

4-2-1906

Harris, W. T.

W. T. Harris

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Address all official communications to
"Commissioner of Education."

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
BUREAU OF EDUCATION,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

April 2, 1906.

C O P Y .

Dr. Booker T. Washington, A.M., LL.D.
Principal, Normal and Industrial Institute,
Tuskegee, Alabama.

Dear Sir:

I hereby acknowledge the receipt of the invitation from yourself and the Board of Trustees of the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute to be present at the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the foundation of the Institute, held from the 4th to the 6th of April, present month. I note with great pleasure also that this celebration is the occasion for a substantial increase in the endowment fund of your Institute. The memorial fund in remembrance of the late William H. Baldwin of the Long Island Railroad (a person long to be remembered for his noble efforts in behalf of educational extension) is to be turned over on this occasion to your Board of Trustees.

I have long promised myself the honor and pleasure of seeing your work at the school on its own chosen grounds in Tuskegee, and it pains me much to say that I have never carried out my confidently made plan, and it is impossible for me to be

present this week and join the celebration of one of the most successful and well conceived benevolent enterprises of the century. I have from the beginning admired your plans and the execution of them under your sure hand. You have possessed in such an eminent degree the power of sinking yourself in your work and of burning, so to speak, as a sacrifice all that is egotistic on the altar of devotion to your cause, creating a deep respect for your personality on the part of those not in particular sympathy with your cause, while you have kindled a feeling of reverence for your personality in the souls of those who have an unwavering conviction in the righteousness of your cause.

I congratulate you, Sir, and through you the Board of Trustees upon the realization of a lofty aspiration to do good to a whole people, and I congratulate you twice and thrice upon the practical wisdom and self-effacement which has secured that realization.

Hoping still for the opportunity to greet you personally at your home in the Institute which you have founded,
I am,

With highest respect and esteem,

Yours sincerely,

(signed) W. T. Harris,

Commissioner.

Tuskegee Normal & Industrial Institute

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON, PRINCIPAL
TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, ALABAMA.

April 10, 1906.

Hon. W. T. Harris,

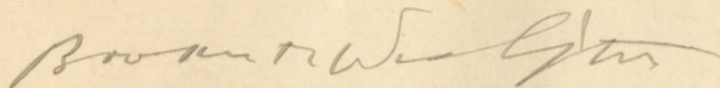
Commissioner of Education, Washington, D. C.

My dear Sir:-

Your good letter of April 2d is received, and helps and encourages us more than you can know. The generous sentiments respecting the work which we have been trying to do here during the past Twenty-five years are deeply appreciated by teachers and students alike.

Thanking you earnestly for same, and with sincere regrets that you were not able to be with us during the Anniversary season, I am,

Yours very truly,



H.

Principal.