

*The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON Papers*

ALS OFH. On the letter Hayes wrote: "Perhaps the ablest and most useful Colored man in the Country — Certainly a most worthy man. H."

<sup>1</sup> Rutherford Birchard Hayes (1822-93), former president of the United States, spent his last years working for various humanitarian causes. He was president of the National Prison Association (1883-93), the first president of the board of trustees of the John F. Slater Fund (1882-93), and a member of the board of the Peabody Education Fund.

From Theophile Tarence Allain<sup>1</sup>

Soulouque P.O., La., Nov. 2nd 1890

My Dear Friend: Enclosed, please find a letter from my good old friend Prof. W. D. Godman, of Gilbert Seminary La. who wishes me to send my son Theophile<sup>2</sup> back to his Seminary. But, I have selected you and your school for many reasons.

1st I believe that my present work in building 1000 and hundreds of thousands cubic yards of Levees on the banks of the Mississippi River, in this day and time — will compare favorably with the record of any colored man in the Republic — and therefore I propose to leave a business record behind my boys, if, and I do hope that they will have brains enough to appreciate that fact.

Now, I would like for you to get the *credit* of training my son Theophile.

If he has in him any of the qualities of his mother, you will be able to do some thing with — as to myself, I have not been a good and virtuous man all of my life.

Accept for yourself and all at the normal school my perfect consideration.

Theophile T. Allain

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<sup>1</sup> Theophile Tarence Allain, Sr., was born in west Baton Rouge Parish, La., in 1846. He was educated in Somerset County, N.J., but returned to Louisiana as a sugar planter in Iberville Parish. In 1870 he owned a 790-acre sugar plantation valued at \$15,000, employed thirty-five laborers, and produced 7,000 hogsheads of sugar, 4,000 gallons of molasses, and other farm produce valued at \$14,400. (Census of 1870, Productions of Agriculture, Iberville Parish, La., RG29, DNA.) Allain was not only a large-scale businessman but a leader in Louisiana politics. He served in the Louisiana House in 1873-74 and the Louisiana Senate from