

The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON Papers

but can't send it as I have but the one copy here. I told Gen. Clarkson that I would go as a commissioner on the part of the Government to study the labor and trade conditions in the Philippines and the far East, and had in mind the shunting of our surplus labor to the Orient if I found the conditions such as to warrant such recommendations. In reply (Oct. 22) he said:

"I have your letter of yesterday with its suggestion as to yourself, which I think is practical. As soon as I go to Washington I will ascertain what can be done on this line."

I want to get out of the country for awhile because I donot care to get out of plumb with the party during the next twelve months, and I shall do this as things are now tending, and because I want to make enough money to pay my debts and start fresh in purely literary work.

I have not told you that I have not drunk anything for a long time and feel safe in saying that I never shall drink anything again. I was fortunate to find in my doctor here a friend who gave me [a] remedy that destroyed the taste for liquor of any sort. You need have no further fears on that score. I have none, I am very glad to say. Yours sincerely,

T Thos. Fortune

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¹ The article headlined "Miss Washington's Failure" stated that Portia Washington had failed her examinations at Wellesley College the previous year and was presently enrolled at Bradford Academy. The *Sun* reported that the faculty would only say that she did not qualify in music, but the students spoke of her presence having caused southern and northern factions among them. "Miss Washington proved to be a thorn in the flesh to the faculty," the article concluded, "on account of the newspaper notoriety which she gained. Articles signed by her and interviews on her reception at the college did not meet with the approval of her teachers." (*New York Sun*, Nov. 3, 1902, 1.)

² William Monroe Trotter.

From James Sullivan Clarkson

New York, N.Y., November 3rd, 1902

Dear Doctor Washington: Your letters of the 30th and 31st received. It would be the very crown of folly for the colored men of