

MAY · 1887

appointed U.S. Commissioner of Education in 1886 by President Cleveland. He resigned in 1889 upon the election of President Harrison.

⁴ C. H. Burrage of Boston, treasurer of the American Unitarian Association.

⁵ Scholarships.

From J. L. H. Watkins¹

B'ham, April 24th 1887

Dear Sir. I received your letter, and intended to answer before this. I have made three efforts to see Mayor Lane.² Each one was unsuccessful. I intended to get him to refer me to some of the prominent citizens. I will call on him again to-morrow. I will immediately write you the results. Excuse a more lengthy letter. Write more to-morrow or day after. With regards, I am your friend,

J. L. H. Watkins

I think the citizens here will favor having the school established here.

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¹ J. L. H. Watkins, a black man living in Birmingham, worked for BTW's interests in attempting to bring the colored university to Birmingham. He tried unsuccessfully to obtain a public-school teaching position in Birmingham.

² Alexander Oscar Lane, mayor of Birmingham from 1882 to 1892, was born in 1848 in Macon County. He moved to Birmingham in 1873 to practice law and rose quickly to political prominence. In 1880 he became editor of *Iron Age*. He served five successive two-year terms as Birmingham's mayor. In 1907 he was appointed associate judge of the Alabama tenth judicial circuit, and in 1911 was named one of the three commissioners of Birmingham under a new municipal charter.

From Arthur L. Brooks¹

Tuskegee, Ala. 5/2 1887

Dear Sir. Whilst in Montgomery I saw Patterson. He came over to see Seay,² but as the Governor was out of town I don't know whether he got to see him or not. He seems anxious to have Commissioners³ appointed *at once* in order that he may proceed against them by injunctions.