

The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON Papers

To R. R. Varner

[Tuskegee, Ala.] Jan. 6 [188]6

Dear Sir: I meant to have seen you before you left but failed to do so.

My object in writing is to know if you are willing to sell all or apart of the lots in front of the Normal School. We shall not need to use the rooms much longer and when we give them up I should rather buy the houses and land than to have them occupied by a mean class of people. If you are willing to sell please state your lowest price and best terms. Yours &c.

B. T. Washington

ALpS Con. 91 BTW Papers DLC.

To John Mercer Langston¹

[Tuskegee, Ala.] Jan. 14 [188]6

My dear Sir: Some days ago I sent a letter to you, directed to Washington concerning the subject about which I now write.

We are very anxious to have you deliver the annual address at our next Commencement (Thurs. May 28).

Some weeks ago I wrote Prof. Greener² to write or speak to you concerning the matter and he wrote that he had done so or would do so.

Prof. Greener delivered the address for us year before last and is well acquainted with the character and work of our institution. Prof. J. C. Price of N.C. spoke for us at our last Commencement. If necessary you can refer to either him or Prof. Greener.

This is the State Normal School and we have made it a point every Commencement to have a large representation of both races from all parts of the state. With the leading whites and colored people present much has been done on these occasions towards shaping public sentiment.

Both races in this part of the South want to see and hear you and I am sure that by coming here you can accomplish much good.

Your traveling expenses charges &c we are willing to meet.