

FEBRUARY • 1908

From Robert Ezra Park

[Wollaston, Mass.?] Jan. 28. 1907 [1908]

My dear Mr Washington: I send you enclosed my notion of the sort of replies I think it would be well to make to the enclosed letters. I am sorry that I allowed the people of Boley to deceive me in regard to the number of inhabitants of the town. My impression is that they told me that a census had been taken sometime before I was there and that the town had greatly increased since then.

With regard to the second letter, that is, in my opinion, mere pettyfogging. Your article puts the finger on the most striking and most palpable fact in regard to the relations of the races in Indian Territory. Perhaps it could have been expressed more precisely but it never could be expressed in a way that would be palatable to the person who believes there is something essentially noble in the red man and something essentially ignoble in the Negro.

One fact you should emphasize in the Story of the Negro and that is this: The Negro had risen in the scale of civilization to the point where he kept slaves. So far as I know the Negro is the only savage people who has done so. A system of government based on slavery is essentially higher than one based on the mere tribal or family relations. The Southerner will appreciate that. I am very truly

Robert E. Park

P.S. Would it not be a good plan to send copies of these replies to the Outlook, *not* for publication.

TLS Con. 42 BTW Papers DLC.

To William Loeb, Jr.

Hotel Manhattan, New York February 3, 1908

Personal

My dear Mr. Loeb: I received your telegram regarding the division of the state between the two referees¹ just as I was leaving Tuskegee. Of course I will do my best in the future, as I have always