

*The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON Papers*

A News Item from the Washington *Colored American*

[Washington, D.C., Aug. 31, 1895]

RACE RECOGNITION

The Cotton States and International Exposition Company has shown a disposition all along to treat the colored brother with that consideration which his worth deserves. It has given him just what he has been asking for since emancipation, namely, an opportunity to show what he is capable of doing. The South has taken a long stride ahead of the North in recognizing the Negro in the formalities of opening day at the exposition. Prof. Booker T. Washington of the Tuskegee Institute has been selected by the Board of Control to speak in the regular exercises on opening day. That is ahead of anything that was done for us either at the Centennial in Philadelphia, in 1876, or at the great Columbian Exposition in Chicago, in 1893. At the other expositions, above referred to, Congress made large appropriations for their maintenance, but it all went to the white man, for his glory and his advancement. The Atlanta Exposition people had to raise their own funds, and they have done more for the Negro out of their private funds than has been done by the Nation out of the money of tax payers.

Hereafter in counting the true friends of the Negro, we must not forget to mention the names of Collier, Lewis, Kontz and Alex Smith, the faithful officers of the Exposition Company.

The Exposition will open on the 18th of September, and every colored woman, man and child who can possibly get there ought to go, if for no other reason than to hold up the hands of Prof. Washington, as the children of Israel held up the arms of Moses while he fought the battles of the Lord.

*Washington Colored American*, Aug. 31, 1895, 4.

To Charles A. Collier

Tuskegee, Ala. Sept. 3, 1895

Dear Sir: I am in receipt of your valued communication informing me that your Board of Directors have requested you to invite me to deliver