

The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON Papers

plies. Hear you are principal stock holder. Will they answer why[?]"
I have replied to him as follows:

"Dr. Washington not here and in no way responsible in matter to
which you refer. Regret unpleasantness. Am writing."

You will notice I have refused to quote the Doctor as being a
stock holder. It certainly shows, however, that something in the
office is pretty loose and I am sure that you will want to get it
straightened up right away. It would be too bad for the old man
to be entering suits on the ground that it receives money from him
without giving value received. Yours very truly,

Emmett J. Scott

TLpS Con. 46 BTW Papers DLC. A note at the top and bottom of the
letter in Scott's hand reads: "*He does not know I am writing you.* That Ver-
non publication is unwise! It puts all of our friends under cloud."

To John Robert E. Lee

Denver, Colo. November 2, 1909

Dear Mr. Lee: I am satisfied that there is a great deal of waste of
time in Tuskegee growing out of our present methods of teaching
rhetoric, etc. It means little to spend a lot of time teaching defini-
tions, including figures of speech and what not, such as the average
text book on rhetoric is full of before the student has actually
learned to express himself or write in a simple, direct way. It is
just the same as having a man spend months learning the defini-
tions of carpentry before he undertakes to do real carpentry work.

Hereafter, I wish you would have the teachers place stress upon
having the students write in simple language descriptions of what
is going on about Tuskegee, about their own observations, their
travels, etc. Above all things, what our students want to learn is
how to write, and no amount of talk or committing of terms or
what not to memory will accomplish this. After they have actually
learned to write good, simple, direct English, then time can be
spent if necessary learning rhetorical definitions, etc. Yours truly,

[Booker T. Washington]

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