

MAY · 1881

³ Pablo or Paul Rios, a seventeen-year-old Papago, proved too violent-natured for Hampton. He was returned home in 1883 and died the following year.

⁴ Benjamin Stago, an Apache, age thirteen, attended Hampton from 1881 to 1884. His record following his return home was erratic. He served as teacher and interpreter but also spent time in jail and was reputedly a drunkard.

Samuel Chapman Armstrong
to George Washington Campbell¹
and Other Trustees of Tuskegee Normal School

[Hampton, Va.] May 31 81

Gentlemen Yours of the 24th is recd.

The only man I can suggest is one Mr. Booker Washington a graduate of this institution, a very competent capable mulatto, clear headed, modest, sensible, polite and a thorough teacher and superior man. The best man we ever had here.

I am satisfied he would not disappoint you.

He cannot well be spared till Oct. 1st.

Could you give him time and how much?

Are the buildings all ready?

Is the appropriation one to be depended on from year to year?

Is his being colored an objection?²

He can find first³ colored assistants.

I am confident he would not disappoint you.

I know of no white man who would do better.

He has been teaching in this institution the past year & I am ready to promote him because he so richly deserves it.

I go to Europe on the 10th June.

Please answer by night telegram⁴ at my expense if satisfactory; also by letter promptly. Yours respectfully

S C Armstrong

ALpS Armstrong Letterbooks President's Office Vault ViHaI.

¹ George Washington Campbell, an ex-slaveowner and leading citizen of Tuskegee, joined the board of trustees following Thomas B. Dryer's retirement due to illness in the spring of 1881. A fifty-two-year-old merchant and banker, Campbell remained a trustee throughout his life, serving Alabama as one of three commis-