

**IRISH UNIVERSITY
EDUCATION, FACTS
AND FIGURES: A
PLEA FOR FAIR PLAY**

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Irish University Education, Facts and Figures: A Plea for Fair Play by William Delany

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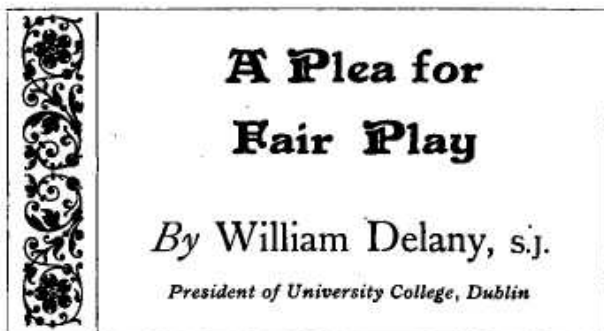
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IRISH UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

FACTS AND FIGURES



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PREFACE.

ON the 30th December, 1903, the Governing Body of Queen's College, Belfast, addressed a Memorial to His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, in which—having set forth with much power the claims of that institution for increased aid from the public funds—they urged that the consideration of those claims ought not to be postponed until the more complicated question of Irish University Education should be dealt with in its entirety.

I have long admired the excellent work that has been done in Queen's College, Belfast, by distinguished scholars, with many of whom during the past twenty years, my colleagues at University College have been associated in perfect harmony and amity on the Boards of Examiners of the Royal University; I am thoroughly aware of the great need—the absolute, urgent need there is in a great centre of industrial and commercial life such as Belfast—of a teaching institution fully equipped to

keep pace with modern scientific developments, if Belfast is to hold its own in the struggle—daily growing keener—of industrial and commercial progress; and I believe that all Ireland would be the richer for the existence of such an institution. But, whilst I, therefore, sympathise most cordially with the perfectly legitimate desire of the Governing Body of Queen's College to have that College thus suitably equipped and endowed, I am, and have been for many years too painfully familiar with the much more urgent educational needs of the Catholics of Ireland to assent to the proposition that the claims of Belfast Queen's College are fairly entitled to prior consideration.

And, therefore, when this Memorial was brought to my notice early in January, I felt it my duty, as a representative of Catholic educational interests, to submit to the Lord Lieutenant a respectful protest against the granting of such a priority, and to set forth the arguments on which I base that protest; and accordingly I wrote the letter which (with some verbal alterations and added notes) forms the first chapter of this pamphlet.

In the second chapter I proceed to show by facts and figures that the present allotment of public educational funds to the Queen's Colleges of Cork and Galway is both wasteful and unjust.

In Chapter III. I deal with the theory that Trinity College, Dublin, is an undenominational institution, open to all students on equal terms, and that, therefore, Irish Catholics have no real grievance in being compelled to send their sons there if they desire to have the full advantages of University Education. And in the Fourth and final Chapter I give a reply to the question, not unfrequently asked:—

“Are there Catholic students in any number who are qualified for University Education, if suitably provided for them?”

But I confine myself throughout to the same simple issue: *A Plea for equal treatment and Educational Fair Play.*

WILLIAM DELANY, S.J.

Irish University Education.



CHAPTER I.

A LETTER ADDRESSED TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE LORD
LIEUTENANT OF IRELAND ON THE CLAIM OF BELFAST
QUEEN'S COLLEGE FOR AN IMMEDIATE INCREASE OF
ENDOWMENT.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

I have seen in a Belfast newspaper a copy of a Memorial recently addressed to your Excellency by the Governing Body of Queen's College, Belfast, on which I feel it my duty, as President of this College, to submit respectfully to your Excellency's consideration the following observations :—

1. I may say at once that (prescinding from other aspects of the question, and speaking solely from the educational point of view), with the substance and main purpose of the Memorial I am personally in cordial agreement. As a Senator of the Royal University for nearly twenty years, and engaged as I have been for twice that time in education, I am well acquainted with the extent and the quality of the educational work of Queen's College, Belfast; and I entirely concur in the favourable judgment of that work expressed by the recent University Commission, and in their recommendations that in any new University scheme "a liberal addition should be made to the general endowment of the College." I believe that it would conduce very largely, indeed, not only to the benefit of Belfast and of the Northern Province, but to the

industrial improvement of the whole country, that there should exist in Belfast a great University College, adequately endowed and thoroughly equipped to meet the requirements of modern scientific and industrial development; and I agree with the authorities of Queen's College that the present endowment and equipment fall very short of these requirements; and that it is, therefore, a matter of pressing urgency that adequate provision should be made for that purpose.

But, whilst I so far concur most cordially in the substance of the Memorial, when it is further suggested that the claims of Belfast Queen's College should be at once separately dealt with on their own merits, and should not be held over for consideration as part of a scheme for re-organising Irish University Education, I feel it my duty, as President of University College, to enter a respectful protest against the adoption of such a course of action.

And I do so on the plain and simple issue of educational fair play, and of the equitable and economic distribution of public educational funds, setting aside for the moment all the other considerations of public policy that are involved in the University Question, or that relate to the manner of its solution.

I submit that if a record of good work done under some disadvantages, and the demand of a great community to have the institution doing that work made adequate to their wants and suitable to the educational necessities of the times—if these conditions constitute a just claim for urgency in dealing with Belfast Queen's College, I submit that the work done in University College under much graver disadvantages, and the demand of the far larger community which it represents, to have provided for *them* an educational institution adequate to *their* wants and suitable to present educational requirements, constitute a much more valid and equitable claim for urgency in dealing with the whole Irish University Question.

Here are the facts and figures on which I rest that argument, and to which I respectfully ask attention.