

SEPTEMBER • 1905

The South does itself injustice when it gives to such happenings an exaggerated significance.

Booker Washington's attitude to this matter seems to me to have been as wise as it is upon so many other questions. For fifteen years he has been going to summer resorts in the North, never for pleasure but always in the interest of his work. Although often invited to functions of every kind, he has accepted no invitations but those that bear directly upon his work. It was by Mr. Wanamaker's invitation, and for the purpose of talking about Tuskegee and other work affecting colored people, that Booker Washington lunched with Mr. Wanamaker at Saratoga. To found upon an incident like this a serious criticism of a man who is trying to serve the South in serving his own race, seems to your fellow-countrymen in the North neither generous nor wise. Not wise, because it advertises the fact, if it be objectionable; and not generous, because it attributes ignoble motives to a man whose life of generous service ought to exempt him from such misunderstandings.

I realize fully, Mr. Editor, how impossible it is for one living out of the South to enter completely into the South's feelings upon this subject, try as he will; but at least I may claim sincerely to desire to do so. My hope is that, as the years go on, we may all be able to do more justice to the point of view of the other. Yours respectfully,

[Seth Low]

TL Copy Con. 878 BTW Papers DLC. Redated Sept. 12, 1905, the letter appeared in the *Atlanta Constitution*, Sept. 18, 1905, 4.

Seth Low to Clark Howell

North East Harbor, Maine, September 1st, 1905

Confidential.

My dear Mr. Howell: I venture to send you the enclosed letter for publication in the "Constitution," in the hope that it may do some good; for it seems to me that some effort ought to be made to in-