

(No. 34.)



1861.

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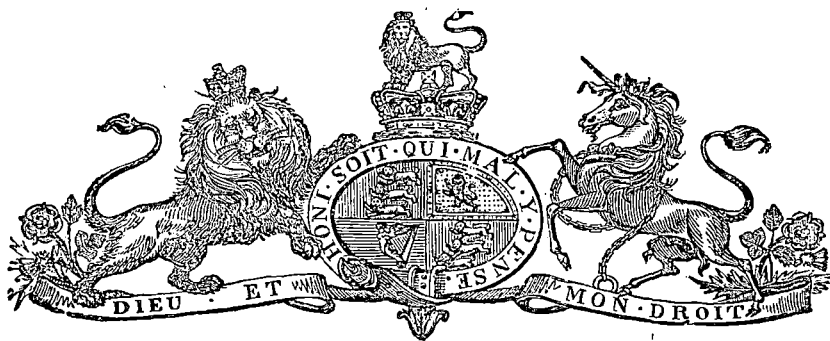
TASMANIA.

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ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL.

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Laid upon the Table by Mr. Innes, and ordered by the House to be printed,  
4 September, 1861.



No. 1.

*CORRESPONDENCE with the Honourable E. S. P. BEDFORD, Esquire, relating to the appointment of HEALTH OFFICER.*

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*Davey-street, 9th November, 1858.*

SIR,

CIRCUMSTANCES which only during the last few days came to my knowledge induce me to address you.

In 1852 I was appointed Health Officer at Hobart Town, at a salary of £100 a year. This office was rendered necessary to carry out the provisions of a local Act. I performed the duties of that office at least without any censure from the Government.

On the 13th November, 1855, I gave, as his private medical attendant, a certificate to Mr. Hampton, upon which he obtained leave of absence.

The Council, which met on the 28th of the same month, struck out of the Estimates the salary of Health Officer for 1856; and the Government, whose officer I was, never offered one word to show that the salary was not in excess for the duties of Health Officer.

Although my salary was not voted beyond 31st December, 1855, I did not receive any intimation till April, upon forwarding my abstracts for pay for that quarter, at which time the *Daily News* was attacking me for alleged neglect of duty; then I was informed by the Colonial Secretary that my salary was not voted, and Mr. Benson was gazetted as my successor; making it appear to the public that I had been removed from office by the Government.

Mr. Benson then had £80 a year for attending the Police; and £20 was added for his duties as Health Officer.

Now Mr. Benson has £100 as Health Officer, and £100 for his duties to the Police. The Government, therefore, now pay to that gentleman £120, and he was appointed because £100 was not procured by the Government for my discharge of those duties.

When I look at this circumstance, and also remember that in 1840 I was removed from a Hospital I had been in connection with for fifteen years, where I nearly lost my life just before in the discharge of my duties, having lost in that epidemic 12 attendants upon the sick and one pupil; when, I say, I was then removed at a moment's notice to make room for an officer on the ground of seniority, who was really my junior; it appears to me as if my termination of service, if not explained, would give the appearance of removal for improper discharge of public duties.

To obtain justice is impossible; but at least I have a right not merely to expect, but to demand, from the Government this much,—a distinct and plain assurance that my duties as Health Officer were properly performed; and that, in the arrangements they have thought right to adopt, my conduct in the public service has in no way justified the Government to remove me from office, censure me for the discharge of my duties, or refuse me the ordinary benefits resulting from length of service.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your humble Servant,

E. S. P. BEDFORD.

*To the Honourable the Colonial Secretary.*

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*Colonial Secretary's Office, 13th November, 1858.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge your letter of the 9th instant, in which you relate the circumstances under which you were appointed Health Officer at Hobart Town in 1852, those under which you ceased to fill that office in 1855; also the circumstance of your having been in 1840 removed from a Hospital with which you had been connected for 15 years, and your place filled up by a junior; and wherein you represent, that if your termination of service is not explained, it "would give the appearance of removal for improper discharge of public duties," and, therefore, as you state, you have a right not merely to expect, but to demand, from the Government thus much,—a distinct and plain assurance that your duties as Health Officer were properly performed, and that in the arrangements they have thought right to adopt, your conduct in the Public Service has in no way justified the Government to remove you from office, censure you for the discharge of your duties, nor refuse you the ordinary benefit resulting from length of service.

In reply, I beg to remind you, that the circumstances of which you complain transpired at periods now remote; and so far from the present Government being in any way answerable for them, they were unknown, for the most part, to its Members till brought under their notice in your letter.

The course which the present Government adopted, and which Parliament sanctioned, of augmenting the salary of the Health Officer when occasion appeared to justify it, and in retaining Mr. Benson in possession of that office after its emoluments were increased, was according to established usage; and I at once most frankly and fully assure you that, throughout the proceeding, no intention was ever indulged for one moment of impugning the ability or the zeal with which you had discharged the duties of Health Officer during the period of your service in that capacity.

I have, &c.,

WILLIAM HENTY.

*The Hon. E. S. P. BEDFORD, Esquire, M.L.C.*

*Davey-street, 23rd November, 1858.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th November, with reference to the situation of Health Officer, and in which you state that "The course which the present Government adopted, and which the Parliament sanctioned, of augmenting the salary of the Health Officer when occasion appeared to justify it, and retaining Mr. Benson in possession of that office after its emoluments were increased, was according to established usage."

On the 11th November, 1857, you stated, in your place in Council, "The Health Officer was discontinued as a separate appointment when the Estimates for 1856 were under consideration, and Dr. Benson, the Medical Officer for Police and Gaols, receives £20 as an addition to his salary of £80 per annum for performing the duties of Health Officer."

This agrees with my letter of the 9th instant. Your answer of the 13th instant does not agree with this statement. The present Government have not been acting upon any established usage of increased pay. The appointment of Health Officer was revived, and Mr. Benson had it given to him.

After the statement at the conclusion of your letter, I am sure the Government did not intend to cast any imputation upon me as to the manner in which my public duties have been performed.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your very obedient Servant,

E. S. P. BEDFORD.

*The Honourable the Colonial Secretary.*

*Colonial Secretary's Office, 11th December, 1858.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd November, in which you refer to the appointment of Health Officer as having been revived, and given to Dr. Benson.

The duties of that office had been performed by Dr. Benson since April, 1856, and he was remunerated for his services by a payment of £20, which was assigned for those duties by the Estimates for the year; and the Estimates for 1857 were prepared in the same form.

In preparing the Estimates for 1858, which were introduced in October 1857, their division into Local and General Estimates compelled the insertion of Dr. Benson's duties and offices—that of Medical Officer of Police in the Local, and that of Health Officer in the General Estimates,—and these offices so divided, and the salaries attached to them, were passed whilst you held a seat in the Legislative Council; and the arrangement stood the same in the Estimates passed during the last Session of Parliament. You will therefore see that no fresh appointment can have been created, nor has any offer respecting one been made to Dr. Benson.

I have, &c.,

WILLIAM HENTY.

*The Hon. E. S. P. BEDFORD, Esq., M.L.C.*

*Davey-street, 21st December, 1858.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th instant.

I am there informed that the division of the Estimates into local, and general, compelled the division of the offices held by Mr. Benson, proving that, as I stated, the office of Health Officer was revived; had it not been revived by assigning the original salary to it, as was done, all that was required was the placing the £20 in the General Estimates, and retaining the £80 for the Police in the Local Estimates.

On the contrary, the Government increased the salary for attendance on the Police by £20, and restored the Health Officer's salary, and yet, at that time, the Police were being handed over to the City. Mr. Benson was paid by the Civic authorities for his attendance upon the Police transferred to the Municipality.

Your letter of the 18th points out another error. The Health Officer, as there stated, is a local appointment, and, as must be clear to you, should therefore not have been placed in the general, but returned in the Local Estimates.

I trust I know my duty in the Council so far as not to use my place in bringing personal matters before Parliament, in which I may differ from the Executive. It is my first duty to do as I have done, bring the subject to the notice of the Executive. I am quite aware that the Parliament is the great inquest of the Colony, but it ought not to usurp the duties of the Executive Government.

I need not say that I entirely differ from your view of this matter, and I can only trust that the course adopted in this case will not form a precedent. If officers can be displaced as I have been in this instance, there is no security for any person holding office under Government.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

E. S. P. BEDFORD.

*The Honourable the Colonial Secretary.*

## No. 2.

*CORRESPONDENCE with E. S. P. BEDFORD, Esquire, relating to PUBLIC HOSPITALS.*

*Davey-street, 9th November, 1858.*

SIR,

UPON your Motion in the Legislative Council, a Joint Committee of both Houses was appointed to report on Charitable Institutions; and the first subject submitted to their consideration was the control and management of Hospitals.

The Report of the Committee and the Resolutions adopted in the House of Assembly are calculated, and I believe are intended, to close St. Mary's Hospital; an Institution that has effected more, in proportion to the aid given by the public, than any other institution in the Australian Colonies.

The Report of the Committee, and the course there recommended is, I consider, unjust. It recognises a Hospital at Launceston, which has only existed for a short period, and suggests that a building should be erected and aid afforded for that Institution. It alludes to St. Mary's Hospital, in a passing passage, and proposes to establish a Hospital in Hobart Town, which the Committee must have known would encourage pauperism, and perhaps close the doors of St. Mary's, the only Institution which, while ready to aid the destitute sick, leads the working classes to habits of frugality and independence.

Under the present aspect of affairs connected with the Medical Institutions of this City, I am sure my time and energies will be required to keep open St. Mary's, and to prevent the profession being degraded to a mere trade.

I must therefore tender to His Excellency my resignation as one of the Commissioners of the New Norfolk Lunatic Asylum, and also as a Member of the Southern Board of Education.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your humble Servant,

E. S. P. BEDFORD.

*The Honourable the Colonial Secretary.*

*Colonial Secretary's Office, 13th November, 1858.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor, in reference to your letter of the 9th instant, in which you advert to the Report of the Joint Committee of the two Houses of Parliament, on Charitable Institutions, to state, that I do not feel myself at liberty in this correspondence to discuss that Report, further than on my own part to disclaim any participation in the intentions you impute to that Committee respecting St. Mary's Hospital. I have only to assure you of the regret—a regret shared by the other members of the Government—with which I receive the tender of your resignation as a Commissioner of the New Norfolk Lunatic Asylum, and also as a Member of the Southern Board of Education; and I trust that you will not insist on your resignation in either case, the Government being fully alive to the advantage which the Colony derives from your professional ability and your general intelligence in connexion with the important interests confided respectively to those bodies.

I have, &c.,

WILLIAM HENTY.

*The Hon. E. S. P. BEDFORD, Esq., M.L.C.*

*Davey-street, 22nd November, 1858.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th instant, in which you trust that I will not insist upon my resignation as a member of the Southern Board of Education and as one of the Commissioners of the New Norfolk Lunatic Asylum.

The decision is much more with the Government than myself.

I am willing, if possible, to be useful to the community; and, as it was thought that I might be of use in the situations referred to, I accepted them. I know where I am of most use, and that is in being connected with Hospitals, for the purpose of continuing in a sphere of larger and better observation than private practice can anywhere afford.

I remained in Hospital appointments, which were no pecuniary gain to me, till unjustly removed by Government from a Hospital where there was a large field for pathological inquiry. I have endeavoured, for 18 years, to obtain some such information in a limited degree by establishing a Hospital in this city.

The greater opportunities at the General Hospital were unjustly snatched from me to be wasted, as far as this Colony is concerned, for 19 years.

But I fear the proceedings of the present Government, if the Report on Charitable Institutions and the Resolutions of the House of Assembly on that Report (in which House the Government has no real opposition) are indications of their views, will still continue to waste the opportunities for Hospital experience that might be made useful in this Colony; and not merely continue the General Hospital in its present useless state in that respect, but also close the doors of St. Mary's.

I consider I am not without good grounds for such fears, when I remember that, a few months ago, I was honoured by a request from you, on the part of the Government, to accept, without pay, the situation of Principal Medical Officer, which would become vacant on the departure of Dr. Atkinson for Ceylon. The necessity for this appointment arose from the provisions of the Act for the care of the Insane, in force in this Colony, directing that the Principal Medical Officer should be the Chairman of the Commissioners of New Norfolk Asylum.

I was informed, at the same time, that it would be expected from me to suggest the required arrangements with regard to the Hospitals, when the Convict Establishments did not render it necessary to retain the Hospital in Hobart Town as a Convict Hospital, and I was to understand that I was to be the Principal Medical Officer of the Colony.

For some reasons, the appointment referred to has not been made; the only reason I have heard of is, that the title is a military, not a civil one. I pointed out to you that this was a mistake, and I can instance the Cape and Ceylon as two Colonies in which such a title is given to a Civil Officer, although in each of these Colonies a Military Medical Officer of high rank is stationed.

The reason assigned to me was not, therefore, a sufficient one; and the necessity is existing to this hour for the appointment.

The Government, instead of asking my advice as to the Medical Establishments, discussed in Parliament, a Report of a Joint Committee upon Hospitals and other Institutions, which Committee originated upon a motion of your own.

I have thus shown that, in matters connected with Hospitals, the Government has not continued in the same mind. The alterations have all been to lead me to suspect that plans quite contrary to what I know to be really useful will be carried out.

If the Government keep their promise made to me, I have no desire to withhold my services in the Boards referred to.

If, on the contrary, the Government abandons its proposed plans, which it agreed with me to carry out, I shall require all my time and energy to oppose the injurious system they are building up. I shall much better serve the public good in that way than in any other.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

E. S. P. BEDFORD.

*The Honourable the Colonial Secretary.*

*Colonial Secretary's Office, 30th November, 1858.*

SIR,

Necessary absence in Launceston has prevented my giving an earlier reply to your letter of the 22nd instant.

You state in this communication, in answer to the desire of the Government as conveyed by me, that you would not insist on your resignation as a member of the Southern Board of Education, and as one of the Commissioners of the New Norfolk Lunatic Asylum, that the decision is much more with the Government than myself; and, in a subsequent portion of your letter, you intimate, in general and in explicit terms, the conditions on which you will continue your services in the capacities referred to.

In now replying to this letter, I wish not to dwell unnecessarily on those passages in it which appears to me to have no pertinence whatever to any complaints you may have against the present Executive Government. The 3rd, 4th, and 5th paragraphs in it are of that character.

The present Administration has never impugned the value of your services in connexion with Hospitals. It is in no respect answerable, as I have already stated in a previous letter, for your removal, unjustly as you allege, from a Hospital where there was a large field for pathological enquiry; and I object to the persistence in these matters of complaint against Government, as tending to no other effect than to impart a colour to your complaints against the present Ministry totally devoid of justification. This Government has not committed any injustice against you, and it would be stepping out of the ordinary course of duty were it now to attempt to redress any you may have sustained previous to its accession to office, by supplanting those who have held their appointments for several years.

Your allegations against the present Administration are contained in the 6th and following paragraphs of your letter. You say "That you fear the proceedings of the present Government, if the Report on Charitable Institutions, and the Resolutions of the House of Assembly on that Report (in which House the Government has no real opposition) are indications of their views, will still continue to waste the opportunities for Hospital experience that might be made useful in this Colony; and not merely continue the General Hospital in its present useless state in that respect, but also close the doors of St. Mary's"; and you consider that you are not without grounds for such fears, when you remember that, a few months ago, you were honored with a request from the Government to accept, without pay, the situation of Principal Medical Officer, and for some reasons the appointment has not been made. In reply, I must decline to state how far the Government is committed to the views contained in that Report, further than by saying that it emanated from a Joint Committee of the two Houses of Parliament, and that, in respect to the Resolutions of the House of Assembly on it, to which you have adverted as being the result of party considerations—in your own words, the absence of any "real opposition" in that House,—I must express my regret at the observation, more particularly as emanating from you, a member of the other branch of the Legislature, and I cannot admit either the correctness of your position, or the inference you manifestly deduct from it. The discussion in the Assembly did not originate with members of the Government, nor was it instigated by them, nor was it raised by members of the House, the independence of whose course is open to question; and that discussion was scarcely even shared in by the Government, and in so far as it was, only in general terms.

Into the facts connected with the projected appointment of a Principal Medical Officer for the Colony, respecting which my recollection in some points differs from yours, it is not necessary that I should enter further, I hope, than by calling, to your recollection what the sole cause was of such an appointment having been contemplated; viz.—to comply with the terms of "The New Norfolk Lunacy Act," which required that the Presiding Commissioner should hold that rank and designation. But since the period in question, as you are aware, that Act has been repealed, and a new one passed, which assigns the appointment of President of the Board of Commissioners, taking no cognizance whatever of such an Officer as Principal Medical Officer to the Government, and inasmuch as that office has not been filled, nor have even Commissioners been constituted under the Act, your accusation must be admitted to be at least premature. At the same time I feel bound to add, that I do not consider I made any overtures whatever to you, which laid the Government under an obligation to consult you before it discussed in Parliament a Report of a Joint Committee on Hospitals, or than (to speak with stricter reference to facts) fettered my action as a Member of the Joint Committee, or imposed silence on those Members of the Government who sit in the Assembly when a discussion was raised there by independent Members.

The practicable purport of your letter is contained in the following paragraph,—“If the Government keep their promise made to me, I have no desire to withhold my services in the Boards referred to,” In this

you appeal to me to impeach the Government with a dereliction of its engagements to yourself, and to exact what, under the circumstances, would be an admission from it to that effect, by your own immediate appointment as Principal Medical Officer, and this as a condition of your continuing your services as a member of the Southern Board of Education, and a Commissioner of the New Norfolk Lunatic Asylum.

Retaining a due sense of the value of your services, and with every wish to secure them for the benefit of the Colony, I must nevertheless decline to make any such admission, or to contract any such bargain, feeling that were I to do so I should be pursuing a course not justified by facts, and unbecoming on the part of any Government, and one moreover exposed to peculiar objections when viewed in connexion with your position as a member of the Legislative Council. It remains, therefore, for you to elect whether you will consent, as I have requested you to do, from a high opinion entertained by myself and colleagues of the advantage to be derived from your experience and abilities, to continue your services on the Education Board and the Commission for the New Norfolk Lunatic Asylum, or whether you will insist on withdrawing your services; but the Government cannot fetter itself by any engagements to you, either as to your appointment or as to the nature of its arrangements in respect to Hospitals and Asylums.

I have, &c.

WILLIAM HENTY.

*The Hon. E. S. P. BEDFORD, Esq., M.L.C.*

*Davey-street, 1st December, 1858.*

SIR,

IN your letter of yesterday you stated, that your recollection of the facts connected with the projected appointment of a Principal Medical Officer for the Colony in some points differs from mine.

I desire to be informed in what that difference consists, that I may be enabled to reply to your letter dated 30th November.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,

Your very obedient Servant,

E. S. P. BEDFORD.

*The Honourable the Colonial Secretary.*

*Colonial Secretary's Office, 4th December, 1858.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st instant, in which you desire to be informed in what respect my recollection of the facts connected with the projected appointment of a Principal Medical Officer differs from your own.

In reply, I beg to state that the difference referred to arises in this, that your letter of the 22nd November would appear to infer that the Government was to place you in a position to control, or claim some right over arrangements and over appointments connected with Hospitals.

At that time no consideration had been given to an alteration in General Hospitals, and therefore no such authority was intended to be conveyed to you.

The only duties which I mentioned as being intended to be confided to you were those which were attached to the office of President of the Board of Commissioners of the Lunatic Asylum, the Act in force at that time requiring that the President of the Commissioners should be the Principal Medical Officer, and that being the sole cause why the Government contemplated making any such appointment, and why a communication on the subject was opened with you.

It may have been in my mind during this conversation, that if you were appointed Principal Medical Officer for the purpose above mentioned, the Government would be in a position to avail itself of your advice on matters of health and sanitary arrangements; but on these points any conversation between us was quite incidental.

I have, &c.,

WILLIAM HENTY.

*The Hon. E. S. P., BEDFORD, Esq., M.L.C.*

*Davey-street, 6th December, 1858.*

SIR,

IN reply to your letters of the 31st November and 4th December, I have the honor to state that I have not, in this correspondence, dwelt upon one unnecessary subject. I have tried to show that, for twenty-five years past, my endeavours so to follow my profession as to benefit the Colony have, by Government,

been unjustly prevented; and while no successive Government has impugned my services, yet my views for the public good have not been aided as they might have been; and, in the present transition state of the Colony, the proceedings taken by the Government are, in my opinion, wrong and unjust, and will, if persisted in, close St. Mary's, and thus end my long endeavours to serve the Colony and benefit a profession in which my life has been passed.

I have not therefore imparted a colour to my complaint against the present Ministry totally devoid of justification; on the contrary, I have had the boldness to speak plainly of their error in this matter, in the hope that before too late the mischievous steps now taken may be retraced.

I am astonished at the next paragraph in your letter.

When did I ever endeavour to supplant those who have held their appointments for several years? This correspondence has reference to fresh Establishments proposed by the Report to be made in this City.

I might indeed retort upon the Government, for I have not endeavoured to supplant any. The present Ministry has supplanted me in the office of Health Officer.

You decline to state how far the Government is committed to the views contained in the Report of the Joint Committee. I do not desire it: the acts of the officers of Government speak more plainly than words.

In a matter involving the expenditure of thousands, the Colonial Secretary draws up the Report of a Committee. If an Officer of the Executive Government acts it is unnecessary he should trouble himself by stating how far the Government is committed to the views of that Report.

I cannot understand any doubt upon the matter, or recognise the individual and separate action of one of the Executive, particularly in a Ministry inflexible upon the removal of place-men, not of the Executive, from Parliament.

I never said the Resolutions of the Assembly were the results of party considerations. I never stated more than my words justify me in repeating. I said this, as I now repeat, there is no real opposition to the Government in the Assembly; and if they had been in earnest against the Resolutions, they would have been opposed by them, and not discussed by them in general terms. They were either ignorant of their nature, indifferent to them, or—what I have more just right to infer—concurred in by them, founded as they were upon a Report drawn up by an officer of the Executive Government.

You state that the sole cause for appointing a Principal Medical Officer was to comply with the terms of the New Norfolk Lunacy Act; but since the period in question the Act has been repealed, and a new one passed, taking no cognizance whatever of such an office.

I am aware of the sole cause you refer to. I am also aware that the Government, for six months, have not thought proper to act in accordance with the terms of the Law. I know that, although another Act is passed, it does not come into force until the 31st December; and I also know that the omission referred to was made after the decision of the Local Government was come to, to act contrary to the terms of the now existing Act, not to appoint a Principal Medical Officer.

You have favoured me with your recollection as to the facts connected with the projected appointment, and you state that my letter infers that the Government was to place me in a position to control, or claim some right over arrangements and over appointments connected with Hospitals.

Your letter admits that I was to be appointed Principal Medical Officer for a particular purpose. You state what may have been in your mind (you mean, I presume, what was the fact, what passed in conversation.) The Government would be in a position to avail itself of my advice on matters of health and sanitary arrangements, but on these points the conversation was quite incidental.

In this there must be some mistake. You could never intend to consult, on these matters alone, an unpaid officer, when the Government had revived the paid office of Health Officer, and given it to Mr. Benson.

You have quite forgotten a previous interview, when, on Dr. Atkinson being ordered to Ceylon, I called your attention to the transition state of the Medical Department, and suggested that any arrangements made with regard to Dr. Atkinson's duties should be so carried out as not to interfere with arrangements which would be necessary on the breaking up of the Convict Hospital. You acquiesced in this, and, after this interview, I was sent for and offered the appointment you refer to; and the incidental conversation was to the effect that I was to be consulted by the Government to suggest the required arrangements with regard to Hospitals and other matters when the Convict Establishments did not render it necessary to retain the Hospital in Hobart Town as a Convict Hospital.

To that I considered the Government pledged. On that understanding I agreed to accept the office; but I never inferred, nor have stated, that I was to be placed in a position to control, or claim some right over arrangements connected with Hospitals.

I had a right to expect the Government to ascertain from me the course I thought best to be followed,



and the Government to adopt it or reject it as it thought right, but not to find them assemble a body of gentlemen to discuss these questions who were quite unacquainted with the proper management of Hospitals so as to be useful as means of instruction to the profession and the public.

You have forgotten this, or you would not have stated, that at that time no consideration had been given to an alteration in General Hospitals as a reason for the proof of the correctness of your views of this difference.

The point, light in your eyes, was the only one of import in mine. It was a matter of the deepest importance to the future well being of the Hospitals in this Colony, that some one person competent to such a duty should submit a digested plan to Government, before a Committee of Parliament met to consider the future operations of Government in these matters,—a matter of detail that such a Committee could never properly understand, and the responsibility of which rests with the Executive, not the Legislative branch of the Government.

I do not wish to cavil at words, but I must express my regret at your use of the term bargain. I have not set about any bargain. I should be no pecuniary gainer by any arrangements the Government might make. I point out plainly where the Government are not keeping the promises made to me, and this, in my judgment, interferes with the advancement of professional knowledge in this Colony; and my strenuous efforts to urge the Government to a course which will not be so injurious should, I conceive, be designated by some other term than that used by you.

It is nearly six and thirty years since I, the first Medical Student of this Colony, entered the Colonial Hospital. During the study and practice of my profession I have had one object in view, to increase its usefulness and respectability in the Colony. I have not only experienced the injustice I have before referred to, connected with my appointment at the Colonial Hospital; but, although when in charge of that Hospital I could not get any addition to it to treat the sick, after my removal, on opening St. Mary's—necessary from the small accommodation in the Colonial Hospital—the Government, instead of helping a Hospital established to lessen pauperism, erected the present stone building in Liverpool-street, and admitted patients on the same terms; in other words, instead of helping competed with me, with an unlimited purse at their command.

I now find the Government adopting a course which will close St. Mary's if I cannot induce an alteration of their plans, or, if the Government persist in the course now indicated, I shall require my time to save, if possible, a useful institution to the City.

I trust, therefore, the Government will see that the promises made to me do not fetter its arrangements as to Hospitals and Asylums, but on the other hand, it gives them an opportunity of avoiding what I am convinced they will find to be a grave mistake, fatal to the progress of medicine in this Colony for years and years to come.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your very obedient Servant,

E. S. P. BEDFORD.

*The Honourable the Colonial Secretary.*

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*Colonial Secretary's Office, 18th December, 1858.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your further letter of the 6th instant.

In reply, I would first advert to your observation implying, if not affirming in express terms, that the drafting of the Report of the Joint Committee by the Colonial Secretary necessarily commits, not himself alone, but the Government, to the contents of the Report.

That Report, as in other cases, was drafted by the Colonial Secretary, at the request of the Committee. It was afterwards corrected, and then approved by them; nor did any other objection to it arise from yourself as a member than is embodied in the protest you submitted; and, therefore, to style it as the work and Report of the Colonial Secretary, is as unjust to the body of the Committee as to the Colonial Secretary and to the Government.

With regard to the appointment of Dr. Benson as Health Officer, you have estimated his office more extensively than the circumstances warrant. He is Health Officer for this Port only; another gentleman holds a similar office for a Northern Port, and has been provided for on the Estimates for as long a period.

You next remind me that I have forgotten a previous interview, when you called my attention to changes that might be necessary in Hospital arrangements after Dr. Atkinson's departure; and that, at a subsequent interview, it was proposed to offer you the appointment of Principal Medical Officer, not only for the purposes of the Asylum Act, but with the intention of giving you a certain undefined power over Hospital arrangements.

I take leave to observe that your introduction of the purport of a conversation which took place

unofficially between us, prior to any vacancy in the office alluded to, and prior to any conversation or action on the subject by the Government, is unusual and much to be deprecated.

I beg to say, I had not forgotten those conversations. I was seeking information from yourself and others about that time respecting Benevolent Asylums and Hospitals; but with more particular reference to the wants of Launceston; and I remember the disappointment I experienced at finding your information regarding the Launceston Hospitals deficient.

I again assert that the official communications held by me with you had sole reference to the Lunatic Asylum.

I may be permitted to object to your allusions to the qualifications of the members of the Joint Committee, which apply also to those whose evidence was taken by the Committee, as unduly disparaging. You say you had a right to expect the Government to ascertain from you the course you thought best to be followed, but not to find them assemble a body of gentlemen who were quite unacquainted with the proper management of Hospitals; and yet it is observable that neither prior to, nor at the time, notice was given by me (on the 22nd Sept.) for that Committee, nor during the progress of its enquiries, nor indeed till after they were concluded, when you forwarded your letter of the 9th November, did you in the least object to the course adopted as likely to interfere with any understanding, real or supposed, with yourself regarding Hospitals.

There was no opinion, so far as I know, signified by the Committee, as to the suspension or closing of St. Mary's; but the view was expressed by yourself to the Committee, that that Hospital, when increased by additional buildings, should be made the sole Hospital for Hobart Town, under your own charge.

Neither during the progress of the Committee's labours, nor at any other time, have I felt any other than a strong desire for the continuance and prosperity of St. Mary's.

Having thus endeavoured to correct the differences between yourself and the Government, in respect to the negotiations and occurrences upon this subject, I have the honor to inform you, that the Government is not at present in a position to appoint you Principal Medical Officer, the reason for which, the early expiry of the present Lunatic Asylum Act must, I think, be esteemed as sufficient.

I have, &c.,

WILLIAM HENTY.

*The Hon. E. S. P. BEDFORD, Esq., M.L.C.*

*Davey-street, 21st December, 1858.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 18th instant.

I have no right to offer, nor have I offered, any remarks upon your actions as a Member of Council. My remarks are confined entirely to your conduct as an Executive Officer of the Government; therefore, your observations as to my injustice to the Committee have no bearing whatever.

I said in my letter that the Committee were unacquainted with the management of Hospitals so as to be useful as means of instruction to the Profession and the Public. You object to it, and also say that it applies to those whose evidence was taken before the Committee.

If you refer to the Report, you find that Committee and Witnesses alike differ upon this very subject; and the Report leaves the management of each Hospital to its separate Committee. Such a result was not to be wondered at, and the advice of the Committee will not lessen the difficulty of the matter.

It is clear that the Committee was not able to decide upon any plan, and this arose from the necessary want of knowledge upon these subjects by the majority of the Members.

There is an error in your remembrance as to the suggestions with regard to St. Mary's. A Member of the Committee, not myself, said, that by enlarging St. Mary's it could hold all the Hospital Patients. I stated, that four years ago Mr. Champ proposed such an arrangement, and plans were prepared with that view, and I showed them to the Committee.

On another day I was asked if I would have the whole of the appointments and arrangements of St. Mary's conducted by a Committee; and I said no.

I have not so much dwelt upon the opinions expressed; I have more strongly urged that the course indicated, whether intended or not, is calculated to close St. Mary's.

This Institution was, at its outset, opposed by Government; and now, when Government are seeking to establish new arrangements, I warn them of the effects likely to result from their proposed proceedings.

You inform me that the Government is not in a position to appoint me Principal Medical Officer, and assign as the reason the expiration of the present Lunatic Asylum Act.

This is not a sufficient reason, as I have before explained; and I am sure the Government will find that, in not making some such appointment, they are not pursuing a judicious course.

You have shown clearly that an offer of the appointment was made to me; and I remember in a conversation I had with you, when you mentioned the only reason urged against the appointment, that it was a military and not a civil designation, you not only recognised the duty of such an officer with regard to Hospitals, but yourself said it would be well to call the officer also Inspector of Hospitals.

I would again urge upon the Government to pause before they insist upon not carrying out the arrangement made with me; not so much on grounds personal to myself, but because I believe otherwise an opportunity will be lost to them to effect good for the profession of medicine in the Colony; a reason before which personal considerations sink into insignificance.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your very obedient Servant,

E. S. P. BEDFORD.

*The Honorable the Colonial Secretary.*

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*Colonial Secretary's Office, 25th December, 1858.*

SIR,

As the present Act of Council for the management of the Lunatic Asylum at New Norfolk expires on the 31st instant, when the new Act comes into operation, I have the honor to request that you will oblige me with an intimation whether it will be agreeable to you that your name should be submitted to the Governor in Council for appointment as a Member of the Commission under the new Act.

If your answer should be in the affirmative, I beg to add that it is the intention of the Ministry further to submit your name as the President of the Commission.

I have, &c.,

WILLIAM HENTY.

*The Honorable E. S. P. BEDFORD, Esq., M.L.C.*

---

*Davey-street, 3rd January, 1859.*

SIR,

I SHOULD have replied to your letter of the 25th ultimo, but I am waiting the honor of a reply to my letter to you of the 21st December.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your very obedient Servant,

E. S. P. BEDFORD.

*The Honorable the Colonial Secretary.*

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*Colonial Secretary's Office, 4th January, 1859.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge your letter of the 3rd instant, in which you intimate that your reply to my communication, proposing your nomination as President of the New Norfolk Hospital for the Insane, awaits my reply to a letter from you of the 21st ultimo. I was honored by two letters from you of that date, but I presume your reference is to that in which you urge your claims to be appointed Principal Medical Officer of the Colony, and if so, I beg to acquaint you that the Government must emphatically decline to place itself in the position of giving you any pledge as an inducement to the acceptance of the position which has been offered to you. When medical arrangements in respect to Hospitals or Asylums come under consideration, your views will receive that attention to which they are justly entitled; but the Government cannot submit to fetter its discretion on that subject, by prematurely acceding to your recommendation of the appointment of a Principal Medical Officer for the Colony, an appointment which requires to be weighed, not only in its professional, but in its financial bearings.

I have, &c.,

WILLIAM HENTY.

*The Honorable E. S. P. BEDFORD, Esq., M.L.C.*

---

*Davey-street, 6th January, 1859.*

SIR,

HAVING been honored by the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant, I am in a position to reply to that of the 20th December.

Your last communication states that, when arrangements in respect of Hospitals or Asylums come under consideration, my views will receive attention.

Though still feeling, not only that the Government has failed to carry out the promises made to me, but that the objects of the New Norfolk Hospital Commission cannot be so well carried out as if those promises had been performed, yet I believe that my not being named as President of the Commission would complicate future arrangements, and probably prevent the possibility of my views with regard to Medical Establishments being entertained by the Government.

I therefore consent to my name being submitted to the Governor in Council as a Member of the Commission for the New Norfolk Hospital, under the new Act.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your very obedient Servant,

E. S. P. BEDFORD.

*The Honorable the Colonial Secretary.*

### No. 3.

*CORRESPONDENCE with E. S. P. BEDFORD, Esquire, and the Trustees of  
ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL.*

*St. Mary's Hospital, 5th September, 1859.*

SIR,

IN the Report of the Joint Committee of both Houses of Parliament, it was recommended that, "For Hospitals supported on the voluntary principle who may apply for Grants in aid, your Committee think it would be a fair principle for the Government to contribute an equal amount to that raised by voluntary contributions, not exceeding a specified amount, and also to bear the cost of maintaining its paupers."

The Government has acted upon this principle towards the Cornwall Hospital at Campbell Town.

The sum of £2000 was advanced to endow three beds at St. Mary's Hospital in 1854. The cost to the Hospital for those beds has been £610 5s. 3d.

Out of £17,375 spent in the building and maintenance of this Hospital, £2000 was thus advanced by the Government, and £2614 was given at various times by the public, and the residue raised by the Institution itself by payments made for patients receiving its benefits.

The principle applied to St. Mary's, which has been favoured by Parliament, would sanction the discharge of the mortgage, and still leave the Hospital with the expense of the cost of the pauper beds since 1854.

I request that His Excellency will be pleased to sanction the discharge of the mortgage of £2000, and such further aid to the Hospital as he may be advised should be afforded to this Institution, in accordance to the principles put forth in the Report I have referred to.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your very obedient Servant,

E. S. P. BEDFORD.

*The Honorable the Colonial Secretary.*

*St. Mary's Hospital, 26th September, 1859.*

SIR,

THE Parliament having resolved that the cost of the three pauper beds since the contribution of £2000 should be refunded to this Institution, I have the honor to enclose a statement of their expense to the Hospital, and request that the sum of £614 may be paid in accordance with the Resolution referred to.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your very obedient Servant,

E. S. P. BEDFORD.

*The Honorable the Colonial Treasurer.*

*St. Mary's Hospital, 29th September, 1859.*

SIR,

THE Parliament having resolved, "That it is desirable that the salaries and wages of the Officers and Servants of St. Mary's Hospital should be defrayed from the Public Revenue, upon condition that the payments required to be made by Patients in the said Hospital be reduced to such a scale as will be sufficient to cover only the expenses of their maintenance in the Hospital,—and on the further condition that one-half the Members of the Committee of Management of the said Hospital be appointed by the Government, the other half by the Trustees," I presume that it will be more convenient, in arranging the accounts, to commence the payments on the 1st October rather than from the day the Resolutions met the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

I am prepared to carry out the conditions required by those Resolutions, and request that steps may be taken so as to enable the public to receive the benefit, by lowering the fees at the earliest date, which, as I before stated, I think will be the 1st October next.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your very obedient Servant,

E. S. P. BEDFORD.

*The Honorable the Colonial Secretary.*

*Colonial Secretary's Office, 14th December, 1859.*

SIR,

WITH reference to the vote of Parliament for the part sustentation of the working expenses of St. Mary's Hospital, I have the honor to request I may be furnished with a list of the staff of that establishment, with the amount of their remuneration.

At the same time, you will be so good as to oblige me with a copy of the names of the Committee whom the Trustees have appointed for the ensuing year.

I have, &c.,

WILLIAM HENTY.

E. S. P. BEDFORD, *Esq., Davey-street.*

*St. Mary's Hospital, Hobart Town, 20th December, 1859.*

SIR,

WE have the honor to state, that the enclosed communication on the subject of the present and future position of the Hospitals of this City has been addressed to us by Edward Bedford, Esquire, the founder and Manager of St. Mary's.

The important public interests involved, and our position as Members of the Committee of this Hospital resident in Hobart Town, are a sufficient apology for offering you our views upon this question before any plan be finally adopted by the General Committee of which you are Chairman.

We believe that the proper care and treatment of the sick poor of the City, and of other sick persons who wish for Hospital treatment, may be provided for in a way to serve the public interests, and at the same time to afford effective opportunities for professional training, by some such means as the following:—

1. By placing both Hospitals under one system of professional management, having a resident House Surgeon in each, and two other paid Medical Officers; the one to do the duties at St. Mary's, and such a portion of those of the Liverpool-street Hospital as will equalize his with those of the other officer who would be engaged only at the latter building; these four gentlemen to be selected, if possible, from those who have commenced their Medical Education in the Colony, and who may therefore be considered entitled to preference in the distribution of Colonial appointments.

2. By reserving St. Mary's for patients who can pay for their accommodation, and by appropriating the Liverpool-street building for the benefit of pauper patients exclusively.

3. By placing the internal arrangement of each Hospital under its own Committee.

4. By holding out inducements to young men to become Medical Students in connexion with the Hospitals, of whose instruction the Senior Medical Officer should have charge.

5. By affording to Professional Gentlemen in town, facilities of attending operations and *post mortem* examinations, and by making one ward of patients available for a defined period in succession, to be in charge by such medical men as, under sanction of the Government or Committees, may desire, for their own information or improvement, to do this duty without pay.

We respectfully offer these suggestions for the consideration of your Committee, in the firm belief that the junction of these two establishments on some such grounds will be more conducive to the public benefit than their continued separation.

We have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servants,

ALFRED GARRETT, }  
ASKIN MORRISON, } *Members of the Committee of*  
JOHN FOSTER, } *St. Mary's Hospital.*

*The Honorable the Colonial Secretary,  
Chairman of the Committee of General Hospitals.*

*Colonial Secretary's Office, 23rd December, 1859.*

SIR,

I BEG to call your attention to my letter of the 14th instant, to which, as yet, I have not been favoured with any reply.

Your letter of the 29th September last, in reference to the new arrangement for St. Mary's Hospital, in which you suggested the 1st October as the day for their commencement, is now before me, and I beg to call to your recollection that you were apprised, verbally, by the Assistant Colonial Secretary, that the Vote of Parliament was not intended to come into operation until the year 1860.

I have, &c.,

WILLIAM HENTY.

E. S. P. BEDFORD, *Esq.*

*Board Room, General Hospital, 27th December, 1859.*

GENTLEMEN,

I BEG to acquaint you that I duly laid before this Board your letter of the 20th instant, addressed by you, in your capacity of Members of the Committee of St. Mary's Hospital, to the Chairman; and, by a Resolution of the Board, was directed to forward to you this acknowledgment of its receipt.

I have, &c.,

WILLIAM HENTY.

A. GARRETT, A. MORRISON, and JOHN FOSTER, *Esquires.*

*Hobart Town, 26th July, 1860.*

SIR,

THE Resolutions in Parliament in reference to St. Mary's Hospital have caused the Trustees and Committee of Management of that Institution to direct their anxious attention to its present position and future prospects, and to give the subject their careful consideration; and as I have presided at their meetings, I have now the honor, by their desire, to communicate for your information the conclusion at which they have arrived.

In the Resolution of Parliament above referred to, it is stated "That it is desirable that the salaries and wages of the Officers and Servants of St. Mary's Hospital should be defrayed from the Public Revenue, upon condition that the payments required to be made by Patients in the said Hospital be reduced to such a scale as will be sufficient only to cover the expenses of their maintenance in Hospital; and, on the further condition that one half of the Members of the Committee of Management of the said Hospital be appointed by Government, and the other half by the Trustees."

The Trustees and Committee of Management feel assured that if the General Hospital in Liverpool-street be conducted on the plan now in operation, and especially if paying patients be admitted, St. Mary's

Hospital, even with the proposed very liberal assistance from the General Revenue, will be found useful only to a very limited number of individuals, and that the object for which the Institution was founded will be entirely defeated.

Under these circumstances it was proposed that, before the new system of management came into operation, Mr. Bedford should receive some remuneration for his services as Medical Superintendent of St. Mary's Hospital during the last nineteen years, and that the sum required for this purpose should be raised by way of mortgage on the Hospital; but it has since been suggested that as the usefulness of the Hospital is now likely to be so limited, as we have mentioned, and the charge on the General Revenue, which must result from carrying out the Resolution of Parliament above quoted, cannot be estimated at less than £600 per annum, the end in view might be better attained by transferring the building to the Government.

A building like St. Mary's, which may be easily rendered suitable for many public purposes, could not be erected for a less sum than £5000, and, as the contribution of the Government towards its erection (exclusive of the sums allowed for pauper patients) has been only £2000, the sum of £3000 might be paid to Mr. Bedford for his services, and to cover existing liabilities out of the General Revenue, and the building with the sanction of Parliament, at once transferred to the Government.

The Trusts on which the Hospital is now held give the control of the Institution to Mr. Bedford; but should the proposal now made be accepted, he will concur with the Trustees in an absolute transfer to the Crown, and this arrangement would render the building at once available to the public.

Assuming that such a building is required for public purposes, and that its erection would cost £5000, not only would that sum have to be paid out of the General Revenue, but a site must be provided, and some considerable time would be required for the completion of the building; but, if the Hospital be purchased as now proposed, the building would be at once available, the sum of £2000 advanced by the Government would be repaid out of the purchase-money, the difficulty of providing a site would be removed, and the General Revenue would be relieved from an outlay of £600 per annum.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

R. POWER, *Chairman.*

*The Honorable the Colonial Secretary.*

*Colonial Secretary's Office, 16th August, 1860.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th ultimo, communicating the conclusions at which the Trustees and Committee of Management of St. Mary's Hospital have arrived with reference to the prospects of the Institution, and containing a proposal to transfer the building to the Government.

Your letter has been laid before the Director of Public Works, and the matter considered by the Governor in Executive Council; and, in reply, I beg to inform you that it has been decided to submit the proposition for the purchase of the building to Parliament.

The other portions of your letter are such as seem not to require any consideration at the hands of the Government.

I have, &c.,

WILLIAM HENTY.

ROBT. POWER, *Esq.*

*St. Mary's Hospital, 22nd October, 1860.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to inform you that Messrs. A. Garrétt, A. Morrison, and J. Foster are the Members of Committee of Management of St. Mary's Hospital.

I request that a like number may be appointed by the Government, and that steps may be taken "That the salaries and wages of the Officers and Servants of St. Mary's Hospital be defrayed from the Public Revenue, upon condition that the payments required to be made by Patients in the said Hospital, be reduced to such a scale as will be sufficient to cover only the expenses of their maintenance in the Hospital."

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,

Your very obedient Servant,

E. S. P. BEDFORD.

*The Honorable the Colonial Secretary.*

*Colonial Secretary's Office, 24th October, 1860.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd instant, conveying the names of the Committee of Management of St. Mary's Hospital.

In the absence of the Honorable the Colonial Treasurer, this matter must necessarily wait till his return to the Colony, when every endeavour will be made to facilitate its settlement.

In the meantime I shall feel obliged for the further information, in addition to that now furnished, which was requested by my letter of the 14th December, 1859.

I have, &c.,

WILLIAM HENTY.

E. S. P. BEDFORD, *Esq., St. Mary's Hospital, Davey-street.*

*St. Mary's Hospital, 25th October, 1860.*

SIR,

IN accordance with the request contained in your letter of the 24th instant, which I had the honor to receive yesterday, I enclose a List of the Staff of St. Mary's Hospital, with the amount of their remuneration.

It is my intention to bring under the notice of the Committee the low salaries the Hospital has hitherto paid to the Steward and Matron, and to suggest that they be increased, and an allowance made to them instead of rations which they now receive.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your very obedient Servant,

E. S. P. BEDFORD.

*The Honorable the Colonial Secretary.*

#### ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL.

##### *LIST of OFFICERS and SERVANTS, with amount of Pay:—*

Manager and Sole Medical Officer.....	£600	per annum.
Steward and Matron .....	75	"
Wardsman .....	24	"
Wardswoman.....	24	"
Laundress .....	24	"
Cook .....	24	"
Messenger .....	20	"
Watchman .....	20	"

*Colonial Secretary's Office, 27th October, 1860.*

SIR,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, enclosing a list of the Staff of St. Mary's Hospital, with the amount of their remuneration; and, in reply, to say that the information which the Colonial Secretary is desirous you should furnish, is that asked for in his letter of the 14th December, 1859, and refers to the Staff of the Establishment at that date, and not at the present time.

I have, &c.,

B. TRAVERS SOILY.

E. S. P. BEDFORD, *Esq., St. Mary's Hospital.*

*St. Mary's Hospital, 27th October, 1860.*

SIR,

YOUR letter asks for the Staff on the 14th December, 1859, and not, as I have already forwarded, a list of the present Staff, and their pay.

The only difference in the two is, that the Manager's salary was not then named, but there was a House Surgeon who had £75 per annum, with allowances.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your very obedient Servant,

E. S. P. BEDFORD.

*The Honorable the Colonial Secretary.*



*Colonial Secretary's Office, 10th November, 1860.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acquaint you, in reply to your letter of the 22nd October, that the Government have appointed the under-mentioned gentlemen to be Members of the Committee for managing St. Mary's Hospital, in pursuance of the terms of the Resolution of Parliament; viz.—

J. E. Calder, Esquire.  
W. R. Falconer, Esquire.  
W. Tarleton, Esquire.

The Government consider that the Resolution of Parliament had reference to the Staff of St. Mary's Hospital as then existing.

They therefore desire that the Committee should commence their proceedings on that basis; and whatever alterations may be now or hereafter considered expedient, should be proposed by the Joint Committee, and afterwards submitted to the Government.

The Government will be prepared to entertain the application for payment of salaries, as from the 1st October last, if the affairs are proceeded with in due course.

The Government recognise the propriety of the following arrangements in the conduct of the affairs of the Hospital:—

That there shall be an Annual Report made by the Committee to the Government of the affairs of the Institution.

That a copy of all Minutes of Meetings of the Committee be also forwarded to the Government.

That Meetings shall be held at least quarterly.

That Reporters from the public press be admitted at all Meetings.

That no Paupers shall be admitted as inmates of the Hospital.

That there shall be no debt or claim permitted to be charged on the building without the sanction of the Government.

That a quorum shall comprise at least one Member of each branch of the Committee.

I have the honor, &c.,

WILLIAM HENTY, *Colonial Secretary.*

E. S. P. BEDFORD, *Esquire, St. Mary's Hospital.*

*St. Mary's Hospital, 10th November, 1860.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this day's date naming, on the part of Government, the Members of the Committee of Management of St. Mary's Hospital, and further informing me of the views of the Government with relation to the future conduct of the Institution.

I am prepared to proceed under the propositions there named, except in one instance, where you state that there shall be no debt or claim permitted to be charged on the building without the sanction of the Government.

This is in direct violation of the last and other Clauses of the Trust Deed, and I cannot consent to it, as I will not be a party to any deviation from the provisions of the Trust Deed.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your very obedient Servant,

*The Honorable the Colonial Secretary.*

E. S. P. BEDFORD.

*Colonial Secretary's Office, 13th November, 1860.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge your letter of the 18th instant, and before proceeding further in the correspondence respecting St. Mary's Hospital, I beg to be informed whether the Members of the Committee of Management nominated by the Trustees of the Institution have full powers delegated to them to act in conjunction with the Members of Committee nominated by the Government, or whether their powers are fettered in any respect by the Trustees or by yourself. An immediate reply will oblige.

I have, &c.,

WILLIAM HENTY.

E. S. P. BEDFORD, *Esquire, St. Mary's Hospital.*

*St. Mary's Hospital, 13th November, 1860.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this day's date.

With reference to the money to be appropriated by the Government, and the charges made for Patients, the Committee will be entirely unfettered.

The powers of the Trustees and of myself are defined by the Trust Deed.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your very obedient Servant,

E. S. P. BEDFORD.

*The Honourable the Colonial Secretary.*

*Colonial Secretary's Office, 14th November, 1860.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge your letter relative to St. Mary's Hospital of the 13th instant, from which, as from your previous letter of the 10th instant, I collect

1st. That you decline to accede to the condition that no debt or claim shall be permitted to be charged on the building without the sanction of Government, and

2nd. That, while appearing to acquiesce in the appointment of a Joint Committee for the management of St. Mary's Hospital, all that you contemplate is, that this Joint Committee shall have confided to it the discretion of appropriating the government contribution, and of fixing the charges for Patients.

Under this arrangement, the Trustees, without even the cognizance of the Members of Committee of Management appointed by Government, reserve to themselves a power of adding, at their sole pleasure, to the salaries of Officers and the expenses of the Hospital, and to supply the deficiencies of revenue to meet such outlay by raising money on the mortgage of a building, more than one-half the estimated value of which is represented in the site, which was a free gift of the Local Government, and in a payment last year from the Treasury of £2614.

It was further communicated to the members of Government, by yourself, that the Trustees are prepared to assign to you a salary of £600 per annum, over which, on the principles avowed in your letter, the so called Committee of Management will have no control.

In these circumstances the Government regret to find that they are bound to withhold any advances from the public revenue in aid of St. Mary's Hospital, the conditions under which you claim assistance being totally at variance with the understanding on which Parliament voted that such assistance should be given, and with that in which you have already received a sum of £2614.

I have, &c.,

WILLIAM HENTY.

E. S. P. BEDFORD, *Esq., St. Mary's Hospital.*

*St. Mary's Hospital, 15th November, 1860.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday, in which you inform me that Government withhold any advances from the Public Revenue in aid of St. Mary's Hospital, and you state the grounds upon which you support such a resolution.

It is my duty to show how much I differ from you as to the validity of the grounds upon which the Government rest their conduct, and the injustice that is done to St. Mary's.

In declining to admit the right to control the power of the Trustees as to mortgaging the Building, I was upholding the Trust Deed; and, after your course in Parliament, I consider you would be the first person to desire that the Deed should not be violated.

It was not appearing to acquiesce in the appointment of a Joint Committee. I stated that they were unfettered as to the disposal of the Government Grant, and the arrangement for fees from the patients,—the only sources of current income for the expenditure of the Hospital. I waited to submit to the Committee my views as to how the money that might be required for the Hospital was to be raised, as I really wished them to use their proper authority. I did not communicate my views in writing, which it was my intention to submit to the Committee.

The communication as to the £600 was made in answer to your letter of the 24th October requesting information which required that statement.

I must correct an error which you have fallen into. I did not receive a payment last year of £2614 from the Treasury. In 1854 the Legislative Council voted £2000 as a loan to the Hospital, and for interest reserved three free beds. The Parliament last year wrote off that mortgage, converting the loan of £2000 into a gift, by paying £614 for the beds hitherto free, as interest on the money lent.

It is somewhat remarkable that, while in Parliament or in correspondence it is never lost sight of that £2000 has been given by the public, and £2000 (not £2614) given by the Government, no mention is made of this other fact, that £14,200 has been raised by my daily exertions during now nearly twenty years. If therefore the Government, for the £2000 and land, think they have a right to dictate terms as to the permanent condition of the Institution, it must only be in proportion to my greater right; and I have raised seven times the amount of money given by Government. Why St. Mary's Hospital should be the only Institution receiving aid from Government to be bound by such conditions you have not yet informed me: the Resolutions of Parliament make no such conditions.

This £2000 was given as a contribution to meet in part what the public had given by their voluntary subscriptions. There was no account taken of the large sum, £14,200, raised by patients, which was money towards the support of the Hospital, of a like character with the subscription of Members of Mechanics' Institutes, Public Libraries, and similar institutions which are aided by grants in proportion, or with reference to such subscriptions. And further, of the £2600 given by the public, only £1400 was for the building, the other was for the current expenses of the Hospital, and so used. In like manner nearly half the Government Grant should be absorbed in the general expenses, and the remainder to meet in part the £1400 given by the public towards the building.

The state of the case is as follows:—Towards the general purposes of the Hospital, the public gave £1100, the Government £1000, the Hospital raises £13,200. Towards the building, the public gave £1400, the Government £1000, the Hospital £1000.

The proposal for the surrender was a most just and fair one. The Hospital had most successfully carried on its operations, and when about to be upset, not by its own failure, but by the steps Government think right to adopt, it is proposed to surrender it, so that almost all the money given for permanent purposes is placed at the disposal of Government, and the land also.

The sum of £2614 and the proposed aid are mixed together in your letter. The money paid already to the Hospital was a gift from the Public Funds, in consequence of the voluntary gifts by the public, in accordance with the principles of a Report of a conjoined Committee furnished in October, 1858, to Parliament, which recommended that, "For Hospitals supported on the voluntary principle who may apply for grants in aid, your Committee think that it would be a fair principle for the Government to contribute an equal amount to that raised by voluntary contributions, not exceeding a specified amount, and also to bear the cost of maintaining its paupers."

The yearly grant for salaries is a separate and distinct thing, and is, for the future, to aid the industrious to obtain Medical Assistance at a low rate. The first condition was complied with years before the £2000 was made a gift, the latter condition is ready to be carried out by the Hospital in accordance with the Resolution, and the Government refuses to give the money.

I have acted in accordance with the Resolution, and I therefore am entitled to receive the aid provided for by Parliament.

The words of the Resolution are,—“That it is desirable that the Salaries and Wages of the Officers and Servants of the said Hospital should be defrayed from the Public Revenue, upon condition that the payments required to be made by patients in the said Hospital be reduced to such a scale as will be sufficient to cover only the expenses of their maintenance in the Hospital; and on the further condition that one-half of the Members of the Committee of Management of the said Hospital be appointed by Government, the other half by the Trustees.”

It is quite clear that the Trustees were here recognised in their proper relation to the Trust of the Hospital, and not placed, as the proposition in your letter would place them, in a position reft of all the authority vested in them by the Trust Deed.

The control the Government and Parliament has is the yearly vote: it is to be a yearly grant. The benefits to accrue from it are to be reduced rates of fees from the admitted patients; in other words, the current funds of the Hospital are to be at the unfettered disposal of the Committee. I have met all the requirements of Parliament, I have therefore every reason to expect the aid promised in the Resolution.

I am met in your letter, not by the words of the Resolution, but by the understanding of Parliament on which the vote was passed, which in other words means, I presume, that it is your own view, as you took so active a part in your place in Parliament against the winding up the affairs of the Hospital; but it is not in accordance with the recorded Resolutions, and so long as I keep the imposed conditions, the Hospital has a right to receive the promised aid.

I must direct your attention to another part of the question. I had arranged a plan by which, if the Government had in the South done exactly what was done in the North, the views I had labored for for twenty years would have been carried out: no aid from Government but the support of their paupers would

have been wanted, the advantages present and future to the profession would have been great, the benefit to the public revenue considerable, and the spirit of independence in the labouring people encouraged. My views are not agreed to; a system supposed to be better has been adopted, which is really injurious to the profession, causing a wasteful expenditure of public money, and is a gigantic creator of pauperism, and a rivalry is kept up against St. Mary's by the admission of paying patients into the Liverpool-street Hospital.

Seeing that the course of Parliament and Government have, in my judgment, not only frustrated my twenty years' labor, but ruined my smaller endeavour,—the establishment of a Self-supporting Hospital. A scheme was submitted to Government for authority from Parliament to wind up, with justice, the affairs of St. Mary's, to restore to the Government the ground and money they had given, and terminate at once an Institution they had destroyed by the course they had thought it better to pursue.

This plan is by you received, and you stated that it would be submitted to Parliament. The Ministry in the House of Assembly supported it. At the last hour you, a Member of the Government in the Upper House, oppose this plan and cause its defeat; and now the aid, which alone will carry on a Hospital, said to be necessary for the wants of the Colony, is refused. The Hospital is, by the decision of Parliament, to be carried on, after those who know well its powers say, that it has been overcome by the opposition raised against it,—overcome even with the aid which Parliament had resolved should be given, though it was urged it was not fairly tried, because the aid had not been obtained, and now the aid is applied for it is refused. I want words, Sir, to express my astonishment at the injustice with regard to this Hospital.

Instead of your letter of yesterday I, of course, expected that the Government would have waited for the Report of the Committee.

I can hardly hope that this statement will affect the views of the Government. The most energetic and thriving Institution of the Colony deserved better treatment than it has received. I am not in a position to do more than offer my remarks, except this, to ask if the Government continue to take in paying patients at the Hospital in Liverpool-street, that I may know how my short career of St. Mary's is to be conducted; at what losing rate of charge I can endeavour to compete with an opposition supported by the funds at the command of the Government.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,

Your very obedient Servant,

E. S. P. BEDFORD.

*The Honourable the Colonial Secretary.*

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*Colonial Secretary's Office, 26th November, 1860.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge your letter of the 15th, which was only received at this office on the 20th instant.

It does not appear to the Government expedient at this time to enter into a discussion of the several points raised by you; but, in conveying to you the intimation that they adhere to the conditions set forth in Mr. Henty's letter to you of the 10th instant, as those on which the Government will be prepared to assist St. Mary's Hospital, they desire to say that, for requiring a compliance with those conditions, the Executive are responsible, and not Mr. Henty, as you appear, by a passage in your letter, to suggest.

I have, &c.,

F. M. INNES, *pro Colonial Secretary.*

E. S. P. BEDFORD, *Esq., St. Mary's Hospital.*

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*St. Mary's Hospital, 27th November, 1860.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th instant.

The Government adhere to the conditions set forth in Mr. Henty's letter of the 10th instant. I agreed to all but that one which interfered with the power of the Trustees; and it should be remembered that the original Trustees were all appointed by the Government, and the Deed itself settled by the Law Officers of the Crown.

I am at a loss to know to what passage you refer, when you say that I make it appear that Mr. Henty is alone responsible for requiring a compliance with those conditions. I did notice that Mr. Henty's course in Parliament was directly opposed to that of Mr. Smith and Mr. Innes, also members of Government, and to his own course when intimating that the proposal for winding up the affairs of St. Mary's should be submitted to Parliament; and I presumed that it was his own opinion, when he spoke of the intention of Parliament as explaining the Resolution. It must not be lost sight of that I was a member of Parliament when that Resolution passed. I not only know that its words, by which the Government ought to be guided, give the money to St. Mary's, but that there was no such opinion entertained by Parliament, nor was it possible that it could have been. Further than this I did not refer to Mr. Henty's separate opinion.

While it is declined to discuss any of the points I have submitted, I cannot see any reason that the question I put at the conclusion of my letter should not be replied to.

I may surely be informed whether it is intended not only to withhold the voted money from St. Mary's, but to continue receiving paying patients at the General Hospital, which certainly is against the sense of the resolution of Parliament,—not to be gathered by referring to recollections of members, but to the resolutions themselves.

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,

Your very obedient servant,

E. S. P. BEDFORD.

*The Honorable the Colonial Secretary.*

*Colonial Secretary's Office, 29th November, 1860.*

SIR,

IN REPLY to the question contained in the latter part of your letter of the 15th instant, respecting the reception of paying Patients into the General Hospital, I beg leave to state, that I am not aware of any intention on the part of the Board of Management to alter their arrangements for the reception of such Patients. The Government will not be in a position to entertain the question until they are satisfied that St. Mary's Hospital is being carried on in a manner accordant with the evident intention of the Legislature, at the time that the resolutions to which you have referred were passed.

No desire such as you have assumed exists on the part of the Government to withhold from St. Mary's Hospital the money voted by Parliament; on the contrary, they are desirous for the maintenance of that Institution; but at the same time, the Government cannot accept your interpretation of the conditions under which aid from the Treasury was to be afforded.

I have, &c.,

F. M. INNES, *pro Colonial Secretary.*

E. S. P. BEDFORD, *Esquire, St. Mary's Hospital.*

*St. Mary's Hospital, 30th November, 1860.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday. I am, there in the first place informed, not of the words of a resolution, not of the knowledge of intentions of Members of Parliament, but of your ignorance of the intentions of a Board of Management. I have nothing whatever to do with that Board or its powers; it is the Government who delegated the power to that Board. The Colonial Secretary is its Chairman: and the Colonial Secretary, before it was formed, in a public meeting first announced the views of receiving paying Patients into the General Hospital, the objection to which I then pointed out.

I have agreed to everything proposed by the Government but one proposition, which violates the Trust Deed,—a Deed which existed years before the Resolution of Parliament was passed. I have endeavoured to wind up the affairs of the Hospital to save money to the public; this, the Members of the Government, after acting together in receiving this plan and submitting it together to Parliament in the debates on that question, take opposite sides, and the plan is thrown out in consequence.

During this time the Colonial Secretary prevents pauper Patients being received, and the Hospital, from this cause, gets into debt. The delay of these arrangements, and this correspondence, occupies my time without any result, and prevents arrangements for any new system to try and keep up the Hospital. I am where I began,—promised aid, but when applied for according to the recorded Resolutions of Parliament, it is refused. As I said before, I can do nothing. I have protested and claimed, and have no other power.

With Government rests the entire responsibility of withholding the money voted for this Institution.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

E. S. P. BEDFORD.

*The Honorable the Colonial Secretary.*

*St. Mary's Hospital, 4th December, 1860.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, at a Meeting of the Trustees and Committee of Management on the 30th November, it was directed that the suggestion which was made by me to the Meeting verbally, and referred to in my letter addressed to you on the 15th November last, as the plan to be submitted by me to the Committee, should be given in writing.

This day, the suggestions were so submitted and approved of, and I was requested to forward them for the information of the Government.

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,

Your very obedient Servant,

E. S. P. BEDFORD.

*The Honorable the Colonial Secretary.*

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*MEMORANDUM submitted to the Trustees and Committee of Management.*

THE Resolutions of Parliament, in affording assistance to St. Mary's Hospital, direct that the payments made by Patients should not exceed the actual cost of their maintenance. This, for Patients received into the general wards, would be paid for by two shillings a day, and secure to Patients all the requisites for their treatment during sickness.

By Members making yearly payments (commencing when in health,) according to the enclosed rate, on the principle of assurance, a considerable sum might be derived. And if this plan were used by masters to assure for the treatment of their servants when ill, the receipts would be much larger, and are calculated to pay, not only maintenance, but other charges incidental to the reception of Patients, but at a cost easily within the reach of all classes employed in labour, so that such payments might be made to cover all their expenses.

For those parts of the Hospital Building set apart for the reception of a better class of Patients, there is not any reason why the payments should any of them be less than five shillings a day, and such higher sums as particular cases may require.

The sums derived from these two last sources would go in part to relieve the grant from the public funds, if the whole of the expenses are paid for as set down in the present staff of the Hospital.

The success of all such arrangements depends, perhaps, less upon the actual merits of the plan, than upon the hold which it obtains on public opinion.

It is not only that the General Hospital, by receiving paying Patients, interferes directly with the actual income of St. Mary's, but the Government entertaining such a system implies that St. Mary's not being able to afford the assistance required for self-paying Patients, it is necessary to receive such Patients into a Hospital entirely supported by Government funds, and lessens the confidence that otherwise would be placed in this as a self-supporting Hospital.

It is quite possible, though not likely from the opposition that has been raised against this Hospital, by the plan I submit, not only to pay for the maintenance of the Patients, and lessen the Government aid, but in time to do without it altogether; for a large list of assurers would give a sum which, in addition to the fees from other Hospital Patients, would pay all the expenses of the Institution as at present contemplated by the scale sanctioned by the Trustees, without taking into consideration the sums derived from the better class of Patients.

Out of the employed servants and laboring people in Hobart Town and its neighbouring districts, one-fourth part of the number would be sufficient to maintain this Hospital.

If, on the other hand, the plan of assurance falls short of the requirements of the Hospital, the fees for the higher class of Patients would tend to lessen the expense to Government.

If the Hospital is to be a permanent Institution, the plan must contemplate the gradual lessening of the aid from the Public Revenue; and that would be, I think, after some years, possibly supplied by the plan I submit for consideration, if the Government cease their opposition by keeping open the Hospital in Liverpool-street for paying Patients, and aid in directing public attention to the necessity of encouraging the independent efforts of the people rather than fostering mainly pauperising establishments.

E. S. P. BEDFORD.

*St. Mary's Hospital, 4th December, 1860.*

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*SCALE of Members' Payments to the Hospital.*

	£	s.	d.
Below 20 years of age, the yearly payment of.....	0	18	0
From 20 to 25 ditto.....	1	0	0
25 to 30 ditto.....	1	0	0
30 to 35 ditto.....	1	1	0
35 to 40 ditto.....	1	2	0
40 to 45 ditto.....	1	4	3
45 to 50 ditto.....	2	15	0
50 to 55 ditto.....	2	16	0
55 to 60 ditto.....	4	0	0
60 to 65 ditto.....	8	0	0
65 to 70 ditto.....	12	0	0
Upwards of 70 ditto.....	23	4	0

*St. Mary's Hospital, 4th December, 1860.*

*St. Mary's Hospital, 4th December, 1860.*

SIR,

At the request of the Trustees of St. Mary's Hospital, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government, the copy of a Resolution passed by them this day.

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,

Your very obedient Servant,  
E. S. P. BEDFORD.

*The Honorable the Colonial Secretary.*

*Resolved—*

1. THAT the Trustees, deeply sensible of the importance of the trust devolved upon them, are placed in a position of undue embarrassment in consequence of the various alterations lately made by the Executive Government in the Hospital system.

2. That the new footing upon which the Colonial Hospital is placed renders a competition on the part of this Institution hopeless, paralyses the efforts of the Trustees to foster that spirit of honest independence which is one of the main objects of a self-supporting Hospital, and cripples their means of usefulness.

3. That three courses only appear to be left to them, which they deem it right at once to lay fairly before the Government for its consideration; viz.—

*First.* Inasmuch as the material wants of the community can be supplied by the Colonial Hospital, while the Trustees of St. Mary's Hospital can no longer entertain any hope of exerting that moral influence which they believe would be the result of the fair development of their system, they are willing to relinquish into the hands of the Government their trust, upon similar terms to those proposed by them and accepted by the Government previous to the last Session of Parliament, subject, however, to such increased liabilities as may have accrued since that time.

*Or Secondly.* They are willing to persevere in their labours and maintain this Institution, provided the Government will grant to them the aid voted by Parliament, viz.—“That the salaries and wages of the Officers and Servants of St. Mary's Hospital be defrayed from the Public Revenue, upon condition that the payments required to be made by Patients in the said Hospital be reduced to such a scale as will be sufficient to cover only the expenses of their maintenance in the Hospital; and on the further condition that one-half the Members of the Committee of Management of the said Hospital be appointed by the Government, the other half by the Trustees.”\*

*Thirdly.* In the event of the Government refusing to concur in either of these courses, the only alternative left to the Trustees is, to maintain the Hospital as heretofore; but, inasmuch as this can only be done at a heavy loss, funds must be raised by mortgage, the obvious effect of which must be in a very few years the extinction of the Institution, the forced sale of the building, and, as an inevitable consequence, a considerable loss to the public.

4. That, having perused the correspondence which has just taken place between Mr. Bedford and the Government, the Trustees are bound to express their surprise that the Government should have attached to their proposal of granting the aid voted by Parliament a condition which involves a violation of the Declaration of Trust,—a condition which therefore the Trustees have no power to accept.

*\*LIST of Officers and Servants, ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL, with Amount of Pay to each.*

Manager and sole Medical Officer .....	£600 per annum.
Steward and Matron .....	75 ditto, board and quarters.
Wardsman .....	24 ditto, ditto.
Wardswoman .....	24 ditto, ditto.
Laundress .....	24 ditto, ditto.
Cook .....	24 ditto, ditto.
Messenger .....	20 ditto, ditto.
Watchman .....	20 ditto, ditto.

*Colonial Secretary's Office, 11th December, 1860.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge your two communications of the 4th instant, the one containing your suggestions for the maintenance of St. Mary's Hospital, as set forth in a memorandum which you had submitted to the Trustees and Committee of Management,—the other forwarding the copy of a Resolution passed by the Trustees at a meeting held that day.

In reply, I am instructed to acquaint you that, unless in conformity with the conditions stated in previous communications from this office, the Government is not prepared to enter into any arrangements respecting St. Mary's Hospital.

I have the honor, &c.,

B. T. SOLLY, *Assistant Colonial Secretary.*

E. S. P. BEDFORD, *Esq., St. Mary's Hospital.*

*St. Mary's Hospital, 26th December, 1860.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 11th instant, in reply to my two letters of the 4th.

Notwithstanding the information contained in the enclosures to those two letters, I am informed that, "unless in conformity with the conditions stated in previous communications from this office, the Government is not prepared to enter into any arrangement respecting St. Mary's Hospital."

I must again repeat, that all the conditions proposed by Government were acceded to but one: it is the one condition only that has been the subject of difference.

I will not again offer the opinions urged by myself, and held by the Trustees, that prevent that one condition being complied with without violating the Trust Deed: they remain unchanged.

The course taken by the Trustees and myself has been in consequence of the objects for which we had laboured having been frustrated.

The plans proposed by the Government would, if the Hospital did not succeed, take out of the power of the Trustees the means of effecting an act of justice in paying claims upon the Institution; and, should the Institution succeed, there is no necessity for the condition insisted upon by the Government.

I am assured by the Government of their desire that St. Mary's should be continued; yet the assistance necessary for its continuance is not given, though not only are the conditions of the Resolution of Parliament met, but those also imposed by the Government likewise agreed to, with the exception of the one which is contrary to the terms of the Deed.

The Government not only decline to enter into the points I have submitted, but refrain from informing me if paying Patients are still to be received into the Hospital in Liverpool-street. Yet, although I cannot be informed as to the course to be pursued; while this correspondence was carried on, public money was being expended to provide accommodation for paying Patients at that Hospital.

My original plan would not have cost the Government money at all, but saved the Public Revenue, and have carried out a Hospital system similar on both sides of the Island: this, Parliament and Government oppose.

The proposal to wind up the affairs of the Hospital is refused, and public money again lost.

The assistance voted by Parliament is withheld, which, if given to cover only part of the expenses, would keep the Institution open several years; and the Hospital, injured by delay and opposition, is forced to adopt a course which will close its doors in a few years, and lose the money that it was our endeavour to save to the public.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your very obedient Servant,

E. S. P. BEDFORD.

*The Honourable the Colonial Secretary.*

*Colonial Secretary's Office, 27th December, 1860.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge your letter of the 26th instant, relative to St. Mary's Hospital.

It appears to the Government unnecessary to protract the correspondence.



It adheres to the following conditions announced, in previous correspondence, but to which there appears to be no inclination on your part to accede.

1st. The Board of Management of St. Mary's Hospital to be a *bond fide* Board of Management having the government of the Institution confided to it, including the fixing of all salaries, the rate of payment for Patients, &c.; the rules to be observed by the Board being, of course, in harmony with the Trust Deed.

2nd. That the edifice shall not be mortgaged, or given as security for any debt contracted on account of the institution, unless with the concurrence of the Board of Management, and the approval of the Government.

The Government considers it wholly inconsistent with these conditions that a salary of £600 per annum should be assigned to you by the Trustees, and placed beyond the control of the so called Board of Management.

The Government does not shrink from the responsibility it incurs in withholding assistance from St. Mary's Hospital under the circumstances which have been referred to.

In respect to the admission of paying Patients into the General Hospital, the Government is not aware of any reason for interference with a long established practice in that Institution, and certainly not while the relations of the Government to St. Mary's Hospital remain on their present footing.

I have, &c.,

WILLIAM HENTY.

E. S. P. BEDFORD, *Esq.*

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*St. Mary's Hospital, 21st February, 1861.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th December, 1860. I am quite as desirous as you can be not to protract this correspondence, but it is due to myself to point out the errors into which you have fallen.

You speak of my disinclination to accede to two conditions.

I must inform you, that the Trust Deed confers on me the use of the building and property of the Hospital, and the management of its affairs; that Deed also directs the Trustees to allow me payment for my services.

I having the control, did agree to place in the hands of the proposed Committee the fixing of all salaries, the rate of payments of Patients, and the general government of the Hospital, during the continuance of aid from Public Funds.

The second condition proposed by the Government was entirely contrary to the Trust Deed, particularly in placing the Committee over the Trustees.

The real objection by the Government seems to be, that the Trustees should exercise their right in determining my remuneration. If a settled income was to be secured in perpetuity to the Hospital, it would be necessary to see that the institution was permanent, but while the aid is a yearly vote of Parliament for a particular object, the reduction of Patients' fees, so long as that object is obtained, the Government have no other control over the property of the Hospital in virtue of such vote.

The errors into which you have fallen are,—first, in stating that I have not exhibited any inclination to accede to your conditions. Secondly, in stating that the Committee of Management is to be in name only. Thirdly, in supposing that you are proceeding in harmony with the Trust Deed.

There was no hesitation in making it a condition that no pauper Patients should be admitted into St. Mary's Hospital; at the same time, in accordance with the spirit of the Resolution of Parliament, no paying Patient should have been received into the Hospital in Liverpool-street. Your concluding paragraph is not correct either. You seem to forget that it was a new Hospital establishment which was opened on the 1st January, 1860, in Liverpool-street; not an institution continued, but new in all its details of management, its mode of government, its source of payment, and its professional attendants; therefore the reception of paying Patients into it bore a different relation to St. Mary's, to the admission of such Patients into a Convict Hospital; and you entirely omit to state that the fees at the Convict Hospital were 3s. 6d. a day. The Committee of Management, of which you are the Chairman, reduced the Hospital fee to 2s.

It is therefore not only that the Government withholds the money voted by Parliament for St. Mary's, but admit into a Government Hospital paying Patients at a rate that does not cover their cost; thus not only withdrawing Patients from this Hospital, but, while withholding the grant, compelling a charge to be made in this Hospital which can only pay the keep of Patients and Servants' wages.

I will not comment upon the concluding paragraph of your letter.

Having shown the erroneous grounds upon which your conditions are based, and that they are contrary to the Deed which the Government are desirous to support, I now proceed to point out further injustice that has been done to this Hospital.

The Government have thought proper to take steps for the building of a Survey Office.

At the last Session of Parliament, both Houses passed a Bill providing £4200 for a Survey Office, to purchase this building, and, make the necessary alterations in it. The branch of the Legislature that deals with money questions passed the Bill to authorise the sale of this building. I need not again refer to the course you took by which the Bill was defeated in the Council. Yet, in the face of this, the Government, having the authority of the majority of Parliament in favour of the whole question, and the Bill for the money passed both Houses, took steps for the building of a Survey Office; thus preventing Parliament from carrying out such an arrangement at the next Session if desirous to do so.

It is quite clear a vote was wanted for the Survey Office, or the last vote for £4200 would not have been had. Therefore, in the absence of money voted for that purpose, the Government take a step which puts a stop to the plan of winding up the affairs of this Hospital.

It is somewhat remarkable that all the difference upon this question has been based upon the information contained in my letter of the 26th October, 1860, in reply to your request of the 24th of that month; you then ask for the list of the staff and their remuneration, applied for on the 14th December, 1859; had you adhered to your intention expressed in your letter of the 31st December, 1859, where you state that you would prefer that after the Government should have appointed the additional Members of Committee, the two bodies may, unitedly, furnish the details of the staff that will be required to be laid before the Government. But you have thought it most advisable to alter your views, and demand this information from me, and on my furnishing it the objections are based. If the letter of the 31st December had been acted on by the Government, as its directions were carried out by me, all difficulty would have been avoided.

I must, in conclusion, inform you, that during the last six months the Hospital has not found the funds to pay my salary, and has spent besides £53 16s. more than its receipts. I need not point out the different condition this Hospital would have been in had the money voted by Parliament been paid, prepared as the Institution was, to carry out all the conditions of the vote.

With that aid the Hospital would have incurred but trifling debt; without it, the Government in time closes its doors.

I fear this letter will share the fate of my former ones, and my earnest endeavour for twenty years; but whatever its fate, I feel it is right that you should be informed of the real merits of the case.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your very obedient Servant,

E. S. P. BEDFORD.

*The Honourable the Colonial Secretary.*

*Colonial Secretary's Office, 1st March, 1861.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to state, in reply to your letter of the 21st ultimo, that it appears inexpedient to continue a correspondence so little likely to lead to any satisfactory result.

The Government adheres to its resolution not to assent to any advance of public money in aid of St. Mary's Hospital under arrangements by which the projected Committee, while nominally vested (as by your last letter) with the power of fixing salaries, would, by the following paragraph in your letter, be liable to have its discretion practically neutralized at the will of the Trustees, and would have no assurance that, for the purpose of raising your salary above the amount fixed by the so-called Committee, and thus overriding their authority, the Trustees will not go on year by year mortgaging the building until the property is absorbed, and the Government efforts for its maintenance rendered futile.

I have, &c.,

WILLIAM HENTY.

E. S. P. BEDFORD, *Esq., Macquarie-street.*

*St. Mary's Hospital, 27th April, 1861.*

SIR,

I HAVE endeavored to show the grounds upon which I conceived the Government should not have put forward the condition to which the Trustees and myself have objected, as contrary to the Trust Deed.

I now will explain the limits within which it was my wish that the Trustees should exercise the power of mortgaging. Their object was to secure my salary, in fixing the amount of which they no doubt took into consideration the number of years I have discharged the duties without pay.

It was never the intention or desire of those connected with the Hospital to encumber the building further than was necessary for the payment of the salary thus fixed; but the Trustees insisted on their right to exercise the powers vested in them by the Trust Deed, without reference to the proposed annual aid from the Government.

I now inform you, that if the Government will grant the aid voted by Parliament, to commence from 1st of July last, and pay the amount expended in repairs, viz. £218, I will restrict my claim in respect of my salary, during the continuance of that aid, within such limits as will not encumber the property to a greater amount than £1000.

I make this proposition as the last hope of inducing the Government to afford that aid voted by Parliament, which will alone enable the Hospital to be carried on.

In the event of the Government aid being at any time withdrawn, I beg to have it understood, that I shall thenceforth claim at the hands of the Trustees the full salary to which, for the time being, they may, under all the circumstances, consider me fairly entitled.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your very obedient Servant,

E. S. P. BEDFORD.

*The Honourable the Colonial Secretary.*

*Colonial Secretary's Office, 29th April, 1861.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge your letter of the 27th instant, submitting proposals with respect to St. Mary's Hospital; and in reply, I beg to acquaint you that the Executive, without pronouncing any opinion on your personal claim, is not inclined to exercise the grave discretion of becoming a party to their acknowledgment in the mode set forth in your communication, and must decline to consider any new proposals on the part of the Trustees of St. Mary's Hospital, with a view to any decision upon them, irrespective of the vote of Parliament.

I have, &c.,

WILLIAM HENTY.

E. S. P. BEDFORD, *Esq., St. Mary's Hospital.*

*St. Mary's Hospital, 22nd July, 1861.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor, in reply to your letter of the 29th April, to inform you that you are mistaken in thinking any proposal was made by the Trustees. A reference to my letter will show it was an explanation of my own, and not a communication from them; it was only one other of my endeavours to induce the Government to carry out the Resolution of Parliament with reference to this Hospital.

The difference between the Government and myself as to the Parliamentary Grant arises from your considering that the conditions under which I claim this assistance are totally at variance with the understanding on which Parliament voted that assistance should be given. I consider that I have shown in this correspondence that such a view is incorrect.

Allow me now to direct your attention to Resolutions of Parliament which have been violated, the effects of such violation being to the injury of this Hospital.

It was resolved, on the 2nd November, 1858, that the general management of each Hospital shall be vested in a Board; and if the funds are wholly derived from public sources, that the Board shall be appointed by the Government triennially, with power to elect their own Chairman.

Thinking this course was to be followed, I was prepared with information to submit to the Board on its formation, in the hope that I might show to them the course I considered best for the interests of the Colony.

The Board had its first meeting on Friday, and the appointment was notified in the *Gazette* on the Tuesday following; and even before the Members were selected, you made it a condition that Honorary Medical Officers should be appointed. This was in direct opposition to the express words of the Report of the conjoined Parliamentary Committee, of which you were Chairman, which states: "After learning the opinions of various Medical men upon the conflicting plans, your Committee decided that, whilst one might be best adapted to a given locality, it would be hazardous to say that any plan would be suitable for all. They, therefore, agreed to recommend that the mode of management should be left to the decision of the Board of each respective Hospital." It was resolved, "That the site and accommodation of the present

Colonial Hospital are alike good, and that it should be occupied as the permanent Hospital for Hobart Town." Yet another Building is also taken for female and self-supporting Patients, and fitted up at a great expense.

It is not only the direct violation of the Resolution, and the active opposition to the Report, but the opposition to the implied intention of Parliament is, if possible, more glaring.

Money having been voted to assist a self-supporting Hospital, it is quite evident that Parliament never could have intended to spend public money in erecting an opposition establishment, which the Board under your presidency has done.

This course must have met with your approval; not only are you Chairman of the Board, but as Colonial Secretary, the Charitable Institutions are in your department; and, further, at a public meeting before the Board of Management was appointed, you advocated the reception of paying Patients into the Colonial Hospital.

I have before noticed the action, in opposition to the votes in Parliament, in the Government building the Survey Office now in process of erection.

I was not quite prepared for the course the Government has adopted towards St. Mary's Hospital. I anticipated a proceeding here similar to that which has been adopted at Launceston.

The Government, under Mr. Champ's administration, held personal communication with me on this subject; and it was contemplated to enlarge St. Mary's to receive all the Patients. The honorable Member for Brighton was a Medical Officer of St. Mary's at that time, and approved of this course, and his brother, Mr. F. Butler, was so good as to draw the plans for additions to the building. These were submitted to the Government; but the matter was postponed, as the Hospital in Liverpool-street was not then to be handed over to the Colonial Government.

The constant assurances from the present Government that they desire to continue St. Mary's Hospital, led me to hope a different result.

I am glad to remember that my opinion is recorded in Parliament against the management of Hospitals, supported from the General Revenue, by unpaid Boards. My warnings were disregarded; but surely the history of the last eighteen months of Boards managing Charities supported by public funds clearly shows the extravagant waste such a system causes.

When it is remembered that in 1858 the cost to the Colonial Government for pauper Hospital Patients was under £5,000, and in 1860, under a Board, it was £12,000,—that two items, provisions and medical comforts alone were more than the entire cost in 1858,—it is clear there is great extravagance.

When it is remembered that the conjoined Committee, of which you were Chairman, in 1858 reported that only 100 Patients required to have hospital provision made for them, both self-supporting and pauper Patients, assuming 20 to be the number of self-paying Patients provided for at St. Mary's, the General Hospital had to provide for 80. In January, 1860, the Convict Hospital is handed over to the Hospital Board, when you are again Chairman, the buildings are put into repair; the stone building alone will take in 96 Patients, the back building about 40: yet your Board went to great expense in converting the Comptroller-General's Office into a Female Hospital for about 35 Patients, and a costly arrangement was made in it for self-paying Patients.

The information given to the conjoined Committee was correct: there is not wanted Hospital accommodation for more than one hundred Patients, there was no necessity to wander beyond the precincts of the Hospital boundary, except by that means to close the doors of St. Mary's Hospital.

I should have passed without remark this unneeded expenditure if it had not been directed against this Institution, and that I can show how much more economically I was prepared to conduct this expenditure had the same course been pursued here as at Launceston. The 80 Patients could have been kept by St. Mary's for £4000, this Institution having the use of the Colonial Hospital buildings, and their being put into and kept in repair by the Government.

I have pressed for years on this community subjects which were new: these were, the establishment of a self-supporting Hospital, the formation of a preparatory Medical School for the proper education of those youths destined for the profession, and the supply of the Colony with its future practitioners, the payment of the Medical Officers of Hospitals, the encouragement of the proper independence of the working classes, and the suppression of pauperism.

I have laboured daily for twenty years in support of these views. I found the first three new in England as well as in the Colony.

I was opposed here. I felt that I was right, and continued, not, it is true, without often questioning myself, fearing that from the want of support of most, and the active opposition of many, I might be wrong; but, after every consideration, never wavering in the conviction that my course was the true one for the interests of the Colony.

During these twenty years, public opinion has altered in England, and self-supporting Hospitals are encouraged. Sir John Forbes headed an influential movement in their favour, and very lately Lord Shaftesbury took the Chair at a meeting for establishing a Lunatic Asylum for the middle classes on the self-supporting plan.

Recently in London, the Literary Medical Society passed a Resolution in favour of the payment of Medical Officers of Hospitals.

In Jamaica, difficulties have arisen in procuring well qualified men to practice in that Colony; and it is suggested that Students trained in the Colonial Hospitals should be sent to England to complete their education, and return to the Colony.

In London, it is intended to open a Preparatory School for the education of Medical Students of from 15 to 18 years of age.

In various places, the several subjects I have for years advocated are entered upon, whereas here for twenty years I have daily worked in the hope of carrying out all these objects in a complete scheme fitted for the best interests of the Colony; and the present Government have wasted thousands of the public money to frustrate my endeavours, and prefer to foster in their stead pampered pauperism.

I should not thus strongly have expressed myself if before now, in Parliament, in writing, in public, and in private, by words, and what is more, by daily work, I had not endeavoured to effect what I know to be so much needed, not merely in saving the public revenue, but conferring greater good on the community.

The useless waste is of little interest in my eyes; it is as nothing, compared to the injury done to the public in this Colony by the effect on the practice of Medicine by the proceedings of Government, and the loss to the Colony in the destruction of the most useful institution ever set on foot for the benefit of the working classes; but I do watch that expenditure with the hope that it may attract the attention of those who, alarmed by it, may attend to Hospital arrangements from that cause, though the weightier, and more important interests at stake are as yet as unknown, and unheeded by them, as they seem to be misunderstood by the Government.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,

Your very obedient Servant,

E. S. P. BEDFORD.

*The Honorable the Colonial Secretary.*

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*Colonial Secretary's Office, 9th August, 1861.*

SIR,

I BEG to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd. ultimo, relating to the course pursued by the Government in connection with St. Mary's Hospital.

Referring to the previous correspondence which has passed between yourself and the Government upon the subject, in which full opportunity has been afforded for explaining our respective views, I do not anticipate that you require any further reply, than that your present communication shall be duly laid before and considered by the various members of the Government.

I have, &c.

WILLIAM HENTY.

E. S. P. BEDFORD, *Esq., St. Mary's Hospital.*

## *ADDENDUM to St. MARY'S HOSPITAL Paper.*

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### ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL.

#### MEMORANDUM.

THIS Hospital was erected by voluntary efforts, in the year 1848-9.

At that time the only Public Hospital existing was that of the Government at the back of the present building in Liverpool-street, and its crowded and ill-arranged state, with the predominance of prisoner occupants, made the want of a Free Hospital, like St. Mary's, deeply felt in the Community.

The erection of St. Mary's, therefore, was cordially welcomed by the public. The Government also lent its support by a grant of £2000, but reserving an annual interest in return for the amount, in the shape of three free beds for its paupers, which have been always kept full. The cost of these to the funds of the Hospital, at the current charge of 1s. 9d. per day each, amounts now to £96 per annum, but has, when prices were dearer, been much higher. For this advance the hospital has been, therefore, paying an interest of nearly £5 per cent. per annum.

The Government has rendered some slight assistance in another way, by maintaining at its own cost within the Hospital some of its paupers—at first 12 in number, but lately increased from 12 to 24,—paying for them the same rate as is charged to the Government by the Imperial Authorities at the General Hospital; viz., 1s. 9d. a day.

The Hospital has had no annual subscription list, or other assistance from the public, and has of late had a difficulty in keeping up a revenue sufficient to meet its expenditure.

The House of Assembly, by a resolution on the 4th November, has recommended that the General Hospital should be taken over by the Colonial Government from the hands of the Imperial Authorities. In such a case, if the paupers are removed from St. Mary's, the expense of its staff will be beyond its means of support, and the existence of the Hospital will be in jeopardy.

It is, therefore, desirable to consider what other means can be devised to prevent its decadence. The Institution is a valuable one, the building highly creditable to the City, and, as a Sanatorium where the better classes may have more secluded apartments, free from the neighbourhood of the destitute classes, than is afforded by the General Hospital, it offers a valuable accommodation to a large section of the respectable members of society.

The joint Report of the two Houses on Charitable Institutions having recommended that Hospitals established on the voluntary principle should be aided by public grants, equal in amount to the subscriptions contributed by the public, it is considered that a plan like the following would be adequate to maintain St. Mary's Hospital in a thoroughly efficient state.

The Government to be petitioned to let the £2000 already paid stand as a gift to the Hospital, which is the same principle as is adopted by the Government of New South Wales.

Then, if a public subscription list of £100 a year can be raised, let the Government be applied to under the above contributory rule to give an equal amount. Let the subscribers elect a Committee, or body of Trustees, out of their number, to take the general management of the Institution, the Medical Department being solely vested in Dr. Bedford.

This would relieve the Hospital of its present annual burden of £96, and contribute an income of £200 per annum besides.

There should be no difficulty in raising £100 a year for a Hospital. A few private subscriptions, a collection at a public breakfast when the Trustees are appointed, collections in churches and chapels, or a bazaar occasionally, would be more than sufficient.

WILLIAM HENTY.

*December, 1858.*

## ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL.—ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENCE.

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SIR,

*St. Mary's Hospital, 24th August, 1861.*

ON the 22nd ultimo I addressed a letter to the Honorable the Colonial Secretary with reference to St. Mary's Hospital.

On the 9th of August I was informed by the Colonial Secretary that my communication should be duly laid before, and considered by, the various Members of the Government.

I have the honor to request that you will inform me what course is to be adopted by the present Government with reference to this Institution.

I have, &c.,

*The Honorable T. D. CHAPMAN, Esquire.*

E. S. P. BEDFORD.

SIR,

*Colonial Secretary's Office, 28th August, 1861.*

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter to Mr. Chapman, of the 24th instant, requesting to be informed what course the present Government intend to pursue with respect to St. Mary's Hospital; and in reply, to inform you that it is not deemed advisable for the Executive to re-open the case, but that the whole of the papers are in the hands of the Printer, and will shortly be laid before Parliament.

I have, &c.,

B. TRAVERS SOLLY, *Assistant Colonial Secretary.*

E. S. P. BEDFORD, *Esquire, St. Mary's Hospital.*

SIR,

*St. Mary's Hospital, 31st August, 1861.*

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th instant.

I can scarcely say I am surprised at the nature of the communication, for no course of the Government likely to prejudice the interests of this Hospital, surprises me.

I am aware that my letter of the 22nd ultimo has not been read by any Member of the Government but yourself; yet, as your letter of the 9th instant did re-open the case, I was entitled to expect the course then indicated, and a decision.

I have, &c.,

*The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.*

E. S. P. BEDFORD.

SIR,

*Colonial Secretary's Office, 3rd September, 1861.*

I HAVE the honor, by the direction of the Colonial Secretary, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 31st ultimo, and to state, that it shall be duly attached to the rest of the Papers for the information of Parliament.

I have, &c.,

E. S. P. BEDFORD, *Esquire, St. Mary's Hospital.*

B. TRAVERS SOLLY.

MY DEAR MR. INNES.

*3rd September, 1861.*

WILL you have the goodness to say at foot whether Dr. Bedford's letter of the 22nd was placed in your hands by me at the time of its receipt, and whether Dr. Bedford has authority for saying he is aware that it has not been read by you.

I mentioned its contents to Mr. Chapman on his appointment, but did not ask him to read it then as *the whole* was to be printed forthwith, which he knew and approved of.

Yours very truly,

WM. HENTY.

*The Honorable F. M. INNES.*

As I told Dr. Bedford, I had the opportunity afforded me of reading his letter after you received it, but I could not say that I had taken advantage of it unless it might be in the most cursory manner, for which my explanation (I think expressed to Dr. Bedford) was that I did not expect any steps to be taken by the Executive, irrespective of Parliament, which was about to meet and would have all the papers brought before it.

*3rd Sept., 1861.*

F. M. INNES.