

*The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON Papers*

Becoming upset with the academy's decline, Morris asked BTW to suggest ways of improving the school. BTW recommended appointment of Charles Lives Marshall, an 1895 Tuskegee graduate, to take charge of the school in 1896. Marshall modeled it after Tuskegee, and BTW and Robert C. Bedford made frequent visits of inspection. The school took the name Christiansburg Normal and Industrial Institute.

<sup>2</sup> Hiram H. Thweatt.

From James Sullivan Clarkson<sup>1</sup>

New York, N.Y., February 7, 1896

*Personal and Private*

My dear Friend: I address you in confidence to talk a little further on the Presidential situation. Our conversation at Atlanta left a deep impression upon me, and it has been much in my thoughts since. As I said to you then, the responsibility of men like yourself and Professor Wright<sup>2</sup> and all your strong men, especially those who have been developed in the last ten years under the evolution of the great problem of human rights, is the most serious resting upon any people at this time. Others may choose lightly as to the next candidate for President. To you and your people, face to face with the fact that the new President in the next four years will largely determine in fact the solution of this problem for this generation, it is the gravest of questions and the most serious of decisions. No Federal law is now left in protection of your rights. On the temperament of the next President, on his fidelity to the doctrine of human rights, on his courage, his readiness and willingness to see every opportunity and to utilize every circumstance, depends very largely the fate of your people for this generation. An indifferent man in the White House would be even worse to you than an open foe. A man of inertia would not be a friend. You must have a man of conviction, alert, watchful, always guarding the interests of Southern Republicans and the negro race, and surrounding himself with men of similar conviction and backbone, and appointing to the Federal offices in the South men of like courage and ability and fidelity. I know the timidity of many Northern leaders on this question. When I was in the Post Office Department I found the President a courageous man, and yet, tainted with something of prejudice from his Virginia ancestry, unwilling when it came to the test to