

JUNE · 1903

I am impatient to hear something from you in reply to my several letters, as time is running on my writs of error. Very truly yours,

J. C. May

TLSr Con. 25 BTW Papers DLC.

¹ William Pickens (1881-1954), born in South Carolina, graduated from Talladega College in 1902 and from Yale in 1904. In the spring of 1903 Pickens won an oratory prize at Yale for a speech on Haiti, but in his speech he ridiculed that nation's political history and even suggested that it might have been better governed by whites. The *Guardian* attacked Pickens for "throwing down his own race." The *Guardian* was outraged when Pickens repeated the speech in Cambridge and described Pickens as "the little black freak student at Yale . . . with his enormous lips, huge mouth, and a monkey grin co-extensive with his ears." (Boston *Guardian*, May 9, 23, 1903, quoted in Fox, *Guardian of Boston*, 68-69.) Pickens was willing to prosecute the *Guardian* editors for libel, with aid from Washington and Smith, until they published an apology.

Pickens turned down an offer from Tuskegee Institute and went to Talladega from 1904 to 1914 as a teacher of Greek, Latin, and German. A member of the Niagara Movement, he became outspokenly critical of BTW after the founding of the NAACP, and this may have hastened his departure from Talladega. After teaching at Wiley College in 1914-15, he was dean of Morgan College from 1915 to 1920. He was field secretary of the NAACP from 1920 to 1942.

From Charles William Anderson

New York. June 4, 1903

Personal

My dear Doctor: Enclosed please find clippings "anent" Brooklyn Convention.¹ It was a failure. About two hundred present — principally spectators who were friendly to you. I was named on the Committee on resolutions, but withdrew last Friday, & had Chairman Gilbert² of the Arrangements Committee, name a substitute who was "one of us." I called on most of the local delegates & advised them to watch for resolutions & expressions reflecting upon you. Nearly all of those seen, were as sound as a gold dollar. I did not attend, & my club did not send delegates. Hayes disavowed any intention of exploding dynamite, and assured Gilbert that no assault would be made on any individual. Trotter of Boston, presented his resolution to committee & it was voted down, but through