

TO THE HON. THE SECRETARY, THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO, TORONTO, ONTARIO

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you regarding my application for a position of research assistant in your laboratory. I have a B.Sc. in Biology from the University of Toronto and have worked for two years in your laboratory as a research assistant. I am currently employed as a research assistant in your laboratory and would like to continue my work with you. I am also interested in the possibility of pursuing a Ph.D. in your laboratory. I have a strong interest in the study of the molecular biology of the cell and am particularly interested in the study of the cell cycle and the regulation of gene expression. I have published several papers in the field and have presented at several international conferences. I am a member of the American Society for Cell Biology and the Canadian Society for Cell Biology. I am confident that my background and experience make me a strong candidate for the position of research assistant in your laboratory. I am also confident that I am well qualified to pursue a Ph.D. in your laboratory. I am enclosing my curriculum vitae and a list of references for your consideration. I would be pleased to discuss my application with you at any time. Please contact me at the address given above.

It is a matter of regret to me that I am unable to assist those who have applied to me for assistance. As a matter of fact, however, I am very busy in my present position and my duties are dependent wholly upon my daily earnings for my family and household. I am glad you desire to get an education and are willing to work for it. I know the task is such an every one for I worked my own way through college mainly with my own hands. If you require only the same you state to complete your course, I would advise you

to earn it rather than borrow it  
and then start on life free of debt.  
Your anticipation of ready employ-  
ment in the schools will cool  
hopes of your ~~own~~ <sup>own</sup> graduation  
immediately upon ~~leaving~~ <sup>leaving</sup> school.  
It is altogether too ~~depressing~~ <sup>depressing</sup>  
to find the competition much sharper  
than you seem to think and the  
possibilities of your obligation to any  
other might prove very depressing  
to you. I would advise you by all  
means, to seek employment ~~by~~ <sup>by</sup> ~~some~~ <sup>some</sup>  
every month a certain amount

CONFIDENTIAL

and in a year or two years  
 at least you will be able  
 save enough to see through  
 your purpose without being

under any obligation to  
 give up your studies. Don't expect to  
 have a very busy life but he can  
 find time to study after his work  
 and do enough before his sleep  
 to keep from slipping backward.  
 But you must keep your  
 mind on your studies and not  
 let it wander to other things.

employment or other  
 thing that will interfere  
 with your studies. I  
 think you should be  
 very careful of your  
 health and not overwork  
 yourself. It is better to  
 have a few hours of  
 study each day than  
 to have a week of  
 nothing.

work is never done  
 at once that one  
 always find  
 it, yet I have no doubt that if you

are trustworthy and, in earnest,  
~~I have no doubt, that if you make~~  
your desires known, you will find  
plenty of men in Indianapolis ready  
and willing to help you to situations  
where you can earn enough to  
enable you with thrift and econ-  
omy to lay by \$10 or \$12 a  
month. A man who can do this  
has a fortune in himself; the  
man who does it learns a lesson  
of self-control and self-help, which  
whether he be white or black, is  
worth more to him than any-

thing his college course will bring.

A man who does it also commands confidence and finds it easy to secure financial aid, should it be needed, in beginning the business of life.

What shall I do you ask? Any-thing that offers, keeping your eyes open for better things always. Do not be particular about your work. If I were in your place, I should <sup>probably</sup> apply for a place as a driver and to take care of horses for some man who wanted his horses well-cared for and well-driven. But then, I am fond of horses and know how to drive



laborer can without much skill  
get fair wages there. The young  
white man, <sup>of the north</sup> runs away from the  
farm, which is the best of reasons  
why the young colored man should  
seek it. If more of them contemplated  
farming and became good farmers  
rather than barbers and waiters, I  
think it would be much better for them  
for their people and the country. How-  
ever, I may be mistaken. The young man  
is often wiser than his elders and that  
may be the present case. However, your  
request entitles me to express an opinion.

I do not speak of matters unknown to me.  
I do not refer to it boastfully but simply to  
let you know that I speak from experience.

In earning money for my college  
course, I did whatever came to hand; -  
worked on ~~the~~ a farm, in a shop,  
did little jobs and big ones; worked with  
my hands whenever they could, even  
more than my brain and with  
brain when the odds were in its  
favor. At the present time, I think the hands  
have the advantage up to a certain  
point. From my window, I see three  
men who pass and repair it every  
few minutes, <sup>at their work,</sup> whose wages I happen  
to know. One drives a team and labors  
~~sits~~ in loading unloading, &c, at  
\$1.50 a day and board; another is a  
common farm laborer who gets \$1.50  
per day and boards himself. These  
men work ten hours a day. The other  
cares for ~~two or three~~ <sup>two or three</sup> horses, mows a lawn



and has the general care of the surroundings  
of <sup>a</sup> house and stable. He gets \$25 a month  
and board. Either of these men ought  
to save from \$10 to \$15 a month, probably  
~~to~~ all of them do. It is hard work but it  
is usually work --- so is all other  
labor if done with a ready-will.

Do not be in a hurry. You will  
be all the better and stronger man if  
your preparation is not complete before  
you are twenty-five. Give your body a  
chance to do its share as well as your  
brain. Never mind if the work does  
not seem to you exalting. It is better  
to work on a farm at \$25 a month  
than to work at \$24. Remember the college  
is only the means for the utilization  
of force, not the end to be attained.  
Stand on your own feet whenever you  
can; keep your back stiff; your

hands ready; your heart ~~be~~ brave  
borrow as much goodwill as you can  
and hopeful; ~~and you will, <sup>and as little money as possible</sup>~~  
from every one you meet. Never be afraid  
all right.

of doing too much and always make  
your employer your debtor for intelligent  
interest in his affairs and a bit of  
over work now and then if necessary.

By this means, you will add to the  
value of your labor; make opportunity  
secure and the ~~task~~ <sup>work</sup> of earning enough  
to complete your college course will  
be not ~~a~~ <sup>so</sup> much a serious ~~task~~  
as a pleasurable part of your  
preparation. You will find most  
people of good heart and willing to  
help ~~the~~ others to do good and worthy  
things, if they can do so in promotion  
of their ~~own~~ <sup>own</sup> purposes and selfishly  
satisfying their own needs. That is ~~how~~

one of the chief ways in which  
"God ~~helps~~ helps those who help them-  
selves"; let people know your wishes  
and ask, not for a loan, but  
for opportunity to earn what  
you require.

You may think this  
a poor answer to your request  
but it is possible that you may  
live to be glad that it was not  
of the kind you wished. Whether you  
do or not, depends on the quality of  
your own manhood. ~~If it is <sup>of</sup> ~~not~~ worth~~  
~~that you ask, the~~ If it is of a character  
to be worthy of aid, it will find a way  
to achieve its purpose; if it cannot find  
<sup>such</sup> opportunity the aid you seek would  
have been wasted if given. It is of little use  
to sharpen a blade of poor lumber. Yours truly