

The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON Papers

to the cotton patch and corn-field school. The say that they are not got the money to send their childrens to school like the white peoples are. My occupation are engineer at the saw-mill of this Institution. I try to learn all I can a bout it. I am going to the night school now, and I truly hope that I will be success as som of the night class did least year, som of them by hard studing mad the middle class. I myself expect to study hard to learn my lessons. I have a good teacher, Mr. B. T. W. he labors hard with his class. Dear friend. I can't express my thinks to you for paying my scholarshipe I intend to make good youth of my time with the helpe of god. My god blest you through all the jouney of your life, and the end of your last houre God will say com my good and faithful servant where was prepare for you from the foundation of the world. Yours Respectfully

Edward Sugg

[*Endorsement*]

Edward Sugg, the writer of this letter, is one of the students who works in the day and goes to night school in order that he may earn money to pay his board bills in day school next year. This is the second year that this young man has been working out earning money and at the same time learning the engineer's trade. He has learned very fast and is now in charge of the "Corliss Engine" here. His opportunities for schooling have been few. He is one of the most faithful and earnest in the night school. He will enter the day school next year with mon[e]y enough to pay his board bills for two or three years.⁵ He is about twenty eight years of age.

B. T. Washington, teacher

ALS and AES George H. Corliss Papers RPB.

¹ George Henry Corliss (1816-81) launched his manufacturing career with the development of an improved machine for sewing boots. In 1848 he and two partners formed the corporation Corliss, Nightingale and Company to manufacture a steam engine incorporating a valve system that was revolutionary in its conservation of steam and fuel. As president of the firm, incorporated as the Corliss Engine Company in 1856, Corliss directed all business activity, including legal defense of patent rights. He served in the Rhode Island General Assembly (1868-70) and was a Republican presidential elector in 1876. In 1879 Corliss helped move Hampton's program beyond farming by donating a sixty-horsepower engine and boiler, a gift valued at \$4,000. On BTW's first fund-raising tour in the Northeast for Tuskegee, following the 1881-82 school term, Corliss donated \$10. He later became one of the school's most important contributors.

² George C. Sugg was listed in the census of 1860 for Edgecombe County, N.C.,