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I do not know whether you know anything as to my personal views anent the question of colored people. But I cite three personal items—(1) I took your R. C. Bruce on his merits and not under any pressure real or attempted. (2) I married a niece of Henry Ward Beecher and of Harriet Beecher Stowe. (3) Arthur Curtis[s] James,¹ whom I know that you know well, is an Amherst, '89 man, Alpha Delta Phi & so am I.

I intend to work out in the largest system of Negro schools in the world the best education that I can discover and organize in the face of Congressional dictation and District of Columbia agitation. I was one of the men who took part in the earliest work of organizing and operating Pratt Institute in Brooklyn.

But I am committed irrevocably to the proposition that education is a matter of universal principles, to be applied judiciously to individual cases, of course, but true always irrespective of sex, race, color and creeds.

In this tour, I am engaged in an investigation of two things: 1st. Why are the schools generally of the District of Columbia so inferior to those of the North? and 2nd. Why is there "a race question" in the District?

The explanation is to be found south of Mason and Dixon's line, not north of it.

I found several friends at Fisk. I hope that you at Tuskegee will adopt me. I hope also that you will allow me to stay several days. Believe me Faithfully yours,

Wm. E. Chancellor

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¹ Arthur Curtiss James (b. 1867), a New York merchant and corporate executive, was a member and later chairman of the board of trustees of Hampton Institute.

To Edgar Gardner Murphy

[Tuskegee, Ala.] December 2, 1906

My dear Mr. Murphy: I thank you very much for your letter and the suggestions therein.

I wish I had time to tell you about a movement that has been