

The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON Papers

prejudice is to injure the white man. If the white man tries to terrorize a certain class of Negroes these people think that the thing to do is to terrorize the white man in return.

Now, there are two things I would say in regard to this. First, that is the old vicious circle — if I injure my neighbor of course my neighbor is bound to injure me in return — and of course there is no end to that pursuit. No civilization was ever built up on that. On the contrary civilization, especially our civilization, has been built up on the principle of [not] retaliating, of not doing evil to other men as they do to you. On the other hand while I believe in imitating him, not in the evil things, but in the good, for the people who curse the Negro are not the best white people but the worst. The best white people are those who are seeking to educate the Negro, to build him up, to make him a Christian and they are the people who do not reply with retaliation but return good for evil rather than evil for evil.

The International, 4 (July 1911), 30-31. This was one of a series of replies to questions in "A Symposium on Race Prejudice." Among other participants were John Spargo and the sociologist Edward A. Ross.

Emmett Jay Scott to Wilford H. Smith

Tuskegee Institute, Alabama August 2nd, 1911

Personal.

My dear Mr. Smith: I have [am?] becoming just a little bit troubled with reference to the Ulrich matter.¹

You have seen how the Guardian has featured this matter in its issue of July 22nd and 29th. It has worked that United Press Special for all it was worth with distorted headlines and comments calculated to do us great harm. Some of the Negro newspapers are following the Guardian's lead, including of course Harry Smith's paper. You probably have also seen that paper.

I now find that a number of colored newspapers, including the Nashville Clarion, and others which have been more or less friendly to us, are carrying little editorial notes reading about as follows:

"When the case against Ulrich was called for trial, Dr. Washington