

The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON Papers
Kelly Miller to Emmett Jay Scott

Washington, D.C. Sept 24th 1903

My Dear Mr. Scott: I have just learned with deep regret of Mr. Washington's state of health and of his trip to Europe for recuperation. I am sure that all colored men of whatever school of belief or shade of opinion will wish him a "bon voyage[']" and speedy recuperation.

You have probably seen the article in the Boston Transcript of Sept 18th & 19th, headed "Washington's Policy" and signed "Fair Play."¹ These articles were written by me. It was my aim to be fair and impartial to all sides of the controversy and to suggest the absolute necessity for some common ground. I trust that the plain speaking which I deemed necessary to full and frank discussion of the points in issue will be accepted in the spirit of kindly candor, in which it was employed. Trusting that the great and good work of Tuskegee will go forward with increasing influence and effectiveness, and wishing you the fullest possible personal success I am
Yours truly,

Kelly Miller

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¹ These articles took a middle position between BTW and his critics. Miller observed that BTW was "not a leader of the people's own choosing" and that "few thoughtful colored men espouse what passes as Mr. Washington's policy, without apology or reserve." On the other hand, he noted that the radicals lacked organization, leadership, and constructive achievements. He concluded: "The Negro's lot would be sad indeed if, under allurements of material advantage and temporary easement, he should sink into pliant yieldance to unrighteous oppression; but it would be sadder still if intemperate insistence should engender ill will and strife, when the race is not yet ready to be 'battered with the shocks of doom.'" The essay is reprinted in Hawkins, ed., *Booker T. Washington and His Critics*.

From Emmett Jay Scott

Tuskegee: Oct 1/03

Dear Mr. Washington: I write to ask if it will be possible for you to arrange — in any way — with the Southern or the General Edu-