

248 W. 53rd St.,

New York City,

July 19, 1916.

Dear Mrs. Matto:-

It's awfully hard, as I guess you know, when one is in a situation like this to find time to write, and I am not at all doing the writing I planned to do. I find myself so busy that when I do have a minute I try to cool off. The heat is really oppressive here and I think that is one reason why this terrible epidemic is so hard to check. Just think that in all these deaths there has been only one colored victim. I am such a infant, (for the second time) that I might be in danger were it not for my color. As it is I am doing very well.

Do you and Louise are at
your old tricks again of visiting
the parks and "Spoonling" in
the shade. How much tennis
has Lou had this summer?

Has Willard made her(?) side
yard into a court yet?

I heard from Joe yesterday
and he mentioned that Vernon
Cooper had some vacant rooms he
would like to rent and said Vernon
was going to put the proposition
up to me in the fall when I returned.
What do you think about it? Can
you see any advantages or disadvantages
in my moving? I wish you
would think about it and write
me. If you like ask Joe what
he thinks Cooper would charge
for the room and maybe for board
unless you are going to board me.

3

I have been thinking that I would ask you to take me for dinner any way even if I stayed at the Y.M.C.A. and took breakfast at the restaurant. Then too, don't forget that you have a vacant room when Louise goes that could be - well - any way you very seldom have company. Am I merely raving?

Do you know I am enjoying working here this summer. It unfolds so many possibilities to me. I want to keep coming to Columbia as long as I teach. My class mates are friendly now and my professors are very cordial. One of them is really personal and I have delightful and extremely profitable talks with him on class room problems and we don't always talk "shop" either.

It is such an atmosphere of school and kinks are just straightened out for you while you wait. (Not hair)
By the way I am enclosing a clipping for Lou. Tell her I say "every body is doing it" even the white folks.

Where is Mr. Matthews now? I want to write him and I think I shall and send the letter there. He and Mr. Shepard had some talk together here so Mr. Shepard nites me and Mr. S. is very sore on me about "some thing which he will talk to me about fully when he comes on the first of Aug." Do you think I can stand the pressure or had I better duck before he comes. Evidently he has been "oriented"

Joe writes me something about Mayme's Wedding - I was certainly surprised. Who is the gentleman and what are the particulars? Are people mentioning hearing from me? I drop a card occasionally.

How is Joe? ⁵⁻ He writes cheerfully
so he must be doing well. Give my
regards to Emer and Willie. Best
love to Lou and Mrs. Beale. Please
write very soon. I want to hear
from you.

With much love,

Albert.

N. J. School,

Durham, N.C.

July 11, 1917

Dear Mrs. Matthews:-

Yours to hand yesterday.
You poor child! I know just
how you must feel over this
situation. It was a dreadful
shock to me. I had a card from
Joe in the same mail as your
letter and I read it before I
opened your letter. It was a shock
I can hardly realize it. I suppose
poor Mrs. White is crazy. She has
had so much to suffer in the

last few months. Its terrible.
Your letter said acute indigestion
and Joe, on his card wasn't
sure. I suppose you are pretty
sure of the trouble. I wrote
Mrs. White at once as nice a
letter as I could but I must
say it was difficult to write
at all. Please write me soon
all about it.

Have the names been
published there with the numbers?
I mean the names of those who
registered? Please find out
if you can what my number
is and watch for it. I understand
that there are to be only seven days
to arrange for exemptions and I

want to get mine in at once.
Maybe you can find out whom I
can write to there. - Hal is -
who the officer or officers are of
the local exemption board. Be
too bad for me to have to go
through negligence of applying
for exemption on time and
correctly. Look out for me and write
right away.

I am so sorry you had
to go back to bed. Tell Lou I
say it was bad nursing that
did it. If she had been a watchful
musk like her mother she would

never have allowed you out
of the bed. I hope you are
all right now.

Bill - Mr. Shep's Bro. from N.Y.
was here to tell us all good-
bye before he sailed. He belongs
to the 15th New York Reg. - and
they are to sail before very long
nobody knows when. But he
got leave to come home and say
good bye.

Pool John I. Jr. has been
dropped even by his father. I
think I wrote you that he was
running the pool room for his
father, well even that has been
taken out of his hands. He talks
of going to N.Y. he is really on

his uppers and his mother is
about the only one that sticks up
to him now. Do you know I
don't blame him. I blame his
folks for lettin' him come up nothin'.
I am tryin' to finish out on
no ink in my pen. It was really
all out when I started. Best love
to Lou. The girls are plannin'
for their trip east before long
about the 1st then I will be here
all alone. It will really be
lonesome too after these great days.
I'll have to look after things for
them. I wish Joe would

come then it might help him
It would be safe for me for I know
how to be careful now. Poor Joe!
do you really think his family?

Please let me hear from
you very soon. Love to
Mrs. Bepl and Lou
Albert

July 11, 1917

Mrs. W. B. Matthews,
1720 W Chestnut St.,
Louisville, Ky.

AFTER FIVE DAYS RETURN TO

BOX 466

DURHAM, N. C.

has had a kind of bilious fever
for several days but is about
a right now I hope. Our Day is
fine. Mrs Shepard has been
here until yesterday but went to Greensboro
and comes in this evening in a few minutes.

Lida is expecting a messenger soon.
Mrs J. Jr. has left the office for rooms
better known to himself "at all", and is running
two pool rooms. His wife has just left
him she says for good this time. Don't
know any more exciting news than that.

Our rector here is to be ordained in Raleigh
Sunday but I am going up to the services
and get a look in at the girls.
We often speak of you all. Our Day thought
I was going to bring Lou with me. He was
so disappointed. They are going to ~~off~~ for
two or three weeks in August and leave
me here alone. Mother needs a trip of
some kind and of course the kids must go too.
So quiet but you would enjoy it here when
you change your mind about it. Mother will
give you some ~~of~~ carried away with tobacco and
have it up ~~down~~ the next day after I came.
I will write more next time. Write me
soon, Albert.

N. J. School,
Durham, N.C.

June 26, 1917

Dear Mrs. Matthews:-

Nearly a week home
now and I haven't yet got
used to enjoying it. Had a
fine trip down to Pullman
to Asheville and staid over night
there and got a through chair
car from there home. It was
a very pleasant trip from the
point of comfort of travel.

I have truly rested since I
have been home too. I have been
to my books some under
constant protest from mother.

but mostly I have done nothing but ask questions and find things out. Do I know how to do that? Ask Mrs. Beale?

I miss you all a great deal and when we are enjoying these good fresh vegetables every day, rich milk and cream, good butter and butter milk, cool breezes and all the rest of the enjoyables I think that that part at least you and Lou would certainly enjoy. We have an "ever-bearing" strawberry bed and get plenty of strawberries. The melons are coming on and I am looking to enjoy myself and the visit home.

Today for the first time I tried to do a little work. I rode up for the mail at 6:30 came back to breakfast and then went out to the farm man. He had me thinning out the corn in one patch, then we went in and put two loads of hay in the barn loft, got a load of pine straw from the woods for horse bedding weeded the strawberry bed. Then it was about 11:30 and I quit with a headache. The head has persisted though I slept several hours. It is now after six and I still have it, means Cascarets tonight. - Marjorie and Annie are fine. Mary

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OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Dear Mother Matto:

July 8, 1922

From now on you are to be known
as Grandmother Matto. A fine boy has
come to our house to live. Weighed
 $5\frac{1}{2}$ and is nice and plump with a
man-size voice.

Love to Lou, Mrs. Beale and Mr. Matto

Love

Albert

Superintendent of Public Instruction
State of North Carolina
Raleigh

RETURN AFTER FIVE DAYS

W. H. Robinson

July 8, '22

*Mrs. W. B. Matthews
21 21 W Chestnut St.
Louisville, Ky.*

W. H. Robinson

Great. Concordia Beale
- Aunt Lou -

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 OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Jan 20, 1923.

My dear Mrs. Matto:-

I am writing a hasty line because I never seem to have time to write decent letters to friends any more. I am in somewhat of a quandary too. Some one sent the baby a very nice bath suit that has been a joy to Mable. It came from Kaufman-Stein there in Louisville and had no name on it. Anna Mohr wrote Mable before Christmas that she was going to send him something so Mable decided that it was from her and wrote and thanked her and lo! here came another gift from Anna - two pairs of socks. I thought all the time it might have come from you but we didn't want to write and thank the wrong person again and I don't know

how to find out where it is from
without just asking as I am now.

I know that whoever sent it probably
left a card to be enclosed and that we
are just negligent in acknowledging
gifts. Please let us know if you sent it
and if you didn't ask Mrs. Catter some how
if it was she.

The little fellow is getting on just
fine. Mable has begun to supplement his
feeding with two or three bottle feedings and
we don't know yet how that is going to
turn out. I wish you could see him. I
know you feel that he sort of belongs to
you I feel as any way. We have
taken one or two little snaps that are
very much like him. I am enclosing
one that I am very proud of because I
am holding him.

How are Mrs. Beale & Lou. & Mr. Matts?
No news from you I count as meaning
that every body is well and happy and
doing fine. It was very sad about

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Annie Day's fine little boy. I wanted so much for her to be able to keep him after she lost every thing else in the fire. She's a brave little girl though and is taking it pretty well. Poor kid! I guess Mother has written you something about it.

What are your plans for the summer?
Let me have a line before long. My work is going on very well, I think, and so much more work is coming my way that I wonder how I am to do it all.

Best of love to all

Albert (S.R.)
↑
ahem

W. A. ROBINSON
President

CLINTON J. CALLOWAY
Executive Secretary

The National Association of Teachers in Colored Schools

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

RALEIGH, N. C. May 9, 1927.

My dear Mother Matto:

Since I come back I have not only faced a desk loaded with a month's neglect but I have attended already two commencements besides making several inspections on my regular work and holding conferences with educators from India and Africa and a worker from the Gen'l Educ. Board. I have had it on my mind to write you a letter and I am not sure but what I did as I know I composed it mentally at least.

It was good to see you again but it all seems like a dream because I was there for such a short time and didn't really get a chance to talk to you or Mr. Matthews or Lou. I didn't more than say 'howdy' to anyone. I was rushed so.

I want you to know how much I appreciated the letter you wrote Mother about me. It certainly made her feel good and as for me I had to remember that it was you writing about me not to get the swell head. I am just hoping I made half as good an impression on the folks ~~there~~ don't love me. I am trying to live up to what the ones who elected me president of the N.A.T.C. expected of me. I can say at least that I have travelled more than any of the others did as I shall have spoken to nine ^{state} teachers organizations when I go to New Jersey next Saturday. Besides I am the only one who has been invited north of the Mesquite Dixon Line. Does that sound "bragging"? I am a little proud of that since I am the youngest president so far.

I hope Mr. Matto got back O.K. from the Board Meeting and had a

W. A. ROBINSON
President

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The National Association of Teachers in Colored Schools

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

RALEIGH, N. C..

quiet, easy trip. I am worn out with trains and people. I feel as if I want to get lost in dense forest for a month or so.

Give my regards to Lucy DuVelle and tell her how I regret not having a real visit with her and Helen.

I have some new pictures of Pun and will send you one about tomorrow must get some more out. He's some boy. You and Mr. Matto come to Nashville in July. Love to all.

Yours,

Albert

I'm talking Atlanta on the sly as hard
as I can but I have to do it very
carefully. I'm afraid now I'll have to fall
out with my entire family about Mary.
Mr. Shepard is as stubborn as a mule.
If you write him try to put in a
word for the kid. She wants to go to a
colored school so bad.

Well of all the surprises I think
the biggest was to find that the city
is putting down concrete pavement in
the colored section. It runs almost
to the school and makes such a
difference in walking in to the
city.

The Moores have remodeled all inside
the house and really made the house quite
beautiful. Say I do wish you were here.

Saturday Night,
[1920.]

Dear Mrs. Matto:-

I have been home now
two whole days and how I have
rested and done "as I please." I am
a bit ready to begin to sit up and
take some notice of what's going on around
me. I am lying on the bed now
writing this so you may know why
the writing is as it is.

Well, I had a very uneventful
trip down. I didn't take Pullman
after all but got along fairly well,
slept some kind of Jackson, came
white to Greensboro, though I really

believe that I would have been almost as comfortable in the "crow" car. It was awfully hot and dusty every where.

I stayed all night in Greensboro and came home the next morning. Don't need to tell you that I was glad to get home and there were all sorts of surprises waiting for me. The house has been done over all most all inside, its just fine and besides we have one of those very nice and large victrolas with lovely records. The campus is just beautiful. concrete steps every where that there were wooden steps and many other improvements. Mother has two of the cuttest little shepherd pups and twenty-five pigs. All of the buildings are being painted and much remodeling is being done. This is the summer when you and Lou ought to come. Its

just beautiful here, and im hard to please.

Mother and the kids are sewing and working getting ready to leave and asked me tonight what I would do while they were gone and until I leave. Oh, I'll manage all right. That's easy.

Little Mary looks very well. Hasnt changed one tiny bit and im so glad. She seems to be the same sweet kid. She doesnt want to go back for any thing want to go to a colored school. She did really fine she failed only in her first term math and, poor kid, she thinks its awfully bad though I think that if she had failed in most of her work she would have done finely.

I'm going to do better next time. Did I say, give love to Mrs. Evans? At any rate do and to Sadie too. You may tell any body else anything you want to that I said.

Write soon. With love.

Albert.

P.S. In glancing back I don't see where I mentioned Mr. M or Mrs. Beale but they both know that they come in for a large part of my regard
al.

Every body asks about you all and you had really lots of friends here in Durham and there are lots of girls that would be such fine company for Lou.

We have two nice picture shows. One of them is in some ways nicer than the Pythian though in others, of course it doesn't come up to it. Both show the best of pictures.

You mustnt mind this letter. I'm lying on the bed and I am really trying to rest in every way while I am here. It is really so late Saturday night that it is Sunday morning and I'm dead for sleep.

How are the folks. My regards to

Joe and Willie and Elmer and in
fact to all of my friends. I'll just
have to find out if I'm asleep.

Sunday Morning

Maybe I can really write to
you now but I must say that I
don't know what is in this letter.

It has rained so that none of us
has been to church but Mr. Ship.

He drove down and stayed all
morning. The State S. S. Convention
meets here next week and he is
getting things in line for that.
You know I was sorry I couldn't
get to my church this morning I
really think I'll go to the white
church to the evening service now

that it looks like clearing off.

Tell Louly that I got some films
yesterday and I'm going to take the
girls and send them to her before
long, and when I do I'll own up
to something.

Maybe I have said all ready
that the garden is doing fine and
we have all sorts of fresh vegetables.
Mother and the kids are now deciding
to stay three weeks or a month. They
don't know what they are going to do.

Now I know that this letter is
just a jumble of facts and most
disconnected but one isn't expected
to write well when one is two thirds
asleep as Louis Gussie would say.

N.D.

1920⁷

Mrs. W. B. Matthews,
1720 W. Chestnut St.,
Louisville, Ky.