

The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON Papers

January 11th, it would be that you could score a good point by some allusion to Alexander Hamilton's feeling toward the institution of slavery. I am not prepared to quote any authorities on that subject but I think it will be found that he was intense on the point.

It is quite possible that Mr. Chauncey Depew² and Professor Woodrow Wilson³ of Princeton may both be on the Hamilton program for that evening. These engagements, however, are not at all certain.

What arrangements have you for Sunday, January 12th, and if you have none, would you like a good engagement in Brooklyn for that day or evening? Yours very truly,

Robert C Ogden

TLS Con. 113 BTW Papers DLC.

¹ The Hamilton Club, founded in 1882, was an outgrowth of the Hamilton Literary Society established in 1830. It was a literary and social club that maintained its own library and gallery and promoted libraries and the arts. BTW's address on Jan. 11, 1896, the 139th anniversary of Alexander Hamilton's birth, contained no ideas or expressions he had not frequently used before. He delivered it so effectively, however, that there were "cheers," "roars of laughter," and the waving handkerchiefs of the Chautauqua salute. He was interrupted by outbursts of "Good" and "Bravo." (*Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, Jan. 12, 1896, 1, 7.)

² Chauncey Mitchell Depew (1834-1928) of New York was a prominent lawyer, politician, and railroad executive. He served in the U.S. Senate from 1899 to 1911. Newspaper reports indicate that Depew was not on the Hamilton Club program on Jan. 11.

³ Woodrow Wilson (1856-1924), then professor of jurisprudence and political economy at Princeton, later president of the United States (1913-21). He was one of the speakers with BTW on Jan. 11, and therefore he presumably sat with the black man at the head table for dinner. The southern-born Wilson was a segregationist, however, both as president of Princeton from 1902 to 1910 and as president of the United States.

From William Edward Burghardt Du Bois

Wilberforce University, Ohio. 3 January 1896

Special

My Dear Mr Washington: Professor Hart¹ of Harvard on writing me recently asked me to communicate with you — I do not know that he had anything definite in mind, but I nevertheless follow his suggestion. This is my second year at Wilberforce, and although the field