

College History Taskforce Report

February 27, 2021

Appendix B—Transcription Test for Work Study Students

The tie, which has subsisted
between us for some time is now dissolved
& the relation of scholar & teacher exists no
longer. Your academical studies being ^{now}
finished, your future attention ^{is to be partly} ought to
be applied to some business or profession,
which may render you useful and
respectable members of society. This I
confidently hope will be your noble
aim, & I flatter myself, that the time
you have devoted to general literature
within these walls, will contribute to
this valuable end. Some branches of
science you may indeed have learned
here, of which perhaps you may here
after make little or no use. But, from
this circumstance it ought not to be

too hastily concluded, that they are alto-
gether useless; and that we ought not
to be admitted into a good system of
Education. For the end of education
is to direct the powers of the mind in
unfolding themselves, & to assist them
in gaining their just bent & force; to
teach it rather how to think, than what
to think. It ought to be a fine philo-
sophical preparation of youth for
acting their parts well & sustaining
the duties of social life with credit to
themselves & advantage to the com-
munity.

Amnapolis May 18th 1865

To the Hon. Trustees and Governors of St. John's College
Gentlemen

When the Faculty was dis-
banded in October 1861, twenty six students
were committed to my charge, whom I instructed
in the Latin and Greek languages, Algebra,
and such English branches as are usually taught
in institutions of learning. This number steadily
increased, until it amounted to forty one,
which number I instructed up to October 1863,
when the Government took possession of the Re-
citation Hall, and my school operations
for the time being, were suspended, and the
students were scattered about in different in-
stitutions in the neighborhood. The Foundation
scholars were included in this number.

In January 1864, the Executive Committee
of the Board of Trustees and Governors held a
consultation with me, and it was determined to
resume instruction, provided a room could be
procured in the City, for that purpose. The Mayor
and City Council offered me their Hall, and I
promised to teach five boys to be appointed
by the Mayor, in consideration of their kindness,
who, together with the ten appointed by your Hon-
orable Body, and fifteen free students, constitute at
present my school. Owing to the deranged state of
affairs, the appointments were confined to Annapolis
and Queen's, as there was no school of a high order in
the city, the attainments of the pupils were measured
by the thirty whom I at present instruct, two are
reading Cicero's Commentaries, and Equations involving
three unknown quantities, ten are studying the Latin

Grammar, and the second receive instructions
in English Grammar, Geography, History, Arithmetic
Orthography, Reading and Penmanship. The more
advanced write Compositions and Declamations.

It may be proper for me to state that I
receive five hundred dollars, as per agreement
with the Executive Committee, for teaching
the ten Foundation Students.

Which is respectfully submitted

W. H. Thompson Prof. Prep. Dept.
St. John's College