

NOVEMBER • 1902

that we, you and I, are the frail insects of a moment. Soon we'll be gone. Evolution will do wonders. Yours sincerely,

J. M. Pyne

ALS Con. 239 BTW Papers DLC.

¹ James Merville Pyne (1868–1927) was originally named Payne but changed his name at the time he was commissioned a captain in the First West Virginia Volunteer Infantry at the beginning of the Spanish-American War. He was discharged in 1899 but enlisted a month later in the regular army as a private. He reached the rank of sergeant but was dishonorably discharged as a private in Aug. 1907 because of proof that he was a bigamist and a “dissolute” man. (Pension file, XC 3-023-223, DNA.)

From Timothy Thomas Fortune

Maple Hall, Red Bank, N.J. November 3, 1902

Dear Mr. Washington: I enclose a clipping from the Sun this morning,¹ a similar publication having appeared in several other New York daily papers during the past week. The publication, or the present version of it, appeared first in Trotter's paper in Boston several weeks ago. The facts as stated in the article do not tally with the version of the matter given to me by Portia at South Weymouth. She said to me that her failure to return to Wellesley was due to the fact that as she intended to go to the Boston Conservatory she did not make her application to the former in time to be accepted, and did not go to the Conservatory because restrictions imposed on her in the matter of domiciliation were objectionable. I have said nothing about the matter one way or the other, because I believed that it was started maliciously by the Boston skunk.² As it appears in the daily papers the publication does no good, and if it is incorrect, and Portia's statement to me is the correct one, a correction should be made authoritatively. If Portia's version is the correct one, and you desire me to make a correct version of it and furnish it to the New York Press, Associated and other, wire me to that effect early Wednesday morning, at the New York address and I will do it.

I have a short article on the editorial page of the Sun to-day on the wisdom of employing Afro-American labor in the Philippines,