

SEPTEMBER · 1897

From William Burns Paterson

Montgomery, Ala. Sept 3, 1897

My dear Friend: I believe the desire to have peace and good-will between our Schools is mutual. We have mutual friends. I therefore deem it my duty to inform you that if a discussion of the work or management of the two schools comes up before my Board it is not of my doing, nor with my consent.

In a letter written this week to the Chairman of my Board, Mr. Young says "The contrast between the two schools is painfully sharp." Also that my retention in the school is a violation of well established "Southern policy." Of course you are not responsible for what he says.

Mr. Hare also, in a letter written in behalf of clients, brings up the question of "social equality" the one thread running through all the fabrications presented by Mr. Young's friends. Now you are not responsible for Mr. Hare either, but he is a Trustee of your school, and I think it poor policy for him to charge our Board with encouraging this so called "social equality" by retaining white teachers.

I confess to you that I was pleased with what you did in regard to this matter some weeks ago, and it was and is my intention to forgive and forget the offence given to me at B'gham four years ago.

I propose to bear this in mind in whatever takes place now.

I am getting old enough to love peace, but if these gentlemen want some amusement, they can have it. I am here on the ground, and know the situation.

In the meantime, I want your friendship and good-will. I want to see you prosper and am with you in every effort to make better citizens out of your people. Very truly

W. B. Paterson

ALS Con. 272 BTW Papers DLC.

From Emmett Jay Scott

Houston Texas, Sept. 4th 1897

My Dear Mr. Washington: As soon as I received your telegram from Boston, advising me that I should hear definitely from you on the