

*The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON Papers*  
To Wilbur Patterson Thirkield

Tuskegee, Ala. Oct. 1, 1895

My dear Dr. Thirkield: I am in receipt of your kind favor and am very grateful for your encouraging words regarding my Atlanta Address. The way in which it was received and the attention which has been given it through-out the country has given me a great deal of surprise. You can readily see that I had a trying position. First I wanted to state the exact truth as I saw it and at the same time be true to the colored people and say something that would prove helpful to both races especially in their relation to each other.

When I am in Atlanta again I hope to have the privilege of seeing you in your home. Mrs. Washington desires to be remembered to you and regrets that she did not get to see you in Boston. Yours truly,

Booker T. Washington

TLS GAGTh.

From Ben Bell, Sr.

Tison Ga Tattnnal Co Oct the first 1895

Dear sir I saw your brilliant Oration in the Atlanta Constitution which the Editor himself announced could not be surpassed for the Welfare of the Feuture Generation I my self first read the Biography of your Life in the New York Freeman and it was my own Hearts Delight I have been trying to be a law bideing Citizen I did not know my age but did not refuse to pay my tax when they came Due and have been paying them yearly every since my first year but though they are some thing liken, and that was Elevating the Brains I have got a pair of willing hands but by many years of experiment did not know how to controle them for the feuture. but now by guess Work this December comeing I will be 49. fortynine years of age and you may judge by that that there is not much that I can do. but I have got 10 ten Children Seven Boys and three Girls under one roof which is only 14 by 20 My God My God deliver me, to see some of this amount of Children in a better shape than that. I learn that you are