

Vassar College, Dec. 18 /77

Principal Dawson —
Dear Sir,

Our academic year contains but one session, of forty weeks, closing with the last Wednesday in June, ^{and followed by a vacation of twelve weeks.} It is divided into two semesters, with no intervening vacation — but the first semester is broken at May, & the second at Easter, by a recess of two weeks — leaving eighteen working weeks in each semester.

The work of the Department of Natural History is distributed as follows. In the first semester, the Juniors study Mineralogy & Geology, and there is a preparatory class in the elements of Physical Geography. In the second semester, the Seniors have an advanced course ^{of instruction} in Geology, the Sophomores study Zoology, & the Freshmen Botany.

Each of these classes meets the instructor daily, for five days of each week — except

the Seniors, who meet him every other day.

The Professor has one assistant, a lady who, under his direction, has heretofore taught the Physical Geography & Botany classes - leaving to his personal care the Sophomores in Zoology, the Juniors and Seniors in Geology, or one hour daily of class-room work during the first semester, and one hour & a half daily, during the second.

Our professorships have no fixed salaries attached to them. That is a matter of individual agreement between each professor & the College, & varies with circumstances. The age, experience, professional reputation, &c., of the incumbent, is taken into account on our side, as well as the relative importance of the work assigned him; and we expect to advance an officer's salary as he becomes more valuable to the College, ^{service} & as he becomes more valuable to the College. Professors' salaries have varied from \$1500 to \$2500 a year. The Professor of Natural

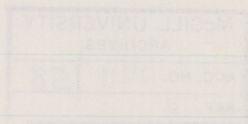
History has always received as large a remuneration as any other — and, if the election now should fall on a man of established reputation and tried ability as a teacher, & one who would ^{at once} strengthen us by the healthiness and weight of his personal influence, there is no reason to suppose there would be any change in this respect. If, on the other hand, the Trustees should be disposed to try ^{one} some of the young applicants who have yet to prove their mettle, it is quite possible they may expect to arrange the terms of the appointment, for the present, on a different basis.

The chair is still vacant.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours very truly

J. H. Raymond



Raymond

MCGILL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES	
ACC. NO. 2211	58
REF. 8	