

ADDENDA

To Ellen Collins

Tuskegee, Ala., Jan. 9, 1901

My dear Miss Collins: I read with pleasure the article in "The Spectator" to which you call my attention. Two things struck me as I read this article. One is the seeming, unconscious egotism of the average Anglo-Saxon.

I remember last May that I sat for two days listening to the addresses being delivered at the Montgomery Conference and I do not think that a single individual spoke who did not lay special stress upon the superiority of his own race and the weaknesses of other races as compared with his. Now I cannot see why it is not in just as bad taste as it would be for an individual to be continually praising himself to the disadvantage of some other individual. Superiority, it seems to me, consists of possessing a spirit of humility and humbleness and not of arrogance and self-consciousness. I cannot agree with the writer that any race ever goes backward. I think that races, like individuals, for a time may drift the wrong way but take them on the average, and I believe that all races go forward instead of backward. I think we have gotten to the point in the case of my own race where it is not a debatable question as to whether or not the race is going forward or backward.

No person who keeps his eyes and ears open can fail to be convinced that the race is continually making great progress.

I am planning to be in New York for a few hours on the 20th and shall hope to see you that day or the day after. Mrs. Washington desires to be remembered to you.

I shall remember what you say about William Edwards. He had a very excellent meeting in Trinity Church Chapel where Dr. Donald, Mr. Edwards and myself spoke. Yours truly,

[Booker T. Washington]

TLd Con. 170 BTW Papers DLC. Several minor editorial changes in E. J. Scott's hand.