Resolved that the thanks of this Meeting be given to the Rev.^d Geo: Cadogan Morgan for the ability & attention with which he has discharged the Office of Classical Tutor at the New College - that the Chairman be requested to communicate to M^r Morgan this Resolution & at the same time to express the high sense they entertain of his past Services and the regret they feel that the College must be deprived of his farther assistance, on Account of the Circumstances - alluded to in his Letter of Resignation

Resolved that the proper Mode of supplying the Vacancy occasioned by the resignation of M^r Morgan, be taken into consideration at the next Meeting

M^r Blackburn's Plan of a Dining Room with a Library over it, having been laid before the Committee

Resolved that the said plan, (independently of the Staircase & the parts connected with it) is approved,

[f. 135] And that M^r Blackburn be desired to procure the necessary Estimates, and to proceed to the execution of it, with all possible speed, under the direction of the Building Committee

Adjourned

³ George Cadogan Morgan (1754-98), dissenting minister, tutor and scientist who served as Classical Tutor at New College.

6.14 GOVERNORS' MINUTES, 25 MAY 1790

MS: Dr Williams's Library, 38.14, Hackney College Minutes 1785-91, fols. 135-137.

[f. 135]

Kings Head

May 25. 1790

Present M.^r Rogers in the Chair
Mr Towgood, Mr Stone, Mr S. Rogers,¹ Mr Belsham,
Mr Travers, Mr Morgan, D^r Kippis D^r Rees
Mr Thompson,² Mr Worthington

[f. 136] The Minutes of the last Meeting were read & Confirmed

D.^r Kippis having reported, that he had communicated to M^r Wakefield³ the resolutions of the last Meeting, agreeably to the report of the Committee, and that he had receiv'd an Answer from M^r Wakefield, saying that the Classical department of the New College, would be highly gratifying to his Mind, and that he would accept of the same, if he might, be allowed to take four pupils into his House.

Resolved that the Committee, in consideration of the present state of the College, and Also of the circumstances alluded to, in M^r Wakefield's Letter are induced to dispense in his particular Case, with the Resolution at their last meeting on that head, and that he be permitted to take four pupils into his House, to which Number he engages to restrict himself.⁴ And that M^r Wakefield be elected principal Classical Tutor, on those terms, in the room of M^r Morgan,⁵ from the Commencement of the next Session in September.

Resolved that a Committee be appointed to acquaint M^r Wakefield with the above resolution & to express the hopes of the Committee, that the connection between the

¹ Samuel Rogers (1763-1855), poet.

² Isaac Thompson of St Mary Hill.

³ Gilbert Wakefield (1756-1801), classical scholar, theologian and tutor.

⁴ The New College governors were anxious that tutors devote their time entirely to the students of the academy. Consequently, they were reluctant to permit tutors to take private students.

⁵ George Cadogan Morgan (1754-98), dissenting minister, tutor and scientist.

College and Mr Wakefield will prove beneficial to the Institution, and satisfactory to himself, & that Mr Rogers, Dr Kippis, and Mr Stone, be this Committee ---

Resolved that every Student, before he is admitted into the College, shall produce such testimonials of his Character and Conduct, as shall be satisfactory to the Committee ---

Resolved that when application is made for the admission of any Young Gentleman as Student, the above Resolution shall be transmitted to the person, making the application, by the Clerk, accompanied with the following Letter

[f. 137]

Sir,

As you have applied for the Admission of ----- as a Student at the New College Hackney, I am directed by the Committee to transmit to You, a Copy of the following resolution and to acquaint you that he will be admitted, as a Student at the Commencement of the next Session, on his producing the necessary testimonials.

Resolved that when any person applies to be admitted as a Student upon the foundation - the above resolution, should be transmitted to him & also a Copy of the resolution of Oct.^r 27 1789 - Page

Whereas many resolutions have been passed respecting the Laws & internal Discipline of the House, and alterations from time to time, been made in the Laws

Resolved that a Committee be now appointed to revise the Laws with the Alterations & Amendments - to propose any other alterations that may appear to them, to be for the Interest of the College & to submit the new Code, with all convenient dispatch to the General Committee for their approbation, And that this Committee do consist of the Superintending Committee and the Principal Tutors.⁶

Adjourned

⁶ The appointment of Thomas Belsham precipitated a thorough reform of the rules and regulations governing students at New College.

6.15 GOVERNORS' MINUTES, 10 DECEMBER 1790

MS: Dr Williams's Library, 38.14, Hackney College Minutes 1785-91, fols. 141-142.

[f. 142]

Kings Head Tavern

10th Dec^r 1790

Present M^r Rogers in the Chair

M^r Jeffreys [sic], M^r T. Lindsey, M^r J. H. Stone, M^r Sturch,

M^r Dodson, M^r Thompson, M^r Belsham, Alderman Newman

M^r Jn. Towgood, D^r Price, D^r Rees, M^r B. Travers.

M^r Wakefield having signified his intention of resigning the Office of Classical Tutor, at the end of the present Session as by the following Note

"M^r Wakefield respectfully informs the Committee for conducting the New College at Hackney that he finds himself under the necessity of resigning the Office of Classical Tutor in their Institution at the End of the present Session"¹

Resolved that the same be taken into Consideration at the next Meeting of the Committee.

[f. 142] Resolved that it appears expedient to this Committee that a Teacher of the French and Italian Languages be appointed, the Expence to be defrayed by the Parents and Guardians of those Students who learn the above Languages.

A Letter having been read from M^r Barbauld² to M^r Belsham in which he strongly recommends a Gentleman as proper to teach the French and Italian Languages and M^r Stone having informed the Committee that M^r Sabodiniere [sic]³ is the gentleman referred to

¹ Gilbert Wakefield (1756-1801) had served as Classical Tutor at New College for less than three months.

² Rochemont Barbauld (1749-1808), dissenting minister and husband of the poet Anna Letitia Barbauld.

³ A misspelling of Sabonadière. John Scipio Sabonadière (1752-1825) was minister at the French Protestant Church on Crown Street, Soho in the early 1790s. He was expelled from England as an enemy alien in 1793 and may have been working as a French agent during his time as Tutor of French and Italian at New College.

Resolved that Mr Belsham and Mr Stone be a Committee to converse with Mr Sabodiniere on the Subject and report the result to this Committee at their next Meeting.

Resolved that the following Gentlemen be the superintending Committee for the ensuing Quarter viz.^t Mr Rogers, Dr Price, Mr Towgood, Mr Jeffreys [sic], Mr J. H. Stone, Mr B. Travers, Mr Rickards, Mr John Towgood, Mr Sturch.

Resolved that there be a suspension of Lectures at the College for this Year from Xmas Day to New Years day but that the Laws and Orders of the House be continued in full force.

Resolved that the first examination of this Session be at the College on Thursday the 6th of January next to commence at 10^o Clock in the morning.

And that the Chairman, Dr Price, Mr Lindsay,⁴ Mr Dodson, Mr T. Lindsay [sic],⁵ Mr Jervis, Mr J. H. Stone, Dr Disney, Mr T. Morgan, Mr Hollis, and Mr Woodhull be the examining Committee.

The general Committee to be summoned and the Business to be expressed in the Summons.

Adjourned to Tuesday 20th Dec^r

⁴ James Lindsay (1753-1821), dissenting minister and tutor.

⁵ Theophilus Lindsey (1723-1808), Unitarian minister and theologian.

6.16 GOVERNORS' MINUTES, 19 JANUARY 1791

MS: Dr Williams's Library, 38.14, Hackney College Minutes 1785-91, fols. 143-146.

[f. 143]

Kings Head Tavern

Janry. 19th: 1791

Present	Mr T. B. Hollis in the Chair		
Mr Jeffreys [sic],	Mr Lindsey,	Mr Stone,	Mr Dodson,
Mr Towgood,	Mr Belsham,	Mr Rickards	Mr Morgan,
D ^r Rees,	Mr Sturch,	Mr West,	Mr Newman,
Mr Jervis,	D ^r Kippis,	M. ^r Shore.	

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Mr Stone reported that he has received a Letter from Mr Sabonadiere which is as follows (extract)

"I accept with pleasure the Terms propos'd by the Committee, I make no doubt the establishment will improve and I will do every thing in my Power to answer the expectation of the Directors" Signed "J. S. Sabonadiere"¹

[f. 144] From his Letter it appears that M.^r Sabonadiere approves the proposal of the Committee to attend at the College for twenty Guineas certain and one Guinea for each Student during the remainder of this Session.

Resolved that he is expected to commence the discharge of his Office as Teacher of the French and Italian languages on the first day of February next.

The Sub-Committee for preparing the Report produced the following which was read and approved.

¹ John Scipio Sabonadière (1752-1825), minister at the French Protestant Church on Crown Street, Soho.

"Gentlemen

"Your Committee in their last annual Report informed you that the second Wing annexed to the centre building of the College was nearly furnished. It was undertaken in consequence of your resolution at a previous Yearly Meeting and your resolution was founded on a conviction that the collegiate buildings without that Addition were not sufficient to accommodate the Students who had actually offer'd themselves and who were register'd for Admission in the Books of the Committee. The expence incurr'd by it was therefore indispensably necessary and the Plan upon which the Institution was form'd and established could not be accomplish'd without it.

Your Committee now have the satisfaction to inform you that this Wing is completed and that many of the Rooms in it are furnished and occupied.

The College being provided with suitable accommodations for such a Number of Students as would be likely to answer the Ends of its establishment, the next object to which the superintending Committee directed their attention was the improvement of that Code of Discipline and of that Plan of Education upon which they were well apprised, the Reputation, Utility and permanence of the Institution must necessarily depend. For this purpose a sub-committee was appointed. The sub-committee availing themselves of the Experience they had gain'd since the first establishment of the College form'd, at many successive Meetings, a System which, after the maturest deliberation appeared to to [sic] them the best adapted for accomplishing the views and purposes of the Friends and Founders of the Institution. This System is comprised in a Number of Laws which, duly executed and observed, cannot fail to preserve the Morals of the Students and to promote their application and improvement.

[f. 145] These Laws have been reported to the General Committee, and after repeated discussion approved, and have been since printed for the direction and government of the College. The beneficial Effects of these Laws, during the progress of the present Session, have confirmed the Opinion which your Committee had entertain'd with respect to their Utility, and they have now the pleasure to inform you, that the Conduct of the Students in general is not only irreproachable, but commendable, and that their Application and proficiency correspond to the wishes of those who superintend their Education. The Number of Students is 46, of these 38 are upon their own Foundation and Eight upon the foundation of the Institution; thirty one are designed for Civil Life and fifteen for the Ministry. The Union of Knowledge and Virtue your Committee well know is the Object, for the attainment of which this College was originally founded. To this Object their Views have been uniformly directed: and they cannot forbear congratulating you and themselves, that an Object so important and desirable is likely to be accomplished by this Institution.

Amidst difficulties and discouragements the prospect has animated them to persevere, with your continued concurrence and the good Wishes and active support of the Friends of Science Liberty and Virtue, they can have no reason to despair of Success.

That no effort to serve their Country, the Age in which they live and the succession of future Ages shall be lost, is the Maxim to which they have adhered. By a conviction of its truth they have been encouraged to proceed, increasing experience will confirm their attachment to it: and they cherish the hope that the Cause of Truth and Religion will derive an accession of Ornament and Support from the Institution to which you and they extend patronage and assistance.

At a time when erroneous principles with regard both to Religion and Government are industriously disseminated, it becomes the duty of every rational believer and of every patriotick Citizen to exert himself with activity and zeal in opposing their progress and pernicious influence. And is there any way in which we can promise ourselves greater Success than by directing the Enquiries of youthful Minds, and attaching the rising generation to just Sentiments of Truth & Liberty?

Should the College, which we have united to establish and for the permanence and prosperity of which we are all solicitous contribute to train up those that are our Hope for the ensuing Age in knowledge and [f. 146] Virtue; and to render them enlighten'd steady and zealous in an adherence to the Cause of Religion and Liberty; we may live to see and in some measure to enjoy the good effects of that Discipline and Education which your Liberality promotes. Ages, long to come will derive benefit from our present Exertions."

Mr Towgood reported the conference with Mr Wakefield

Resolved that the further Consideration of this Business be deferred to Tuesday the 25th instant.

Adjourned.

6.17 GOVERNORS' MINUTES, 1 FEBRUARY 1791

MS: Dr Williams's Library, 38.14, Hackney College Minutes 1785-91, fols. 146-147.

[f. 146]

Kings Head Tavern

1st Febry. 1791

Present Mr Jeffreys [sic] in the Chair

D ^r Kippis,	M ^r Lindsey,	M ^r Esdaile,	M ^r Shore,
M ^r Dodson,	M ^r Hollis,	M ^r Belsham,	M ^r West,
M ^r Thompson,	M ^r Sturch,	M ^r B. Travers,	M ^r Pickbourn. ¹

Resolved that two thousand Copies of the last Report of the Committee to the General Meeting with an Account of the Plan of the Institution be printed for distribution.

Resolved that D^r Priestley be requested to preach the next Annual Sermon on the last Wednesday in April and that D^r Kippis be desired to [f. 147] acquaint him with this Resolution.²

The Sub-Committee appointed to confer with M^r Wakefield report that M^r Wakefield is willing (if it be the desire of the Committee) to continue his connection with the College and to devote a greater proportion of his time to the Instruction of the Students; but declines mentioning any specific Sum as a compensation for his additional Services, leaving the Consideration of this Subject to the Judgment of the Committee.³

Resolved that the Committee entertaining a high Opinion of M^r Wakefields Abilities, request him to withdraw his Notice of resigning the Classical department in the College and that D^r Rees and M^r Belsham be desired to communicate this Resolution.

¹ James Pickbourn (d. 1814), dissenting minister, schoolmaster and Dr Williams's librarian.

² Priestley's sermon was subsequently published as *The Proper Objects of Education in the Present State of the World* (London, 1791).

³ Wakefield temporarily rescinded his resignation. He nonetheless left the College in the summer of 1791 after less than a year as Classical Tutor.

A Motion being made by T. B. Hollis Esq. and seconded by Ja^s West Esq^r the Resolution of May 11th 1790 relating to private Lectures be rescinded.

Resolved that the Consideration of this Motion be deferred to the next Meeting of the Committee and that this Business be inserted in the Summons.

A Letter from D^r Kippis was read containing his resignation of his appointment as one of the Principal Tutors at the Close of this Session⁴

Resolved that the above Letter be taken into Consideration at the next Meeting of the Committee and this Business be mentioned in the Summons.

Resolved that a general Meeting of Governors & Subscribers be summoned to meet at this Place on Tuesday 22^d Inst. to consider confirming the Resolutions of the last general Meeting relating to the permanent Funds.

Adjourned to Tuesday the 15th Instant.

⁴ It appears that Kippis's resignation was a response to the increased salary offered to Gilbert Wakefield by the governing committee following his threat of resignation. A letter of the New College chairman, Thomas Rogers, to his son Samuel of 1 February 1791 explains some of the motivation behind the resignations of Wakefield and Kippis: 'One of Mr Wakefield's private reasons for resigning was that Dr K[ippis] - who attended twice a Week only, had the same allowance as himself - a 2[nd] deputation waited upon Wakefield on Saturday last - & he consented to stay... After this matter was settled by the Committee on Tuesday last, (I was not there), Dr Kippis, went away, & sent in immediately a Letter of Resignation' (UCL, MS Sharpe Papers, 11.1, fol. 38a).

6.18 GOVERNORS' MINUTES, 15 FEBRUARY 1791

MS: Dr Williams's Library, 38.14, Hackney College Minutes 1785-91, fols. 147-148.

[f. 147]

Kings Head Tavern

Febry 15th 1791

Present Mr Rogers in the Chair

Mr Lindsey,	Mr Mallett,	Mr Dodson,	Mr Jervis,
Mr Shore,	Mr Esdaile,	D ^r Disney,	Mr Morgan,
Mr Thompson,	Mr Sturch,	Mr T. B. Hollis,	Mr Jeffrey's [sic],
Mr Pickbourn,	Mr Rickards,	Mr West,	Mr Lindsay, ¹
Mr Belsham,	Mr Savery, ²	Mr Towgood,	D ^r Rees.

The Sub-Committee for applying to Mr Wakefield for the purpose of requesting him to withdraw his Notice of resigning the Classical department in the College produced a Letter addressed to the Chairman by which Mr Wakefield cancels the Report of the former Sub-Committee [f. 148] and withdraws his resignation.

Resolved unanimously that a Sub-Committee of three Gentlemen be appointed to wait on D^r Kippis to express the high sense which this Committee entertain of the importance of his continued Services to the College and their united wish that he would retract his resignation from a regard to the improvement of the Students and the reputation and prosperity of the institution and that the Chairman, Mr Hollis, and Mr Dodson be that sub-Committee.

Resolved that the discussion of the Motion for rescinding the resolution of the 11th May 1790 relating to private Lectures be postponed 'till this day fortnight and that the Business be express'd in the Summons.

Adjourned.

¹ James Lindsay (1753-1821), dissenting minister and tutor.

² John Savery of Butcombe Court, near Bristol.

6.19 GOVERNORS' MINUTES, 22 FEBRUARY 1791

MS: Dr Williams's Library, 38.14, Hackney College Minutes 1785-91, fols. 148-149.

[f. 148]

Kings Head Tavern

Febry 22nd 1791

Present	Mr Rogers in the Chair		
D ^r Rees,	Mr J. H. Stone,	Mr Lindsay, ¹	Mr J. Towgood,
Mr Jervis,	Mr Thompson,	Mr Savary [sic],	Mr Hawker,
Mr T. Morgan,	Mr Hollis,	Mr Mallett,	Mr Dodson,
D ^r Price,	Mr Jeffreys [sic],	Mr Esdaile,	Mr Belsham,
D ^r Kippis,	Mr Tho. ^s Lindsey,	Mr B. Travers.	

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Chairman reported, that the Committee appointed at the last Meeting to wait upon D.^r Kippis had an interview with him in which he express'd his warm attachment to the College, and the following Letter containing his declared purpose of continuing his Connection with the College was produced and read Viz.^t

"Gentlemen,

In declaring my Intention of resigning my Office in the New College, I was not actuated by trifling or capricious motives, the consideration by which I was influenc'd, were my advanc'd period of Life, the distance of Westminster from Hackney, my subjection to variety's of Weather, and my desire of greater leisure for the discharge of other engagements.

I still strongly feel the force of these Circumstances; but since it is your Opinion express'd in so honorable and obliging a manner that my continuance in my Tutorship is desirable in the present [f. 149] state of things; I submit my private views to my regard for an Institution, for the prosperity of which I am ardently solicitous.

¹ James Lindsay (1753-1821), dissenting minister and tutor.

It will therefore be my endeavour under the protection of Divine Providence to continue, some time longer, my Services as a Tutor with the same Attention & chearfulness which I have hitherto maintain'd, I have the honor [sic] to be with great Gratitude and Respect Gentlemen your much oblig'd & obd Serv.^t

“Andrew Kippis”

“Westminster Feby 22^d 1791”

Resolved unanimously that the thanks of this Meeting be given to D^r Kippis for his obliging acquiescence in the wishes of the Committee and his respectful Letter on the Occasion.

The adjourn'd Motion for rescinding the Resolution of May 11th 1790 relating to private Lectures having been fully discussed, M^r Hollis withdrew his Motion.

Adjourned.

6.20 GOVERNORS' MINUTES, 6 MARCH 1791

MS: Dr Williams's Library, 38.14, Hackney College Minutes 1785-91, fols. 149-151.

[f. 149]

Kings Head Tavern

March 6th 1791

Present	M ^r Rogers in the Chair		
M ^r S. Rogers,	M ^r West,	M ^r Mallett,	M ^r Lindsay,
M ^r Belsham,	M ^r Dodson,	D ^r Rees,	M ^r Morgan, ¹
M ^r Towgood,	M ^r Stone,	M ^r Thompson,	M ^r Jervis,
M ^r Pickbourn,	M ^r Travers,	M ^r Sturch,	M ^r Lindsey,
D ^r Kippis,	M ^r Jeffreys.		

The Minutes of the last meeting were read & confirmed.

M^r Jervis reported that the Rev^d Isaac Smith Librarian of Howard College in America² hath desir'd him to present a Catalogue of that Library to the New College.

Resolved that the Thanks of this Committee be given to M^r [f. 150] Smith and that M^r Jervis be requested to communicate the same to M^r Smith.

Doctor Rees reported that the Rev^d M^r Joyce hath presented a Copy of Malones Edition of Shakespear to the Library of the New College.³

Resolved that the Thanks of this Committee be given to M^r Joyce and that Doctor Rees communicate this Resolution to M^r Joyce.

The Chairman reported that the Rev^d M^r Whitwell of York hath presented a Donation of one hundred Pounds to the College by the Hands of D^r Kippis.

Resolved that the Thanks of this Committee be given to M^r Whitwell for his valuable present and that D^r Kippis be desir'd to communicate the same to M^r Whitwell.

¹ Thomas Morgan (1752-1821), dissenting minister and Dr Williams's Librarian.

² Isaac Smith served as minister to the dissenting congregation in Sidmouth, Devon before emigrating to America [SIO].

³ Jeremiah Joyce (1763-1818), Unitarian minister, scientist and radical. Edmond Malone (1741-1812), literary scholar and biographer, edited *The Plays and Poems of William Shakespeare* (10 vols, 1790).

A letter from Mr Wakefield Classical tutor at the College addressed to the Committee having been read, which is as follows, Viz.^t

"Hackney March 21.st 1791

"Before Mr Wakefield had the Misfortune to be connected with the College at Hackney and since that Misfortune he entertain'd hopes of introducing some improvements into the mode of education established among Dissenters; and should have been happy in contributing his feeble and remote endeavors to dignify a description of People who alone profess those Principles that are calculated to give full Lustre to the Character of Englishmen. Disappointed in these Expectations and conceiving their Institution not adequately adapted to the promotion of solid Literature, nor holding forth a reasonable encouragement for one in Mr W's situation; he is persuaded that a reverence for himself and for propriety equally demands from him the final relinquishment of his Office at the End of the present Sessions. Upon the subject of private Lectures Mr W. is not dispos'd to say any thing that may be deem'd petulant & offensive tho' no Man has oftener shown himself superior to those timid and temporising expedients which meanness and servility have dignified with the Name of Prudence, He must observe however, that if the Committee suppose every thing requisite to be taught for the sixty Guineas they form a very erroneous Opinion upon this point. If they apprehend the Classical department to be fully executed upon this plan, Mr W. can assure them that competent Judges of this Subject will form an opinion very materially different from theirs, and will regard their pretensions to teach the Languages as visionary & absurd.

Mr W. will only add that there are many Gentlemen within the Committee personally known and unknown to him, for whose Characters he entertains the highest respect, and of whose good Opinion he shall ever be ambitious: he was therefore very sorry to understand that his former letter (see page)⁴ should be deemed rude and improper. He wishes them to consider whether they who are such Advocates for toleration can be justifiable in censuring any freedom of Speech and any Latitude of Opinion; he intimated then what he now mentions with greater plainness, that they have in his Judgement grievously misapplied [**f. 151**] the Generosity of the Public and are pursuing Measures which cannot fail of bringing their Institution to Desolation. Those who think him rude for asserting this, may assure themselves that they have some deficiencies to correct which make them less respectable as Men, and less consistent as Dissenters."

Resolved unanimously that the resignation of Mr Wakefield as Classical Tutor at the close of this Session be accepted, and that the Clerk be ordered to enclose this Resolution in a Letter to Mr Wakefield.

⁴ Original parenthesis of the New College clerk.

Mr Lindsey reported that D.^r Priestley hath consented to preach on Wednesday the 27th of April the Anniversary of the College.⁵

Resolved that Mr Belsham be requested to take the prayer before the Sermon and that Mr Lindsay be requested to introduce the Service – Mr Belsham and Mr Lindsay being present expressed their Compliance with the Request of the Committee.

Resolved that the examination of the Students be at the College on Friday the 15th of April to commence at 10^o Clock and that the Committee be summon'd for that purpose.

Resolved that some proper Person be appointed by the superintending Committee to improve the students in elocution during the last Quarter in this Session.⁶

Resolved that this Committee meet in Tuesday the 5th of April at this place at 7^o Clock precisely.

Adjourned.

⁵ Priestley's anniversary sermon was subsequently published as *The Proper Objects of Education in the Present State of the World* (London: J. Johnson, 1791).

⁶ William Trew (1756-1824) was subsequently appointed Tutor of Elocution at the College.

7.1 THE CHAIRMAN'S LETTER, 5 AUGUST 1793

Introduction

Relatively little information survives on the history of New College after September 1791. Recently, however, I discovered a printed broadside letter dated 5 August 1793 which contains significant new information on collegiate life in the 1790s. The letter is written by the Unitarian MP for Camelford, William Smith (1756-1835) and is an appeal for financial support for the institution. It establishes that Smith was appointed chairman of the New College governing committee on 1 June 1793, following the death of Thomas Rogers. It reveals the identity of a number of previously unknown college governors, including John Aikin (1747-1822) and John Towill Rutt (1760-1841). It also provides an important insight into the financial crisis at the institution at the time. As massive debts accumulated in the wake of expensive building projects, student numbers declined as a result of the academy's reputation as a 'hot-bed of sedition'. In many respects, the letter is a candid acknowledgement of the mismanagement of the institution since its inception in 1786.

The letter was discovered appended to a volume of printed New College texts in Dr. Williams's Library (shelf mark: 3045.F.11). 'Samuel Heywood, Harpur Street' is inscribed on the back of the document.

7.2 CHAIRMAN'S LETTER, 5 AUGUST 1793

TEXT: Printed broadside appended to a volume of New College texts in Dr. Williams's Library, shelf mark: 3045.F.11.

ADDRESS: Samuel Heywood, Harpur Street

The Committee, appointed to take into Consideration the Affairs of the Academical Institution at HACKNEY, and to carry into effect the resolutions of the general Meeting, in addressing those who have so long been their Co-adjutors in this important Undertaking, and of whose equal Concern for its Permanence and Prosperity it would be presumptuous in them to doubt, think it needless to enter into any Explanation of the Views of its Founders, or into a Detail of the Advantages which such an Institution is calculated to afford; but when, in pursuance of the Directions of a General Meeting, they venture to solicit *farther* Assistance of its FRIENDS,¹ they cannot regard an Attempt to rectify some Misrepresentations, which have been circulated respecting it, either as superfluous or foreign to their Purpose; especially, as these Reports, however false or exaggerated, not only derive some Colour from the present Application, but have an obvious Tendency to injure its Success. – It happened unfortunately at the Establishment of this COLLEGE, that several of its most active and valuable Supporters, indulging a Hope, too sanguine certainly, but surely pardonable, that a very large Portion of the Public would feel its Utility equally with themselves, were thereby induced to expend too great a Sum, in providing every Species of Accommodation, to an Extent which Experience has shewn to be not merely unnecessary but burthensome.² – To this Expenditure still more unfortunately succeeded a Decrease of Income from a diminished Number both of Students and Subscribers,³ imputable greatly, in the Opinion of the Committee, to various Circumstances in the Time, but partly, perhaps, they are ready to confess, to some Errors in the Conduct of the Business, at the Time malignantly exaggerated, and which they hope have since been very satisfactorily amended. Neither do they desire to conceal that the current Expences were greatly enhanced by that Want of Economy which so frequently prevails in the Management of pecuniary Concerns, when not regulated by the Attention and restrained by the Interest of an Individual. – From these Causes an Embarrassment had arisen in the Finances of the

¹ Smith's public letter launched a new appeal for financial support.

² Theophilus Lindsey echoed this lament about financial mismanagement in a letter to William Tayleur of 26 June 1795: 'And now, my excellent friend, what a calamity would it be, that a seminary for the education of youth the only one in the kingdom, that is truly liberal and unshackled, should fall to nothing, through the debts most improvidently contracted, by a series of negligence and by overbuilding themselves.' JRUL, MS Letters of Theophilus Lindsey, 1785-1800, fol. 85.

³ A manuscript letter of James Wodrow (1730-1810) of 22 January 1794, notes that New College had 'about 20 students', a considerable decrease from the 49 resident students in 1790. See DWL, Wodrow-Kenrick Correspondence, MS. 24.157, f. 187i.

College, too great to be any longer unnoticed or indured, and several General Meetings were convened on the Subject. – In the Discussions, the main Question which arose was on the Alternative of continuing in the present Premises, or of selling them, and removing the COLLEGE to a greater Distance from London, there to be conducted on a narrower Scale. – The former, after very long and mature Deliberation, having been almost unanimously determined on, a Committee was appointed to take into Consideration the State of the Institution, and to make a Report to the General Meeting. This Committee consisted of the following Gentlemen: Mr. William Smith, Mr. Shore, Mr. Towgood, Mr. Stone, and Mr. Spurrell,⁴ to whom were afterwards added, Dr. Aikin, Mr. West, Mr. Benjamin Travers, and Mr Rutt;⁵ and the Result of their Report, as sanctioned by Two successive General Meetings, is, that, in consequence of adopting some new Arrangements, by which considerable Savings are made in a Variety of Articles, and particularly by contracting with the resident Tutor for the Board of the Students, the Expences of the Institution are reduced to a Certainty, and confined within reasonable Limits. The Committee, therefore, take leave fervently to recommend the Institution to your *continued*, they would say to your *increased*, Regard, in a full Persuasion, that a Seminary, founded on Principles so favourable to the Interests of Knowledge and Truth, of Virtue and Religion, will not, through any Deficiency of Liberality and Zeal, be permitted to languish and expire, when, after seriously and anxiously weighing this important Affair, they are decidedly of Opinion, that, with a moderate Degree of additional Succour, it will not merely be supported, but may, probably, arrive at a higher Degree of Vigour and Prosperity.

W. SMITH, Chairman.

HACKNEY, AUGUST 5TH, 1793.

P. S. It may be proper to inform the Friends of the Institution, that the General Meeting came to an unanimous Resolution, that no Money shall be spent in Building, except in necessary Repairs, till all the Debts of the Institution shall be discharged. – Also, that all donations, which may be hereafter received, shall be appropriated, either to form a Fund in Addition to the permanent Fund, or to discharge the general Debts of the institution, as the Donors themselves shall respectively appoint; and, in case Donations shall be first applied to re-invest the permanent Fund in the Stocks, and, after that shall be done, to the Discharge of the other Debts of the Institution.

⁴ William Smith MP (1756-1835); Samuel Shore Jr. (1761?-1836), manufacturer of Clarges Street, London; either John Hurford Stone (1763-1818), merchant and printer or his brother, William. I am unable to trace the identity of Mr Spurrell.

⁵ John Aikin (1747-1822), physician and writer; James West, insurance broker and linen draper; Benjamin Travers (1752-1817), merchant and sugar-refiner; and John Towill Rutt (1760-1841), politician and writer.

8.1 THE WODROW-KENRICK CORRESPONDENCE

Introduction

The voluminous manuscript correspondence of James Wodrow (1730-1810) and Samuel Kenrick (1728-1811) is held in Dr Williams's Library, London (MS 24.157). Wodrow, a Scottish clergyman and historian from Stevenson in Ayrshire, and Kenrick, a banker who resided in Bewdley in Worcestershire from 1765, maintained an almost unbroken correspondence throughout their lives.¹ Their letters cover a vast array of subjects and among them is a description of an important episode relating to New College, Hackney.

Wodrow was a family friend of George Vanburgh Brown of Knockmarloch, an eighteen year old whose parents had both died. Brown spent several summers at Wodrow's house in Stevenson. He was determined to follow his father in a career in the army, but Wodrow was keen for him first to receive a good liberal education. Consequently, Wodrow wrote to Kenrick, a New College benefactor, asking him to recommend an institution in England where Brown could develop his understanding of French, Latin, Geography, History, and Mathematics. In the subsequent correspondence, Kenrick presents an account of New College which includes a first-hand description from Robert Pardoe, a Bewdley student at the academy. Ultimately, Brown's guardians refused to send him to New College, but the Wodrow-Kenrick letters from 28 September 1793 to 22 March 1794 provide an important insight into the life and reputation of the academy at the time.

This section therefore presents selections from the correspondence relating to the discussions about George Brown's education.

¹ For an important discussion of the Wodrow-Kenrick correspondence see Martin Fitzpatrick, 'The Enlightenment, politics and providence: some Scottish and English comparisons' in Haakonssen, 64-98. Martin Fitzpatrick and Anthony Page are currently working on a complete edition of the correspondence.

8.2 James Wodrow to Samuel Kenrick, 28 September 1793

MS: Dr Williams's Library, 24.157 (183) i, ii

ADDRESS: Mr. Kenrick, Bewdley, Worcestershire

ENDORSEMENT: Stevⁿ Sept^r 28th 1793 rec^d 6 Oct.^r answ^d 7th Oct^r

[...] I must now finish this letter by applying to you for advice, in a matter interesting to me. A young Gentlⁿ of 18 Geo Brown of Knockmarlock¹ whose Father you may perhaps remember, has staid [sic] in my house with his Tutor for three successive summers during the recess of the College at the earnest request of M^r Maclellan his uncle in Law & Guardian, for his parents have been dead many years. As his estate by M^r M[aclellan]'s management is now about £300 a year M^r M. wished to give him a liberal Education yet it has been uphill work at least for some time. The boy has good Dispositions, a warm frank affectionate temper, but application to study or mental exertion of any kind has been irksome to him, especially since a Fever which he had last winter at the Ethick Class at Glasgow, which, after repeated relapses left him in a weak Languishing state so that every method was necessary for months to reform & establish his Health. since he came here in April he has become much more stout & robust than ever he was before but allong with the acquisition of vigorous health, has lost all relish for study or application & has little pleasure in the two or three hours allotted to it. The company of parishioners & strangers here in summer, gives too many opportunities for amusement. With all these drawbacks he is a tollerably good French & Latin Scholar.

During the course of the summer he took an irrisistible inclination to go into the army His fathers profession for which he is at present more fit than for any other employment, as his fondness for and activity ~~for~~ in any bodily exertions keep pace with his aversion to mental ones. After a considerable effort made to dissuade him from this purpose. he has consented to postpone it for a twelvemonth and to apply during that time to such studies as have some connexion with the Military Life. With this in view we wish to break off his connexion not only with his Companions in Glasgow, but with all his friends & acquaintances in this country, by placing him at some English academy in some Country town & thus give him the only chance of recovering a little the habits of application & study & acquiring some little knowledge to make a decent appearance as an Officer; & he himself seems sensible of the propriety of this plan & cheerful in prosecuting it.

¹ George Vanburgh Brown of Knockmarloch, son of John Brown, native of America. George matriculated at Glasgow University and married Elizabeth Cunningham of Auchenharvie. He entered the army and died in Tours, France c. 1842. He was buried there with his wife.

Now My Dear sir you must be able to give us some advice & assistance in this business. Do you know of any Accademy or school in any part of England where he could lodge with three or four or a greater number of young men of his own age in the Rectors house, who woud be a Tutor to them all or if the school was larger where he could be boarded in the Village or town with his preferrd Tutor, and attend at the stated hours; boarded nearly on the same terms as at Glasgow about £24 Quarter, no matter though higher for both, where he could be perfected in the French & Latin which would be easily done instructed in Geography History especially the history of Britain & perhaps some parts of the Mathematicks such as Mensuration² & trigonometry: of the three last he has some smattering already. Fencing he has yet to learn but whatever progress he may make, our chief object you will easily see is his recovering the habits of mental application which are greatly weakened & in danger of being forever lost. I have frequently thought of placing him singly with our worthy friend Mr Wigan if he woud accept such a charge on any terms, but rejected that thought as soon as it occurred, from the apprehension of the impossibility of making him apply at all without the grand spur of emulation arising from a few other Gentlⁿ of the same age with himself. I should have mentioned that tho' though[t]less & [roving?] in his manner & fond of company ~~of company~~ and amusement, he is as yet quite sober, & given to no kind of licentiousness that I know of, but by all appearance under the restraints of Religion honour & decency. I beg you will consider this matter & give us all the assistance & advice that your Experience & judgment can dictate & that you woud write to me as soon as you can without waiting for a frank [...]

² A branch of mathematics that deals with the art of measuring distances, areas and volumes.

8.3 Samuel Kenrick to James Wodrow, 7 October 1793

MS: Dr Williams's Library, 24.157 (184) i.

ADDRESS: Rev^d Dr Wodrow, Irvine, N. Britain.

ENDORSEMENT: Bewdley, October the seventh. 1793.

My dear & worthy Friend

Bewdley 7th Oct^r 1793

As one part of your kind favour of the 28th ult.^o requires an imediate answer - and our good friend Mr Wigan has procured me a frank - I will not lose a moment in giving you my best advice respecting your young friend - especially as in this case there is no time to be lost - as you will find by the sequel.

The New College at Hackney, is the only & best place that I know of for completing the education of the young gentleman in question¹ - & if he goes thither imediatey he will have the advantage of attending a complete set of Lectures, in any branch of science & polite literature. There he will meet with every encouragement to improvement in knowledge, in liberal sentiments & polite behaviour - & his friends may be sure of the strictest attention being paid to his personal conduct & morals.

The Masters, you know, are all men of the first rate abilities. Mr Belsham,² who has the immediate direction of the whole under his eye, is a gentleman of the most amiable manner's & makes a point of being acquainted wth every one of the pupils. In short he shews more the affection of an anxious father than the severity of a rigid master: & is therefore much more loved than feared by his scholars. You must have seen the other masters names w.th their respective departments stitched in wth some of the late monthly Reviews.³ The terms for one year or 10 months session, are I think 60 Guineas [per] ann. If this proposal meet wth your approbation, all you have to do is to send the young gentleman to Hackney wth a letter to Mr Belsham, to whom you may make use of my name - because the general course of studies is already begun (as I mentioned before) - & you may make use of my name also, to 2 young gentlemen students there - Mr Joseph Skey & Robert Pardoe - who are of 2 years standing & ab^t 17 or 18 year's of age⁴ - & who, be assured, by their own native goodness, as well as for my sake will be ready to shew your friend every kind attention in their power.

¹ Kenrick was an annual subscriber to New College.

² Thomas Belsham (1750-1829), dissenting minister, tutor and author.

³ *The Monthly Review, or, Literary Journal* (1749-1844) was a publication sympathetic to the cause of Protestant dissent. It was edited and printed by Ralph Griffiths until his death in 1803.

⁴ Joseph Skey, MD (1773-1866), Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians and Physician to the Royal Forces; Robert Pardoe, of Poole House, Bewdley, Deputy Lieutenant and Major of the Militia for Worcestershire.

I will only mention one instance in favour of this place, as proper for your young friend - & that is the above M^r Pardoe - who was sent from home hence 2 years ago, a giddy thoughtless boy from a country grammar school - but retur'ned the first year much improved - & on his last visit this summer, he had all the easy unaffected address of a gentleman & was master of the common topics of conversation - wth every thing the rever'se of conceited pedantry & sower insolent bigotry the too comon characteristics - wth shameless licentiousness - of the young students of our universities.

Lastly if you agree to this & its imediate execution you will of course send him directly to London, where he may apply either to M^r Michael Dodson of Boswell Court or M^r John Towgood Clements Lane, Trustees & Treasurers of the said New College⁵ - who will give him the fullest information respecting every thing - and in the mean time you will be so good as drop me a line, & I will imediatey write myself to M^r Belsham & to my two above mentioned young friends, to forward your good intention. - I now think I have done wth this subject & will devote the remainder of the short time allotted me to the other parts of your kind letter [...]

⁵ Michael Dodson (1732-99), barrister and biblical scholar, and John Towgood (d.1837), banker. Dodson and Towgood were the New College Treasurers.

8.4 James Wodrow to Samuel Kenrick, 12 November 1793

MS: Dr Williams's Library, 24.157 (185)

ADDRESS: Mr Samuel Kenrick, Bewdley, Worcestershire.

ENDORSEMENT: Rec^d 17th Nov^r wrote to Hackney 18th to Mess^{rs} Skey & Pardoe.

Stevenson Nov^r 12th 1793

My best & kindest friend may be justly surprised that no notice has been taken of his letter about Mr Brown which was so quickly dispatched. It has been entirely owing to his situation with respect to his other Guardians. Your advice supported by the reasons that accompanied it instantly decided the point both with me & Mr Maclellan to whom I directly sent it. but Mr M. who is a very modest man thought he could not venture on such an important step as sending his Ward to Hackney without consulting his other Guardians or Curators (tho' he himself has been the only acting one for many years) particularly Mr Sheddan a Relation of Mr Brown's an opulent man who lives in Londⁿ Unluckily that Gent^ln happened to be in the Isle of Wight and Mr M. after waiting long for an Answer & writing a second time to his son signifying his determination to send George up if he did not receive from them, Letters with strong reasons against it, has now taken that resolution as well as the steps necessary for executing it. Accordingly George leaves my House this day and after staying two at Beith will probably leave Glasgow on Friday & be in London by the middle of next week.

In this situation I now claim your friendly promise of writing to your two young friends Mess^{rs} Skey & Pardoe immediately. Your still more important Letter to Mr Belsham will be also most thankfully accepted. but I would wish you to defer this till you hear from Mr Maclellan himself who intends to thank you for your friendship & trouble in this interesting matter, and will be better able to acquaint you with his views as to George than I am. I regret that he has lost near another Month by these unfortunate delays, but you will see from my first Letter that George has studied at Glasgow Colledge, under a private Tutor & with every other advantage for three years - that we do not hope for great proficiency in any science, that we wish to perfect him in the Latin & French, Geography, give him some [lust?] for History a little of the Mathematicks which he knows something of already, above all that he should recover if possible the habits of application he has lost, acquire the manners of a Gentleman & the principles & habits of a good man. It will be a great solace to an absolute stranger to be received with friendship by the two Bewdley young men, & I have little doubt that they will find him worthy of it, for he has a warm affectionate friendly generous heart. I am grieved to part with him & that it is not in my power to

accompany him to day to Beith from the severity of the frost. If the weather open I shall probably follow him tomorrow or Thurs^y as M^r Maclellan wishes to see me and cannot now travel any where himself [...]

8.5 Samuel Kenrick to James Wodrow, 10 January 1794

MS: Dr Williams's Library, 24.157 (186) i.

ADDRESS: The Rev^d Dr Wodrow Irvine N: Britain

ENDORSEMENT: Bewdley. January the eleventh. 1794.

My dear & worthy Friend,

Bewdley 10th Jan^y 1794

I hope this will find you arrived safe under your own comfortable roof – where you have been so long & anxiously expected by your most amiable & excellent daughter's: when you are recovered from the fatigues of your voyage, & the numberless avocations w^{ch} must necessarily engage your attention after so long an absence – it is needless to say, how happily you will make all your friends here by favouring me with a sketch of your late excursion & your remarks on men & things in our sister kingdom.¹ In your last favour of 12th Nov^r you were so kind as to desire me to write to you while in Ireland: w^{ch} wth pleasure I certainly should have done, if any thing had occurred worth sending you: but I punctually executed your request by writing the 17th Nov^r to my young friends Mess^{rs} Skey & Pardoe at Hackney of Mr Brown's departure from Glasgow, & his intention of being in London in a few days after. I soon received their answer's, that every mark of attention & respect should be shewn him – w^{ch} I am sure would have been most cordially done - & that they had, according to my desire, acquainted Mr Belsham of Mr Brown's intention. I have received 2 messages from them since where they mention that a letter was lying there directed to Mr Brown – but that he [had] not then made his appearance. By a letter w^{ch} Mary has just rec^d from her friend Nelly, I find he is gone to another school at Kensington, so our plan is dropped. I have only to add, that I have never rec^d a syllable from Mr Maclellan [...]

¹ Wodrow had recently returned from a visit to Ireland.

8.6 James Wodrow to Samuel Kenrick, 22 January 1794

MS: Dr Williams's Library, 24.157 (187) i.

ADDRESS: M.^r Kenrick Bewdley, Worcestershire

ENDORSEMENT: Answ^d 22^d Mar by Mess^r Gordon from Wrexham.

Stev.ⁿ Jan.^y 22^d 1794

My Dear Friend,

I must now devote some time to the answer of your long & valuable Letter of the 10th especially as before the receipt of it I had intended to write you the first leisure I could find to appologize for the vain trouble I had given you relative to M^r Brown's education & account for the vanity & inutility of it, notwithstanding which I must ever consider myself a friend as equally indebted to your friendly intentions as if they had been successful. M^r Brown left Scotland about the same time I did, accompanied with a very long letter which M^r Maclellan put upon me to write to M^r Sheddan his other Curator stating M^r Brown's situation in danger of losing any habits of application & the very strong reasons why we wished him to be placed at Hackney. Upon my return I found a Letter from M^r Br. giving the first distinct view of the reasons of their altering this scheme. He says the accounts they received of Hackney were that it had lost the name of a College & got that of a private seminary containing about 20 students,¹ that the Professors had quarrelled among themselves, advertised the public buildings for sale,² and whenever they got a proper price would give over teaching. In consequence of this, they had placed him at Kensington under a M. Chauval of Geneva, a Protestant Clergyman who had been in this about 12 years &c, M^r Brown himself seems dissappointed & hurt & I am also, believing these accounts in a great measure unfounded. With M^r Mac^lⁿ I have had no correspondence since my return – it is likely his feelings are the same perhaps stronger than ours which may be the reason he has not written to you but as the dye is now cast I have desired M^r B to make the best of his present situation, and we shall say no more about it [...]

¹ In 1790 forty-nine students were enrolled at New College.

² Letters of 7 April and 9 May 1793 published in the *Gentleman's Magazine* reported that the buildings and grounds of New College had been advertised for sale.

8.7 Samuel Kenrick to James Wodrow, 22 March 1794

MS: Dr Williams's Library, 24.157 (188) i.

ADDRESS: The Rev^d D^r Wodrow, Stevenston [sic] 1794.

My dear & worthy Friend,

Bewdley 22 March 1794

Your long-wished for & most entertaining favour of the 22^d Jan^y was duly received: w^{ch} I shall follow as it now lies before me. As your feelings & mine & those of my young friends at Hackney are nearly the same with regard to M^r Brown, we must rest satisfied with our good intentions of serving him. I was indeed sorry, from the beginning, for his setting out so long after the commencement of the course, w^{ch} would deprive him of some of the advantages w^{ch} the other students would enjoy: but even this inconveniency I flattered myself, would have been in a great measure compensated, by many favourable circumstances peculiar to this lear[']ned seminary: especially to a young gentleman of M^r Brown's description. His friends however have thought proper to keep him away from it altogether – nor am I surprised at his submitting to their decision, from the unfavourable account they gave him of the place. There is some truth in the general charge you mention, but a great deal of falsehood, most cruelly exaggerated by temporary partiality & prejudice. The College has not lost its name – the masters have not fallen out – nor were the Buildings ever advertised. On the contrary every thing is going on as usual – though under great discouragements. The first Founders, I am afraid (for I am not in the secret) set out on too expensive a plan.¹ Seeing the disgraces w^{ch} disgraced our public schools & universities, & the just disrepute into w^{ch} they were every day more & more sinking – they thought a fair opportunity offered, of calling the attention of the nation to a more liberal plan of education; & taking for granted that their own elevated & enlightened views were those of the nation at large – they spared no cost in erecting proper buildings & in providing the most eminent masters in the different branches of literature. The scheme succeeded very well at first & would probably have continued flourishing had it not been for the great change w^{ch} has lately taken place, in the public opinion wth regard to the french Revolution. If the founders, supporters & able teacher's united in this Institution were from the beginning regarded wth the eye of malignant envy & dread, by the friends of bigotry & ignorance – how much more must they be so in these perilous times, when the very sounds, knowledge liberty, & improvement, are treated as synonymous wth faction, discontent, sedition & rebellion! I wonder therefore your friend M^r Brown did not go farther, by expressing his joy, of having escaped, according to the representation that had been given him of Hackney College, from this dangerous pit of perdition – when however if he had entered & is blessed, as I dare say he is, with an open ingenuous mind, he

¹ See William Smith's public letter of 5 August 1793 in Section 7.2.

must have imbibed the doctrines w^{ch} are taught there with so much ability & assiduity & have for'med useful intimacies wth some of the present students of his own age. For example he would have heard from my friend Pardoe² (who went from hence a raw ignor'ant lad, ab^t two year's ago, & who writes thus to a relation at Bewdley) "this is an institution w^{ch} every friend to free inquiry ought to pray for the success of. Here bigotry & prejudices have no place; & nothing is taken for granted but upon the conviction of its truth: & where frequent opportunities are taken to imprint this grand principle in our minds, viz to allow to others that freedom of opinion w^{ch} we claim to ourselves. Our College has often been calumniated as a seminary of heresy in religion & of Jacobin principles in politics. With respect to the former it may be answered, that heresy does not consist in differing from human Establishments, either as to worship or opinions (remember that this young gentleman & his correspondent belong to the established Church) but in maintaining false ideas of divine revelation. But who is to be the judge of the truth of what is contained therein? Not one man for another, but every one for himself. As to the latter calumny, I am myself a witness, that to observe the laws of my country is constantly inculcated as our bounden duty, at the same time the Constitution is not held up as perfection itself in w^{ch} no improvement might be made." From my friend Skey I could produce superior specimens.³ For he is a bred dissenter & has enjoyed superior advantages under a for'mer Tutor. – All I wish now is, that these two young men had an interview wth Mr B. to have an opportunity before him of clearing their beloved College from the unfounded calumnies wth w^{ch} it has been loaded [...]

² Robert Pardoe, of Poole House, Bewdley, Deputy Lieutenant and Major of the Militia for Worcestershire.

³ Joseph Skey, MD (1773-1866), Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians and Physician to the Royal Forces.

9.1 THE GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINE

Introduction

From 1790 to 1796 numerous contributors to *The Gentleman's Magazine* wrote on the subject of New College, Hackney. The majority of contributions were deeply critical of the institution and formed part of a broader attack on the academy within the print culture of the period. They commented on the unruly nature of the students, the seditious behaviour of the tutors, and the financial incompetence of the governors. Some of the contributions were, however, composed by New College students, tutors and subscribers. In November 1791, for example, the students' address to Joseph Priestley on the Birmingham Riots was printed alongside Priestley's response to the students. Consequently, *The Gentleman's Magazine* became an important forum for discussion about New College in the early 1790s.

The criticism of the College that was printed in the journal ought to be considered in the context of a broader attack within the conservative print culture of the period. Since its inception in 1786 New College had been the target of severe criticism. The printed satirical letter of 19 April 1786 (Section 2.7) is the first known critique of academy. This was followed in 1787 by an anonymous pamphlet, *Salutary Admonitions to the Dissenter*, printed by John Bew; and by *An Address to the Students at the New College, Hackney, occasioned by Dr Priestley's Answer to their Address (1791)*, published under the initials M.O.N. These did much to tarnish the reputation of the academy, disillusioning both parents and benefactors. In this sense, they contributed to the financial difficulties of the College, precipitating its closure in 1796.

9.2 *Gentleman's Magazine*, 60 (Sept. 1790), 793

Mr. Urban,¹

From the Report of the Committee for conducting the New College at Hackney, annexed to Mr. Belsham's sermon at the Old Jewry Meeting, April 28th last,² it appears that a debt of *six thousand two hundred pounds* has been contracted in enlarging and fitting-up the house, the purchase of which cost near six thousand pounds;³ and that for this debt they pay interest at the rate of four and a half *per cent.*; and that, on the balance of the accounts at Michaelmas last (1789), there were only seventy pounds in hand. The College has not been founded *three* years.

In vain do the friends of this new institution alledge that this is a statement only of such accounts as fall under the inspection of the *Committee*; for they are in possession of a considerable stock in the public funds, over and above the annual payments of the pupils. A report, which conceals so material a part of the whole income, must be considered as held out to serve a purpose, and to insinuate that the institution is in want of support. – They cannot possibly be ashamed of the expences [sic] on buildings, for they hold them up ostentatiously as a plea for further relief, and are more ashamed to be thought rich than in want.

Yours, &c.

BOB SHORT

¹ Sylvanus Urban was the pseudonym adopted by the Edward Cave (1691-1754), the founding editor of the *Gentleman's Magazine*. The pseudonym continued to be adopted by his successors.

² Thomas Belsham, *The Importance of Truth and the Duty of Making an Open Confession of it* (London, 1790).

³ The official purchase price was £5600.

9.3 *Gentleman's Magazine*, 61 (June 1791), 509-10

"This College, not being confined to Dissenters, but diffusing its liberal principles to youth in general, it is not doubted but that the liberal and wealthy of all other denominations will feel an interest in it, and assist in supporting an institution, which has for its object not the benefit of Dissenters only, but that of the country at large, and of posterity in general." – Extract from Dr. Priestley's Discourse to the Supporters of the New College at Hackney, pp. 12, 13.¹

Mr. URBAN,

May 29.

I have extracted the above quotation from Dr. Priestley's Philippic against our Ecclesiastical Establishment, and against the doctrines of it; and, if I am doubtful of the truth of his assertion, that the sole object of the College at Hackney is to diffuse principles of candour and universal benevolence, I am justified in this doubt by the spirit that influences the preachers in their annual harangues in support of the College. – Is it to be supposed, that the leaders in this seminary, who take every public opportunity of censuring the Members of the Church of England, and of representing them as ignorant followers of blind and selfish guides, that they will omit any private means of infixing the same sentiments in the minds of their pupils? Their aim seems to be, not so much the diffusion of liberal principles, as the maintenance of their own opinions, and the general dissemination of them; and however they may justify themselves by the pretext of zeal in the cause of truth, yet, while this zeal is displayed in invectives both against our Civil and Ecclesiastical Polity, what faithful parent, or guardian, who regards our Constitution, can commit the education of a child to such teachers? Let such as think with Dr. Priestley, that the world "requires to be re-christianized," (p. 19.) and who object to the "idolatrous worship of Jesus Christ," (p. 16.) repair to the religious seminary recommended by the Doctor: but the Christian, who remembers the command to baptize in the name of Jesus Christ, conjointly with the Father and Holy Ghost, and who believes, that "the Word was not only with God, but was God," can never prefer that place for religious instruction where, in his opinion, "the first principles of the oracles of God" are abandoned. Dr. Priestley indeed unmasks his battery, and is so openly hostile against every part of our Constitution, that his recommendations of any particular mode of education are likely to be attended only by those only who concur with him in sentiment. But though his manliness in this respect is much less to be dreaded than the insinuating arts of a secret enemy, yet the confidence of his assertions may sometimes mislead the unwary reader. In deciding on the early opinions of the primitive Christians, the Dr. always makes them bend to his own; and the only

¹ Joseph Priestley, *The Proper Objects of Education in the Present State of the World, represented in a discourse, delivered on Wednesday, 27 April, 1791* (London, 1791), 16-7.

rational interpreters of Scripture are, in his idea, such as reduce the whole of Christianity to the level of the human understanding, rejecting every thing in it that surpasses the finite abilities of man to comprehend. But, while the Dr. so vehemently urges his own sentiments, let him not expect that he, or his colleagues, will be deemed fit instructors by any one who is persuaded of a contrary belief: and while the Legislature tolerates his undisguised censures of almost every branch of the Establishment, let him not presume so much on the folly and inattention of mankind, as to imagine that individuals, who wish to support our Constitution, will countenance any institution that tries to subvert it. Defective as the discipline in our Universities may be, they encourage a freedom of enquiring as much as any modern institution whatever. And if they abhor that liberty which degenerates into licentiousness, and annihilates every distinction, if they retain doctrines which have long stood the test of the severest enquiry, and which are supported by the obvious and natural interpretation of Holy Writ; they can never be justly accused, on these accounts, of a servile narrowness of sentiment, except by their uncandid and determined enemies. Alterations and improvements were the points to which the endeavours of the discontented have heretofore aimed; but revolution and subversion seem now to be the great objects of attainment; and the situation of this happy country, enjoying the greatest privileges, is compared with the late depressed state of France. But the good sense of Englishmen will, I trust, revolt at these gross misrepresentations; and, when they feel they are in possession of liberty, that property is secure, that justice is impartially administered, and that no other restraints are imposed on conscience than what are deemed necessary for self-preservation, they will be too wise to reject possession of these blessings, and to hazard a ruinous exchange, on the suggestions of men who have little property of their own to lose,² and who can only hope to arrive at pre-eminence by destroying the subordination that must be maintained in every well-regulated Government.

W.

² Priestley's house, laboratory and library were destroyed during the Birmingham Riots of July 1791, less than two months after this letter was written.

9.4 *Gentleman's Magazine*, 61 (July 1791), 621-22

Mr. Urban,

Your correspondent W. p. 509, has so well handled the principles of Hackney College and its conductors, that it might seem almost superfluous to enlarge upon it. A circumstance, however, respecting its *discipline*, which has lately come to my knowledge, deserves to be made public, as a specimen of the discipline observed in the college. A young man, placed by his guardians under the care of one of the tutors, who keeps a private boarding-house, being found not to have made the expected progress, his tutor had no better way of accounting for the deficiency than by telling the complainants that he was so afraid to correct the youth's disinclination to business, that, should he even fly into a passion, and beat his occasional instructors in drawing, French, or other branches of polite education, he should apprehend the same treatment himself, for noticing it. Now this mode of discipline, Mr Urban, seems so perfectly consonant to that want of subordination which, if the National Assembly do not inculcate, they find themselves forced to connive at, that it is impossible to be surprized at the eager concurrence of our own revolutionists with those of a neighbouring country.

To the above anecdote might be added another, respecting the same seminary, that when the collector of certain public taxes applied to one of the occupiers of the house for certain taxes, or rates, he was told that they were overrated, but that was of little consequence, for such levies would not *last long*.

Let the parties contradict these assertions if they can; and let them, if they can, conceal the debt they have contracted, and the deficiency of their friends; - if, indeed, the last anniversary sermon does not sufficiently imply this.

Yours, &c.

QVOZ.

9.5 *Gentleman's Magazine*, 61 (Nov. 1791), 1023-24.

*Address of the STUDENTS at the New College, Hackney, to Dr. PRIESTLEY, in
Consequence of the Birmingham Riots.*¹

Rev. Sir,

When various Societies are expressing their sense of your great merit, and sorrow for your late sufferings, we hope that, without any violation of modesty, we too may appear among the number; and young as we are, yet dearly loving truth and liberty, avow our warm attachment to their distinguished, their persecuted, advocate. The loss which the world of science and letters must sustain, in the destruction of your MSS, and interruption of your studies, we deeply feel, and deeply lament; for how can we be lovers of our brethren, or even of our own selves, without deploring every hindrance of labours, excited by no sordid views, but intended to enlighten and improve mankind? We presume not to appreciate these labours; whatever be their value, they are sanctified by their object; and our indignation must be roused when any daring hand violates the retirement of a person thus employed.

Yet we are sure that your studies, though for a while interrupted, will be soon resumed; we are confident that your future publications will display the same manly spirit, will contain the same open avowal of what you deem important truth, which has ever characterised your productions; for you sought not the applause of the multitude, you cannot then be disappointed of finding them ignorant of your value; and is not the hatred of all the hireling Advocates of corruption a proof that your labours have been successful? Why should they wish to extinguish the light, if it did not exhibit their own deformity? Your friends have long acknowledged the justice of your reasonings – but their judgments might be partial; this testimony of your enemies, however disagreeably expressed, is liable to no exception; they would not *hate* you if they did not *fear* you.

Another circumstance which must have alleviated your sufferings, is the steady attachment which so many of your friends have displayed; not a few have publicly expressed it, and doubtless there may be others who, formerly content with admiring your writings, will now extend their admiration to your character, and, powerful as those arguments may be by which certain of your philosophical opinions are supported, will acknowledge that their practical influence, displayed in your conduct, affords an argument still more forcible.

¹ The Birmingham Riots of 1791 raged throughout the city from 14 to 17 July. The rioters attacked and burned four dissenting chapels, and the homes and businesses of many local dissenters. During the violence Joseph Priestley's house, laboratory and library were destroyed.

You have, Sir, one farther consolation. Though lawless violence may destroy your writings, may destroy yourself, it cannot extinguish that spirit of enquiry; it cannot eradicate those generous sentiments which you and the other enlighteners of Europe have excited; we trust that multitudes have, that multitudes will, imbibe them; we trust that our love of truth and liberty flows not from the wild and irregular enthusiasm of youth, but is the effect of conviction and principle. Our bosoms glow with the idea of one day pursuing, with however unequal steps, the course which you have pointed out; of entering, even in the lowest capacity, that glorious phalanx which, in contending for the rights, contends for the happiness, of man; we earnestly hope, that neither the blandishments of pleasure, nor the frowns of power, will be able to retard our progress; we earnestly pray that nothing this world can offer may draw us from the path of duty – for that path, we are convinced, leads to Heaven.

Hackney College, Sept. 20, 1791.

9.6 *Gentleman's Magazine*, 61 (Nov. 1791), 1024

Dr. PRIESTLEY'S Answer to the Address of the STUDENTS.

GENTLEMEN,

Your address, as that of young men of sufficient age to think with justness, as well as to feel with ardour, gives me peculiar pleasure, as it holds out a certain prospect, that the cause of truth and liberty will not want supporters when all those of my age shall have finished their course.

You see in the riots at Birmingham how naturally a failure in *argument* leads to *violence*, and also how certainly that violence defeats its own end. – A Hierarchy, equally the bane of Christianity and of rational liberty, now confesses its weakness; and be assured, that you will see either its compleat reformation or its fall. Be it your ambition, my young friends, to join the small but noble band of those, who by *action*, or what is more honourable, as well as effectual, by *suffering*, maintain the rights of all men, civil and religious. Whether you be destined for speculative or active life, you will not want opportunities of distinguishing yourselves in the glorious cause; and of youth we naturally expect a generous ardour in favour of whatever is *true* and *right*, independent of private interest, or of that of any particular portion of the human race.

As good citizens, study the welfare of your country; but look beyond *that*, to those great *principles*, which will insure the happiness of all Europe, and of all mankind. Such principles as these now excite general attention, and your tutors will give you every assistance that you can want in the discussion of them. Shew then by your superior intelligence and activity the superiority of your advantages over those of other institutions, which, instead of expanding the mind, by encouraging freedom of enquiry, effectually fetter its powers, by a sworn attachment to a particular system, formed in an age of universal and acknowledged barbarism.¹ Where the sons of those institutions are diffusing their *darkness*, do you bring your *light*; assured that the same grand luminary which has arisen on America, France and Poland,² and which has taught them all *universal toleration* in matters of religion, will illuminate the whole world, and that, in consequence of it, all mankind will be free, peaceable, and happy.

¹ Oxford University required students to confirm their allegiance to the Thirty-Nine Articles of the Church of England at matriculation, whilst Cambridge University required the same religious test at graduation. As a consequence, the educational opportunities for dissenters were limited.

² Priestley here refers to the revolutions in America (1776), Poland (1788) and France (1789).

Give me leave to close this address with reminding you, how much the credit of the College depends upon the diligence and good behaviour of you who are students in it, and of the connexion which the good of your country and of the world has with the credit of that institution.

With sincere affection, and every good wish, I am, Gentlemen, your very humble servant,
J. PRIESTLEY.

London, Sept. 22, 1791.

9.7 *Gentleman's Magazine*, 61 (Nov. 1791), 984.

Mr. URBAN,

Nov. 28.

The generality of your readers will agree with me in thinking, that a system of education is extremely defective that does not inculcate a reverence to the laws of that society whereof we are members, and a decent respect to the ruling powers; at the same time as it teaches the right of a people to encounter oppression by a firm, a manly, and a rational resistance. In this happy country, an attachment to the Constitution, which has been transmitted to us by the wise, the glorious, and the successful exertions of our ancestors, should be impressed on the minds and the hearts of the *rising* generation, as the most effectual means of preserving to *future* generations those privileges which constitute the freedom and the happiness of Britons. I am sorry, however, to observe, from the late Address of the Students of the Dissenting College in Hackney to Dr Priestley, that this is not the plan of education at the above seminary. From the style of that Address, instead of peaceable and orderly citizens, instead of loyal subjects, we are led to fear that the young men who have thus stood forward are disposed to become the violators of law, the enemies of a Constitution which they should be ready to defend at the risk of their lives: and the answer of the Rev. Doctor is calculated to confirm and strengthen such dispositions.

I was originally, Mr Urban, a well-wisher to this institution; but, after this specimen of its effects, it cannot be expected to receive the countenance and support of those who wish posterity to enjoy the same advantages as the present age is (I hope) to secure possession of. No man, whether of the Church of England, or a moderate Dissenter, would surely wish to encourage a system of education which bids fair, if sufficiently extended, to sacrifice all the benefits produced by the Revolution in 1688 at the shrine of new Revolutions. J.M.

9.8 Gentleman's Magazine, 63 (April 1793), 334.

Mr. URBAN,

April 23.

[...] I have heard, above a month ago, that the managers [of New College], finding themselves unable to carry on the institution, had resolved that it should be given up at Midsummer next, and had offered the building for sale; in consequence of which, a person had been found, who was willing to give them 8000 pounds or guineas, but they demanded 10,000. Let the friends of Christianity and the British Constitution read this, and *mourn* [...]

E.

9.9 *Gentleman's Magazine*, 63 (May 1793), 409.

Mr. URBAN,

Hyde-street, Bloomsbury, May 17.

I was greatly distressed in my melancholy confinement by a paper in your last Magazine, which announces to the publick the approaching downfall of the New College at Hackney. As it is to be broken up this Midsummer, a gentleman offered 8000l. for the premises; but the proprietors and agents asked 10,000l. In the name of good sense, what did the Dissenters mean by erecting so magnificent and expensive a structure?¹ They have ruined the institution by setting out in too superb a style, inconsistent with the plainness and simplicity of the Dissenters. How did they ever imagine that it could be supported in the present age of extravagance and expence? The rich Dissenters, being generally merchants and tradesmen, send their sons to boarding-schools or private schools, where they continue till they are fourteen or fifteen; where they learn nothing, being sometimes better fed than taught; when they are taken into the counting house or put behind a counter. The sons of the poor or middle class of Presbyterians are educated for ministers, for whose support a fund is necessary. None of the rich families bring up their sons for Presbyterian parsons: they have too much sense or too much worldly wisdom. What the rational Dissenters will now do, in the education of their sons for the ministry, I know not. I am a few years past threescore, and have seen wonderful revolutions with regard to Dissenting academies. The academy at Kendal, in Westmorland, kept by Dr. Rotheram, a learned and intelligent man, perished at his death.² The academy at Taunton, kept by Mr. Grove, and afterwards by Dr. Armory, was discontinued upon his removal to London.³ The academy at Warrington was completely ruined by building several stately structures, by being not able to raise money adequate to the pomp of them, and having no fund to assist the students.⁴ The late academy at Exeter, kept by the ingenious and pious Mr. Towgood and Mr. Merrivale, is now no more.⁵ The academy at Daventry, Northamptonshire, is also broken up.⁶ I am a moderate and candid Dissenter, though above twenty years ago I was extremely ill-used by a very small society, whose subscription, though I had a wife and numerous

¹ The purchase of Homerton Hall, and the works carried out to convert it into a residential academy cost at least £13,030. This calculation is based on the records of major building works detailed in the Hackney College Minute Book 1785-91, DWL, MS. 38.14.

² Kendal Academy flourished from 1729 to 1752 under the supervision of Caleb Rotheram (1694-1752).

³ Taunton Academy was conducted by Henry Grove (1684-1738) and his nephew Thomas Armory (1701-74) from c.1670 to 1759.

⁴ Warrington Academy was founded in 1757. It ceased work in 1783 and was formally dissolved in 1786.

⁵ Samuel Merivale (1715-71) and Michaijah Towgood (1700-82) were tutors at the academy in Exeter which closed in 1771.

⁶ Daventry Academy closed in 1789.

family, was continually perishing. The Presbyterians neglect their scholars. To say nothing of myself, they treated infamously Dr. Taylor, of Norwich, the immortal author of the Paraphrase upon the Romans, as may be seen in my funeral sermon occasioned by his death.⁷ With what disrespect and neglect they used the great and good Dr. Lardner is fully manifested in Dr. Kippis's Memoirs of his Life.⁸ The Dissenters are too generally governed by the *vox et præterea nihil*.⁹ With regard to the speedy dissolution of the New College at Hackney, the old adage has proved too true, *Quos Deus &c.*¹⁰ those whom God is willing to ruin, he firsts blasts their understanding. This is absolutely the very last paper I shall send to your useful Miscellany, as I do not expect to live from one week to another, and cannot get out of bed, or get into it, without help. Yesterday I have been deprived of my left side for eleven years. I am your obliged old friend, in much affliction and distress,

EDWARD HARWOOD.¹¹

⁷ John Taylor (1694-1761), author of *Paraphrase with Notes on the Epistle of the Romans* (London, 1745). Harwood's *Sermon Occasioned by the Death of John Taylor* was published in 1761.

⁸ Nathaniel Lardner (1684-1768), author of *The Credibility of Gospel History* (12 vols., 1727-55). Andrew Kippis's *The Life of Nathaniel Lardner* was published in 1788.

⁹ *vox et præterea nihil* (Latin proverb) – 'a voice and nothing more'.

¹⁰ *Quos Deus vult perdere prius dementat* (Euripides) – 'those whom the Gods destroy, they first deprive of reason'.

¹¹ Edward Harwood (1729-94), Presbyterian minister and biblical scholar, author of several religious works including *A New Introduction to the Study of the New Testament* (2 vols., 1767-71).

9.10 *Gentleman's Magazine*, 63 (May 1793), 412.

MR. URBAN,

May 19.

What was predicted, and what the managers of the undertaking dare not contradict (LX. 793, 1127, LXI. 509, 622), is now come to pass. The boasted seminary of rational religion, *the slaughterhouse of Christianity*, as it has been not inaptly called, is become *felo de se*,¹ and with all its *substructiones insanæ*,² its overgrown buildings, is offered to sale for less than 10,000l.

Does not this remind you of that temperate counsel of a Jewish Doctor, "Refrain from these men, and let them alone: for, if this counsel, or this work, be of men, it will come to nought; but, if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it, lest happily, ye be found to fight even against God."³ Vanity and expence in building, jealousies and disputes among the tutors, want of interior government and of common œconomy, have brought HACKNEY COLLEGE to this sure test, and proved, beyond contradiction, that this counsel and this work was OF MEN. The French Revolution and Constitution, three times renewed, and as often overturned, will verify the same observation. In the last sermon, that was preached for this new academical institution, an evasive account was given of the finances; and the tutor who preached it,⁴ after insulting the antient and respectable academical institutions in our two universities, as Dumourier,⁵ just before his defeat, boasted he would breakfast in Amsterdam and dine in London on a given day, retreats, like that vaunter with his shattered army, to some distant situation.⁶ Why was there not an anniversary sermon preached in 1792?⁷ Did the zeal of the party slacken, or was the bubble bursting?

A CONSTANT READER.

¹ *felo de se* – an archaic legal term referring to suicide; literally 'felon of himself'.

² *substructiones insanæ* – a phrase first coined by Robert Burton in his *Anatomy of Melancholy* (1621) to refer to the attempts of aristocrats to establish their dominance in an area by building magnificent estates. Such attempts, he writes, often ended in financial ruin as the scale of the project exhausted the fortunes of their owners.

³ *Acts*, v. 38-9.

⁴ Joseph Priestley, *The Proper Objects of Education in the Present State of the World* (London, 1791).

⁵ Charles François Dumouriez (1739-1823), French general during the French Revolutionary Wars, famous for his victory at Vlamy. He subsequently deserted the Revolutionary Army and became a Royalist intriguer during Napoleon's reign.

⁶ Priestley emigrated to America in April 1794.

⁷ No further New College anniversary sermons were delivered after Priestley's on 27 April 1791.

9.11 *Gentleman's Magazine*, 63 (June 1793), 491-2.

MR URBAN,

An officious correspondent, p. 412, seems to take for granted, that, if the managers at the college at Hackney do not think fit to contradict an idle and anonymous report, it is because they *dare* not do it, and that their silence is to be interpreted as an acknowledgement of the fact. Now, Sir, I wish this gentleman, and others who so frequently favour us with their unsolicited opinions and advice concerning our affairs, to understand, that the silence of the managers does not proceed from any incapacity to contradict or disprove the foolish fictions of the day, but from a sovereign contempt of the illiberal abuse with which that useful institution has been loaded, from a clear conviction of the falsehood of the infamous calumnies which have been so industriously circulated against it, and from a fixed determination to conduct their own affairs in their own way, without giving an account of their proceedings to every self-important and self-instituted inquisitor, who may arrogantly summon them to his bar.

I am, Sir, a subscriber to the New College, and must of course know the real state of its affairs better than your anonymous correspondent; and I take upon myself in this public manner to declare, that his whole letter is one continued tissue of falsehood and misrepresentation; nor is there a single fact relating to the college which he has not grossly, though I do not say wilfully, mis-stated.

The truth is, that there has lately been a serious discussion amongst the friends and supporters of the institution, whether it should continue at Hackney, or be removed farther into the country; and it has been almost unanimously determined, in consideration of the beauty and commodiousness of the premises, the peculiar advantages for literary improvement which the vicinity of the metropolis affords, and the very happy effect of the regulations which have been introduced into the interior department of the college, that the institution will continue in its present situation.¹ You may therefore, Mr Urban, inform your Constant Reader, that Hackney College is still likely to remain, as Mr Burke styles it, "*an arsenal*" for the fabrication of weapons,² which may justly strike terror into the minds of those who, like him, are alarmed at the accelerated progress of human improvement, and of the rising spirit of Reason and Liberty.

A Subscriber to the College at Hackney.

¹ See William Smith's printed letter of 5 August 1793 (Section 7.2)

² In *An Appeal from the New to the Old Whigs* (1791), Edmund Burke described New College as 'the new arsenal at Hackney', 113.

9.12 *Gentleman's Magazine*, 63 (July 1793), 618.

MR. URBAN,

The Subscriber to the College at Hackney, p. 412, tells you very little new; nor has he behaved to Dr. Harwood with the *liberality* of his *profession*.¹ However he might have reason for refusing his name to an anonymous accuser, he should not deem *him* an *enemy* because he tells the *truth*: for, that what both of us have advanced was true in the main there is very little doubt, however the *friends* and *supporters of the institution* may, after a late serious discussion, unanimously have agreed to bolster it up *for one year longer*. Let them enjoy the *beauty* and *commodiousness* of their situation so near a corrupt metropolis, which they are at liberty to reform if they can. Their mode of discipline, or rather the weakness of it, is pretty notorious, and the *weapons* of their "arsenal" must, sooner or later, recoil on themselves.² Let me not, however, be understood to threaten any consequence from without, but only to predict a natural and inbred consequence.

A CONSTANT READER.

¹ Edward Harwood (1729-94), Presbyterian minister and biblical scholar whose letter to the *Gentleman's Magazine* on the subject of New College had been published in May 1793 (see Section 9.9).

² A further reference to Edmund Burke's description of New College as 'the new arsenal at Hackney' in *An Appeal from the New to the Old Whigs* (1791), 113.

9.13 *Gentleman's Magazine*, 66 (June 1796), 458-9.

MR. URBAN,

May 21.

What I and others formerly predicted three years ago has now happened to the Dissenters: "*Babylon is fallen, is fallen!*"¹ HACKNEY COLLEGE, a spacious building, fitted up at an immense expence, is to be sold by auction, or private contract, before the extirpation of next month, in one lot, and the house occupied by Dr. Rees in another. What will be the future of this *substructia insanæ*² time will shew: but that the proud boasts of this party are come to an end is already pretty clear; "He that sitteth in the Heavens hath laughed them to scorn, and *men* will have them in derision."³ They spake too plain, and their designs are covered with confusion. Either they have no funds, or they have no managers, or they have lost all the men of abilities capable of conducting the mighty Babel, which was to make them a name in heaven. The crazy ---, the infuriate ---, the heavy ---, the obese ---, the pedantic ---, the pretended classic ---, are not, when united, equal to the grand incendiary now under sentence of self-transportation.⁴ I mean not to insult these self-deceivers; but, it is fit this issue of their machinations should be recorded by the impartial hand of Sylvanus Urban.⁵ Neither do thou fear them, son of man; for, know that no wisdom or counsel devised against the foundation and truth of the gospel will prosper.

P. Q. P.

¹ *Revelation*, xviii. 2: 'And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.'

² *substructia insanæ* – a phrase first coined by Robert Burton in his *Anatomy of Melancholy* (1621) to refer to the attempts of aristocrats to establish their dominance in an area by building magnificent estates. Such attempts, he writes, often ended in financial ruin as the scale of the project exhausted the fortunes of their owners.

³ *Psalms*, ii. 4.

⁴ The writer alludes here to Priestley's emigration to America in April 1794. The identity of the other tutors alluded to is unclear, although Thomas Belsham was often satirised for his obesity.

⁵ The pseudonym of the editor of the *Gentleman's Magazine*.

9.14 *Gentleman's Magazine*, 66 (June 1796), 519.

Thursday, June 23.

The New College at Hackney, with 18 acres of land, was this day knocked down at 5700l. whether to a real or fictitious bidder we have not heard.¹ The adjoining house, inhabited by Dr Rees, as president of the college, was bought by him, or in his name, for 1050l.² The fate of this building, on which the proprietors acknowledge immense sums have been expended in building, and for which more than twice the sum it now fetched had been refused, and the fate of the institution itself, affords a striking proof that the people of this country are not disposed to encourage the modern philosophers in their attempts to undermine the constitution. That seminary was instituted under the most favourable auspices. The most wealthy and respectable part of the Dissenters were disposed to support the institution; but, that support has been withdrawn, the building is brought to the hammer. Whether it shall be converted into barracks, being not farther from the east than those in Hyde-park from the western extremity of the capital, or into a country settlement of any capital public and more constitutional school in London, or serve as a supplement to Bedlam, already too crowded to receive more inhabitants, time will shew.³

¹ The premises were bought by Thomas Boddington and Timothy Curtis. Ironically, the two men were leading figures in the Hackney Loyalist Association, founded in 1792 to counteract the influence of radical literature and sentiment.

² Abraham Rees (1743-1825) continued to live in College House until his death in 1825. College House remained on the site until it was demolished in 1883-4.

³ New College was demolished in 1800. No trace of it survives today.

9.15 *Gentleman's Magazine*, 66 (July 1796), 555-6.

MR. URBAN,

Hackney, June 5.

Your correspondent, who seemed so positive of the downfall of the New College, p. 458, is perhaps unaware, that this very institution still continues to be carried on under the guardianship of Mr. Belsham, with the occasional assistance of Mr. Rentish,¹ at a private seminary in Hackney. It is the intention of the body of Unitarian Dissenters to form a committee for the purpose of establishing a new academical institution on more economical principles, at Birmingham.² They have at last found the truth of the maxim, *experientia docet*.³ Had they originally contented themselves with instituting a less expensive, and more commodious, society, they would not have had the mortification to see their *vaunted* designs wholly frustrated, or their *supernatural* expectations so quickly annihilated. Societies established, like edifices in the air, on visionary schemes, and supported by parties of the day, cannot be more lasting than the influence that protects them, which the tide of variety must eventually bury in the grave of oblivion.

Men, who differ in religious opinions, surely ought to frame seminaries for the education of their respective ministries; but, when such seminaries become the volcanoes of sedition, and nurseries of riot,⁴ they cannot, nor should not, long remain established. In every party, by whatever tenets or principles it is characterized, there are always some members who will disapprove, and object to, every deviation from the rules by which their society is united.

The Hackney College was instituted for the purpose of preparing ministers for the Socinian denomination – supported by men of affluence, liberality and independence – and nourished by the ablest defenders of Unitarianism. It then promised to extend the rays of science over the darkest regions of ignorance, and would have, no doubt, continued till this time in as flourishing a state, had not the appointment of Dr. Priestley to the principal professorship induced many of its best supporters to withdraw their subscriptions,⁵ and likewise discontinue attendance at the Gravel-pit

¹ This is probably a misprint. John Kentish (1768-1853) had been a student under Thomas Belsham at Daventry Academy and New College, Hackney. In 1795 he had been appointed afternoon preacher at the Gravel Pit Meeting. It is therefore likely that it was he and Belsham who established a private seminary in Hackney following the closure of New College in 1796.

² No further mention of this initiative survives.

³ *experientia docet* (Latin proverb) – ‘experience teaches’.

⁴ Charles Welbeloved (1769-1858) refers to a riot at Drury Lane Theatre involving the students of New College and their governor, William Stone. See John Kenrick, *A Biographical Memoir of the Late Charles Wellbeloved* (London, 1860), 23.

⁵ Contrary to what the writer claims, Priestley was not appointed principal tutor of New College. He delivered lectures on history and natural philosophy from September 1791 until April 1794.

meeting house, immediately after his accession to the pastoral office in that place. Such a reduction from the annual income of this society necessarily occasioned a diminution of the dependent officers, and impaired its dignity, credit and grandeur. At length, irritated by the inattention and neglect of his pupils, Dr P. resigned his professorship at the College: and, after expressing his fears lest a renewal of the outrages, his principles had once subjected him to, should take place, and bewailing the injuries he had received with *truly Christian candour*, in an Appendix to his last sermon,⁶ he also resigned his pastorship at the meeting house, and left this *inhospitable* clime in search of a soil less contaminated by despotic ferocity, and *more* fertilized by the enjoyment of civil and religious liberty, in the free and enlightened regions of AMERICA. Subsequent to this period, the College gradually declined; till, after several unsuccessful efforts to dispose of the building, it was entirely given up, according to the *first* plan, early in the late spring; and those pupils, who wished to remain on the establishment, taken under the care of Mr Belsham, till a full discharge of the accumulated expences incurred by the society will enable them to recommence on a more liberal and oeconomic plan.

A LATE STUDENT.

⁶ The writer refers to the prefatory remarks to Priestley's sermon *The Present State of Europe Compared with Ancient Prophecies* (London, 1794).

10.1 NEW COLLEGE POETRY

Introduction

A rich and diverse body of literature emerged from New College in the period 1786-96: sermons, polemics, essays, textbooks, biographical memoirs, and religious treatises were produced by the students, tutors and governors of the academy. In 1795, for example, the New College alumnus Thomas Starling Norgate (1772-1859) published *Essays, Tales and Poems*, much of the contents of which had been composed during his time at the academy. In 1794-5 a number of former New College students, including Norgate, Charles Marsh and James Smith, were instrumental in editing and producing the radical Norwich-based journal, *The Cabinet*.

In addition, two important poems about New College were written by John Aikin (1747-1822), a governor of the academy, and his son Arthur (1773-1854), a student from 1786 to 1791. Both provide important insights into collegiate life and draw heavily upon James Thomson's poem, *The Seasons* (1726-30).

John Aikin's poem is both a heightened public celebration of New College and a very personal address to his eldest son. In many respects, it can be read as a companion piece to his sister's poetic account of Warrington Academy in 'The Invitation' (Anna Letitia Aikin, *Poems*, 1773). Arthur Aikin's 'A Poetic Epistle to [Charles] Wellbeloved' is a poignant, meditative reflection on his student days with Wellbeloved at New College. Alongside Hazlitt's letters, they form perhaps the best extant account of student experience at the academy.

The text of 'An Epistle to Mr. Aikin, Student in New College, Hackney' is taken from John Aikin, *Poems* (London: J. Johnson, 1791), 69-74. The text of his son's 'A Poetic Epistle to [Charles] Wellbeloved, April 1792' is taken from the only surviving copy of the poem in John Kenrick's *Biographical Memoir of the Late Rev. Charles Wellbeloved* (London: Edward Whitfield, 1860), 19-21.

10.2 John Aikin (1747-1822), 'An Epistle to Mr. Aikin, Student in New College, Hackney'¹

Dear to my heart, my ARTHUR, friend and son! 1
How swiftly seem the circling years to run,
While, ripening through the silent lapse of time,
Thy blooming promise hastens to its prime!
Erewhile, on Mersey's bank,² the vigorous boy 5
Plied the close task, or snatch'd the fleeting joy:
Then fields remote were trod, and distant streams
Beheld thy sports, and heard thy youthful themes.
Now, with the spreading form, the mind expands,
Exerts new powers, and stronger toil demands: 10
Thy well-skill'd masters point the glowing page,
And feed thee with the poet and the sage;
Prune thy young pinions for a bolder flight,
And try thine eyes with intellectual light.
At length thy footsteps seek the studious halls, 15
Where to her train, mature Instruction calls;
Where, as of old in Academus' groves,³
The form benign of sacred Wisdom roves.
Those walls receive thee, which, with sav'ring eyes,
The Goddess view'd, as late she saw them rise, 20
Where, near to sight, for wealth and arts renown'd,
AUGUSTA rears her towers,⁴ and spreads her arms around.

Within these seats, by Freedom's hand design'd,
Rais'd by the liberal friends of human kind, 25
No slavish forms betray ingenious youth,
And early quench the native zeal for truth;
Train pliant souls to take a master's bent,
School'd in the discipline of *blind assent*;
No mystic creeds chalk out their narrow line,
Nor human systems claim a right divine; 30
No sordid interest prompts th' unrighteous fear,
Lest learning search with spirit *too* sincere:
Here, from the source divine, the fount of heav'n,
Flows the large stream as pure as it was giv'n;
With chasten'd daring, yet with upward eye, 35
Serene Philosophy here reasons high;

¹ From John Aikin, *Poems* (London: J. Johnson, 1791), 69-74.

² Arthur Aikin was born, and spent the first eleven years of his life in Warrington, on the banks of the River Mersey. He first attended Warrington Free School and then, in 1784, began his studies at his uncle's school in Palgrave, Suffolk. He subsequently spent five years as a ministerial student at New College from 1786 to 1791.

³ An allusion to the mythical hero Academus, or Hecademus, who left a garden and a grove to the citizens of Athens a mile north-west of the city. It was here that Plato began teaching c. 387 BC.

⁴ An allusion to the city of London. In c. 368 London (or Londinium) was renamed Augusta.

Rich Science spreads profuse her various store,
Still shews new scenes, and holds the lamp to more;
While every gentler Muse her aid imparts,
And fashions manly sense to letter'd arts. 40
Success and honour crown each generous plan
That aims to raise, adorn, ennoble Man;
To lift the soul from self and low desires;
To bid the bosom glow with social fires;
To clear the mists of Prejudice away; 45
Thro' Falsehood's night to pour the guiding ray;
To catch the radiant beams of Truth divine,
And point the path to Virtue's awful shrine!
Soon from these studious cloisters bursting forth
I see the forms sublime of *active worth*: 50
The *Moral Teacher*, copious, pure, and warm,
With words to move, and reason to inform:
The bold *Assertor of the freeborn mind*,
Zealous her galling fetters to unbind,
Sworn foe to power usurp'd by force or fraud, 55
By title, age, and haughty names unaw'd:
The *Patriot* firm, whose unsubmitting soul
Nor flatt'ry melts, nor menaces controul,
True to his word, in every purpose just,
By private virtue mark'd for public trust: 60
The *Friend of man*, who, scorning soft repose,
From clime to clime contends with human woes;
Whose mild compassion temp'ring virtuous rage,
Presents a HOWARD to the coming age.⁵

And thou, my ARTHUR, with unwearied force 65
If still thou urgest on thy forward course,
Ardent the prize of high desert to gain,
And fix thy foot in Learning's lofty fane;
If true to virtue still thy bosom beat,
And conscious worth inspire its genial heat; 70
Thou too amid the band mayst hold thy place,
And shed a venial pride o'er all thy race;
Break thro' the barriers of an humble state,
Rank'd with the wise and good, far, far above the great.

⁵ John Howard (1726-90), prison reformer and philanthropist. Howard was a close friend of the Aikin family. In 1777 he spent a number of months in Warrington, where he prepared the final text of *The State of the Prisons in England and Wales* (1777).

10.3 Arthur Aikin (1773-1854), 'A Poetic Epistle to [Charles] Wellbeloved, April 1792'¹

O friend beloved!² Whom late the placid walks 1
And studious halls of Hackney glad detained;
Though now, far distant on the world's wide scene,
You prove the truth of maxims here imbibed;
And, fired with ardour for the sacred cause 5
Of liberty and Virtue, nobly stem
The flood with prejudice and interest charged;
Steal from the bustling cares awhile,
And give one hour to friendship and to me.

How fancy throbs, while Recollection paints 10
The fleeting forms of bliss we once enjoyed!
And O, how many a pang does thought inflict
That these gay scenes must never more return!
Gay scenes of happiness, a long farewell!
Farewell ye pleasures, ne'er to be renewed! 15
Yet still with Memory, with officious hand,
Retrace the lines, and with illusion sweet
Recall the calm delights of College ease.

When Morn's first gleams chased off the shades of night,
How oft in rapt attention have we stood, 20
Eager to hail the sun's bright orient beams,
Shot from the summit of yon eastern hill,
While every sparkling dewdrop brighter blazed.
As each melodious songster through the copse
Caroll'd more clear, and every opening flower 25
Gave to the passing gale diviner sweets,
In closer union our enraptured hearts
With friendships purest influence would expand.

Thus passed our earliest hours; but when the sun
In noontide splendour led the sultry day, 30
And serious business for a while gave place
To lighter studies; on the violet bank,
Or careless laid beneath the shady elm,
We gaily urged along the lingering time,
With the rare products of the sportive Muse 35
That erst, in British or Italian groves,

¹ The text is taken from the only extant copy of the poem in John Kenrick's *Biographical Memoir of the Late Rev. Charles Wellbeloved* (London: Edward Whitfield, 1860), 19-21.

² Charles Wellbeloved (1769-1858) was an early student at New College with Arthur Aikin. He went on to become a Unitarian minister and Tutor of Divinity at Manchester Academy after it was relocated to York in 1803.

Awoke sweet echoes from her mossy couch.
Thee chief, the pride of Caledonian swains,

Enchanting Thomson,³ in whose various page
Nature astonished sees her works pourtrayed 40
With tints as soft, as vivid and as rich
As her own pencil dipt in heavenly dyes.

Nor absent was the rival Mantuan bard,⁴
Who though, like Pheobus, he had power to guide
The epic car, and reign the fiery steeds, 45
Yet oft in russet garb would deign to tend
The pastoral care, or with his oaten pipe
Would teach the Mincian reeds his Daphnis' name.

But when black clouds and shrilly whistling blasts
Forbade to rove, beside the cheerful fire, 50
The social glass, gay converse, sprightly books,
Or else backgammon, frighted care away.

Together, too, we climbed the steepy hill
Of Highgate; with botanic sauntering pace
We wander'd devious o'er the heathy bounds 55
Of Hampstead,⁵ on whose topmost ridge arrived
We breathed free air, and with disdain looked down
On busy London, canopied with smoke,
Nor would have changed our simple heartfelt joy
For all the pompous state the City yields. 60

These transient dreams of happiness are o'er,
And, lost the dear companion of my youth,
Imagination droops her airy wing.

³ James Thomson (1700-1748), Scottish poet and author of *The Seasons* (1730).

⁴ An allusion to the Roman poet Virgil (70-19 BC), a native of Mantua in Italy.

⁵ Arthur's family, his parents John and Martha Aikin, and his aunt and uncle, Rochemont and Anna Letitia Barbauld, lived at Hampstead during his student years at New College. Anna Letitia Barbauld's Hampstead house enjoyed 'the most extensive and varied view over Middlesex and Berkshire' (McCarthy, 262).

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