

The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON Papers

of the halls have been drawn, and distributed to those who will be in attendance, and the difficulty as near as we can in regard to coat-rooms obviated. There are larger problems more vital confronting us and myself especially, that if I could see my way clear would make the affair a success. Last evening was a stormy meeting, Newsome,¹ Trotter & Co. getting in their work to create among the men bad blood, it is what I have feared, and if they have the proposed meeting, it will not in point of numbers be a failure.

I most respectfully suggest that instead of your informant sending what I consider small suggestions to you, they come and help me work; or if they want to take up the work right here, they can because it is something that I did not bargain for, the abuse, villification, and filth that has been poured upon me, my business affairs disarranged, anon. letters to my family, and to people I work for, and 30 or 40 men to be pacified, furniture ruined etc, and some small fellow, writing about coat rooms, when the Banquet is over I am sure it will be a success, and many men will have contributed to make it so, but they will not be any of your correspondents, but the plain people, who are not looking for anything, but who love you for the work you are doing, and the enemies you have made. Yours Truly,

W. W. Bryant

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¹ Moses Newsome, born in Virginia in 1863, was reported as a day laborer in the 1900 census.

From Melvin Jack Chisum

New York, N.Y. Oct. 1st, 1904

Dear Dr. Washington: Last night I read your wise and prophetic speech — made at Indianapolis Ind., before the N.N.B.L. convention. Having been very busy I laid the paper aside that I might read it carefully which I have done, since I was not there to applaud my quota of appreciation I take occasion to express my self upon paper.