

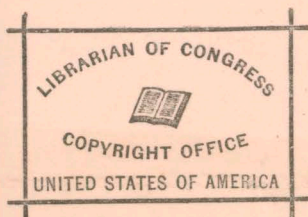
Washington, D.C. 12/10/97

My dear Alice: do you really believe that I am a fool? Your letter has greatly incensed me. No one but you accuses of my friendship with Mrs. Matthews.

I told you that I was accused of intimacy with her before I left New York. No word of mine has ever kept the tale along.

Even when drunk, I have studied Mrs. Matthews' name from any place in my presence, at the expense of friendship. If she wants to know the truth of that, let her write along to Stafford here or ask Charlie Anderson or Phil Brown in New York. If the Mrs. Raymond in Harlem I know nothing. After receiving a letter with the White Rose stamp on it at Cornell's Mrs. C. used to throw up old Vic. Matthews to me. She has found in Harlem. This is the only connection I am in. But she knows nothing and all she could do would be to let a jealous lie.

I have my faults and they are



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To

many and great, but I am not exactly a scoundrel.

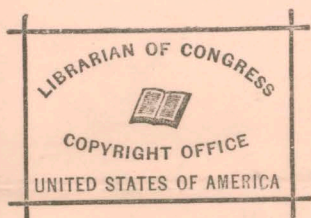
If you will let me, I will write to Mrs. Matthews, and set her mind at rest as to saying anything about her. What I told you, you had a right to know. And dear, as to the shooting, - oh if I am a libertine, I am at least one with backbone enough to take all the chances. But dear I am not one anymore.

For God's sake, marry me some and keep from the way appearance of evil. Even here I am undergoing a terrible temptation. Wonder sometimes if it is all my fault.

I won't reveal anyone when I write to you, but I feel like doing so, now.

Why won't you marry me secretly. You will continue to hold me off until something happens and my life is ruined and yours too. Please would you help me be good? I believe I am worth saving. Let me hear at once if I may write to Mrs. Matthews.

Paul (DUNBAR)



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