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A. Bagley to "Dear Mr. Meredith" (Undated)

A. Bagley

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75. Rereading this I see that it sounds long and pompous; I only intend
ed to say Be of good cheer!

~~no return address~~
Postmarked: Vienna, Va.

Dear Mr. Meredith,

I am a woman of Caucasian
race, living outside Washington with a
family of children (5) who will enter
gradually integrated schools. Though I
cannot fail to see the immediate effect
of a massive "integration" such as occurred
in the District of Columbia: namely, a rather
severe lowering of the educational level as
a whole, in the lower school level, it
seems to me that it is necessary
that some white children suffer in
the process of healing the wounds of
the last century — its not their fault

but it is never the fault of children who pay
for their forefathers crimes.

So while I see the issues at
stake in your state, one of which, surely, is the
totally undeserved, and totally irresponsible
blame, for the fact that Negroes as a race
have not had the educational opportunities
to enable them generally (not in particular
cases such as yours, but in general) to main-
tain the same standards of scholarship as
their white brethren, I cannot but admire the
great courage with which you have made
a beginning in the righting of that wrong.
It must be a lonely and fearsome thing
you have undertaken, & I hope you will
call to mind from time to time that the
prayers of all who love justice, or indeed, have
any common decency at all, are with you in
your stand. Sincerely yours,
Aubrey T. Bayley