

The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON Papers

Rev. F. M. Peterson is one of Greensboro's *best* white men. A very conscientious man, and will do just what *he* thinks is right, regardless of others. He is a Methodist minister, and one of the faculty of The Southern University, at this place. If you can convince him that this school will benefit the *race* more at Birmingham, he will be on your side. He thinks it should go where it will do the *most good*. I think I succeeded in making a favorable impression on him for Tuskegee.

All well — would be glad to hear from you at any time. Your Friend,

S. A. Christian

ALS Con. 1 BTW Papers ATT.

¹ S. Alexander Christian, a white merchant of Greensboro, Ala., reported in the 1880 census as thirty years old.

² Francis Marion Peterson, Jr. (1854-1908), professor of ancient languages at Southern University and a member of the newly appointed board of trustees for the colored normal school. The son of a prominent Greensboro physician and Southern University trustee, Peterson graduated from Southern with a B.D. degree in 1874 and became a Methodist minister. He traveled the Alabama circuit for four years, then served on the Southern University faculty from 1877 to 1899 and as president of the Alabama Girls Industrial School from 1899 until 1907.

From E. J. Carter

Talladega, Ala., July 3, '87

Dear Friend I received your letter a few days ago, and noted the contents. Dr. Otts¹ was away when I received yours but returned day before yesterday evening. I went to see him yesterday morning and had a long talk with him about the location of the university. I have done what I could againts Montgomery for your sake, and for the sake of the race. Do you know that the white people are thinking about uniting your school with the other university? If you don't know it, I will tell you they are and they intend to make Mr. Patterson the Principal. The governor is not allowing the Negro the chance of a dog in this matter, but let us work and wait. I hope you will be as unmovable as the everlasting mountain. Both Republican and democrat are trying to keep the Negro behind them, but God is leading on the army and if we will be led by him he will "carry us through." You have done a good work since you have come to Ala., and have thus planted yourself