

APRIL · 1887

begins July 6. I think \$100. will cover all expenses. The tuition is \$50. Will you on the certainty that I shall be able in a few months to return it advance the money?

I have now something that I wish to tell you which I am sure will call out your sympathy with us. We expect to welcome to our home next month a little stranger. Owing to the fact that there is no physician here in whom we place confidence it has been decided that it is best for me to go away from home till after my confinement. I am to come to Boston to the New England hospital. I leave here about the 20th inst. and shall drop you a card as soon as possible after my arrival. In the meantime you can write here as mail will be forwarded if it does not come before I leave. I bring our little girl, Portia, to remain with friends in B. till I am well again. The expense of all this — though much smaller than I dared hope, the entire charge at the hospital being only \$20. — will make such inroads upon our small savings that this other must be given up but for this help from an unexpected quarter.

The school prospers in all its departments. We enjoyed Gen Armstrong's visit so much. I fear from what I hear of his work in Boston, that he is doing too much — in the present condition of his health.

The season is very beautiful here now. With all good wishes, I am
Yours Very Sincerely

Olivia D. Washington

ALS Con. 17 BTW Papers DLC.

¹Mary Elizabeth Preston Stearns, born in Norridgewock, Me., in 1821, was the niece of abolitionist author Lydia Maria Francis Child (1802-80) and frequented transcendentalist circles in the 1830s and 1840s. In 1843 she married George Luther Stearns (1809-67), a wealthy Boston businessman and abolitionist who financially aided John Brown in Kansas and was one of the "secret six" who backed Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry. He was an active supporter of Radical Republican causes during and after the Civil War. After his death Mrs. Stearns continued her husband's interest in aiding blacks, though with none of his flair for action, probably due in part to her ill health and her reliance on homeopathy as a cure. She contributed financially to institutions devoted to educating freedmen, including Hampton and Tuskegee, and aided Negroes individually, including Olivia Davidson. She died on Nov. 28, 1901, leaving a bequest to Tuskegee. Mrs. Stearns, who had known John Brown well, was by her deathbed request "buried on December 2, day of execution of John Brown, to whose memory the day had been kept sacred for many years in her household." (DeLong, Wright, and Clark, "Mrs. George Luther Stearns," 21-22.)

²Dudley Allen Sargent (1849-1924) was assistant professor of physical training at Harvard University. A graduate of Bowdoin College and Yale Medical School,