

*The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON Papers*

of slavery was the power of hard work. He works now, but he does not know how to use the results of his labor. The Tuskegee School under no denominational control, with its 640 acres of land, 12 industries, \$100,000 in property, with 27 teachers, is trying to prepare 400 young men and women to go out [and] do the same kind of work that I have attempted to describe.

Hdf Con. 955 BTW Papers DLC. A 16-page draft with occasional minor corrections in BTW's hand. Page 12 of the original is missing.

<sup>1</sup> BTW apparently hoped to speak off the record. In a letter a month prior to this speech, the club's secretary wrote BTW: "The rules of the Club strictly forbid reporting & we endeavor to have this particular rule thoroughly enforced. I think therefore that you will be able to speak freely; but, of course, the members of the Club are likely to repeat to outsiders anything they may hear. They will refrain from this however, if you request them to, I presume." (L. M. Peabody to BTW, Dec. 17, 1889, Con. 1, BTW Papers, ATT. Original destroyed.) This assurance of privacy apparently led BTW to make statements that were bolder than his customary public utterances. It was, for example, uncharacteristic of BTW to attack Henry W. Grady, champion of the New South. But Grady's death shortly before this speech, the privacy of the occasion, and the northern audience caused BTW to be more critical than usual.

<sup>2</sup> This phrase was added, possibly as a heading, in BTW's hand.

<sup>3</sup> Another addition in BTW's hand.

## From Portia Marshall Washington

Tuskegee, Ala. Feb. 11, 90

Dear Papa, I have all your letters and postal cards. We were all very sorry to hear that you were so sick, and we are glad to know that you are well again, and will be with us so soon.

Baker and Davidson are as good as two little boys can be and they and I have been well ever since you went away. But Sapphira<sup>1</sup> has been very sick with pneumonia. She was taken sick Monday, and Wednesday Uncle John received the despatch that you were sick. She was in bed all that week. We sent for her mother, and she came and stayed until Saturday morning. Sapphira does not feel real well and strong yet, but you know she will go to school as long as she can walk.

Davidson was a real good little boy on his birth day. We put his tray on the table in the morning, and it has been there ever since. It