

The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON Papers
From Timothy Thomas Fortune

New York, June 1, 1899

My dear Mr. Washington: Your card of the 22 May dated at the Hague got here three days before your letter of May 12, dated on the Friesland. Of course I am rejoiced to hear from you. I have been sick every day since you left on the 10th, sometimes in the bed and sometimes out. I am a shade better. While sick last week I spent five days on the soldier business (three chapters) and one on Education, making 70 pages of foolscap, about 18,000 words or 40 pages of the book print, as the Chicago people were howling for it, but the job did me up badly. I am glad it is done however, and Scott writes me that the job has been "done to the Queen's taste." I don't know. I hope so.

C. H. J. Taylor is dead. I have no rhetorical flowers to place on his grave, as I am no hypocrite and he was an unmitigated nuisance and disturbance and all the rest of it.

I send you one of the clippings of the Boston article I wrote before you left here but which did not appear until May 18.¹ I sent Clement an editorial note yesterday on your study of the peasants and agricultural conditions in the Netherlands. I send clipping because I prefer to keep the original for my scrap book.

I have broken connection entirely with the Hampton Conference, as I don't like the managing influences as they showed up last year and promise to this year and have written them I shall not be there. And then I must rest in the woods as much as I can this hot spell, as I am afraid of my health. I seem to go to smash on a moment's notice.

My family are well and wish to be remembered to you and Mrs. Washington.

As to the meeting of the Council, Bishop Walters² has already filed application for rates with the Traffic Association for August (late) to conform to the date for the Women's Convention, and the change could not be made to September without a row with the Association (Traffic) and a lot of red tape. I am sorry the word came so late from you on the subject. The bretheren are preparing to fast and prayer on June 2 and 4. I shall pray but eat, as a day's fasting would smash me up.