

APRIL • 1901

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¹ Florence Ledyard Cross Kitchelt, born in Rochester in 1874, was a graduate of Wells College. In the late 1890s she became a social worker, particularly among Italian immigrants. She also actively promoted trade unionism, woman suffrage, and socialism. From 1900 to 1902 she was with the College Settlement in New York City. Later she was the head social worker at the Little Italy House in Brooklyn for a year, and head social worker with the Italian settlement in Rochester from 1907 to 1910.

² The Social Reform Club of New York City was founded in 1894 on the suggestion of Felix Adler that workingmen and representatives of other groups needed an organization to study the causes of the strikes of the early 1890s. Once organized, however, the club moved in another direction. It saw as its object "to consider, advocate, and forward such practical measures for the improvement of the industrial and social condition in the city of New York as can be undertaken in the immediate future with fair hope of success." Though many of the members were followers of Henry George, the single-tax advocate, the club's rules barred consideration of "general theories of society" and "social panaceas." Its members were required to have an active interest in the elevation of the wage-earner. They met on Tuesday evenings to discuss such questions as contract labor, municipal ownership of public utilities, tenement conditions, and so on.

³ The topic of the evening was "The Industrial Condition of the Negro." Besides the Washingtons, William H. Baldwin, Jr., and others spoke. In his address, BTW noted that the Negro often had difficulty in getting good treatment from his employers. He might even fail to get work despite an industrial education. Slavery had taught Negroes to despise labor, and in the early days of freedom they often looked on education as a way to escape from labor, he said. They were now changing, however, from being office-seekers to being taxpayers. (*Tuskegee Student*, 13 [Mar. 30, 1901], 2; *New York Times*, Apr. 3, 1901, 9.)

⁴ Charles Barzillai Spahr, a former president of the club.

From Pinckney Benton Stewart Pinchback¹

Washington D.C., Apr 5, '01

Dear sir: Some days ago I received a letter from Mr. Charles Green, a general prisoner in the military prison at Alcatraz Cal., seeking my intercession with the government in his behalf, and he enclosed a letter from you dated March 18, 1901, as his warrant for writing to me. In your letter among other things you say: "I wish to refer you, however, to Hon. P. B. S. Pinchback, Washington D.C., who makes a specialty of handling such matters."

I am utterly amazed that you should write such a statement to that unfortunate fellow, or any one else, and you will pardon me if I ask upon what authority you wrote it? I am quite sure you are