

*The* BOOKER T. WASHINGTON *Papers*

To Bliss Perry<sup>1</sup>

South Weymouth, Mass. August 23, 1902

My dear Mr. Perry: I have received your letter. I have noted with deep interest the controversy over the Sledd<sup>2</sup> matter in Georgia. Looked at in the broader way I can see nothing in this controversy to be discouraged. It shows that Southern men of influence and standing are beginning to speak out, and they will do so more and more in the future. By this mail I send you a marked copy of the *Atlanta Constitution* which has a rather significant letter in it from a Southern white man.

By the way, do you know that Mr. Sledd is the son-in-law of Bishop Candler and is the nephew of the present Governor of Georgia I think. Yours truly,

Booker T. Washington

TLS Walter Hines Page Papers MH.

<sup>1</sup> Bliss Perry (1860–1954) was professor of English at Princeton from 1893 to 1900 and taught at Harvard from 1900 to 1930. He was editor of the *Atlantic Monthly* from 1899 to 1909, and he wrote numerous books on American literature and literary criticism.

<sup>2</sup> Andrew Sledd, professor of Latin at Emory College in Georgia, wrote a mildly heretical article, "The Negro: Another View," *Atlantic Monthly*, 90 (July 1902), 65–73. He accused the South of persecuting blacks, and particularly deplored lynching. He urged that blacks be treated with courtesy and equality in public places. Sledd was the son-in-law of Southern Methodist Bishop Warren A. Candler, a former president of Emory College. Rebecca L. Felton, later to be the first woman U.S. senator, launched an attack on Sledd in the *Atlanta Constitution*, and it was quickly taken up in other newspapers. Sledd precipitately submitted his resignation, and with alacrity the executive committee of the college's board of trustees accepted the resignation, though in 1914 he returned to a position in the theology school at Emory. Bliss Perry, whose magazine had published Sledd's article, had written that he was "thoroughly indignant" at the local outcry against Sledd. Perry helped Sledd secure a scholarship to study at Yale the following year. (Perry to BTW, Aug. 16, 1902, Con. 1; Francis J. Garrison to BTW, Oct. 23, 1902, Con. 228, BTW Papers, DLC.)

From Henry Francis Downing<sup>1</sup>

[London, England] 2nd. September 1902

Dear Sir, New Cotton Fields Ltd., of which I am Managing Director, is on the eve of inaugurating the growth of the Cotton plant