

The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON Papers

library for the Alabama Female College. When well-intentioned people are coming out into the light it is a good thing to help them to see the "glory of the coming of the Lord." Yours very truly,

Robert C Ogden

TLS Con. 208 BTW Papers DLC.

From Lillian Marion Norton Ames Stevens¹

Portland, Me., 1 July 1901

My dear Mr. Washington: I have read your Autobiography "Up From Slavery" with deepest interest. I read it too as one who has always been interested in your people, and who has recognized them as *our people*, and can unhesitatingly say I consider it one of the greatest books of the day. Much more I might say did I think it necessary.

I am going to beg the privilege of asking you a few questions, and I do not ask them in the spirit of criticism, but because I have a vital and living interest in the temperance cause, because I know the drink evil is the curse of all races and that it is confined to no one class. May I ask why you make no allusion to the drink evil in your book? Why, in speaking of your honored wife's connection with the Federation of Clubs do you not mention her connection with the largest organization of women in the world, the Woman's Christian Temperance Union? While you make fitting mention of that great woman, Susan B. Anthony, why do you not mention that greater woman, the greatest woman of the century, Frances E. Willard? And the first and only woman whose statue has ever been ordered to be placed in Statuary Hall, at the Nation's Capitol. Your race never had a more loyal friend, and I am sure no kinder, broader recognition could have been given Mrs. Washington than has been accorded her by Frances Willard on our public platform. I have heard her speak of you and describe your work as she saw it at Tuskegee, and I can but wonder if in any way you have misunderstood her, if you have misunderstood her great work and the work of the W. C. T. U. which is still going on with marked success.