

AUGUST · 1895

ALS Con. 862 BTW Papers DLC.

¹ The Thomas A. Harris near lynching in June. (See A News Item, June 13, 1895, above.)

² A. N. Johnson went to Mobile in 1891 as editor of the *State Republican*. In 1894 he founded the *Mobile Weekly Press*, which he edited for many years. In 1896 he rented a hearse and became an undertaker in addition to his editing. He advertised "Finest White and Black Funeral Cars in the City, First Class Carriages for Weddings and Balls." He was active in the National Negro Business League after 1900. He was a member of the Republican state committee and was a delegate to the Republican national conventions in 1896, 1900, and 1904. In 1904 he was the "last Negro in Ala. nominated for Congress on the Regular Republican ticket." (Johnson to BTW, Dec. 6, 1904, Con. 22, BTW Papers, DLC.)

³ John Mitchell, Jr. (1863-1929), was born a slave in Henrico County, Va. As a youth he was a carriage boy to a wealthy white lawyer who had been his owner. Mitchell attended Richmond Normal High School from 1876 to 1881. In 1884, after two years as a correspondent for the *New York Freeman*, he became editor of the *Richmond Planet* and held that position until his death. An outspoken opponent of all forms of racial discrimination, he supported BTW's ideas of self-help and business enterprise. Mitchell's editorial on June 22, 1895, suggested that Harris should have been given asylum on the Tuskegee campus and that "we shall await to hear the explanation of Prof. Washington with reference to his refusal to admit a wounded man."

⁴ Presumably the same John W. Jones who wrote to BTW in 1899 warning him that John C. Leftwich was organizing a district farmers' conference, a preliminary to attracting the region's black farmers from the Tuskegee Negro Conference to Montgomery. He urged BTW to withhold from Leftwich the free federal seed packages that he usually distributed at the Tuskegee Negro Conference. (Jones to BTW, Jan. 30, 1899, Con. 156, BTW Papers, DLC.)

From Irving Garland Penn

Atlanta, Ga. Aug. 12, 1895

My Dear Friend: I quote from the minutes of the Com. on Negro Exhibit certain action taken by them on my recommendation. "Mr. Oglesby¹ moved that this committee recommend that Mr. Booker T. Washington, or some suitable colored man be selected to represent the colored Race in the opening ceremonies of the Exposition."

I shall push the thing. I think, though, that Gen. Lewis is privately in favor of a man here. You can imagine who that is. I shall see each member of the committee on ceremonies and ceremonial days indi-