

The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON Papers
To [James Fowle Baldwin Marshall]

Hartford Ct. June 22/82

Dear Gen'l: I was in Norwich a few days ago. Mr. Pierce¹ took me to see Mr. Slater² who knew about our work at Tuskegee and was very much interested in it. He kept me at his house about half an hour, explained all about his fund, and showed me a few of the hundreds of letters which he is receiving from all over the world. He says that he thinks Tuskegee stands a fair chance for some of his fund, though none of it will be paid out for a year.

Have seen Phelps, Dodge and Co.³ of N.Y. and they are going to ship the tin roof at once.

I feel confident that they are going to donate it. They would not let me pay for it, but said if there was anything to pay on it they would let us know in the future.

I took them a letter from Mr. Monroe⁴ of Southport.

Every thing is quite encouraging and we feel confident that all the money for the building is now sure except a few hundred which we will probably get soon.

Will be by Hampton next week. Yours faithfully

Booker T. Washington

ALS BTW Folder President's Office Vault ViHaI. Docketed "R&A June 25" in Marshall's hand.

¹ Moses Pierce.

² John Fox Slater (1815-82) was the son of John Slater, who had brought the secrets of British textile machinery to the United States around 1804. Slater successfully invested his inheritance, amassed a fortune, and two years before his death created the John F. Slater Fund for Negro Education.

³ The founding of Phelps, Dodge and Company in 1832 climaxed the business career of Anson Greene Phelps (1781-1853), a merchandizer and importer of tin plate and other metals. Under the leadership of Phelps and his son-in-law William Earl Dodge (1805-83), the firm diversified into manufacturing, mining, and railroad enterprises. A devout Presbyterian and a philanthropist, Phelps supported missionary work and Negro colonization efforts. Dodge, a former congressman, was well known for philanthropic work associated with religion and temperance. He also served on the board of trustees of the John F. Slater Fund.

⁴ Probably Elbert B. Monroe, who was a Hampton trustee. Serving on the boards of trustees for some thirty organizations, including the American Missionary Association, Monroe donated liberally to the building program at Hampton Institute. On this trip he donated \$25 to Tuskegee, and his wife donated \$10.