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The Cost of  
An Education  
At Princeton





The Cost of an Education  
at Princeton

Facts, Figures and Letters from Students  
who pay their own way.  
With an Introductory note by  
President Patton.

Princeton  
August, 1896.

## INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

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THE facts detailed in this pamphlet have been collected during the last academic year by means of an investigation conducted by Mr. James W. Alexander, of the Board of Trustees, and Professor W. M. Sloane, of the Faculty of Princeton University. The material thus collected has been digested and arranged by Mr. Edwin M. Norris, a graduate of Princeton University in the class of 1895. The information comes in every instance from students of character and standing, and may be depended upon as giving a thoroughly reliable exhibit of what constitutes necessary and reasonable expenses for students of small and moderate means at Princeton University at the present time.

FRANCIS L. PATTON,  
*President of Princeton University.*

Princeton, August, 1896.

## EXPENSES AT PRINCETON.

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This pamphlet is published for the definite purpose of counteracting the effect of certain rumors which have been recently spread abroad, concerning the expenses of students at Princeton. These rumors are to the effect that with the expansion of Princeton College into Princeton University, a corresponding expansion has taken place in point of the cost of securing an education at Princeton. Princeton is no longer the small college of sixteen professors and 250 students it was when in 1868 Doctor McCosh assumed the Presidency. The college has put behind it the day of small things. Within the last twenty-five years the membership of the faculty has increased five-fold, and the number of students has increased more than four-fold. The little campus of a few acres has grown to the proportions of a large university park, dotted with buildings to the number of thirty-five, where formerly there were but nine. Meantime many sons of wealthy families have been attracted to Princeton by the improved educational advantages. Some have had large allowances, and a few have had very little limitation placed upon their purses. Reports of the large expenses of such men may have led to the very superficial belief, among people who have not opportunity to learn the full truth, that a poor boy, or one of limited means, can no longer take full advantage of the educational opportunities offered at Princeton. But such a belief could arise only from an ignorance of the facts, for a little attention to facts and figures will show conclusively

that Princeton has not become a rich man's college, but, on the contrary, that its advantages are at the present time as accessible as they ever were to a student of moderate means, and furthermore, that the very fact of its great expansion has given rise to a condition of life which enables the poor student, who is at the same time a really intelligent and energetic man, to pursue his studies at Princeton to better pecuniary advantage than he could do in the day of small things.

### I.

The student of moderate means may be characterized as the prevailing type at Princeton. He maintains a creditable standing in his class and finds time to play baseball, football, tennis, or engage in some of the other branches of college athletics, as his tastes dictate. He may represent his college on a 'varsity team. He also finds time to read a good deal, to engage in hall work or write for the college press; to become acquainted with nearly if not quite the entire student body, and has ample opportunity to make many warm friendships. He takes college honors of some sort, and is quite likely to be chosen by his classmates as one of the orators for class-day. This typical Princeton man stands on his merits and enjoys the respect of his fellow-students. His life on the campus, in the class-room, on the athletic field and at his boarding club is taken as the measure of his real worth, and length of purse and ancestry are of equally small value in the democratic atmosphere in which he finds himself. He lives comfortably, finding it unnecessary to stint himself in money matters, and his annual expenses are covered by the modest sum of \$500 or less.

That this is no mere fancy but is a fact which can be substantiated by figures, it is easy to prove. If any one is incredulous on this point, let him ponder the following statistics; they have been collected during the past year, for the purposes of this pamphlet, and are entirely reliable. Three recent classes are represented, including the last senior class. The honormen of these classes have been chosen, because such men, particularly the second group men, are generally acknowledged to be the representative men of the college.

In one of these classes, seven of the first group men in the academic department, graduating with the distinction of *Magna cum laude*, have reported the following expenses:

|        | FRESHMAN<br>YEAR. | SOPHOMORE<br>YEAR. | JUNIOR<br>YEAR. | SENIOR<br>YEAR. |
|--------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Mr. A. | \$270 00          | \$250 00           | \$250 00        | \$300 00        |
| Mr. B. | 500 00            | 350 00             | 400 00          | 400 00          |
| Mr. C. | 500 00            | 500 00             | 500 00          | 500 00          |
| Mr. D. | 450 00            | 400 00             | 400 00          | 400 00          |
| Mr. E. | 700 00            | 700 00             | 700 00          | 700 00          |
| Mr. F. | 400 00            | 400 00             | 450 00          | 500 00          |
| Mr. G. | 400 00            | 300 00             | 325 00          | 450 00          |

If the average yearly expenses of this group of men be taken, they will be found to be \$442.68. The annual outlay of one of these men averaged less than \$300 and of another less than \$400. For the last three years, four of the seven expended \$400 and under annually.

A glance at the expenses of the second group (*Cum laude*) men of the same class is quite as interesting. The expense statistics of twenty-four men of this group are as follows:

|        | FRESHMAN<br>YEAR. | SOPHOMORE<br>YEAR. | JUNIOR<br>YEAR. | SENIOR<br>YEAR. |
|--------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Mr. A. | \$325 00          | \$350 00           | \$350 00        | \$400 00        |
| Mr. B. | 450 00            | 500 00             | 450 00          | 400 00          |
| Mr. C. | 500 00            | 500 00             | 500 00          | 600 00          |
| Mr. D. | 390 00            | 350 00             | 350 00          | 350 00          |
| Mr. E. | 275 00            | 300 00             | 350 00          | 400 00          |
| Mr. F. | 350 00            | 400 00             | 400 00          | 400 00          |
| Mr. G. | 300 00            | 300 00             | 275 00          | 300 00          |
| Mr. H. | 350 00            | 400 00             | 400 00          | 500 00          |
| Mr. I. | 450 00            | 465 00             | 440 00          | 450 00          |
| Mr. J. | 500 00            | 500 00             | 500 00          | 500 00          |
| Mr. K. | 500 00            | 500 00             | 500 00          | 500 00          |
| Mr. L. | 600 00            | 600 00             | 600 00          | 600 00          |
| Mr. M. | 400 00            | 650 00             | 500 00          | 700 00          |
| Mr. N. | 350 00            | 350 00             | 350 00          | 350 00          |
| Mr. O. | 250 00            | 250 00             | 300 00          | 300 00          |
| Mr. P. | 500 00            | 500 00             | 600 00          | 700 00          |
| Mr. Q. | 350 00            | 350 00             | 300 00          | 400 00          |
| Mr. R. | 400 00            | 400 00             | 400 00          | 400 00          |
| Mr. S. | 500 00            | 500 00             | 600 00          | 600 00          |
| Mr. T. | 350 00            | 350 00             | 400 00          | 400 00          |
| Mr. U. | 300 00            | 400 00             | 400 00          | 300 00          |
| Mr. V. | 350 00            | 325 00             | 325 00          | 450 00          |
| Mr. W. | 500 00            | 500 00             | 500 00          | 600 00          |
| Mr. X. | 350 00            | 350 00             | 300 00          | 350 00          |

The average man of these twenty-four members of the second group expended \$423.12½ each year of his college course. Thirteen of the twenty-four actually expended less than \$400 a year, and of all these honor men of this class, one-third paid for their college course with an outlay of less than \$400 annually.

Take another class. A condensation of the expense statistics of the entire first group (*Magna cum laude*) shows the following results:

Mr. A. averaged \$350.00 a year,  
Mr. B. averaged 600.00 a year,



Mr. C. averaged \$800.00 a year,  
 Mr. D. averaged 400.00 a year,  
 Mr. E. averaged 600.00 a year,  
 Mr. F. averaged 350.00 a year,  
 Mr. G. averaged 300.00 a year.

Four out of the seven in this list expended less than \$400 a year. Two of these men supported themselves in part, and one of them was a prominent athlete, and at the end of his course received the vote of his class for the best all-around man in the class. The condensed statistics of the second-group (*Cum laude*) men of the same class, while showing a slightly higher average expenditure, are worthy of consideration in this connection. Here are the figures:

|                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| No. 1 averaged  | \$500.00 a year, |
| No. 2 averaged  | 500.00 a year,   |
| No. 3 averaged  | 600.00 a year,   |
| No. 4 averaged  | 500.00 a year,   |
| No. 5 averaged  | 400.00 a year,   |
| No. 6 averaged  | 500.00 a year,   |
| No. 7 averaged  | 500.00 a year,   |
| No. 8 averaged  | 500.00 a year,   |
| No. 9 averaged  | 450.00 a year,   |
| No. 10 averaged | 550.00 a year,   |
| No. 11 averaged | 500.00 a year,   |
| No. 12 averaged | 550.00 a year,   |
| No. 13 averaged | 700.00 a year,   |
| No. 14 averaged | 450.00 a year,   |
| No. 15 averaged | 600.00 a year,   |
| No. 16 averaged | 600.00 a year,   |
| No. 17 averaged | 400.00 a year,   |
| No. 18 averaged | 400.00 a year,   |
| No. 19 averaged | 1,000.00 a year, |
| No. 20 averaged | 500.00 a year,   |
| No. 21 averaged | 800.00 a year,   |
| No. 22 averaged | 350.00 a year,   |

|                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| No. 23 averaged | \$600.00 a year, |
| No. 24 averaged | 400.00 a year,   |
| No. 25 averaged | 700.00 a year,   |
| No. 26 averaged | 400.00 a year,   |
| No. 27 averaged | 400.00 a year,   |
| No. 28 averaged | 450.00 a year,   |
| No. 29 averaged | 500.00 a year,   |
| No. 30 averaged | 400.00 a year,   |
| No. 31 averaged | 600.00 a year,   |
| No. 32 averaged | 550.00 a year,   |
| No. 33 averaged | 500.00 a year,   |
| No. 34 averaged | 600.00 a year,   |
| No. 35 averaged | 400.00 a year.   |

Of these thirty-five second group men, twenty-two expended \$500 and less per annum. One of them supported himself entirely and another supported himself in part. The class had an unusual number of men of ample means, and the average expenses are consequently higher than those of other classes.

A glance at another class shows a lower average. This class contained an unusual number of hard students, and the honor list is accordingly large. Of the fifteen men receiving high general honors, or *Magna cum laude*, the following condensed statistics are noteworthy:

|                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Mr. A. averaged | \$500.00 a year, |
| Mr. B. averaged | 475.00 a year,   |
| Mr. C. averaged | 410.00 a year,   |
| Mr. D. averaged | 400.00 a year,   |
| Mr. E. averaged | 800.00 a year,   |
| Mr. F. averaged | 460.00 a year,   |
| Mr. G. averaged | 680.00 a year,   |
| Mr. H. averaged | 700.00 a year,   |
| Mr. I. averaged | 425.00 a year,   |
| Mr. J. averaged | 500.00 a year,   |
| Mr. K. averaged | 400.00 a year,   |

Mr. L. averaged \$400.00 a year,  
 Mr. M. averaged 350.00 a year,  
 Mr. N. averaged 400.00 a year,  
 Mr. O. averaged 430.00 a year.

Twelve of these, or three-fourths of the entire first group, paid for their college course at an expense of \$500 or under per year. Four spent \$400 or less a year; four supported themselves in part, and one paid nearly half his college bills from prizes which he won at Princeton. The average yearly expenses of the entire fifteen were \$488.66 $\frac{2}{3}$ .

The second group men of the same class had the following average expenses:

No. 1 averaged \$600.00 a year,  
 No. 2 averaged 400.00 a year,  
 No. 3 averaged 500.00 a year,  
 No. 4 averaged 400.00 a year,  
 No. 5 averaged 700.00 a year,  
 No. 6 averaged 250.00 a year,  
 No. 7 averaged 300.00 a year,  
 No. 8 averaged 300.00 a year,  
 No. 9 averaged 800.00 a year,  
 No. 10 averaged 325.00 a year,  
 No. 11 averaged 230.00 a year,  
 No. 12 averaged 475.00 a year,  
 No. 13 averaged 400.00 a year,  
 No. 14 averaged 500.00 a year,  
 No. 15 averaged 500.00 a year,  
 No. 16 averaged 450.00 a year,  
 No. 17 averaged 575.00 a year,  
 No. 18 averaged 475.00 a year,  
 No. 19 averaged 325.00 a year,  
 No. 20 averaged 250.00 a year,  
 No. 21 averaged 350.00 a year,  
 No. 22 averaged 315.00 a year,  
 No. 23 averaged 700.00 a year,

|        |          |          |         |
|--------|----------|----------|---------|
| No. 24 | averaged | \$500.00 | a year, |
| No. 25 | averaged | 300.00   | a year, |
| No. 26 | averaged | 400.00   | a year, |
| No. 27 | averaged | 275.00   | a year, |
| No. 28 | averaged | 460.00   | a year. |
| No. 29 | averaged | 325.00   | a year, |
| No. 30 | averaged | 600.00   | a year, |
| No. 31 | averaged | 700.00   | a year, |
| No. 32 | averaged | 800.00   | a year, |
| No. 33 | averaged | 800.00   | a year, |
| No. 34 | averaged | 350.00   | a year, |
| No. 35 | averaged | 300.00   | a year, |
| No. 36 | averaged | 600.00   | a year, |
| No. 37 | averaged | 400.00   | a year, |
| No. 38 | averaged | 650.00   | a year, |
| No. 39 | averaged | 400.00   | a year. |

Twenty-eight, or nearly three-fourths of these thirty-nine second group men expended \$500 or less each year; twenty, or over one-half, expended \$400 or less; five of them supported themselves in part, and two supported themselves entirely. If the two groups of honormen of this class be taken together, of the fifty-four, forty, or nearly three-fourths, expended \$500 a year or less; twenty-four of the fifty-four expended \$400 or less. These men are the hard students of the class, but they are not "polers" only. Among these lists are represented the social element of the class, no less than the literary and athletic elements. One-fourth of them are members of the senior and junior social clubs. They are the men who support the literary societies, maintain the religious work amongst the students, represent the college in intercollegiate debate, edit the undergraduate publications—in short, the solid men of the class.

## II.

But gratifying as are these statistics showing the average annual expenses of these representative Princeton students of moderate means to be \$500 and under, it must not be forgotten that for the student of very narrow means the argument from "average expenses" is practically worthless. For while a hundred men of moderate means may live comfortably and respectably on \$500 per year at Princeton, a few students with large means are necessarily included in any calculation like the above, and their high and unnecessary expenditures come in to raise the average and so impair the value of the calculation. For the poor student, not the average expenses computed from the expenditures of all the men at the university, but the minimum expense, is the proper basis of calculation. He does not ask for a theoretical mean, but for a practical minimum. He wants to know what is the least practicable expense for a poor man to incur in going through Princeton. To such an inquirer it is hoped that the letters appended to this pamphlet will prove of interest and benefit. These letters speak for themselves and need little explanation. They tell in very plain language what has been done, and since they were all written by men now in college or but recently graduated, they may be confidently accepted as indicating to a certainty what can be done at Princeton at this present time by men of the right sort. The original letters, copies of which are here appended, are signed by their writers, and each student who writes is personally known to the professor who collected the letters. These letters demonstrate beyond peradventure that the growth of

Princeton College into Princeton University has brought with it a condition of academic life which enables the man of extremely narrow means, provided he have energy and ability, to pursue his course of higher education to better pecuniary advantage than he could have done at any time in the past history of the institution. And this is true, because a larger institution provides larger opportunities for self-help. Opportunities for tutoring are numerous, at remunerative rates of compensation, and men are not wanting who have paid their entire college expenses by this means. Opportunities for paying one's board by means of "running a club" are open to capable men, after they have formed acquaintances in college. Agencies held for commercial houses in the neighboring cities contribute to the partial support of a limited number of students. In addition, there are a great many minor ways of helping out one's expenses, but these are too various to be set down in detail in this place.

But it should be carefully borne in mind that all this is addressed to men of good health, energy and ability. It should be especially understood that it is not said to encourage the dull and commonplace man to hope to pay his way at Princeton, for the students who pay their own way through Princeton are and must be bright, enterprising men, of more than average ability.

The frequent references, in these letters, to aid received from the college, may be explained by turning to page 156 of the last annual catalogue of the College, where will be found the statement that it is the policy of the College to remit, on application, a portion of

the tuition (\$100.00 of the \$150.00) in the Academic Department "of candidates for the ministry, of sons of ministers, and also of other applicants who present satisfactory testimonials of good moral character and of more than ordinary intellectual ability with the assurance that the aid requested is absolutely needed. In the case of students who are neither candidates for the ministry nor the sons of ministers, the remission of tuition is to be regarded as a loan (without interest) to be repaid to the College whenever it can be done without serious financial embarrassment."

Particular attention is called to the fact that the appended letters show that bright students who are economical in their habits can go through Princeton for less than \$300 a year, provided they obtain a scholarship. It is also plain that this sum may be reduced by taking advantage of the opportunities for self-help during their college course. In fact, many men manage to go through in this way practically with no expense.

Following are the letters referred to above, as written by the students themselves.

PRINCETON, N. J., Jan. 22, 1896.

PROF. SLOANE:

DEAR SIR—My college expenses at Princeton for two years (estimating the expense for the remainder of this year) have been about \$500. This doesn't include clothes and travelling expenses. My tuition is \$50.

Resp't,

\_\_\_\_\_

Professor W. M. SLOANE:

DEAR SIR—The following account is an approximate estimate of all necessary expenses in my college year. My allowance is \$16.00 a month or \$160.00 for the college year.

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| Dues, games, periodicals, etc . . . . . | \$25 00         |
| Books. . . . .                          | 20 00           |
| Car fare . . . . .                      | 15 00           |
| Clothes. . . . .                        | 50 00           |
| Current expenses. . . . .               | 50 00           |
|   | <u>\$160 00</u> |
| College bills . . . . .                 | 240 00          |
|   | <u>\$400 00</u> |

Very truly yours,

January 22, '96.

Class of 1897.

\_\_\_\_\_



DEAR PROF. SLOANE:

I send you a condensed statement of my college expenses, in accordance with your request.

|  | 1892-93  | 1893-94  | 1894-95  | 1895-96  |
|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Room rent (including furniture, light, heat, etc.) . . . | \$144 00 | \$72 00  | \$72 00  | \$72 00  |
| Board. . . . .   | 116 00   | 116 00   | 72 00    | 72 00    |
| Washing. . . . .   | 18 00    | 10 00    | 10 00    | 10 00    |
| College public room fees. . . . .                        | 25 00    | 25 00    | 25 00    | 25 00    |
| Books (estimate). . . . .                                | 25 00    | 15 00    | 8 00     | 3 00     |
|  | <hr/>    | <hr/>    | <hr/>    | <hr/>    |
|  | \$328 00 | \$238 00 | \$187 00 | \$182 00 |

Very sincerely,

PRINCETON, Jan. 22, 1896.

Professor W. M. SLOANE:

DEAR SIR—My expenses are as follows:

|                          |          |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Board. . . . .           | \$126 00 |
| Washing. . . . .         | 9 00     |
| Tuition. . . . .         | 150 00   |
| Room rent. . . . .       | 40 00    |
| Fuel and light. . . . .  | 19 00    |
| Text books, etc. . . . . | 18 00    |
| Incidentals. . . . .     | 10 00    |
|                          | <hr/>    |
| Total. . . . .           | \$372 00 |

This list is exclusive of travelling expenses, hall and other dues and expenditures which are not incidental to the obtaining of an education at Princeton.

Sincerely yours,

TO PROF. W. M. SLOANE:

Estimate of expenses.

|                             |          |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| College bills, . . . . .    | \$89 50  |
| Furniture, . . . . .        | 30 50    |
| Doctor bills, . . . . .     | 20 00    |
| Books, dues, etc. . . . .   | 25 00    |
| Clothing, etc. . . . .      | 50 00    |
| Games and trips. . . . .    | 25 00    |
| Traveling expenses. . . . . | 20 00    |
| Incidentals. . . . .        | 24 00    |
|                             | <hr/>    |
|                             | \$284 00 |

No tuition paid, and board bill cancelled by running a club.

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PRINCETON, N. J., Jan. 22, 1896.

PROFESSOR WILLIAM M. SLOANE:

MY DEAR SIR—Below please find approximate statement of my college expenses for one year based upon two years' experience.

|                                     |          |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| College bill. . . . .               | \$80 00  |
| Various societies. . . . .          | 15 00    |
| Books and stationery. . . . .       | 25 00    |
| Subscriptions. . . . .              | 5 00     |
| Athletics, including games. . . . . | 25 00    |
| Laundry bill. . . . .               | 15 00    |
| Miscellaneous. . . . .              | 10 00    |
|                                     | <hr/>    |
| Total. . . . .                      | \$175 00 |

The above is my outside figure, of course omitting tuition and boarding.

Very sincerely yours,

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PRINCETON, 12-13-'95.

Prof. SLOANE:

DEAR SIR—My college expenses in Princeton during my freshman year for tuition, board and fuel were \$452. For travelling expenses and all other outlays I did not exceed \$150, making a total of \$602.

For my sophomore year my expenses were about \$50 less—due to cheaper rent of rooms in the college buildings. My expenses this year will be about the same as last.

I consider that I am living comfortably, without being either prodigal or niggardly.

Respectfully yours,

Prof. William M. Sloane,  
95 Bayard Ave.,  
Princeton.

DEAR PROF. SLOANE:

Here is the statement of my college expenses which you asked me to make:

## FRESHMAN YEAR.

|                                 |          |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| First term college bill. . . .  | \$103 50 |
| Second term college bill. . . . | 109 75   |
| Other expenses. . . . .         | 36 75    |
|                                 | <hr/>    |
| Total. . . . .                  | \$250 00 |

## SOPHOMORE YEAR.

|                                 |          |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| First term college bill. . . .  | \$57 00  |
| Second term college bill. . . . | 40.50    |
| Other expenses. . . . .         | 32 50    |
|                                 | <hr/>    |
| Total. . . . .                  | \$130 00 |

## JUNIOR YEAR.

|                                  |              |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| First term college bill. . . . . | \$87 93      |
| Other expenses. . . . .          | <u>12 07</u> |
| Total (first term). . . . .      | \$100 00     |

Yours very truly,

Jan. 18, '96. \_\_\_\_\_

PRINCETON, Jan. 27, 1896.

DEAR SIR:

Enclosed is my expense account for one college year, 1895-96, if it is not too late to be of use to you.

|                                 |                 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| For board. . . . .              | \$72 00         |
| Tuition. . . . .                | 80 00           |
| Room rent. . . . .              | 19 00           |
| Fuel. . . . .                   | 5 00            |
| Gas. . . . .                    | <u>6 00</u>     |
| Total (one term). . . . .       | \$182 00        |
|                                 | 2               |
| Total (one year). . . . .       | <u>\$364 00</u> |
| Monthly allowance \$20. . . . . | <u>180 00</u>   |
|                                 | \$544 00        |

The monthly allowance includes all such expenses as clothes-wash, college papers, general spending money, &c., &c., so that \$90 or \$100 could be subtracted as not coming directly under college expenses.

My room-mate's expenses are about the same, excepting \$180 for board instead of \$144.

Respectfully, \_\_\_\_\_

Professor SLOANE:

DEAR SIR—In response to your request for an estimate of expenses during a year here at college, I send you this tardy statement. \$100 of the tuition charge is excused, because of my intention to study for the ministry, so that leaves—

|         |                          |
|---------|--------------------------|
| \$50.00 | a year for tuition,      |
| 20.00   | a year for room rent,    |
| 11.00   | a year for coal deposit, |
| 18.00   | a year for gas deposit,  |
| 140.00  | a year for board,        |

            
\$239.00 as a total for the year.

Besides this, as you asked for personal expenses, I will say that the last two years, when my expenditures have been much less than formerly, I have spent about \$30 for clothing, and, I think, \$15 additional for incidentals. From this may be subtracted \$10 each term for acting as “spotter” in your senior lecture room.

Very truly yours,

Jan. 15, 1896.

DEAR SIR:

In accordance with your request, I send you a list of my college expenses.

FRESHMAN YEAR.

|                                    |               |
|------------------------------------|---------------|
| Board, 36 weeks at \$3.35. . . . . | \$120 60      |
| Room fees. . . . .                 | 50 00         |
| Fuel. . . . .                      | 6 00          |
| Clothing (estimated). . . . .      | 90 00         |
| Travelling, books, etc.(estimated) | <u>150 00</u> |
| Total. . . . .                     | \$416 60      |

Sophomore year the same except that I paid \$3.50 for board, making the total \$422.00.

JUNIOR YEAR.

|                                     |          |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| Board, 36 weeks at \$4.00. . . . .  | \$144 00 |
| Room fees. . . . .                  | 50 00    |
| Fuel. . . . .                       | 6 00     |
| Clothing (estimated). . . . .       | 90 00    |
| Travelling, books, etc.,(estimated) | 175 00   |
|                                     | <hr/>    |
| Total. . . . .                      | \$465 00 |

I have made my estimate high and think that if I had the exact figures the total would be somewhat lower. This year, with commencement expenses included, will be no higher than junior year.

Very truly yours,

Jan. 9, '96.

\_\_\_\_\_

PRINCETON, June 18.

Prof. W. M. SLOANE,  
Princeton, N. J.

DEAR SIR—In compliance with your request, I herewith submit estimate of expenses incurred during one year at Princeton College. I secured an eating club, which paid board bills for the year, and a scholarship of \$100. My actual expenses then were:

|                                  |         |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| Railroad fare, Boston, . . . . . | \$ 7 50 |
| Tuition, . . . . .               | 50 00   |
| Room rent, . . . . .             | 40 00   |
| Fuel and light, . . . . .        | 8 00    |
| Washing, . . . . .               | 14 00   |
| Spending money, . . . . .        | 18 00   |
|                                  | <hr/>   |

\$137 50

No new clothing needed.

It is by no means a difficult matter for a man with determination and some ability to earn his entire way thro' college by economy and work during time not required by studies.

Very resp'y yours,

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PRINCETON, Dec. 12, 1896.

DEAR PROFESSOR SLOANE:

It is very gratifying indeed to learn that a correct statement is going to be announced through the press as to the expenses at Princeton. Only a year ago I asked a young man from my town why he did not come to Princeton instead of going to Lafayette, and he replied he could not afford it. According to your request I submit a statement of my expenses.

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| For freshman year, not including clothing, R. R. fare, Hall and Y. M. C. A. dues and incidentals, my actual expense was . . . . . | \$220 33 |
| Aid received from the scholarship fund and the Board of Education, . . . . .  | 130 00   |
|   | _____    |
| My own actual expense, . . . . .  | 90 33    |
| Sophomore year, under above conditions, actual expense, . . . . .   | 87 70    |

For the present year, it will not be quite as much as last year. During the past year we have had our room furnished, papered and fixed up very comfortably, and that was included in the above. Now, this, of course, means the closest kind of economy, but not to the extent of stinting one's self. Any further information that I can give for the interests of the college will be gladly furnished upon request.

Yours truly,

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Prof. W. M. SLOANE:

DEAR SIR—In pursuance of your request, I have made out a statement as to my yearly expenses. The totals are correct if the various items may not be exactly so. I would state that of the amount expended the second year, I earned (part) here in college during that year.

|                            | FIRST<br>YEAR.  | SECOND<br>YEAR. |
|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Board. . . . .             | \$108 00        | \$93 00         |
| Room rent. . . . .         | 91 00           | 37 50           |
| Fuel. . . . .              | 8 00            | 8 50            |
| Railroad expenses. . . . . | 20 00           | 15 00           |
| Books. . . . .             | 15 00           | 20 00           |
| Clothes. . . . .           | 50 00           | 50 00           |
| Tuition. . . . .           | 50 00           | 50 00           |
| Laundry. . . . .           | 12 00           | 10 00           |
| Miscellaneous, . . . . .   | 46 00           | 26 00           |
|                            | <u>\$400 00</u> | <u>\$310 00</u> |

I am very willing to have this statement used if it can be of any advantage to the college.

Yours very truly,

\_\_\_\_\_

Statement of college expenses  
at Princeton by \_\_\_\_\_

FRESHMAN YEAR, 1893-94.

|                                      |                   |          |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|----------|
| College bill, first term, . . . . .  | \$147 00          |          |
| College bill, second term, . . . . . | 133 00            |          |
| Text books, . . . . .                | 9 75              |          |
| Subscriptions, . . . . .             | 31 40             |          |
| Sundries, . . . . .                  | 51 96             |          |
|                                      | <u>          </u> | \$373 11 |



## SOPHOMORE YEAR, 1894-95.

|                                  |          |          |
|----------------------------------|----------|----------|
| College bill, first term, . . .  | \$133 25 |          |
| College bill, second term, . . . | 127 00   |          |
| Text books, . . . . .            | 13 50    |          |
| Subscriptions, . . . . .         | 21 05    |          |
| Sundries, . . . . .              | 55 14    |          |
|                                  | —————    | \$349 94 |

## JUNIOR YEAR, 1895-96.

|                                 |         |
|---------------------------------|---------|
| College bill, first term, . . . | \$64 55 |
|---------------------------------|---------|

NOTE.—The item “sundries” does not include money spent for clothes, nor travelling nor vacation expenses. The item “text-books” is small, owing to the fact that I have resold most of my books. The amount given is the final amount. This year (Junior) by helping to “run an eating club” I get my board at two dollars (\$2.00) a week. I have received from the College my tuition free (\$100). I would also like to say that I was offered a scholarship of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250) at ———, but that after carefully looking the ground over I found that \$100 at Princeton would go further than \$250 at ———, and my experience has proved to me the truth of my first opinion.

PRINCETON, N. J., June 15, 1896.

DEAR SIR:

I hand you below a statement of my expenses while in Princeton College, as requested.

I went to Princeton with \$280.00 in my pocket. Before June I was obliged to borrow \$50.00, so my expenses for Freshman year were about \$330.00. The two following years I kept an accurate account of everything spent. The following is the result:

|                           |          |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Sophomore year, . . . . . | \$441 01 |
| Junior year, . . . . .    | 565 10   |

In senior year I kept an account of the receipts only. But, as I left college with about the same amount on hand I had when I went there in the fall, my expenses must have been nearly the same as my receipts—namely, \$570.

The above figures include clothes, books and all expenses of every kind, from September to June, together with travelling expenses.

After Freshman year I earned a great deal by tutoring. In fact during the last three years I may say I paid my expenses in this way, for when senior year was over I found myself in debt only about \$100 for money borrowed at different times to help out my earnings.

Yours very respectfully,

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PRINCETON, N. J., Jan. 22, 1896.

DEAR PROF. SLOANE:

Inclosed please find list of expenses for college course as near as I can get at them.

FRESHMAN YEAR.

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Including College bills, furnishing rooms, etc., . . . . . | \$188 00 |
| Clothing, . . . . .  | 50 00    |
| Travelling, washing, tobacco, etc., . . . . .              | 50 00    |
|  | \$288 00 |

SOPHOMORE YEAR.

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| College bills, books, etc., . . . . .                    | \$118 00 |
| Clothing, . . . . .                                      | 75 00    |
| Travelling expenses, including football games, . . . . . | 50 00    |
| Miscellaneous, . . . . .                                 | 25 00    |
|  | \$268 00 |

## JUNIOR YEAR.

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| College bills, books, etc., . . . . .   | \$205 00     |
| Clothing, . . . . .   | 75 00        |
| Miscellaneous, including travelling, football games, wash-<br>ing, tobacco, etc., . . . . . | 75 00        |
|   | <u>75 00</u> |
|   | \$355 00     |

Senior year will cost about \$400.00.

\$288 00

268 00

355 00

400 00

\$1,311 00

Average expenses, \$327.75 per year.

This is itemized about as closely as I can get it from the accounts I have kept. Hoping it will be of service to you, I remain

Sincerely yours,

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DEAR PROF. SLOANE:

Having saved \$130 from my earnings before entering college, I entered the Sophomore class of Princeton in the fall of 1893, thus joining the class of '96. During Sophomore year I did what work I could get to do and closed the year with \$5.30 in my pocket. The following summer I was at work about half the time and came back in September to begin Junior year. I became manager of a boarding club and kept constantly on the lookout for something to do. Junior year cost me just about \$50, for at commencement time I had almost as much money on hand as at the beginning of the year. Last summer I was at work part of my vacation and made about \$60. Senior year

is perhaps the most expensive year in college, but notwithstanding this fact I have by management of clubs and by taking advantage of the numerous opportunities to make money which come in the way of a young man here in Princeton, made more money than I will spend and will graduate with a larger amount to my credit in the bank than I had at the beginning of the year.

Thus, while my actual expenses in college have been a little more than \$200 a year, my college course has—even from a financial point of view—been a source of profit to me, for I have made more money than I have spent.

It might be well here to add that since entering college I have supported myself entirely, receiving no aid from home or from any Church Educational Board.

Very truly,

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MY DEAR SIR:

While in college at Princeton recently, I found it convenient to make a practical test of the theories of “putting one’s self through.” Near the close of my Sophomore year I was unexpectedly thrown on my own resources. During the succeeding vacation I canvassed, but made nothing, and returned to college with but \$7. By means of running a club, corresponding for a New York daily, and tutoring, I finished the year with a square account. Senior year I did not run a club but corresponded for papers, edited a syllabus, was elected a member of the N. H. Committee, and ended

the year with money to spare. There are three ways by which a young man with a short bank account can get through Princeton. (1) Borrow the money; (2) don't spend anything, but wear a sweater and corduroy trousers; (3) make, pay and enjoy as you go. The third is by far the best plan, and conditions at Princeton are wonderfully adapted to its successful execution. There are numerous business openings, such as agencies, &c. For example, a friend of mine, through a wholesale New York house, supplied a score of eating clubs with butter and beef, keeping, of course, a paying commission. Literary ability can be transferred to the cash account. The college authorities co-operate by way of reduction to earnest men. Popularity and place among classmates need not be sacrificed. Princeton's democratic spirit makes it pleasanter for the man of moderate means. The two years during which I made my own money were far more enjoyable than the other two, to say nothing of their value in the way of business experience. Since graduation I have visited numerous other colleges and find that nowhere can the financial question be solved so effectually and enjoyably as at Princeton.

Yours truly,

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PRINCETON, N. J., Jan. 9, 1896.

Prof. WILLIAM M. SLOANE, Ph.D., L.H.D.:

Dear Professor Sloane—In accordance with your request, made some time ago, I submit a statement of my College expenses.

Being a student for the ministry my tuition fee is remitted. I am running an eating club, thus securing my board free. My College bill for first term was forty dollars and eighty-five cents (\$40.85), this being paid partially through the Scholarship Fund of the Presbyterian Board of Education and partially by my own efforts. I started my Senior year with thirty-five dollars, the savings from my summer work. I have earned since college opened sixty-four dollars and fifty cents (\$64.50) made up as follows:

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| By commission for managing stationery and engraving business for Dreka, Philadelphia, at 10%, . . . . . | \$22 40 |
| By commission for managing athletic business of Horace Partridge Co., Boston, . . . . .                 | 15 10   |
| By commission for advertisements for Alumni Princetonian, . . . . .                                     | 15 00   |
| By tutoring in Economics, . . . . .   | 12 00   |
|   | \$64 50 |

From this I have been able to buy all the books absolutely required by my subjects, shoes, one complete suit of clothes, an additional coat and vest, and several trips to Philadelphia to visit my sisters at school there. Having no parents and no resources beyond what I saved while holding a lucrative position in business and what I have made in college, I have been able to go thus far, middle of senior year, owing but ten dollars at present to a member of my family.

You are at perfect liberty to use these facts, feeling assured that the name will be held strictly confidential, as, so far as I am aware, not one of my classmates or friends knows anything definite about my financial affairs.

Allow me in closing to express my high appreciation of your efforts in this direction of zealously upholding the name of our beloved Alma Mater, and with best wishes for your success in this as well as in all your efforts to help and inspire young men, believe me to remain, sir,

Yours very respectfully,

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Prof. SLOANE:

Coming to college in the fall of '92, I was entirely ignorant of college life in any of its phases. I had never been a student and knew well enough that honors were not liable to come my way; but I did realize to some extent how much there is in a large college to be learned which cannot be found in text books. My class, all strangers to me then, I knew contained some who would sooner or later become friends of mine, with all that means in a college life. Men whose friendship would last thro' my life and for whom I expected to give the best that was in me. This I knew, too, was not consistent with the life of a close student whose time is not his own. I do not deny that there are many who live lives of the closest study and yet enjoy all the other advantages of college life, but these in any college are limited, such an one is nothing more or less than a genius. A closed door must sooner or later dampen a friend's ardor.

My freshman year, as is the general rule, was the most expensive. My room cost \$3.00 per week but was good at the price, for I had a large study and a bedroom. My board was \$5.00. I could have gotten

cheaper rooms and board, but there was no necessity for my being careful then, as the panic which caused so much hard times over the country had not been really felt. My clothing and general expenses were small for I never spent much for clothes. My actual expenses amounted to about \$500 and my whole year including everything did not amount to more than \$600, according to checks sent from home. Most of the money spent was in following the base-ball and foot-ball teams to the big match games. Besides this a small crowd of my friends used to meet in my room and we generally had something to eat after the manner of freshmen.

In sophomore year I felt the pressure of the times and that I must cut down my expenses. After thinking the thing over I decided to make sacrifices even and cut some expenses that seemed necessary and to follow the life of a college man as far as possible. I ran a club that year which saved \$180 per year. I had a room in college which amounted to \$50 per year. This would make actual expenses amount to about \$270. Still with this low figure for necessary expenses my whole year cost as much as last year. Not because there was any necessity for it, but because it took that much to live my sort of life with fellows who had a great deal more money.

Yours,

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PRINCETON, N. J., March 27, 1896.

MY DEAR SIR:

After fixing my Greek grammar preparation riding a sulky plow on the Northwestern prairies, I had the



ambition of my life gratified to this extent, that my share in a magnificent crop of No. 1 hard wheat assured me of funds enough to come to Princeton for one year. It seemed like taking chances, but I did not have to send home for money during the year, nor the remaining three of my college course. The way in which I accomplished this was by running a club and by tutoring. I did not have to neglect college work to do this, for I made first group every year. Besides, I was a member of the '89 championship football team and played that game and lacrosse all through my college course. I was a member of one of the clubs (Ivy) and know that the same conditions exist in Princeton to-day, for I see men doing the same thing. You may use this in whatever way or shape you can. I am only sorry that I cannot give it to you in better shape. I have yet to see the fellow who left a smaller institution to come here who was sorry for it for financial or any other reasons.

Very sincerely and respectfully,

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P. S.—My average expense for the four years was \$270.

(The above writer adds the following interesting facts:)

“A fellow who comes here can get through as cheaply as anywhere. A man whose expenses were \$400 a year said to me the other day that whenever there were athletic games he went to them, and that he had simply avoided being extravagant. To show that men get through on \$400 a year respectably in all ranks and orders of the class, I have before me



## JUNIOR YEAR, 1894-95.

| RECEIPTS.                   | EXPENSES.                     |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| College, .....\$100 00      | Tuition, .....\$100 00        |
| Father, ..... 348 30        | Public room fees, ..... 50 00 |
| Earned, ..... 20 00         | Board, ..... 128 50           |
|                             | Room rent, ..... 40 00        |
|                             | Fuel (coal), ..... 10 80      |
|                             | Travelling, ..... 60 00       |
|                             | Other expenses, ..... 79 00   |
|                             | <u>                    </u>   |
| <u>                    </u> | \$468 30                      |
| \$468 30                    |                               |

## SENIOR YEAR, '95-96. (First term).

| RECEIPTS.                   | EXPENDITURES.                 |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| College, .....\$ 50 00      | Tuition, .....\$ 50 00        |
| Earned, ..... 131 30        | Public room fees, ..... 25 00 |
| Father, ..... 26 00         | Fuel deposit, ..... 4 50      |
|                             | Board, ..... 66 50            |
|                             | Room rent, ..... 10 00        |
|                             | Travelling, ..... 15 00       |
|                             | Other expenses, ..... 36 30   |
|                             | <u>                    </u>   |
| <u>                    </u> | \$207 30                      |
| \$207 30                    |                               |

The above accounts are not exactly accurate, but are very close to being correct.

Yours very respectfully,

PRINCETON, N. J., June 15, 1896.

DEAR PROFESSOR SLOANE:

When I entered Princeton College I had so many conditions that the Committee on Entrance Examinations would do no more than accept me on a month's trial. I worked very hard that month and at the divisional examinations passed sufficiently well to insure my staying. By the time of the mid-year examinations I had removed nearly all of my entrance conditions,

and two months later all of them were cleared off. Meantime I kept up my classroom work with an average rank, and did considerable literary work as a member of one of the Halls. Throughout my college course I maintained a creditable standing, and each succeeding report showed a better grade, so that I was enabled to graduate with both general and special honors, receiving *Cum laude*. I took several prizes in Hall and was an editor of one of the undergraduate publications.

I have paid my own way entirely. I came to college with \$400 in my pocket, which I had saved from my earnings while making such preparation as I had. This \$400 I knew would assure me of a year, at any rate, and I looked to the opportunities for self-help at Princeton, to enable me to continue with my class. \$100 of my tuition was remitted, as is done in a great many cases. By the assistance of a friend who had been in college for two years, I secured the management of an eating club. During the year I expended more money than was absolutely necessary, but I finished Freshman year with nearly half my \$400 still on hand. In sophomore year I again ran a club, and my \$100 scholarship was continued. My expenses were a little heavier this year than last, but I earned a considerable amount by publishing a syllabus, copying and other work, and closed the year without incurring a debt. At the beginning of my junior year I returned to college with just \$5 on hand, and spent this for a week's board, while reorganizing an eating club. But by this time I had worked up a considerable copying business among the professors

and students, and I was soon on my feet again. My scholarship was renewed and I managed to raise enough money by hook or crook to pay my bills for the year, with the exception of \$50, which I was obliged to borrow. I had a large number of friends and spent more money than was necessary. During vacation I earned about \$75 above expenses, and with this, minus travelling expenses, return to college for my last year. I became correspondent for an out-of-town journal, continued my copying work, published a syllabus, and helped myself in various other ways. During the year I suspect I expended nearly seven hundred dollars, but I kept no expense accounts. I lived well and enjoyed myself, and finished the year and my college course clear of debt and with over \$200 on hand.

During my college course I participated in all departments of college life, and, although carrying considerable extra work, always had time to enjoy myself with the other fellows. I have seldom missed an athletic event, and have usually attended the various undergraduate concerts, plays, etc. In short, I have not stinted myself, but have simply avoided wasting money.

Yours very sincerely,

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