

The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON Papers

stantly confined to her bed. I am thankful to say that she is somewhat improved today. Very truly yours,

J. C. Napier

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An Article in the San Francisco *Bulletin*

Aug. 2, 1903

TRAINING DUSKY GRISELDA
MRS. BOOKER T. WASHINGTON'S MISSIONARY
WORK AMONG NEGRO HOUSE-WIVES

One has only to look out of the window of a passing train almost anywhere from Virginia to Louisiana to see the dilapidated one room cabins which shelter a large proportion of the eight million descendants of slavery in this country today. It was during a recent trip through the rural districts of the Black Belt, where shiftless crowded negro homes abound and one discredits for the moment the possibility of any member of the race being sufficiently alert to stir up controversy through the obtainment of Federal office or anything else implying the exercise of the slightest energy, that the writer was given an opportunity to see some successful results of the work of an enlightened colored woman who had devoted years of her life to the task of bettering the miserable conditions in the homes of her people. The name of this woman is Margaret Murray Washington. She is the third wife of the well known president of Tuskegee Institute, Booker T. Washington.

Any one who has seen the outside, still more the inside of an Alabama cabin can appreciate the magnitude of the undertaking which confronts the reformer. From a roomless, often windowless, hut, where light and air are admitted solely through cracks in the dilapidated four walls and five or six persons are crowded under a roof which hardly sheds water; where a bed with sheets and pillow cases is as unusual as a glass window, and the family crawl in between some old covers without even taking the trouble to remove