

May 29/93
London

Dear Madam

I have a letter from Mr Linnell of May 18th which he asks me to answer direct to you. It regards the fee fixed for the consulting engineers. I am certainly of opinion that 200 guineas should be sufficient for what was originally suggested namely the examination and report upon a scheme and estimate and the supervision of its execution. If however the consulting engineers were asked to report upon two or more competitive schemes the amount of work required would be considerably increased and I doubt if the above fee would be considered sufficient.

In looking over the correspondence with Mr Linnell with regard to obtaining a scheme for the installation it is clear to me that Mr. Cruttall was commissioned to prepare a scheme for consideration in the first instance without competition. I have no sort of objection to asking Messrs. Woodhouse & Rawson to send in a scheme but I do not know how far this would affect the arrangement so far made with Mr Cruttall, owing to the Whiteknights holidays, I have not so far had any answer from him on this point, but I will write again as soon as I hear from him.

50/-
With regard to the library fittings, Mr Kemp mentioned to me some two months since that he had been directed by Messrs. Linnell & Carnell to order Messrs. Morrison to lay in a stock of oak for the remaining panellings and book cases. I did not know exactly what transpired and therefore wrote to Mr Kemp from whom I have received the enclosed reply.

I may mention that about two months since I went to Liverpool to see the joinery that Messrs. Morrison were doing. It is certainly extremely good, as I think you will see when it comes on to the work. In fact

in the careful choice of materials for particular situations than could be ordinarily secured under a contract and of course when the builder can really turn out good fittings an architect naturally likes him to have some preference, provided always that his prices are such that he gives good value for his money. Apart from this consideration and the fact that he seems to have been asked to stock his materials, though not by me, I should have no objection to the invitation of tenders as you suggest. Perhaps you will give this your consideration and let me know your final decision.

I think that it would be well before I get out detail drawings for the book cases, if I could confer with your Librarian who may have a good deal to say as to arrangements in detail. I have lately been completely over the Bodleian, Oxford and obtained a good deal of information which may be useful and I think that the best plan would be to make in the first instance a tentative drawing say of one of the bays of the library in consultation with the Librarian, for your approval.

roof.

There is also a proposal which I have had in view for some time and which I have discussed with Mr Linnell, for getting rid of all wood work in roofs above the vaulting of library. I have no fear of fire reaching the library but if by any chance the timber roof were to catch fire as happened at Canterbury some time since, and engines were to play on it, there would be some fear of damage by water. This I think might be easily obviated by concreting and asphaltting the centre portion of the roof and covering the sides with non-combustible material and I should propose covering the vaulting of the refectory room with concrete and asphalt.

I should like to have the opportunity of discussing this and other matters with you and describing them more fully than I can do by letter, failing such opportunity.