

Bloomington Ind. Feb. 1, 1909

Professor Chas. F. Binns

Alfred

Dear Friend,

Your letter via Illinois then via Alfred again came a day or so ago. Owing to the cold wave and then a record one, our clay is becoming weathered and is pressing better (?). So the matter will rest for the present as they need kiln sheds etc. and all are yet to build.

I will send you a good sample, a barrel of clay for your own use and experimental pleasure, and should you obtain any new ideas through working it, the firm here should pay you for your work for I will send this clay on my own (?)

I wish to thank you for your good word in my behalf at Nashville. My Father is in charge there now and I leave for there to work with him about the 15th of February.

There I am to have a wider field than here, and I am told will have access to the laboratories of Vanderbilt University.

I saw your letter in answer to "Inquirer" in the "Clay Worker." Permit me to say that you hit the nail squarely on the head and had "Inquirer" been as frank as you in requiring his name to his letter I think his product would hear out his various ideas and we would know how to catalogue him as a clay worker without seeing his goods.

I have been up against that sort a whole lot myself and am here but having learned that I am gaining a reputation and I was offered more money to stay here. Every day I am told how little school does for a clay worker but every day I am asked for advice and the advice is followed.

A case in point is one here, where the superintendent maintains that a clear fire will remove sulphates while a smoking (?) one produces sulphates.

Yet the last kiln was finished in a reclining fire (the last fire) and the ware is better, but not free from sulphates because this action should continue longer. After I am gone he will fire as I told him and bolster his reputation thereby.

Hence I think your letter over your name is a good shot (?)

Yours very truly,

Paul E. Cox