

The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON Papers

that another meeting of the same kind be held in Montgomery next year, when they promise to do more.

The meeting doubtless had its greatest value in teaching the people self-help.

B. T. Washington

Southern Workman, 14 (Apr. 1885), 39.

¹ Solomon Palmer (1839-96) was born in Blount County, Ala., graduated from the University of Alabama in 1861, and fought in the Civil War. He then taught school in Blount County for several years and entered the Alabama House of Representatives. He was admitted to the bar in 1870. Elected state superintendent of education in 1884, he held the position until 1890.

² Sigmund Hecht was born in Hungary in 1849 and educated at the University of Vienna. He was a rabbi at Montgomery, Ala., from 1876 to 1888. Later he served as rabbi in Milwaukee and Los Angeles.

To the Editor of the *Montgomery Advertiser*

Tuskegee, Ala., April 24, 1885

Editor *Advertiser*: Judging from some of your past utterances that you are in favor of justice being shown the colored man on railroads, I am encouraged to write the following for insertion in your paper.¹ Having to some extent noticed the position of many of the county papers relative to the subject, I am glad to know that they, too, are outspoken in condemnation of the wrong which colored railroad passengers are made to suffer. In fact, I have not conversed with a single intelligent, progressive white man who has not shown the right spirit in the matter.

I wish to say a few words from a purely business standpoint. It is not a subject with which to mix social equality or anything bordering on it. To the negro it is a matter of dollars and cents. I claim that the railroads in Alabama do not provide as good accommodations for the colored passengers as those furnished white passengers for the same money and that the fare is not first class as claimed on the face of the ticket.

My reasons for the above assertions are (a) that in most cases the smoking car and that in which colored people are put are the same; (b) when not put directly into the smoking car they are crammed into one end of a smoking car with a door between that is as much open