To M. C. Ballenger

15 December 1955
[Montgomery, Ala.]

King declines a position at Shurtleff College, a coeducational Baptist liberal arts college in southern Illinois.

Dean M. C. Ballenger
Shurtleff College
Alton, Illinois

Dear Dean Ballenger:

Thanks for your very kind letter of December 6.

I am quite interested in the work that is being done at Shurtleff College, but at present my pastorate at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church is of such a nature that I would not like to consider moving. I feel that the job that I am attempting to do here will take a few more years to be completed. I am deeply grateful to you and the institution for being willing to consider me for this very significant position.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely yours,

M. L. King, Jr.

MLK:mt

TLc. DABCC.

1. Milton Cornelius Ballenger (1918–) was a Baptist minister with a Ph.D. (1954) from Yale. He served as an educator and administrator at Shurtleff College from 1952 until 1970. Ballenger’s letter to King has not been located.

To Ralph W. Riley

21 December 1955
[Montgomery, Ala.]

Riley, president of the American Baptist Theological Seminary and a former pastor of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, spoke at Dexter’s seventy-eighth anniversary program on 11 December. On 22 December Riley thanked King “for the pleasure of having been with you at Dexter.”