

NOVEMBER · 1890

1874 until 1882. He also represented Iberville Parish in the state constitutional convention in 1879, where he led in the founding of Southern University for blacks, the first state-supported black institution for higher education in Louisiana. For many years Allain supplemented the income from Soulouque Plantation by contracting for construction and repair of the Mississippi River levees in his area. About 1900 he moved to Chicago, where he continued his interest in politics. He became an itinerant Republican political orator among black voters in election years.

² Theophile Tarence Allain, Jr., attended Tuskegee from 1890 to 1892. He did not graduate.

From Daniel Alexander Payne

Wilberforce, O., Nov. 3, 1890

Dear Sir: I had seen the various animadversions from North, South, East and West, against your sentiments with reference to the colored ministry South; but I wished to read for myself what you had said to incense the grumblers, knowing that one can be so misrepresented through animadversions. Therefore, I wrote, asking that you send me a copy of the original article. Having read it, I must hasten to support you.

For nine winters my residence has been in the South, and this has given me ample opportunity for observing the great defects that your eight years have afforded you. In 1865 I organized the Southern work of the A.M.E. Church, having with me three well educated men, one being an Elder¹ and two Deacons — James H. A. Johnson² and T. G. Steward.³ From that period until this, some twenty-five years, I have been operating more or less in Southern fields, beginning with the Baltimore Conference on the Atlantic sea-board and running down the Gulf.

During the Governorship of Andrew Johnson, and under military protection of the Secretary of War, I opened the work of the A.M.E. Church in Nashville, Tenn., which has since spread to New Orleans, that city having been previously embraced in the connection. As long as I could lead here, there and elsewhere, the demand was for well educated Christian ministers. But other leaders demanded numbers regardless of education. They called for quantity and not for quality, forgetting the historic fact that twelve well qualified men were suffi-