

The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON Papers

tured and college-bred black people, and the effect on the future relationship between the two races cannot help but benefit both, and particularly the former.”

“What do you think of the nomination of Mr. Bryan¹ on a silver platform by the Democratic party?” [he] was asked.

“Bad, very bad,” was the reply. “I cannot see how any merchant or citizen, who has the interests of his country at stake, can vote for Bryan and a silver platform. It may catch a few Irishmen, who might confound Bryan with O’Brian, but it is a losing ticket up to date, and a demoralizing platform. The Democrats should have nominated a well known Eastern statesman upon a gold basis, and then there might have been a chance for success.”

Buffalo Courier, July 12, 1896, 11.

¹ William Jennings Bryan (1860-1925) was the Democratic candidate for president in 1896, 1900, and 1908. He was U.S. Secretary of State from 1913 to 1915.

From Walter Hines Page¹

[Boston] July 15, 1896

Dear Mr. Washington: Here is your manuscript.² It came while I was away in Buffalo, and one member of our staff took the little liberties with it that you will discover, all of course subject to your approval. These are mere matters, as I take it, of verbal change, on which I myself lay exceedingly little stress. My notion is that if you will strike out from the shoulder, broadening the application of the principle that you have worked out so as to show in the next part of your article that this principle which has made a success of Tuskegee is really the proper principle for education in the whole south without reference to race — this I am sure will meet a very hearty response, and will throw your work where it properly belongs, among the great forces of our time and not simply the force of the work done at a single institution.

Of course I make this simply as a suggestion; but the ATLANTIC is, if you will permit me to say so, as important a platform as a man can stand on, and I wish it to serve you to the very best advantage. Please let me have your completed manuscript at the earliest hour you can,