

JANUARY · 1890

To Emily Howland¹

Tuskegee, Ala., Jan. 15, 1890

Dear Madam; The box of magazines you so kindly sent us has been received. These are of much service to us. Our Library has not very much Classical Literature and the reading matter contained in these magazines are of double interest to us. The young men of the Rhetorical Classes were very much delighted to get the Forum.² I hope that you will accept our most grateful thanks for your interest in us and your kindness toward us. We have had a great many books given us this year and we feel grateful to all of the friends who have contributed to our Library. Yours Truly

B. T. Washington
Per M.

HLSr Emily Howland Papers NN-Sc. Miss Howland had written to BTW about the shipment of magazines. BTW turned the matter over to Margaret Murray, writing: "Miss Murray: Please attend this and write her after box comes." (Howland to BTW, Dec. 4, 1889, Con. 95, BTW Papers, DLC.)

¹ Emily Howland (1827-1929) was born in Sherwood, N.Y., of Quaker parents. Her father, Slocum Howland, was a farmer and wool merchant who was a Garrisonian abolitionist. Emily Howland never married and devoted her long life to a variety of causes, including abolitionism, women's rights, black education, temperance, civil liberties, and prevention of cruelty to animals. Before the Civil War her home was a station on the Underground Railroad. She was active in the Women's Christian Temperance Union and was a longtime co-worker with Susan B. Anthony for women's rights. She taught black girls in Washington, D.C., before the Civil War (1857-59), and during the war she directed a large refugee camp for freedmen in the District of Columbia. A model of the kind of white philanthropist who sought to make Reconstruction workable, she helped several black families settle on some of her father's land in Westmoreland County, Va. There she founded and supported a school for many years. She was also active in business and served as the first woman director of the National Bank of Aurora, N.Y., for more than thirty years. She was a regular contributor to Tuskegee for many years, usually donating \$500 annually and often supplementing this amount with scholarships. She was a warm supporter of BTW until his death in 1915. At the time of his Atlanta address in 1895 she wrote BTW expressing her belief that it was of major significance and was "the true word fitly spoken." She believed that the World's Columbian Exposition of 1892-93 was a turning point in the women's rights struggle and that the Atlanta Exposition also marked a change for the better for blacks in America. (Howland to BTW, Sept. 26, 1895, below.)

² *The Forum*, a monthly journal published from 1886 to 1950, presented various sides of controversial issues in a symposium format.