

*The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON Papers*

pointed him assistant attorney general, the highest appointive post held by an American black man up to that time. He became one of the few black members of the American Bar Association, through the intervention of the Attorney General. Returning to private practice, he did some legal work for the NAACP.

<sup>4</sup> William H. Scott (d. 1910), a black minister of Woburn, Mass., was a close associate of William Monroe Trotter, the militant editor of the Boston *Guardian*. Scott helped to found the *Guardian*, was president of the Boston Suffrage League, and led the Massachusetts Racial Protective Association. (Fox, *Guardian of Boston*, 29, 110.)

<sup>5</sup> George Angier Gordon (1853-1929) was pastor of Old South Church, Boston, from 1884 to 1927, and was the author of many religious tracts. From 1892 to 1909 he was a trustee of Tuskegee Institute.

From Blanche Kelso Bruce

Washington, D.C., Nov 12 1896

My dear Mr Washington: Your valued favor of Nov. 3 was recd due course of mail. McKinley is elected and we are all happy, and hopeful of the future.

I mailed you a copy of the Post the other day in which the editor speaks of you and me.<sup>1</sup> Whatever may have been the purpose of the writer, one thing is certain — that the mention of colored men in connection with such positions does the race no harm, but may be productive of much good.

The office to which I shall aspire is the one indicated by you, but for reasons which you fully appreciate I do not deem it wise at this time to give publicity to my intentions in this direction. We shall discuss this matter fully when I see you. Present our warmest regards to Mrs Washington. Sincerely Yours

B. K. Bruce

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<sup>1</sup> The *Washington Post* claimed that William McKinley owed a debt to black Americans for his election and that he should consider appointing a black to a cabinet position. The *Post* named Blanche K. Bruce and BTW as the two most logical black candidates for Secretary of Agriculture. (*Washington Post*, Nov. 7, 1896, 6.)