

JANUARY · 1899

From Timothy Thomas Fortune

Washington, D.C., Jan 1, 1899

My Dear Mr Washington: Your letter of the 29th ult was received today, with check for \$30. I thank you so much. It came in the nick of time. But I grieve to worry you when you have so many worries of your own.

Scott left today.

He will tell you of what transpired here. It was a terrible fight and I am a shade sick as a result of it and the tremendous victory I won.¹

I shall wait for you here. *My return ticket is over the B & O.* Don't buy your New York ticket until we meet. Yours sincerely

T Thomas Fortune

ALS Con. 154 BTW Papers DLC.

¹ Fortune considerably overstated his "victory." Going to Washington in late December for the national meeting of the Afro-American Council, a few days before the meeting he was the principal speaker at a gathering in a black church. In a candid speech he sharply criticized President McKinley's silence on voting rights and lynching during his recent tour of the South. "I want the man whom I fought for to fight for me," he was reported to have said, "and if he don't I feel like stabbing him." The next day Fortune claimed he had been misquoted and misconstrued by the white press, but even the black newspapers were critical of his "rash and ill-judged utterances." Nevertheless, he was chairman of a committee to draft a statement of the Afro-American Council addressed to President McKinley. The moderation of the statement was in marked contrast to Fortune's earlier utterances, and this ensured BTW's approval. Fortune signed the address but would not accompany the delegation that presented it to McKinley. (Thornbrough, *Fortune*, 181-88.)

From Robert Lloyd Smith

Oakland, Texas, Jan 2 1899

Dear Friend, Yours of 28 ult. came to me to day. I wrote you a long time ahead in order that you might arrange your affairs so as to give us the inspiration of your presence and the good of your advice at our next annual convocation and fair which will be held the 2nd Wednesday in Oct 1899. The executive committee of our organization authorized me to communicate with you and as we are