

The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON Papers

should be taught, & many of the men, under the kind & wise supervision of Lieut. Wotherspoon¹ specially detailed by the Sec. of War, are forming habits of industry & civilization. I am in constant correspondence with one of the Teachers, & think I know the truth of the situation.

Any one is at liberty to visit the School, though no Indian child can ever be "shown off" in the presence of a stranger.

You can judge how anxious I am to have this terrible temptation of liquor removed from their immediate neighborhood. It is unreasonable to expect them to resist it, (altho' some of them have done so) & of what use is it, to teach the Children reading & writing, if they are to be dragged down by examples of intoxication!

Assuring you again that what you have done for these poor prisoners will be highly appreciated by the Mass. Indian Assn,² I am Yours, with many thanks,

Elizabeth L. Bullard

I enclose my ch'k to save time & hope you will find no difficulty in cashing it.

ALS Con. 3 BTW Papers ATT. Original destroyed.

¹ William Wallace Wotherspoon (1850-1921), an army officer who commanded a company of troops at Mt. Vernon Barracks, Ala., from 1889 to 1894. He was in charge of 500 Apache prisoners of war, including Geronimo. Wotherspoon served with the Twelfth Infantry in the Philippines for more than three years beginning in 1899 and eventually attained the rank of major general.

² The Massachusetts Indian Association, organized in 1883, had 1,150 members in 1891. Its special work was an Apache school at Mt. Vernon Barracks, Ala. Established in 1890, it reported at the end of the first year that the Indian boys had requested haircuts. "The amount of barbarism cut off with those elf-locks can hardly be over-estimated. The love of savage decoration, the warrior's grasp of the scalp-lock, the wild unkempt scorn of civilization, all fell before those scissors, and a new vista of progress is unveiled." (Women's National Indian Association, *Annual Report, 1891*, 11-12.)

To the Editor of the *Montgomery Advertiser*

Tuskegee, Ala., Feb. 5, 1891

Editor Advertiser: The report in your Wednesday's paper was calculated to do me injustice regarding the speech I made before the colored