

FEBRUARY · 1886

industrial education in the same way that Northern people do. The special object of the meeting will be to get the colored people to contribute enough to fit up a *good* blacksmith's shop here. Last year we held a meeting of the kind and had about 700 present. The State Supt and several prominent whites were present and spoke. At the meeting this year we expect to have the Gov. present. The people contributed quite liberally at the other meeting.

My object in writing is to ask if it will be possible for you to be present and speak at the next meeting. You would have a *very large* audience and I know great good would be done in the way of stirring our people up to the importance of trying to help *themselves*. Shall be glad to hear early as we want to print the programmes &c. Yours &c.

B. T. Washington

ALS OFH. This letter was enclosed with a note from Atticus Greene Haygood to Rutherford B. Hayes, dated Jan. 18, 1886. Haygood wrote: "Dear Mr. Hayes: There is promise of fruit. Read the inclosed. You need not return it. The writer is a colored man — doing admirably at Tuskegee. I accept of course." (Both letters are in Rubin, *Teach the Freeman*, 1:169-70.)

To Solomon Palmer

[Tuskegee, Ala.] Feb 2 [188]6

Private

Dear Sir: Please do not think me bold in what I am about to write. I simply mean to try to do good.

I am sure that I represent the feelings of the colored teachers in the county when I say that we hope you can see your way clear to the appointment of Col. Pinkard¹ as Co. Supt. of Education for Macon Co. He has fitness for the office and we all feel that in his hands the free schools will prosper.

Whatever is done we certainly hope and pray that no such misfortune shall befall our county as to have a merchant made Co. Supt. No one knows better than you that there is only one in a hundred that has any training or qualifications for such an office.

I think I understand pretty well the feelings of the leading whites