

Mr. Miss S. B. Packard
Miss H. E. Giles

Atlanta Baptist Female Seminary
35 Leonard Street

Atlanta, Ga., December 29, 1883

Mr. J. D. Rockefeller, Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Brother,

Please accept our hearty thanks for the encouragement you have given us in our work by your generous contributions; rest assured we are very grateful. We rec'd a letter today from Mrs. Pollard, stating there still remains a large sum to be raised ere we can be sure this school can retain a separate existence from the Theological Seminary, or school for boys.

Our school numbers over 400 women and girls, the largest school for the colored and this only two and ½ years old and the only one exclusively for girls in the South. These are just awaking from their life-long darkness and struggling with all their powers to get up into the light, counting no sacrifice too great if only they can be permitted to learn of Christ and His word. They do not like to lose one day even, so earnest were they to petition us to suspend our school exercises only on the 25th when it was expected we should have the same recess of ten days as the other Institutions throughout the city.

The success which has attended this school seems to us a proof of God's approval, from its very commencement of a separate school for girls. Surely if these schools are united the whole plan of Christianizing this people is thwarted. They need, most of all, virtue to be taught them and that morality is not to be divorced from religion. This can only be secured by daily instruction. We who are here and see their needs know full well that the elevation of this race depends emphatically upon the education of these women. For 'tis woman that gives tone and character to any people.

Therefore we are feeling very anxious that this property be secured to continue this a girls school. Can it be that for the lack of a few thousand dollars the Baptist denomination will suffer this school to be given up!

Can you not come to our relief and give of your abundance as God has prospered you?

Can you not make a donation that will establish this as a permanent Institution and so exercise a fostering care and heartfelt interest, that with God's help it will bring salvation to this people – Give it a name, let it if you please be called Rockefeller College, or if you prefer let it take your good wife's maiden name or any other which best suits you. Dr.

Morehouse suggests that it be incorporated at once, after the money is raised to pay for the property and have a good Board of Trustees. I wish you, with Mrs. R. would take a trip south and see the work for yourselves. Am sure you would feel as we do, that there is none comparable with this in its vastness, effecting so decidedly the destiny of this whole country, yea, and Africa as well. In this, we are evangelizing not only those in our land, sending out missionaries and teachers to chase away the ignorance and superstition that exists in America, but these also who will go to Africa to carry the blessed gospel in that land – we have those who are already preparing to go to Africa. So we are doing both home and foreign missions in the educating of this people.

May the dear Master help you to decide this question for His own glory and the highest interest of this whole land!

Pardon please this long epitaph written because, put in our own hearts – we hesitate long because already you have done so much and when we have heretofore commenced to write, have withdrawn our pen from our paper but now we come with earnest pleadings – we are sure our inspiration is from God.

We have \$2000.00 from the “Slater Fund” to help carry on our Industrial Departments. The dear Lord has set his seal upon this work in that between 40 & 50 have, as we believe, given their hearts to God since Oct. 1st.

Miss Giles desires to be remembered to you and Mrs. R.

Yours in Christs work,
S. B. Packard