

DECEMBER · 1903

To William Henry Baldwin, Jr.

[Tuskegee, Ala.] December 3, 1903

Dear Mr. Baldwin: I write you regarding the sleeping car business. I am very glad to have seen your last letter. I find it is quite necessary to go ahead in the matter and have Mr. Cravath<sup>1</sup> give us his opinion upon the subject.

I have learned of three different cases lately where the Pullman car people have either refused or avoided selling sleeping car accommodations from Cincinnati to colored people. In one case a woman bought or attempted to buy, a sleeping car ticket in Cincinnati to some point in Tennessee, and it seems that the agent didn't know she was colored until he had sold the ticket and he saw her talking with some colored people and therefore supposed she was colored; pretending that there was some mistake regarding the ticket, he secured it from her and returned the money. In another case a colored minister bought a ticket and got upon the car and the conductor tried to get him to go out, but knowing his rights he refused, and the result was that they let him ride from Cincinnati to Atlanta, Ga., in the drawing room at single berth rates. Dr. Mason, the Secretary of the Freedmen's Aid Society in Cincinnati, a very intelligent and level-headed colored man, says that one of the Pullman car ticket agents in Cincinnati has told him that he has received instructions not to sell tickets to colored people. Yours truly,

[Booker T. Washington]

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<sup>1</sup> Paul Drennan Cravath, born in Berlin Heights, Ohio, in 1861, was the son of Erastus Milo Cravath, president of Fisk University. A leading New York lawyer, Paul Cravath was a trustee of Fisk, and he and BTW later worked together closely in a fund-raising campaign for Fisk. In 1911 he was involved in behind-the-scenes legal negotiations of the trial of Henry A. Ulrich for assaulting BTW in New York.