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reporter. "He has fire, humor, pathos and, what is more rare among colored speakers, logic. He spoke from manuscript, mainly; when he left it it was to tell one of his humorous stories or to point an argument by illustration." (*Brooklyn Eagle*, Oct. 1, 1896, 4.) About two months later BTW may well have read from the same manuscript when he gave a talk on "Education and Democracy" at the Twentieth Century Club in Boston. (*Boston Herald*, Nov. 25, 1896, 6.)

From Heli Chatelain¹

Newark, N.J., Oct. 5/96

My dear Mr. Washington, Please accept my thanks for agreeing to represent the colored people of this country on the Board of the Phil-african Liberators' League. At the last meeting of the Directors, on June 8, many names were proposed and approved for the few vacancies left on the Board, yours in the number. At the next meeting, the names previously approved will be sifted and those who are known to be willing to accept, will be elected. I think you will pass without the least difficulty. I shall notify you, as soon the election is over.

You ask what the League expects of you. *Your name*, which you have given, is the only positive requisite. A Director who is not a resident of New York and can therefore not be expected to attend the meetings, is not expected to do any more than his interest in the work prompts him to do. But, if there is nothing more than his occasional vote on important matters, which the League has a right to *expect* from a Director, there is much, that I, as planner of the League, see that you *may* do, and which I earnestly hope you *will* do. And first, I hope you will *realise* that all you do to advance the solution of the problems concerning the American negro, is a direct or indirect contribution to the solution of parallel problems in Africa; that, as Dr. Frissell puts it, "Your cause is ours, and ours is yours" that what helps one helps the other; that great as your Mission already is in these United States, it is to affect a far wider circle than you perhaps have thought of, that your real "sphere of influence" embraces the whole continent of Africa, and even the millions of negroes in Brazil and other South-American States, who have not yet come in touch with our Evangelical civilization. Wherever white and negro come in contact, there is a racial problem. Even where there is next to no