

FEBRUARY · 1903

To George Bruce Cortelyou

Tuskegee, Alabama. February 3, 1903

Personal.

My dear Sir: On the 12th of February, Lincoln's Birthday, the colored people are in the habit of holding large meetings especially in the Northern cities. Two on a large scale are planned for, New York and Boston, and in these meetings I am reasonably sure that strong resolutions endorsing the President's policy in the South will be passed. I cannot but feel in the present state of public feeling that such resolutions if pretty generally passed all over the country will rather serve to put the President in an awkward position rather than help. If you will be kind enough to let me know the feeling of the President on this subject I can take measures to control these meetings in a large degree if I am notified in time.¹ Yours truly,

Booker T. Washington

TLS Theodore Roosevelt Papers DLC.

¹ Cortelyou replied that Roosevelt agreed that any resolutions "should be put in the most mild and moderate manner." (Feb. 6, 1903, Con. 16, BTW Papers, DLC.)

To Timothy Thomas Fortune

Tuskegee, Ala., Feb. 3, 1903

My dear Mr. Fortune: I have your letter of January 17th written just on the eve of your leaving Honolulu and I am very glad to have it. I watch all of your movements with a great deal of interest.

I must confess that we are passing through a rather severe trial in the South just now. The closing of the Indianola post office and the appointing of Dr. Crum seems to have been made a peg upon which to hang a great deal of anti-Negro sentiment in the South. The feeling against the President at this time is rather intense. I hope, however, that present conditions are only temporary and that within a few months we shall settle down to a normal state of affairs. I should feel better if you were in this country. Notwithstanding