

The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON Papers

will take this before meals. It does not taste so well but you will get use to it. Let me know when it is out. Yours for health

A. H. Kenniebrew

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From Thomas Junius Calloway

Washington, D.C., October 4, 1899

My dear Sir: I am compiling arguments to present to the management of the United States Exhibit at the Paris Exposition to persuade the managers to provide for a Negro Exhibit in connection with the United States Exhibit at that exhibition during the next year.¹ The principal argument I hope to use is that the leading members of our race desire it. For securing a statement from you I address you in this letter.

While I deplore as deeply as any other member of my race the matter of drawing the color line at any time where it is not already drawn by the other race, there are times, and this is one, when we owe it to ourselves to go before the world as Negroes. Every one who knows about public opinion in Europe will tell you that the Europeans think us a mass of rapists, ready to attack every white woman exposed, and a drug in civilized society. This notion has come to them through the horrible libels that have gone abroad whenever a Negro is lynched, and by the constant reference to us by the press in discouraging remarks. The social and political economists of the Old World put down the erroneous accounts of such cases as that of Sam Hose as truth, and, not hearing the actual facts, reach conclusions which do us wrong.

How shall we answer these slanders? Our newspapers they do not subscribe for, if we publish books they do not buy them, if we lecture they do not attend.

To the Paris Exposition, however, thousands upon thousands of them will go and a well selected and prepared exhibit, representing the Negro's development in his churches, his schools, his homes, his farms, his stores, his professions and pursuits in general will