

APRIL · 1913

I met one colored man who came out here in the early days who is now 82 years of age. He is a staunch Mormon, and neither the Baptist church nor the Methodist church can get hold of him. He came here from Mississippi. He is a fine looking old fellow, a kind of colored Brigham Young. He has a farm worth \$25,000, and lives in the midst of a Mormon colored colony of which he is the leader. I am told that the Mormon church treats the colored people well. I will, in my next letter, discuss the Mormons further, and call attention to their creed, and so forth.²

New York Age, Apr. 17, 1913, 1, 2.

¹ The *Star of Zion*, Apr. 17, 1913, carried the same article with the dateline: "Salt Lake City, March 28."

² In another letter on his western trip, BTW included the Mormon creed, which he had received from Bishop John M. Whittaker. BTW stated that while he was not a Mormon and had "no immediate intention of becoming one," he did find much in the creed that appealed to him. He went on to say that he found no evidence that polygamy was being practiced. Aside from the matter of religion, BTW was impressed with the Mormon control of land, mines, banking, and all aspects of business. "They say," he wrote, "and I think wisely, that economic progress must go hand in hand with religious progress." (*New York Age*, Apr. 24, 1913, 2. A typed copy of the letter, dated Mar. 27, 1913, is in Con. 835, BTW Papers, DLC.)

From James Carroll Napier

Washington April 1, 1913

My dear Mr. Washington: Enclosed I am handing you a card of invitation to three lectures delivered by Mr. Du Bois at Howard University. I heard the two delivered at night and regret that I did not hear the midday one.

Each was of one hour's duration and was an interesting account, or rather recount, of prehistoric governments in Africa. He recited events, changes in governments and rulers with an alacrity which showed that he had devoted much time to committing his lecture to memory. He pronounced the names of the old emperors, kings and princes of Africa with a precision and an apparent familiarity that would lead one to think that he had lived among them himself. He had a good audience at each meeting. There was a fine occasion for him to impress