

DECEMBER · 1911

From James Carroll Napier

Washington December 26, 1911

Dear Mr. Washington; I have not before this had time to give you a detailed account of our visit to Mr. Carnegie. There is very little more of it however, than that which I sent you signed by the Committee; as I have already said on account of Mr. Carnegie's absence we failed to see him on the 19th, but made an engagement on that day to see him at 11:30 A.M. on the 20th.

At that hour we made our appearance promptly at his door. We were admitted by a young man who seemed to think we might have accomplished as much by the use of a two-cent stamp as by a visit of this Committee, but this was merely the opinion of an underling. He soon disappeared taking with him a copy of your letter to Mr. Bertram, which you had sent me. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Carnegie and Mr. Bertram appeared.

The old gentleman seemed to be in high feather, and received us very cordially making some pleasant reference to each one as he shook hands, but, though both Mr. Smith and I had been meeting him for a number of years, I think he had no personal recollection of any of us except Mr. Banks.

Upon our making known to him the mission upon which we had come he said; "I have a friend to whom I entrust all matters of this sort — his name is Booker T. Washington. You gentlemen tell Mr. Washington to write me what is needed and whatever request he makes in connection with the League I will grant."

This he repeated more than once. He also said that he was highly pleased with what he had learned of the League.

Nothing was said to him about the three-year limit, or the reduction of the amount which he has been giving so that, from what he said, and the way I think he feels, I am quite confident if asked, he will continue to donate as much as he has heretofore given.

Mr. Banks stopped over in Washington a day on his return home. He seemed much gratified with audiences which I secured for him with the President and Mr. Hilles.

I have reserved ticket and sleeping accommodation for the 29th. as per your request. Pleasant references to your recent visit to Washing-