

The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON Papers

in the dining room. In addition he has made use of and circulated very vulgar and filthy language. We have made the most searching investigation and find that these charges are true beyond a shadow of a doubt although he denies all except the fighting. I have in my possession proof of the most substantial character. The pain at being compelled to take this action cannot be greater to you [than] to me, but our school must be kept clean [and] pure. We cannot keep in school for an instant a student who would be guilty of using [or] circulating the language he has used. My action has not been hasty. I have taken plenty of time to investigate in the matter. You owe the school \$13.10 for his board up to the present. This includes \$1.65 to pay his way to Montgomery. This I hope you will send at once. Yours Truly,

B. T. Washington

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¹ William Bateman of Montgomery, Ala., entered the preparatory class at Tuskegee Institute in 1887.

From Celia Smith

Malden, W. Va. March 6th [1888]

Dear Sir. I have not rec'd my box yet. Mr. Parrish has written three or four times for it, and got no answer, only once. He told them to send it to Malden. I have suffered for my clothes. The receipt said *Charlestown*. If it comes back to Ala. let me know. I will have to come to Ala. to see about it if I don't soon hear from it. Give my love to Portia. Tell me where I can find out about my box. I do not want to come there about my box, but I cannot afford to loose it. I am not able to work. I wrote to you a long time ago, have not heard from you. No more,

Celia Smith

P.S. The Depot Agent of Malden sent to me to know who sent it, and to whom it was sent. I told him plain. Write to me at once about it. I am uneasy about it.

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