

The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON Papers

From William Hooper Councilll

Huntsville Ala Sept. 3rd 1887

My dear sir & brother: Please accept my sincere thanks for your kind and sympathetic letter of 31st ult. I have received such from many other prominent and patriotic friends. I had not planned an early visit to Montgomery, but if it would be to my interest I can meet you there at any time. I suppose that you know that I foolishly put *all* of my money in the work here. Now, I have not ten dollars, hence you see how necessary it is for me to go very slowly. As to my "plans & prospects": My troubles and the result, alone, have had my attention. I have formed no plans & have no prospects — it is very dark indeed. I do not know which way to turn. I suppose I will gather my wits soon. Cant you kindly suggest something?¹ I am proud of the manner in which the colored here & elsewhere have expressed their sympathies. But our people are poor and can go little further than "feel sorry" for ones troubles and misfortunes.

I am expecting every day a decision in my case before the Interstate Commission.² That suit cost me \$976.70. I have received about \$75. aid. Selma sent \$30, Judge Gibbs³ \$25. Hunts Lodge \$8.00, I.O.I.⁴ so far \$13. The Commission will not award damages, but I am sure that Southern Railroads will be forced to treat Colored passengers as they do white ones.

Miss Wise,⁵ although re-elected, refused to come. Miss Shoecraft was also re-elected. She is expected. I cant see how Mr. Clark⁶ got the consent of his manhood to accept the place. When you thoroughly understand this affair of June 4 & the subsequent persecution, you will be utterly astounded at his coming here.

Several of our students will attend Tuskegee this year, I think.

My kindest regards & best wishes. Yours truly

W H Councilll

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¹ The letterhead of his stationery four months later (Councilll to BTW, Jan. 11, 1888) indicates that Councilll supported himself during his year's absence from the presidency of Alabama A & M College by lecturing, practicing law, and operating a teachers' employment bureau.

² In May 1887, Councilll asked the Interstate Commerce Commission to award him \$25,000 damages "and such other relief as it may deem proper" from the