

*The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON Papers*

From William E. Benson

Kowaliga, Ala., Nov. 2, 1899

Dear Sir: I regret very much the long delay in replying to your letter which you wrote me just before you sailed for Europe, but I did not wish to mar the pleasure of your journey with my own affairs by replying immediately; so I thought I would await your return. I had hoped to talk with you long before this, but I have been very busy until now, and have not had the opportunity to write you any details. However, you state in your letter, before me, that you do not wish to do us any harm "by your word or by your silence," and ask us to outline the work which we have in hand in Kowaliga.

We are simply trying to build up just such a school as you have so often encouraged and instructed our people to work for, to educate the people in an isolated and a very needy community to an intelligent, industrious and self-relying people; with Christian motives and principles. It is one of the enterprises in the way of self-help and self-development, for which we have so often heard you plead, and we are sure it deserves your sympathy. You once wrote that our efforts were praiseworthy. We have not changed our plans or purposes since, and our aim is to develop these praiseworthy efforts into praiseworthy results for the good of our people. We ought, I think, to be confident of your good word and help in such a work.

I shall hope to have a talk with you sometime this winter and I think when you once understand me, thoroughly, you will be convinced of my good intentions. Very Truly.

Wm. E. Benson

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To Timothy Thomas Fortune

Tuskegee, Ala., Nov. 7, 1899

*Personal*

My dear Mr. Fortune: There is another exasperating condition of things in Georgia. Certain parties are making a desperate effort