

The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON *Papers*

From Viola Knapp Ruffner

[Charleston, S.C.?] Feb 27/99

Dear Booker I am sick in bed & can only see the marks I make & suffer all the time. Will you write the name of the gentleman from Mass. who called on me at the time you & your wife were here. You said he was a Professor in some College near Boston. He gave me his card but I cannot find it. Will you & your wife, both write it so I shall be sure to see it plain. I think he has been writing an article upon your school which I shall get the family to read to me. You have had a great gift this time from Mr Huntington. You can almost educate the race, if they will make an effort themselves, but they are still too much influenced by the past & make little effort to be independent by their own efforts. Those about the house are still under the influence of slavery. Write me on receipt will you? Kind regards to your wife & yourself from your old friend

Viola Ruffner

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To Timothy Thomas Fortune

Tuskegee, Ala., Mar. 1, 1899

My dear Mr. Fortune: I have read two or three times your editorial based on Smith's letter. I would have more patience with this matter if I did not know that Smith is not in earnest, is most hypocritical and is simply trying to draw me into a newspaper contention and thus attract attention to himself. It is impossible that any man with common sense should not see the folly of many of the statements made by Smith. Now in regard to your editorial, I think it covers the ground most completely. The extract from Buckle¹ is especially effective. I had never seen this before. If you will tell me where I can secure this book I should like to get it. This extract² covers my view of the case in a most satisfactory manner. We must keep hammering away at these fellows until a fellow can feel that