p1

My dear Master,

 It grieves me to become a second

time a defaulter, but I am compelled to ask

your kind excuses for me on Thursday next.

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Herewith I send what has lain for

10 years in my closet as waste paper, but

what I think may as well find a place

among the College archives. The facts are

these. In 1830, Hustler[[1]](#footnote-1), who was always a

reformer in a gentlemanly sense, instituted a

fund for improving the treatment of the men in

Hall. They were to pay each 5s per quarter

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& were in return to be supplied with needful

plate (including forks – a great luxury in those

days) decent table linen & so forth. This fund

presently liquidated all outlays , & seven years

thereafter the payment was reduced to 1s per

quarter. Yet even this inappreciable contribution

supplied such a balance, that the old brass

candlesticks were supplied by the lamps now

in use & other improvements were effected.

However, in 1842, it was resolved that this

fund should be consolidated, & it was so; that is

to say, the contributions created wholly from that

time, & the existing balance was transferred

to the dead fund of the College, & merged therein.

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The College therefore receives the interest of

£119.15.2 in its general income, & in

return, is answerable for the requirements

of the Pensioners table. What is gained or

lately this arrangement you will easily see. Had

the system been continued there would now be

about £250 in hand, available for any purpose

whatsoever connected with the refectorium, even

architectural needs, & the contributions would

have been absolutely imperceptible viz 4s per

annum. I was Steward you see when the

consolidation took place, & so the record of the

defunct system remained with me.

 Signum most faithfuly

(T.O) H. A. Woodham[[2]](#footnote-2)

p4

Perhaps I can render you some assistance in

looking over papers. I rather think too that

Birkett[[3]](#footnote-3) took some small classical or

semi-theological lectures, & if so I could

manage those for him, during your straits.

1. This is [William Hustler](http://venn.lib.cam.ac.uk/cgi-bin/search-2016B.pl?sur=hustler&suro=w&fir=william&firo=c&cit=&cito=c&c=all&z=all&tex=&sye=&eye=&col=JESUS&maxcount=50), a fellow of the College from 1811 until his death in 1832. Hustler died in his rooms in College and was buried in the College Chapel. Having been admitted a pensioner to the College in 1807, it is possible that Hustler used his first hand experience of being a pensioner to further the change to pensioners’ tables in hall. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Henry Annesley Woodham was admitted as a pensioner to Trinity College in October 1834, but soon ‘migrated’ to Jesus in February 1835 as a foundation scholar and was made a Fellow of the College in 1841. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. [John Parker Birkett](http://venn.lib.cam.ac.uk/cgi-bin/search-2016B.pl?sur=birkett&suro=w&fir=john+parker&firo=c&cit=&cito=c&c=all&z=all&tex=&sye=&eye=&col=JESUS&maxcount=50) who migrated from Corpus to Jesus in 1836 and was later made a Fellow of the College, clearly with responsibilities for teaching in classics and. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)