

MAY · 1895

who give to us do so because they want to see you go out into these communities and give your lives, talents and education and everything else to the upbuilding of these people.

Are you willing to do that?

Tuskegee Student, 9 (May 3, 1895), 1, 3.

¹ Abner Beecher Jackson, a graduate of Tuskegee in 1890, became the principal of the Jackson Enterprise School in Newville, Ala.

² John Henry Michael, who graduated from Tuskegee in 1892, was superintendent of industries at Mt. Meigs Colored Institute, Waugh, Ala., from 1892 to 1895, when he went to a similar position in the Slater Industrial Academy in Winston-Salem, N.C.

³ Marcus Whitman (1802-47).

From Daniel Coit Gilman

Baltimore, Md. May 9, 1895

Dear Sir: In a recent conversation with one of the Trustees of the Slater Fund, Mr. William E. Dodge, he spoke to me of two matters pertaining to the welfare of the colored race of the South, and suggested that I should write to you in regard to them. The first is the tendency of the Negroes to borrow money on their land and other property, often at exorbitant rates, and usually by mortgaging their property to foreigners. Second, the tendency, in some parts of the country, to revert to uncivilized and almost barbarous methods of life, or at least to ignorant and superstitious religious practices.

We raise the question whether a well-chosen colored man, of intelligence and tact, might not get at the facts by visiting certain regions and gathering information which cannot be brought out by any of the usual processes of statistical inquiry.

Will you regard this letter as confidential, and let me know what your impressions may be? Yours truly

D C Gilman

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