

The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON Papers

the Holidays with us, and we have been enjoying their presence with us very much. Mr. George W. Moore³ is also here, and he is helping us in many ways.

In case Mrs. Washington succeeds in getting the library building without condition for Fisk, both of us very much hope that no public mention of either of our names will be used in connection with the gift. Yours very truly,

Booker T. Washington

TLpS Con. 344 BTW Papers DLC.

¹ St. Elmo Brady graduated from Fisk in 1908 and later did graduate work at the University of Illinois (Ph.D. 1916). He was professor of chemistry at Howard University in the 1920s.

² Alice Carter Simmons graduated from Fisk in 1908 and then attended the Oberlin Conservatory of Music. She headed Tuskegee's division of instrumental music beginning in 1916.

³ George Washington Moore (1854-1920) was a black Congregational minister in Nashville. Born of slave parents in Nashville, he graduated from Fisk University in 1881 and from Oberlin Seminary in 1883. After a post as professor of biblical history and literature at Howard University (1887-92), he became an American Missionary Association field secretary in 1892, rising to the superintendency of the A.M.A. southern church work with headquarters in Nashville. He was a Fisk trustee for more than thirty years beginning in 1885.

From Charles Waddell Chesnutt

Cleveland, O. Jan. 1, 1907 [1908]

My dear Dr. Washington: I received your long and interesting letter. I shall be glad the [to] thresh the ballot proposition over with you sometime. As to the ballot, the importance of a thing is not to be measured by the number of times you do it. Some of the most important & vital things of life are done only once. A man is born only once, but on that act depends his whole life; he dies only once, which ends all his hopes & fears & usefulness. He marries only a few times.

The importance of the ballot is to me a paramount element of citizenship. A man can earn his daily bread easier and bank more money with it than without it. You argue the question as though the Negro must choose between voting & eating. He ought to do