

APRIL • 1909

I have never been able to understand. The colored people of this land have now perhaps the greatest opportunity ever put in reach of a people to build up a tribal life, so to speak, based on the moral realities & simplicities, and divorced from the shams and vanities, that are eating into the heart of the wealthy white civilization around them. Could large numbers of them but see it, and identify their race with those ideals, they would be missionaries in our midst, in the end, and be a precious saving element in our whole civilization, setting patterns for the sounder whites to follow. Already your methods of industrial education have set such patterns. It is all in the lap of God, who will preserve you, I trust, dear Mr. Washington, for many a long year yet to be one of our most precious citizens and a ferment of social rightness for our entire population.

With best regards to Mrs Washington, believe me most sincerely yours,

Wm James

Some paragraphs in your Lincoln address were *splendid*.

ALS Con. 735 BTW Papers DLC.

To Edgar Gardner Murphy

[Tuskegee, Ala.] April 1, 1909

My dear Mr. Murphy: I am so glad to know that you are again in Alabama.

No program has so far been printed for the exercises on the 4th but they take place at half past two o'clock. We shall be very glad to have you present. Mr. Ogden is to be present and speak.

I do hope you can come here before I go North again. I shall be here until the 7th. On that day I go to Nashville to speak before the Theological Department of Vanderbilt University. I spoke there three years ago to both the students and the ministers of the town and I felt quite sure that great good was accomplished.

I was simply amazed at the reception which was accorded me throughout the state of South Carolina. There are some of the finest and best white men and women in that state that I know of.