

The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON Papers

HWSr Con. 95 BTW Papers DLC.

¹Thomas Goode Jones (1844-1914) was educated in Montgomery, Ala., schools and in Virginia. At the outbreak of the Civil War he was a cadet at Virginia Military Institute. He joined the Confederate Army, rising to the rank of major. He was present at the surrender of Lee at Appomattox and was bearer of a flag of truce. After the war he practiced law, farmed, became active in local government in Montgomery, and served several terms in the Alabama legislature. He was a colonel of Alabama state troops from 1880 to 1890 and was elected governor in 1890, serving two terms. Jones called out the militia and Pinkertons to crush the 1894 Alabama strikes and later was attorney for the Louisville and Nashville Railroad. It is possible that BTW played a role in Jones's reelection in 1892. Jones had a history of supporting Negro rights that BTW could not overlook. In 1883 as an officer of Alabama state troops Jones saved a black man from a lynch mob in Birmingham, and as governor he protected the Negro school funds from being undermined by white supremacists. According to one account, written five years after Jones's reelection, BTW actually campaigned for Jones among black citizens. More likely he may have toured the Black Belt, privately urging blacks to support the Democratic governor. C. N. Dorsette, BTW's close friend and confidant, openly campaigned for Jones. BTW's growing political influence with Theodore Roosevelt made it possible for the Tuskegean to secure Jones's appointment to a federal district judgeship in 1901. While on the bench Jones played an important role in the Alabama peonage cases. He ruled against the Negro plaintiffs in two suffrage cases in 1903-4, however, and used his court to protect mining companies against strikers, and to block state regulation of railroads. (See Daniel, *Shadow of Slavery*, 43-81, and Harlan, *BTW*, 255-56, 308-10.)

From Helen Wilhelmina Ludlow

Hampton Va. June 2, '90

Dear Mr Washington I return with thanks, Mr Cable's interesting letters. The General and Mr Frissell have also read them with interest. The one to Mr Smiley I had seen in some colored journal from which I took the extract for the *Workman*.¹ The General was away when I wrote the editorial but he saw and approved it before it went to press. You may be sure it expresses his sentiments.

He has gone now to the meeting.² Let us hope it will have good results in spite of what we must consider a mistake — and one of these a change of plan for the next meeting in accordance with Mr Cable's sensible suggestions so courteously expressed.

Miss Nichols³ has returned quite enthusiastic — of course — over