

MARCH · 1896

from such growth out of race narrowness into a love of humanity till he has tried the experiment on himself.

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It is only as the soul has opportunity unbounded and unfettered to do its best work that we have great and lasting deeds performed. Take Whittier, Longfellow, Lincoln — and the name above all, Christ; would their names live in all history had their sympathies been narrowed and confined to this or that race? I would permit no man to drag down my soul by making me hate him.

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This growth, I repeat, can only come as a result of daily effort, daily struggle by rising daily on “stepping stones of our dead selves,” but the happiness, the sense of freedom is worth the price paid. No one who has thus made the struggle and has thus freed himself would go back for any consideration into the old slavery. Let us try at once the experiment.

Booker T. Washington

PDSr *Our Day*, 16 (Feb. 1896), 69-70. The same issue (pp. 79-84) also contained another article by BTW, “Out of Bondage,” a typical account of BTW’s rise from slavery to become head of an educational institution.

From John W. Browning¹

Baltimore, March. 2nd 1896

My Dear Mr. Washington: I have your letter of Feb. 28th, and reply to it without delay. I am highly pleased to have you come at the appointed time and have secured Mr. Robinson’s church for that evening.² If you are to leave here the same evening or early next morning for Tuskegee, can’t you come here early in the day of the 18th? I know you are pressed for time, but it is greatly desired.

No, in my judgment, it would not be wise for you to stop at the Mayor’s³ house, as these colored people (and some of the whites, too, for that matter) are so queer, I fear it might operate against you and prejudice them to you and your noble work. It is true, my home is an humble one, but to it no man is more welcome than yourself — not