

Sir, I have the honour to request that you will officially bring under the notice of His Royal Highness The Duke of Albany, President of the Royal National Hospital for Consumption, Ventnor, the following facts... / [H. Jamieson].

Contributors

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JUNIOR CARLTON CLUB,

LONDON,

4th August, 1883.

SIR,

I have the honour to request that you will officially bring under the notice of His Royal Highness The Duke of Albany, President of the Royal National Hospital for Consumption, Ventnor, the following important facts :

1.—The Hospital is under the patronage of Her Majesty The Queen, and said to be governed by a Board in London consisting of upwards of "twenty noblemen and gentlemen," with the Right Honorable Sir Lawrence Peel, late President of Guy's Hospital, as Chairman. The management is therefore assumed by the donors and the public to be beyond all question. Such however is not the case, the management is of the very worst description.

2.—Sir Lawrence Peel, who holds the highly responsible position of Chairman of the Board of Management, has been unable, most unfortunately, from increasing age and great infirmity, to pay the slightest attention to the interests of the Hospital, or to preside at a single Board Meeting for very many years past.

3.—Under these circumstances it is not at all surprising that the Hospital has fallen into the hands of certain Members of the Board who have taken advantage of the long continued absence of the Chairman, and arrogated to themselves the power of managing the affairs of the Charity when and where they thought proper.

4.—I joined the Board of Management in 1878 under the impression that the Hospital was under sound and proper management. Had I possessed any knowledge of the neglected state of the Institution by the Chairman and other Members, I should never have taken a seat at the Board.

5.—During my term of office, I devoted a large amount of time and attention to the interests of the Charity, and especially to the financial statements annually announced by the Treasurer; and with proper regard to the responsibility attaching to public office, I brought pressure to bear upon the Treasurer, which induced him to render his accounts with some regard to truth and justice.

6.—It is not my province to submit accounts to His Royal Highness the President, but I may be allowed to bring the following extraordinary facts prominently under his notice:

1st. In the Annual Report of the year 1881, the Treasurer published the total amount of donations received from the date of the foundation of the Hospital up to that time at the startling reduction of £11,000 from the amount published in the Report of the year 1878. It is thus apparent, that instead of the amount being naturally increased, as it ought to have been, by the aggregate of the handsome donations paid during the three years referred to, it appears reduced by the above named amount.

2nd. In the Annual Report of the year 1878, the Chairman, Sir Lawrence Peel, is stated to have given a donation to the Chapel Fund of £100, in two subscriptions of £50 each. In the Report of the year 1881, this donation of £100 is reduced to £10.

As regards the Chapel accounts they will be found in the same unsatisfactory state as the donations.

A debt of upwards of £300 has long existed upon the Chapel. This debt I was anxious to see cleared off, and upon one occasion offered to give a subscription of £100 to assist in doing so. This offer, however, I made conditional upon the full accounts being laid upon the Board table for information and *examination*. The Treasurer and the Board decided that the accounts were not to be laid upon the table.

Under these extraordinary circumstances I had no alternative but to withdraw the offer.

I have written this letter from a sense of duty, and I hope it will receive the attention of His Royal Highness which I trust it will be found to deserve.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

H. JAMIESON.

R. H. COLLINS, Esq., C.B.,

Private Secretary to

H. R. H. THE DUKE OF ALBANY, K.G., K.T.,

*President of the Royal National Hospital
for Consumption, Ventnor.*

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