

*The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON Papers*  
A Statement on the Afro-American Press

[Tuskegee, Ala., 1891]

OPINION OF PROF. B. T. WASHINGTON

Few agencies for the uplifting of the colored people have accomplished more good than the negro newspapers. These papers have served to create race confidence, in that they have taught the colored people that the colored man could manage a business requiring the out-lay of money, brains and push that a newspaper enterprise demands. The colored editors have rendered most valuable service to the cause of education by constantly stimulating and encouraging our people to educate themselves and their children.

The papers have served as educators to the white race, in matters that pertain to the progress of the negro. The white press readily sees our dark side, but is not disposed, as a rule, to go far out of its way to let the world know of the negro's advancement.

The work of the colored newspapers has thus far been one of love and self-sacrifice, few if any of them paying in dollars and cents; but there has been evident growth, both in the make-up of the papers and in the paid circulation, and I apprehend that the day is not far distant when they will bring in an encouraging revenue. Already Mr. B. T. Harvey is publishing in Columbus, Ga., a colored daily, and he seems to be supported in his efforts to an encouraging degree.

I. Garland Penn, *The Afro-American Press and Its Editors* (Springfield, Mass., 1891), 446-48.

From Cornelius Nathaniel Dorsette

Montgomery, Ala., 1/5 1892

Dear Prof Washington I know you think strange of my not writing and I might as well tell you now I am again having trouble with my head & while I say nothing about it to any one its quite a serious thought to me privat[e]ly and outside of medicine I can do but little without bringing on trouble, my business letters I have my private secty