

27/6

31.17

M.

have had a
last Cole - have proposed
going to Brighton on
Thursday for a week
1836.

Tuesday morning 27th Dec^r 1836

My dear People

I send you a short note of what I suppose myself to have said
or ought to have said about the premiums: sheet with the disjecta membra
preserved by Mr Norris, after his father, with I hope enable you to
make me speak suitably to the occasion. I fear the Wool
is a subject not easily sifted

Yours Ever

H. M. Mackenzie

The Right Honourable Chairman then addressed the meeting in the following words.

There is a matter which seems to deserve our early attention. I mean
the expediency of offering prizes for Essays by Natives of India on subjects connected with the
interests of our Country - more especially on the application of Indian products to the
arts & manufactures. An accurate account of many of the processes followed in
that Country, as described in their old books would be of exceedingly interesting
might probably lead to the knowledge of things of much practical utility.
I would instance particularly the art of dyeing; because with all the
science & skill of our Countrymen, they do not appear ^{to be} able to rival
the brilliancy of coloring which distinguishes many of the stuffs manufactured
in Asia. While we shall ^{perhaps} directly attain one of the objects of
our

2
our labors we may probably produce indirectly another important & unforeseen Result, by
turning the attention of instructed Natives to the practical application of the Sciences
which they are now receiving from our Schools. Nothing can well be more gratifying
than the progress which the Native students of the Medical Institution at Calcutta
appear to be making in Chemistry; and the consequences of such instruction in
relighting the mind & in forming just views of Nature & its Author cannot
fail to be most beneficial. But the soundness & value of the Knowledge
taught will be essentially enhanced by every thing which connects it with
the real business of life. For it is one of the great defects of Native
Education that it leads the learned classes to waste, on idle subtleties,
singularly acute powers of mind, and a laborious industry which
in a better field could not fail to produce valuable fruits: and whatever
is calculated to counteract the tendency to useless speculation may be
regarded as promoting the great ends for which our Seminaries have
been established. Being indeed how practical & labor led our
Indian fellow subjects are, in the affairs of Commerce & in public
Business, I should anticipate ^{with confidence} their successful progress in the
application of European Science, and doubt not that before long we
shall have from among them many efficient Coadjutors. How I dwell
on the importance of calling this new band of laborers into the field of accurate
& truth seeking enquiry? The measure I have above suggested seems to be one of
the means of promoting this object - The specific subjects to be proposed
~~them~~ for our future deliberation.