

JULY · 1915

To Florence E. Sewell Bond<sup>1</sup>

New York City, June 30, 1915

My dear Madam: Replying to yours of June 27th I would state that, we have no idea of permitting any pictures of Tuskegee to be exhibited in connection with *The Birth of a Nation*. We have been appealed to to make such an exhibit but have refused on the grounds that such an exhibit would be an indirect endorsement of *The Birth of a Nation*. We consider *The Birth of a Nation* a thoroughly harmful and vicious play, and want to do everything possible to prevent its being exhibited.

I feel quite sure that you have been misinformed regarding the attitude of Mr. William H. Lewis. He is thoroughly opposed to the play, as I know.

I thank you for writing me. Yours very truly,

[Booker T. Washington]

TLc Con. 75 BTW Papers DLC.

<sup>1</sup> Florence E. Sewell Bond was the cataloger in the Carnegie Library at Tuskegee Institute from 1905 to 1910. She later moved to Boston, where she married William P. Bond, a painter.

She wrote to BTW on June 27, 1915, with "a friendly warning," implying that William H. Lewis of Boston favored the showing of the film *The Birth of a Nation*. She also assumed as true the rumor that BTW was to allow scenes of Tuskegee Institute to be shown in conjunction with the film. (Con. 75, BTW Papers, DLC.)

To Jacob Godfrey Schmidlapp

New York City, July 1st, 1915

Dear Mr. Schmidlapp: I am very much obliged to you for your kind letter, and for the letter of introduction to Mr. Henry Ford of Detroit. I shall hope to have the privilege at some time of calling upon Mr. Ford, and I hope that we may be able to interest him in the work of Tuskegee Institute.