

The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON Papers
From Timothy Thomas Fortune

New York, May 6, 1896

Dear Friend: I got home yesterday, pretty well used up after the long campaign, and was surprised to find that our people are all broken up over the apparent sweep of the McKinley¹ boom. However, I am in good humor with myself and the rest of mankind. I am still wrestling with that southern newspaper question and shall not decide it until I see my way out. I notice that many of our papers are going to your support against crazy attacks of crazy men controlling unwie[ldy] pens in patent back newspapers.

Unless something drops we shall have McKinley for our candidate. Of course I regret this, as most of our friends are in the other camp. However, it is the fortunes of war.

With kindest regards for you and Mrs. Washington and the youngsters of the dear home. Your friend,

T. Thomas Fortune

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¹ William McKinley (1843-1901), twenty-fifth President of the United States, was the first of several presidents on whom BTW had some influence. Though BTW had worked for McKinley's rival, William B. Allison, for the Republican nomination in 1896, he publicly endorsed McKinley against the Democrat William Jennings Bryan. BTW was mentioned as a possible cabinet member, though there is no evidence that either he or McKinley took it seriously. BTW recommended a number of black politicians for presidential appointments. At the Chicago Peace Jubilee in 1898 he was the President's guest at a luncheon, and later that year he entertained McKinley and a large party of dignitaries at Tuskegee.

From George Washington Carver

Ames, Iowa, 5 8 1896

My dear Sir, Yours of Apr. 27th received and contents duly noted.

It affords me great pleasure to be identified as one of the faculty of Tuskegee.

Now as to the time of my coming my *post graduate* work has been arranged to run through[ou]t the college year which closes in Nov. And I would nescessarily have to readjust my work in some way, if needs be.