

OCTOBER • 1905

were innocent of many facts before they attended the meeting. In the future we shall hold to a strict account those who have respect for Trotter and Trotterism, quibble as they may. The fact remains that they must stand by or tear themselves away from such influences. *The Age* has always stood by and supported every effort in behalf of the race, whether it agreed with it or not. We stand ready to help the Niagara movement whenever it can be shown that it has unselfish and worthy motives.

TMd Con. 308 BTW Papers DLC. Of the many editorial corrections of the original in E. J. Scott's hand, only a few have been included for improvements of grammar or clarity.

¹ Though this typescript is undated, internal evidence establishes that it was written after the first Niagara Movement meeting in July 1905 and the Wanamaker dinner incident in August 1905.

² William Henry Lewis.

³ Alonzo F. Herndon (1858-1927) was for many years the proprietor of the most elegant barbershop in Atlanta. He also founded the Atlanta Life Insurance Co.

To John C. Asbury

[Tuskegee, Ala.] October 2, 1905

Personal and Confidential

My dear Mr. Asbury: I have read with interest your editorial concerning the Dixon article in the Evening Post. I ought to say, perhaps, in justice to the Post people, that the next week after publishing the Dixon article they wrote me and said their columns were open for reply at any time I chose to make it. I have not replied to the article and shall perhaps not make a "reply" as I have made it a rule from which I have very seldom departed, not to get in a direct controversy with either colored or white persons in newspapers, but I think at a little later date I shall write an article for the Post refuting the main points urged by Mr. Dixon in an indirect rather than a direct way. I have never felt that we could gain a great deal by being put upon the defensive, that, it seems to me, is an element of weakness. I want to write an article that will show constructive, progressive effort rather than defending the race