

FEBRUARY · 1896

From Elliston Perot Morris¹

Philad[elphia] 2 mo 6. 1896

Dear Friend I am very glad to know of thy proposed visit to Philada, and shall hope that we may meet at that time. My immediate object in writing this is to speak relative to Friends Freedmens Assn work at Christiansburg Va. I hope this may reach thee in time to allow thy route north, being so arranged, that thee may stop *there*, on the way, and be able to give our Board some late information of the work being done, and to consult with us at a meeting of the Board to be called whilst thee is in the City, so that we can more intelligently decide on our future efforts. As I doubt not this may entail some *additional* outlay, I will add that our association will wish to return it.

The School is not as large as formerly, and we do not understand its great falling off since 1st of the year as shown by our last report — nor does the attendance, & averages seem as good as we would like. A suggestion has been made by Thweatt² that we close school a week earlier than usual, so that the Teachers might all go to Tuskegee Exercises — as they went to Atlanta & had the week before & after Christmas we hardly think it would be best to again shorten the time & expect to so write.

We sincerely wish we could see a Hampton, or a Tuskegee school at Christiansburg, with all the interest & enthusiasm of either. Are we wrong in thinking it is a neighborhood where such a school would flourish. I do sincerely hope thee will be able to stop over there, & believe a good deal of our future may depend on thy so doing. Please write me on receipt of this & say what day it would suit thee to meet with Friends Freedmens Board — we generally meet at 12.15 but wd try to have another hour if it suited thee better. Any day, but Thursday. Truly thy friend

Elliston P. Morris

ALS Con. 119 BTW Papers DLC.

¹ Elliston Perot Morris (1830-1914) was a Philadelphia Quaker philanthropist who contributed regularly to Tuskegee and was active in peace movements. He was president of the Friends' Freedmen's Association, and it was this office that brought him into frequent contact and correspondence with BTW. Founded in 1862 to aid black schools in the South, the Friends' Freedmen's Association eventually abandoned all of its educational work except that at Christiansburg Academy.