

86 Boul<sup>d</sup> de Port Royal

Monday, Nov. 6, 1876.

William

Na 76

My dear Father,

I saw Prof. Wily of the  
Cooper Hill Institute when I was in England,  
and told him what I wished in the way  
of practical mechanical work for next sum-  
mer. He said respecting the relative merits  
of France & England that he thought the  
French quite equal to the English in every-  
thing except marine engines, and locomotives,  
and that in details he thought them more  
scientific. To obtain what I want in England  
~~could~~ it would be of little use to work in  
any but one of the best firms; and to  
gain admission to one of them, a consider-

able fee would be required. The Students of  
the Institute pay £40 for 5 months, & the  
the shorter the time, the higher in proportion diff  
it would be likely to be. He advised me  
rather to try France for the kind of work  
I wanted, and thought that ~~by~~<sup>in</sup> doing so  
I would also have the advantage of being  
known there; i.e. they would know what  
I wanted & understand my reasons, and so  
also know better of what use I would be  
likely to be; than in England.

We all paid our respects to the  
Inspector the day before lectures commenced,  
and I took the opportunity to ask him  
about next summer; I told him I  
wished to divide my time between Canal  
Works & mechanical work. There are not  
any Government manufactories where machin-  
ery is made it would seem; the only  
thing approaching it being their naval

of works; but the Inspector seemed to think  
that it ~~would be~~ there would be no  
difficulty in my getting admission to  
one of the manufactories either in Paris or  
elsewhere on their recommendation. He says  
so the principal part of the work on canals  
is done in August & September, after the  
high level of spring has had time to fall,  
and so that the spring months would be the  
best for the mechanics.

He also told me that it had been  
arranged to grant diplomas to "the most  
distinguished" of the pupils, & said that  
he thought that I was on the fair way  
to get one. I suppose he meant that the  
standard for a diploma would be higher  
than the ordinary standard for passing  
although that is already pretty high.

I have now the total marks for  
last year which are as follows: -

Dawson 1730	Margoschhoff 1419
Switkowski 1644	Lemaire 1394
Mironesco 1639	Abro 1326

I am glad to find I stand so well, as it is certainly encouraging; and although I do not base any hopes for the future upon it, I will still try to do my best, in order that I may get as much benefit as possible from the advantages which you put so freely at my disposal.

I will give an account next week of my expenses; I have more than enough left to last till the end of this month.

We have now fairly commenced our work. Our courses are Hydraulics; Bridges; Interior navigation (Canals); Steam Engines; and also a course on Architecture. Our first design is a light-house with accompanying buildings and architectural given by the prof: of Architecture. We have till the 27<sup>th</sup> to do it.

Believe me

Your affectionate son

William.

## II<sup>e</sup> Classe

- Concours d'architecture 3 nov. - 26 nov.
- Concours de mécanique 1<sup>re</sup> étude 27 nov - 17 dec
- Examen de Mécanique<sup>x</sup> 22 dec.
- Concours de mécanique 2<sup>e</sup> étude 18 dec - 19 jan.
- Examen de Navigation intérieure 27 jan.
- Concours de grand viaduc en pierre, 20 jan - 2 mars
- Examen de ponts. 21 feb.
- Concours de navigation intérieure 3 mars - 12 avril
- Examen de machines à vapeur 9 mars
- Examen de Mécanique. 29 mars.

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<sup>x</sup> The mechanics consists of the subject of hydro-  
nautics.

1. Design of arrangement of farm buildings, the cost  
and produce of the farm being given, together  
with the drainage of a portion of it.

2. A canal lock with a reinforcement and split hoist.

3. A plan of section of river gates, any plan may be adopted  
with bridge.

II - Class

Cours de mécanique - 2 ans - 2 ans.

Cours de mécanique 1<sup>er</sup> et 2<sup>ème</sup> ans - 12 ans

Please keep this as I would like to refer to it when I come over.

Examen de navigation intérieure 27 jan.

Cours de grand voilier en plein, 20 jan - 2 ans

Examen de points 21 feb.

Cours de navigation intérieure 20 jan - 12 ans

Examen de machines à vapeur 9 mars

Examen de manoeuvres 29 mars

\* The mechanics course of the subject of the  
practice.

I<sup>re</sup> Classe.

Concours de navigation intérieure \* 3 nov - 2 dec.

Concours d'hydraulique agricole <sup>o</sup> 3 dec - 27 dec.

Manipulation chimique (programme) 7 dec  
(I<sup>re</sup> opération) (concours) 10 dec.

Architecture † 28<sup>dec.</sup> - 29 jan.

Examen de Travaux maritimes 7 jan.

Concours de pont métallique † 29 jan - 2 mars

(Examen de Droit administratif 6 feb.)

Concours de Travaux maritimes 3 mars - 7 avril

Examen Chemins de fer 7 mars

Manipulations chimique (programme) 7 mars  
(concours) 10 mars

Concours de fortification 7 avril - 12 avril

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\* This is a design for a canal lock.

<sup>o</sup> Design of arrangement of farm buildings, the extent & produce of the farm being given; together with the drainage of a portion of it.

† An Ecole with a semi-circular amphitheatre.

† ~~Below~~ A section of river given; any plan may be adopted for the bridge.