

OCTOBER • 1902

To Julian La Rose Harris¹

Tuskegee, Ala., Oct. 16, 1902

Personal and Private.

Dear Sir: First I want to thank you for your kind consideration in calling to my attention the report sent out from Boston bearing upon my daughter. It is very kind and thoughtful of you to do this.

If you do not feel that, as a newspaper, you have no right to refuse to use this matter, I very much prefer to make no statement in connection with it. I am perfectly resigned to having my public words and acts discussed, but I think you will agree with me that I ought not to be called upon to discuss in public print my family affairs. I want to state, however, for your private information, that the facts bearing upon my daughter are these: In the first place, she has finished the regular normal and industrial course at this institution, and friends of mine were anxious to have her take additional studies in order that she might further prepare herself for work here and for this reason gave the money for her to be further educated, and we at first decided to have her take a special course in music at Wellesley. She stayed there for a year taking this course and was treated with the greatest consideration and kindness by every one connected with the college. She did not, however, board in the college halls as no student who is not taking the regular course is permitted to board there. At the end of the college year at Wellesley Mrs. Washington and I decided to have her take a regular seminary course and for this reason withdrew her and sent her to Bradford Academy. The whole matter that has been sent you had its [origin] in the office of The Guardian, a colored paper published by a little clique of colored people in Boston who have always opposed my idea of industrial education and have always opposed my attitude towards the Southern white people.

Another reason why I do not want to make a statement unless it is absolutely necessary is that it would please the editors of the Guardian to have me do so. For over a year they have been trying in all kinds of ways to force me to note the mean things that they have said, but thus far I have been silent and that has hurt them worse than anything I could say. I think if you will examine the