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right through with the matter. He always prefers to write about something that has just happ[en]ed. Truly

Webber

ALS Con. 164 BTW Papers DLC.

¹ The dating is suggested by Webber's reference to BTW's Huntsville speech of Oct. 12, 1899.

An Interview by Frank George Carpenter¹
in the *Memphis Commercial Appeal*

Washington, D.C., Dec. 2, 1899

PROMISE OF THE FUTURE
WHAT COMING YEARS OFFER THE SOUTHERN NEGRO
HIS MATERIAL CHANGES
B. T. WASHINGTON SENSIBLY DISCUSSES THE OUTLOOK
MANY PROBLEMS INVOLVED

HE DECLARES THE SOUTHERN WHITES TO BE THE NEGRO'S MOST
CONSIDERATE FRIENDS AND DENIES THAT ANY BUT THE SOCIAL
LINES ARE DRAWN AGAINST HIM

I had a long chat this afternoon with Prof. Booker T. Washington of Tuskegee, Ala. Prof. Washington is today the leading colored man of the United States. As an orator he has taken the place that Frederick Douglass held for so many years, and at the same time he is doing more in a practical way to solve the problems of the future of the negro than any man who has yet appeared. Born a slave, raised in a log cabin, getting his first education at night school by toiling in the mines of West Virginia, walking hundreds of miles from the mountains to the sea in order that he might enter the school at Hampton, he is now, at the age of 40, at the head of one of the great educational institutions of this country. He has established and built up an industrial school at Tuskegee in which there are now more than one thousand students, coming from twenty-three States and territories and also from Jamaica, Cuba,