

The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON Papers

it. In a speech on Lincoln's Birthday which I am to deliver in New York, I am going to take the liberty to quote liberally from what you have said. Yours very truly,

Booker T. Washington

TLS Joel Chandler Harris Papers GEU.

¹ Joel Chandler Harris, "The Negro of To-day: His Prospects and His Discouragements," *Saturday Evening Post*, 176 (Jan. 30, 1904), 2-5. Harris concluded that the Negro race was improving and that the great majority of blacks in the South led "sober and industrious lives." Harris wrote of BTW: "He is an orator of great power, a writer of unusual ability, and an extraordinary administrator of large and complicated interests."

To James H. Hayes

[Tuskegee, Ala.] Feb. 2, 1904

Personal

My dear Mr. Hayes: Both of your kind letters have been received. I am very sorry that Mr. Fortune continues to hammer on the suffrage convention. I made an earnest effort with him to get him to stop and supposed I had succeeded, although I could not get a promise that he would stop. He was considerably agitated when I spoke to him about it, but I have the feeling that the best thing is to let him alone and he will forget all about it in a few weeks and will find some other fellow or some other institution to hammer on and will forget you and your organization at least for a while. You will note that the other papers I think without exception, that I promised to help with have ceased to trouble you.

When I see you, I am particularly anxious to talk over the questions raised in Mr. Asbury's letter. More and more I feel inclined that Mr. Asbury is one of the most level headed and square men in the race and I think a great deal of his suggestions on any point.

Mr. Humphreys¹ was the man that I wanted you to see with me sometime when in New York. I am to be in New York on the 12th of February but my stay there will be so very short that I very much fear I cannot find time to see you at any length. I shall be there,