

*The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON Papers*

He is confident of success, but says he will try & get an opinion from the Attorney General to the effect that the bill is unconstitutional; in that event, he thinks the Governor will not appoint at all, but let the School remain in *statu quo*. I think now I will run down to Montgomery this week and view the situation. If any thing is likely to occur will wire you.

A L Brooks

ALS Con. 85 BTW Papers DLC. Addressed to BTW in New York.

<sup>1</sup> Arthur L. Brooks, a forty-one-year-old native of Tuskegee, was an attorney, the publisher of the *Macon Mail*, and had been county superintendent of schools. He was elected to the Alabama House in 1880 and introduced the bill that established Tuskegee Normal School. In 1883 he won a seat in the Alabama Senate, and he continued to use his influence for Tuskegee Institute.

<sup>2</sup> Thomas Seay, governor of Alabama.

<sup>3</sup> Presumably the eight trustees of the newly created Alabama Colored People's University, who, according to House Bill 902, were to be appointed by the governor. Paterson apparently felt threatened by the bill, which abolished his school and created the new university.

From Arthur L. Brooks

Montgomery, [ca. May 3, 1887]<sup>1</sup>

Dear sir. I came down last night and saw Governor Seay only a few minutes. He was just in the act of leaving for Mobile on a fishing frolic — hence I had only a short conversation with him, but he told me that he would defer appointing commissioners two weeks or till your return. He returns to-night at which time I'll see him again.

If any thing should occur, will wire you. Yours Truly

A L Brooks

P. S. *Sub rosa*, since writing the above, I have had a conversation with Palmer.<sup>2</sup> He says that Seay told him that he (Seay) was in favor of Birmingham — that he had heard about our school, and that it would never do to locate the University here. P thinks we can carry our point.

A L B.

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