

The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON Papers

am in the North to see you, and go over matters more in detail
with you. Yours truly,

Booker T. Washington

TLS Oswald Garrison Villard Papers MH. A press copy is in Con. 48,
BTW Papers, DLC.

From Emmett Jay Scott

Monrovia: 5/28/09

Personal:

My Dear Mr. Washington: We leave here tomorrow: 1/2 of the party (Mr. Falkner, Mr Finch¹ & Capt. Cloman²) start for the disputed boundary section where the British are pushing & the other 1/2 (Dr Sale, Maj. Ashburn, Mr. Flower & myself) start for Cape Palmas where Mr. Dossen lives & go up the Cavally River where the French aggressions are. We (last party) also stop at Grand Bassa³ & go up the St. John River & also at Cape Mount & all of us meet at Sierre Leone (Freetown) & then go to the Canary Islands where the *Salem* is to meet us.

It has been an eventful trip. We have seen everybody & have quite closely looked into every disputed point. We have met the President, his Cabinet, a Commission from the Legislature — all the Foreign Consuls & all of the Trading Agents. We know more than we knew & yet it is all insufficient! Liberia *is* in a bad way — but fortunately it is worse from without than from *within*. It is fearful — the treatment they have had at the hands of the British & Harry Johnston is clearly the worst of the *lot!* His conduct & treatment of this people has been fearful in its consequences.

I do not yet know or see just what can be done & yet something *must be done!* The awful strictures of the British have not been justified — even as bad as conditions are. We are going thoroughly into everything & my concern now is — What & How can we say the *word* or *words* that sh'd be said. I know of no especial thing I can write you about. Your cable has come & I am to bring the boys with *me*. I am worrying about the Business League, but now I am