

DECEMBER · 1890

teacher. In 1892, when three black businessmen were lynched in Memphis, she boldly criticized the white people of Memphis for condoning the violence. Her press was destroyed by an angry mob in retaliation for her editorials. She continued to speak out on lynching through the pages of T. Thomas Fortune's *New York Age* and also on the lecture circuit. In 1893 she lectured in England, Scotland, and Wales. She became the leading crusading journalist in the fight for black civil rights and in the anti-lynching campaign. In 1895 she published *A Red Record: Tabulated Statistics and Alleged Causes of Lynching in the United States 1892-1893-1894*, which was also a history of lynching since the Civil War.

In 1895 Miss Wells married the lawyer Ferdinand Lee Barnett, founder of Chicago's first black newspaper, *The Conservator*, and became active in Chicago civic affairs and women's club work. In 1910 she founded the Negro Fellowship League to aid black migrants to the city. She continued to play an active role in the anti-lynching crusade, often holding mass meetings of protest and personally investigating cases for her newspaper articles. She was one of the founders of the NAACP in 1909-10. In 1899 she sharply criticized BTW for failing to denounce lynching in clear-cut terms. After the turn of the century she and her husband were leaders of anti-Washington sentiment in Chicago.

## From Robert Charles Bedford

Beloit Wis Dec 4 1890

Dear Prof Yours with petition inclosed is just recd. I do not see how it can be refused unless it is the purpose of the Legislature to make merchandise of the grant and sell it to the highest bidder. A clearer case of justice than the giving of the whole to Tuskegee never existed.

I find myself restless at the North and shall never be at ease till I am back South again. My heart is there and I feel that I am needed there and my whole life is wrapped up in Ala. I feel that great good will result from my work here to the South or I could not stay for a moment. As it is I hope you will keep an eye out and whenever an opportunity offers where I can have a reasonable home for my family and be near enough to you so that I can continue my old connection with the school and preach as a basis for the largest possible public good be sure and let me know at once. I love the North and am welcomed heartily and my labors seem to be acceptable but I do not feel that I am needed here but most of all my whole heart is with the whole South. Now my dear Brother you know more about this than any other human being and I trust you will give it most serious consideration. I have read with great interest of the new steps being taken