

NOVEMBER • 1901

To Theodore Roosevelt

Tuskegee, Alabama. Oct. 31, 1901

My dear Mr. President: I know you have not had time to bother with many of the editorial expressions made regarding my dining with you, but I believe that it is worth your while to read the enclosed editorial which appears in today's *Atlanta Constitution*.¹ It is the first sign of returning common sense to the South and I think indicates a good deal. While I must confess that the outbreak over my dining with you was far beyond my expectations, I cannot help but feel that it was providential and that good is going to come out of it.² Yours truly,

Booker T. Washington

TLS Theodore Roosevelt Papers DLC.

¹ *Atlanta Constitution*, Oct. 31, 1901, 6. The editorial was entitled "Shall the Race Question Establish Anew the Mason and Dixon Line?" The *Constitution* stated that "social intercourse between the races would be destructive of race integrity and detrimental to social order," but urged tolerance for the opinions of both the North and the South. Concerning Roosevelt's proposed trip to Charleston, the *Constitution* supported the welcome issued by Charleston's mayor, but pointed out that the welcome was extended to Roosevelt in his role as President.

² Roosevelt replied that the whole incident had made him feel "melancholy" regarding the actions of his friends, but he assured BTW that the uproar would not have any effect on his policy. (Nov. 2, [1901], Theodore Roosevelt Papers, DLC.)

To Hollis Burke Frissell

Tuskegee, Ala., Nov. 1, 1901

My dear Dr. Frissell — I am looking forward with a good deal of interest to the work in New York during next week and I do hope that the wisest and best thing may be done. I think you will have to bear in mind this point, while I think I realize as much as and as deeply as anyone could the importance of education of the white people in the South and am just as anxious for their broader education as any white man can be, at the same time I think you and others will have to watch carefully to see that nothing is done that would give the impression that Negro education is being shoved