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Sir,

Being anxious to acquire a more perfect knowledge in Science, and not having funds to execute to desirable a purpose, I have taken the liberty of writing to you to solicit your benevolence.

It has always been my wish to have a classical and Scientific Education, but unfortunately my situation has never been such, as to enable me to carry it into execution. By the time I entered my ~~eighteenth~~ year, necessity compelled me to procure a subsistence from ~~my own~~ exertions. The only profession for which I was in the smallest degree qualified, was that of a teacher. I accordingly took a small school indulging the pleasing hope, that, I might, with frugality, save a sufficiency to give myself, at least one year's schooling. But in that I am very much disappointed. Not having been in the habit of furnishing myself, I had no idea of the expenses I must of necessity incur. With the most strict observance of economy, my salary is hardly sufficient to support me.

As I cannot defray the expenses of an Education, I wish to act as an assistant, in a public Seminary, or to a private teacher. In such a situation I would be content with very moderate wages; provided I could have part of the day allotted me to study. My time should be

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be devoted exclusively to study, and the duties that might be assigned me.

The object of this letter Sir, is to solicit you to procure me a place. I expect your surprise will be excited at such a request, from one, with whose character or person you are not acquainted. Should you think proper to assist me, you shall be furnished with sufficient evidence of my deportment.

I most earnestly solicit you Sir, to use your ~~power~~^{interest} in endeavouring to procure me a situation. It is my ~~last~~^{only} hope; and should I fail in this attempt, I shall give up every idea of ever acquiring more knowledge than I now possess. If you comply with my request, I hope you will give me an immediate answer; as I shall enter into no engagement, until I hear from you.

A letter directed to Genl. Bridge, will be thankfully received, and duly attended to.

Accept Sir, my wishes for your happiness

and prosperity.

James W. Muse

Powhatan Co. June the 28th. 1855.