

JANUARY · 1897

is jealous of Our Washington but they will have to get in the procession for he is their leader, and a safe one. Yrs

S. E. M.

P.S. Dont give up Tuskegee to go in McKinley cabinet. Stay with Tuskegee, & in Ala.

S. E. M

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¹ Stephen E. Moses, according to city directories, was principal of the Seventeenth Street School in Anniston, Ala., one of three black public schools in the city in 1898. His wife Della also taught in the school. Sometime after 1914 Moses relinquished the principalship to be a teacher, and in 1924, perhaps in partial retirement, he held a position as cashier of the school.

² John William Abercrombie (1866-1940) was a leading Alabama politician and educator for three decades. A graduate of Oxford College and a law graduate of the University of Alabama, Abercrombie was an Alabama state senator from 1896 to 1898. From 1898 to 1902 he was state superintendent of education, and had many contacts with BTW. He was president of the University of Alabama (1902-11), a U.S. congressman (1913-17), and an official of the Department of Labor in the Wilson administration. He was again state superintendent of education from 1920 to 1926. Though often conservative in political matters, Abercrombie was a consistent champion of educational progress.

To Timothy Thomas Fortune

Tuskegee, Ala., Jan. 16, 1897

My dear Mr. Fortune: A few days ago I sent you from some point in the West a letter containing the check to which your previous letter referred. I did not remember your post office address and so sent it to the general delivery; I hope you received it all right.

I have just gotten home and shall be here for some months.

It seems now a certain thing that Sherman¹ will be in charge of the State Department. He is as cold as an oyster and I do not think we can expect anything from him. I learned however that there is a chance of my friend, Mr. Henry White,² being connected with the State Department, perhaps as first assistant, if this is true we shall be all right as he is an excellent friend of mine. Yours truly,

Booker T. Washington

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