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April 4th, 1896.

Dr. J. L. M. Curry,

Chairman of the Educational Committee of

The Trustees of the John F. Slater Fund.

Dear Sir:-

I respectfully make application to you and through you to your Honorable Board for an appropriation of \$5,000 to Atlanta University, for the year 1896-97, and ask that we may be assured of the continuance of the appropriation for at least five years to come.

There are three grounds upon which I base this application, as follows:

1. The work of Atlanta University in training teachers. As is well known, Mr. Slater, in establishing his trust, while very wisely leaving his trustees the largest liberty as to the means to be used, ventured to make only one suggestion and that was "the training of teachers from among the people requiring to be taught," and "the encouragement of such institutions as are most effectually useful in promoting this training of teachers."

Atlanta University has for twenty-seven years been pre-eminently a training school for teachers. That it has been effectually useful in promoting the training of teachers the following facts will

testify;

Fifty-eight per cent of all the living normal graduates of the Institution are now engaged in teaching, and the same percentage also of the college graduates. This means that out of 197 living normal graduates, 115 are teachers, and out of 62 living College graduates 36 are teachers. Many hundred former students who did not graduate have also been engaged in teaching. Of the unmarried female graduates of the Institution 87 per cent are teaching and even of the married female graduates 87 per cent are teaching. These teachers are found in nearly every southern state from North Carolina to Texas, and from Florida to Missouri.

The positions occupied by these teachers and the quality of their work are no less significant. For a long series of years the city of Atlanta has chosen for teachers in its colored public schools more graduates of Atlanta University than it has employed from among the graduates of all the other institutions in Atlanta or elsewhere put together. At the present time twenty-six of the forty teachers in the Atlanta colored public schools are our graduates, or 65 per cent of the whole number. The proportion has sometimes been as high as 77 per cent. Most of the principals of these schools have for many years been graduates of Atlanta University. All of these positions have been awarded to our graduates on competitive examinations and without any pressure from the authorities of the University.

In the colored Industrial College near Savannah, which is a branch of State University of Georgia, a majority of the instructors including the President have always been from among the graduates or former students of Atlanta University.

In two of our sister private institutions in Atlanta, four graduates of ours are employed as teachers, and one of these has held his position for twenty consecutive years. In our own Institution, two graduates are now employed as teachers.

In the Tuskegee ~~Normal~~ ^K ~~Institution~~ ^e, six of our graduates are found. Four of them are teachers including the Chaplain, who is also at the head of the Bible Training School established there by Miss Stokes of New York, and including also the teacher in charge of Model School. Two are wives of the Chaplain and Treasurer respectively, one of these having formerly been a prominent teacher there, and both now co-operating efficiently in the work. Mr. Booker Washington recently wrote me in these words: "The Atlanta graduates on our staff of teachers are among the best we have and we could not well get on without them."

Several summers ago I attended the meeting of the colored Georgia Teachers Association and three of the colored teachers' institutes in widely separated parts of the state. In every instance an Atlanta University graduate was presiding over the assembly and a

majority of the papers read and addresses made were by our graduates or former students. The State Teachers' Association referred to was originally organized by one of our graduates.

Rev. Dr. Boggs, Chancellor of the University of Georgia, has told me that in travelling over the State in the interest of his own institution, he has made frequent inquiries of the County School Commissioners as to the work done by our graduates in the public schools, and that he has uniformly received favorable answers, some of these commissioners saying that our graduates were doing just as good work as was done by the white teachers in the white schools. Instances have been known of these county commissioners advising their white teachers to visit the schools and institutes conducted by our graduates for the sake of the instruction to be derived from such visits.

Such, in brief, is the record of Atlanta University's success in training teachers. It is a record of definite facts and figures which cannot be controverted. Does it not clearly put the Institution far and away ahead of all others in the State of Georgia, if not in the entire south, in this particular kind of work? If there is any institution anywhere that conspicuously deserves the encouragement which Mr. Slater desired to have extended to institu-

tions most effectually useful in promoting the training of teachers, is not that one Atlanta University?

But our case is stronger still, for:

2. The second ground on which I base the present application for an appropriation is the fact that in its industrial work Atlanta University is also carrying out Mr. Slater's idea of the training of teachers.

Atlanta University was one of the first, if not the first, of southern institutions to introduce the system of manual training in wood and iron as distinct from the apprentice system used in most of the industrial schools. General Armstrong conceded our priority as regards Hampton, in the use of this method, which he subsequently adopted at Hampton, and which is now being developed there so successfully by Mr. C. C. Tucker, who had previously inaugurated it for us, and whom we failed to retain as Superintendent of our Shop chiefly because we lacked the money to develop the work as rapidly as he desired.

Yet with slender resources---a single \$7,000 building, with a \$3,000 equipment and about \$2,000 per year for running expenses---we have the following results to show:

One of our College graduates before the completion of his course of study with us, was sufficiently well trained to erect school

teachers of these arts for the masses. Nearly \$6,000 has been raised for the erection of a building for this purpose, but more is needed, and, even with the building provided, we cannot undertake the work with our present limited means.

3 The third and last ground upon which I base the present application is our poverty---the meagreness of the resources with which we are doing our great work. For many years our students have met with their cash payments from a fifth^h to a third, and over, of the current expenses of the Institution, a larger proportion than in most similar schools. But we have practically no endowment---the amount, aside from scholarship^{//} and library funds, being less than \$5,000. We receive no appropriations from any public sources or from any missionary society. Doing an undenominational work we are dependent almost wholly on benevolent friends for annual gifts, and these amount to only \$20,000 or \$25,000 a year.

In closing, I beg to thank the Trustees of the Slater Fund for the special appropriation which is being received by Atlanta University for the current^{year}, and to express the earnest hope that the present appeal may receive favorable action. I feel sure that all will agree that an Institution that has fulfilled with such pre-eminent success Mr. Slater's desire for the training of teachers, and, not only that, but has also co-operated to the extent of its ability

houses on contract, and was for a time employed as assistant instructor in our own shop, and is now Superintendent of Manual Training in Biddle University, North Carolina, one of the largest of the southern schools.

Another of our students was also sufficiently trained by us to erect a church parsonage in Atlanta, after ^{wards} became permanent instructor in our shop for several years, and is now at the head of the industrial work in the State Normal School at Hempstead, Texas.

Still another has occupied a similar position in the Georgia State Industrial College near Savannah, another in the Burrell School, of the American Missionary Association at Selma, Alabama, and another, who was graduated two years ago, is now assistant instructor in our own shop.

To this extent Atlanta University has been effectually useful in training industrial teachers. With the encouragement of more money it could be still more useful.

While our industrial work for young women has never advanced much beyond the elementary stage of instruction in cooking, sewing, nursing, etc., yet the influence of it has reached hundreds of homes among the masses. Moreover, we are planning for the most thorough and scientific and at the same time practical instruction in all household arts, with a view to sending out specially equipped

with the present policy of the Slater Board, by training a number of industrial teachers as well,- that such an institution should not be left unaided by Slater money except for the very strongest reasons.

I remain,

Very respectfully yours,

Jonas Burdick

President of Atlanta University.

Burnside