

The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON Papers

of Tuskegee. Like BTW, Paterson took pride in the number of his graduates who became teachers and artisans. (Dabney, *Universal Education in the South*, 2:439-43.)

² The Morrill Act of 1890 provided subsidies to states for agricultural college education. This was often confused at the time with the Hatch Act of 1887, which provided federal funds for state agricultural experiment stations.

From Robert Charles Bedford

Montgomery Ala Sep 2 1890

Dear Prof Your kind letter came this morning. I wrote a card yesterday as Mrs Bedford had told me of Mr Garner's¹ statement that you were sick. I am glad to know that you are up. Many of the best members of the church still think it wrong for me to leave them. A meeting is called for Monday night Sep 8 to consider the matter but the discussion over the coming of a colored minister not only greatly unsettles things and impairs my usefulness but makes my work unpleasant and hard. The AMA wish me to continue in their service which I have agreed to do provided a suitable arrangement can be made between us. In the present great and growing needs of the South in every direction I cannot feel that it is right that I should give up my 8 years of experience. I certainly do not want to and I confidently expect the right path will open for me and my hand and voice will still be permitted to labor where my heart so truly is. Personally I am greatly attached to this church but my conviction is very strong that there will be no real peace till they have tried a colored minister. Mr Jackson² is at Selma well qualified having graduated from Talladega and Oberlin and has had nothing to do since leaving school. I expect he will be sent here. Many of the people are acquainted with him and like him.

I greatly sympathize with you in your constantly increasing responsibilities and for your sake alone, were it not for the suffering of the church I would not think of leaving here. Strange as it may seem and unwilling as I am to believe it yet I fear it is true that the severest charge brought against me and that by colored people who claim great "race pride" is the kindly spirit I have so innocently borne to Tuskegee, Mt Meigs, and all other schools and churches outside of the city that have asked my help while I have not had less of the same feeling for all the churches and schools in the city. I do not want