

SEPTEMBER · 1903

more than ever satisfied of it by all of his subsequent utterances. I therefore felt that your reception of and response to his speech at that time was too cordial and indiscriminating, since he clearly indicated his personal feeling as to the inferiority of the negro. I pray that this reaction may not become a prairie wildfire which will lead to further assassinations and the destruction of schoolhouses, for I realize, as I am sure that you do, that even Tuskegee and the other schools rest on a powder magazine, and may not be exempt from the consequences of the explosion possible if the trains which are now being laid by the Mississippians shall be ignited, but the time has come for plain words and plain warnings to the country. Let me beg of you not to unduly expose yourself away from the great centres. Holding the position which you do, it is incumbent upon you to observe a proper caution in your movements, but having done that, one can only trust himself to the over-ruling powers.

I do hope that your trip abroad will not be spoiled by this, but that I may hear speedily that it is all settled and that you are afloat.

I have your note about the portrait of my father, and will attend to the matter as soon as I can. It so happens that I have nothing now suitable for framing, and I shall have to have one of his portraits enlarged and reproduced.

I was glad to hear of you through my brother and sister, last Friday. I see by this morning's paper that Mrs. Washington was in Cambridge yesterday. With warm regards to you both, and with unshaken confidence in the ultimate triumph of right and justice, I am Faithfully yours,

Francis J. Garrison

P.S. I am surprised and sorry to hear that the Governor of Tennessee failed to address your meeting at Nashville. The papers stated that both he and the Mayor spoke.

TLS Con. 249 BTW Papers DLC.

<sup>1</sup> L. A. Planving, a carpenter and principal of the Pointe Coupee Industrial College near New Roads, La., was shotgunned from ambush on Aug. 28. In his last speech Planving had urged blacks to acquire land, and said that eventually they would have white people working for them. The *New Orleans Times-Democrat* reported that citizens of the area knew the identity of the murderers, but that it was unlikely that anything would be done to prosecute them. (*New Orleans Times-Democrat*, Aug. 31, 1903, 3.)

<sup>2</sup> The editors of the *Evening Post* asked several leading Democrats if Congress had