

OCTOBER · 1894

The above will comprise a State Board, to convene at the call of the Chief Commissioner to formulate plans and inaugurate all the machinery required for the purpose, under the direction of a *Central Board* to be composed of the Chief Commissioners of all the States, who will meet in Atlanta and formulate the general plans, and issue such instructions and information as may be necessary.

Trusting that you will fully appreciate the importance of this work, and will enter into it with the energy and enthusiasm it demands,
Very respectfully,

C. A. Collier President
J. R. Lewis Secretary

TLS Con. 112 BTW Papers DLC.

An Address at the Funeral of Mabel Wilhelmina Dillingham

[Augusta, Me., ca. Oct. 17, 1894]¹

THE STARTING OF THE CALHOUN SCHOOL

It was some four years ago, I think, that I was on a visit to the Hampton Institute. I had told the students there something about the condition of my people in the black belt of the South. Miss Dillingham and Miss Thorn came to me the next day, stating that they had made up their minds to spend the remainder of their lives in the South in work for the uplifting of my race. They wanted me to help them, if possible, to find the place where the people were most in need, and where they could accomplish the greatest good. Very soon after my return to Tuskegee I set about looking up such a place, and my mind was very soon attracted to Lowndes Co., Alabama, because I remembered that of all the counties in the state, that county perhaps had the largest proportion of colored people.

I very soon decided that this county was the best place and that Calhoun would perhaps be the most suitable spot for the location of the school they proposed to found. I wrote to them, and very soon came back enthusiastic and grateful replies, saying that they were ready, they were willing and they were thankful for the opportunity.