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to see the Gov.<sup>2</sup> and keep him quiet till summer. We are all in good spirits, and hope to see everything come out all right. Yours sincerely

Wm B. Paterson

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<sup>1</sup> Probably the *Baptist Herald*, a black weekly published in Montgomery.

<sup>2</sup> Thomas Seay (1846-96), born in Hale County, Ala., studied at Southern University until he volunteered for the Confederate Army at the age of seventeen. After the war he returned to Southern University and graduated in 1867. Admitted to the bar in 1869, he was elected to the Alabama Senate in 1876. He quickly rose to a position of leadership among conservative Democrats and was chosen president of the Senate in 1884. Elected governor of Alabama in 1886 and 1888, Seay continued the policy of his predecessors in reducing taxes, but warned in 1890 of further reductions, stressing the need for more expenditures for education. BTW considered Seay a "friend and champion of the Negro's rights" and "the best friend the Negro race ever had" (quoted in Bond, *Negro Education in Alabama*, 209), and Tuskegee continued to receive state aid and kind words from the statehouse. In 1890 Seay was one of the first prominent Alabamians to propose a disfranchising convention in the face of the rising Populist movement in Alabama. Like many white conservatives, he favored restricting suffrage not on the basis of race but upon educational and property qualifications. Seay ran for the U.S. Senate in 1890 but was defeated by James M. Pugh. He retired to his farm in Greensboro and died six years later.

### From Samuel Chapman Armstrong

Hampton, Va., March 9 1887

Dear Mr Washington: I returned last Sunday safely. My return home from New Orleans was quick & rather tiresome but I saw a great deal.

I cannot but send you a word of thanks for & appreciation of your & your wifes kindness to me in Tuskegee. You gave up your sitting room for me & did everything to make it pleasant for me. Your work is on a good solid foundation and I believe it will stand. You are working out this problem of self help thoroughly and I think it will be a success.

Your problem is to make not only men but nature bloom out & the whole region around you will yet be changed as new ideas are taken up. Please remember me to all the teachers & believe me Yours very truly

S. C. Armstrong

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