

The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON Papers

for the very highest and best things for both races. I do not believe, for example, that it would be desirable or practicable on the part of either race to attempt to bring about coeducation in the South.

In regard to the point that you suggest advocating separation in the North in the public schools where the colored population is large, I am wondering whether or not the result might not be that the colored people would receive inferior opportunities for education rather than equal opportunities?

What I have said is merely suggestive, and whatever you say at Tuskegee will receive a respectful and serious attention. We shall, of course, be very glad to have your paper as far in advance as possible.

In all things that are purely social, the colored people do not object to separation, as I have often stated, but the difficulty is in the South that in many cases civil privileges are confounded with social intercourse. Yours very truly,

Booker T. Washington

TLS Charles William Eliot Papers MH-Ar.

¹ Eliot was one of the principal speakers at the twenty-fifth anniversary celebration of Tuskegee Institute.

To Charles William Anderson

[Tuskegee, Ala.] Oct. 4, 1906

Personal

My dear Mr. Anderson: I spent some time in Atlanta last week looking into conditions there and trying to help matters out as far as I could, and I now feel satisfied that there is going to be no more trouble and that there is a general spirit of repentance and sorrow among the white people. They are now working to cooperate with the colored people and give them justice in a way that I have never seen white people do in any other Southern city.

My special point, however, is to urge you to use your influence in connection with the coming meeting of the Afro-American Council to have conservative utterance and action both in resolution and in speech. Fiery, hysteric, incendiary speeches just now will not help us