

To: Mrs. [Alice M.] Dunbar
[Wilmington, Del.]

From: Cynthia M. St. John
Ithaca, N.Y.

[1]

Ithaca,

16. Sept 1909

Dear Mrs. Dunbar:

Some me in Boston seeing The
Academy several weeks ago, wrote
me about an excellent Wordsworth-
Milton article, and later sent it.

It was just after our fire, and
I had it much mind or heart for
such subjects, even. But I said at
the time that it seemed like your
work or a close imitation.

I am so glad it is yours -
and I congratulate you, it is
truly something of which to be
proud - almost & more - tho
it is more not to be vain: it?

He had such a blow
that fire - our Wordsworth

11. 2. 1897

Dear Mr. Baker:

I am in Boston every day

and I am sure that you are
in about the same place - I am
in the same place, and I am sure

It was not often that I
had it with me or that I
was not with me. But I had it
the time that it occurred the year
last or a close imitation.

I am as glad as you
and I am sure that you are
fully satisfied of what I have
done - about 1897 - the
it is not out of the way
to let me know a little
that you are interested

[9-16-09]

[2]

Cottage at Clatsville Springs, N.Y.
burned and all its contents - within
twenty minutes. In it much that
~~was~~ my heart was set on - two
Ms. - The one about the Round
(N.W.) about forty Worlandworth
books (the not the rare editions),
another Ms. - a history of early
Athaca, just completed - type-
written and fifty odd rare, old
books in that line.

In saving the life of the writer
- I was alone with the Cook -
who set the house on fire (the
writers) then was no time to
save any old mahogany, the
family press, silver - all our
jewels - clothes &c. &c. &c.
So you see I have had my
experience - and just now am feeling it

[Faint, illegible handwriting visible through the paper.]

[9-16-09]

[3]

nervously. I kept up bravely at first - perhaps too well - being determined not to be conquered by loss of things - The most of them cannot be replaced, and our financial loss was great.

However, others have suffered thus and worse - and I desire to learn my lesson properly.

I hope all goes well with you. I don't if the M. W. Concordance is out - or has a publisher. I haven't seen Dr. Cooper yet. He went to England this summer.

Always sincerely yours,

Anthony M. St. John

P. D. Sept. 25

The above was misdirected & returned to me. Dr. Cooper called yesterday. The Concordance is not in press - but C. is determined upon it in some way and soon. I am feeling less nervous. 1-33-16

I have been thinking of you
very much lately. I hope you are
well and happy. I have been
very busy lately, but I have
managed to find some time to
write to you. I hope you are
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To: Alice [M. Dunbar]
[Wilmington, Del. ?]
From: [C. A. Fleetwood], Major
Washington, D.C.

(1)

[July 18, 1909]

"Plain Language from Truthful James."

Dear Alice:

You may possibly recall that quite some time ago, I wrote that there were but three people in this wide world nearer to my heart than you; Subsequently, following the death of my sister, I used the expression that outside of these walls there was no one as dear to me as you. Up to that time there was in my love for you no thought nor idea that could not have been shared by my wife, in fact she knew of it and fully approved of ~~the~~ should in it. Later she also left me, so that the two living ones dearest to me became Edith and yourself. No interloper has as yet intervened.

Last year I was inconceivably puzzled and pained by a swift, intangible, but clearly marked change in you, both as to your letters, and as to your personal treatment. I was frank enough to "blubber" - as you named my protesting, about it. I made every possible effort to secure some explanation, but was quietly ignored, and my "blubbering" passed over in silence.

Every possible cause, save one, was passed upon without satisfactory results to my mind. It was no doubt stupid of me never to have had that one occur to me. A little egotism might have brought it to me, but my supply was exhausted some time previous, so it was left to me only to puzzle and worry, - both of

Kept me fully occupied until Christmas-tide.
 The chance remark before alluded to, let in a
 flood of light, ^{and} set me at perfect peace and
 One-ness with you immediately. My instant
 thought was. - Oh that poor dear child, what
 a shame that she should be persecuted by
 those infernal gossips in that town, while
 I like a blithering idiot never thought of the
 meat I was furnishing the buzzards to feed upon.
 It was at once apparent to me why it was not
 possible for you to explain the cause for put-
 ting up your barriers, and for checking my ardor,
 that you were not only clearly within your rights,
 but that it was "meet right and your bounden
 duty" to protect yourself from gossiping tongues,
 by cooling off the source of heat supply. So
 my heart sang songs of peace, and the fact
 that latterly your letters were drifting back into
 the ways of the old time freedom, ^{and} spontaneity
 filled me with gladness. I always intended
 to bring the matter up, but did not intend to
 do so until we should be sometime "face to
 face" recognizing the infinite ease of an
 entire misunderstanding in tackling such
 a matter at long range and through the
 medium of written words. - An incautious
 remark, and your after persistence brought
 it about, and has further complicated things

(3)

in that fuller explanation was not allowed. The opening of my eyes brought no blame to you whatever, - nothing but approval as to your sane and safe ideas - right for having ignorantly or thoughtlessly involved you, and Cuss-words for the devils that were harrowing you.

I am not going to do things by halves, now, but am going to say that there was ample ground for their reasoning, except or up to the point, that no idea rested in my mind to ask you that question which could obviously be expected to receive only a negative reply, if for no other reason, disparity in ages, but other reasons crowded so thickly, that it was most evidently, or would have been home-sight-madness, Not for a moment will I attempt to disguise the fact, that the thought had been in my mind was carefully and thoroughly put through with and quietly but forcefully locked away.

It happens of course that while well along in years, I have not yet developed into a decrepid. For some months past now it has been quite the usual thing for friends to bring up with me the question as to why for the sake of my daughter as well as myself, I do not marry. ^{And} almost daily one sees instances of people ten years in advance of my present mile stone, taking unto themselves new help-meets, young and old.

(4)

Not to think of such a thing, is under such circumstances manifestly impossible. At first it fell lightly from me, but recurring to finally forced and received consideration. Naturally, the opening question would be, If so. Whom would you seek? ^{And} while the answer was immediately "Alice" - it was also "impossible" I have gone through with the list of all whom it would be possible to consider from that standpoint, which covers in age from thirty to sixty years, (so you see you are within the age limit) but it is a case of Pole-star and needle, there is no one else I want. Knowing you cannot be won, the vacancy shall remain. Of course suggestions have been made, some of which have riled me unspeakably, probably the other parties would have been quite as unspeakably riled as myself, but I speak of my own ideas. My wife possessed many desirable attributes, she was well read, ^{and} well educated for her day and time, or in fact as well as the average, she had brains and intellect, I was never afraid or ashamed to have her enter any association of the superior race, business or social, as I knew she could creditably acquit herself. So when folks name to me some one who is simply good looking, has a pleasant smile,

can play cards, ^{and} talk clothes, it seems like an insult to the memory of the one who left me. Twenty years ago, when passion might, or would have extend largely into such considerations possibly reason might have been temporarily wounded. Passion is now with me of course secondary, I need the companionship of the mind more than that of the body. Still I could not see my way to ask even that, if it belonged to a matter or as they say "suitable" age, for the reason that I have a daughter, whose happiness must also be considered. I would if so seeking, have to pass by all who are what is known as "settled" women, any settled woman coming to the house as my wife would want to "boss" the daughter. Just as soon as she undertook to do so there would be a h-o-t. If at all I would needs hunt once am not too old to be companionable for Edith. Do you see that not only the existing love, but carry other consideration points to you, from my side of the fence, while I see nothing pointing to me from your side of the fence. Still it does not embitter me as it might and would a much younger man. I find happiness in just loving you, and satisfaction in the thought that while not being able to get what I want, I don't have

(6)

take what I can get,

Last summer, when our walls were denuded for papering, when fixing up again, I took your Harris-photo that had looked down from above my desk ever since you left, ^{and} hung it in my bed-room in such a position, that it is the last thing upon which my eyes rest in turning out my light ^{and} the first upon which my eyes open in the morning, that somewhat, but there is nothing maudish in my sentiment. I am like the child who while wanting the moon, has learned that it cannot be reached, and has contentedly settled down to recognize existing circumstances and admire it at a distance.

Whatever other thoughts may come to you, it will not be possible to accuse me of a lack of frankness, after reading this. - If any obscurity remains at any point, in regard to any phase of the matters herein treated, will you be equally frank in stating it. If in any instance I have misstated, or wrongly interpreted you, do not get "huffy" but set me straight. ^{and} above all else realize ^{and} take into your system the knowledge that I mean just that, when I say -

Sincerely your -

Ma. J.

7/18/09.

[C.A. FLEETWOOD]

To: Alice [M. Dunbar]
[Wilmington, Del. ?]

[July 18, 1909]

From: C. A. Fleetwood, Major,
Washington, D. C.

MAJ. C. A. FLEETWOOD
1419 PIERCE PLACE, NORTHWEST
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Dear Alice:

Yesterday I tramped down
from 13th to 7th St. - 7th to F. - & F. to
14th. But found nothing to satisfy me
to pick up and send you off-hand.
Told my troubles to Edith at dinner
so we have hit upon something
new that I think will please you.
It will take about a week to get
it however. My mind was so
settled about those books, that no
"2nd chance" was thought of.

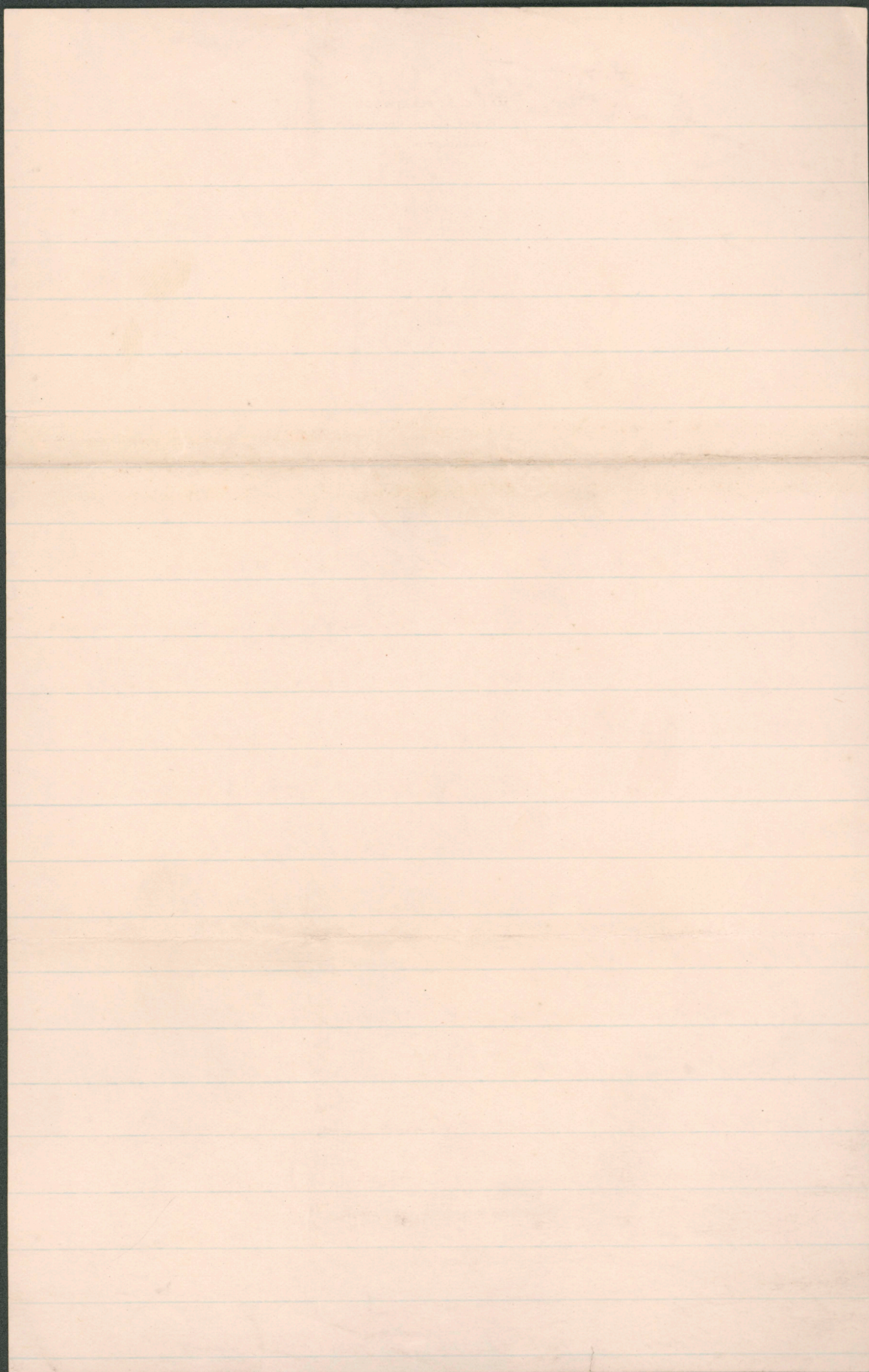
Many happy years of peace, joy,
prosperity and love be added to you

Sincerely
Major.

7-18/09.

1-33-16

Mem School now afoot!

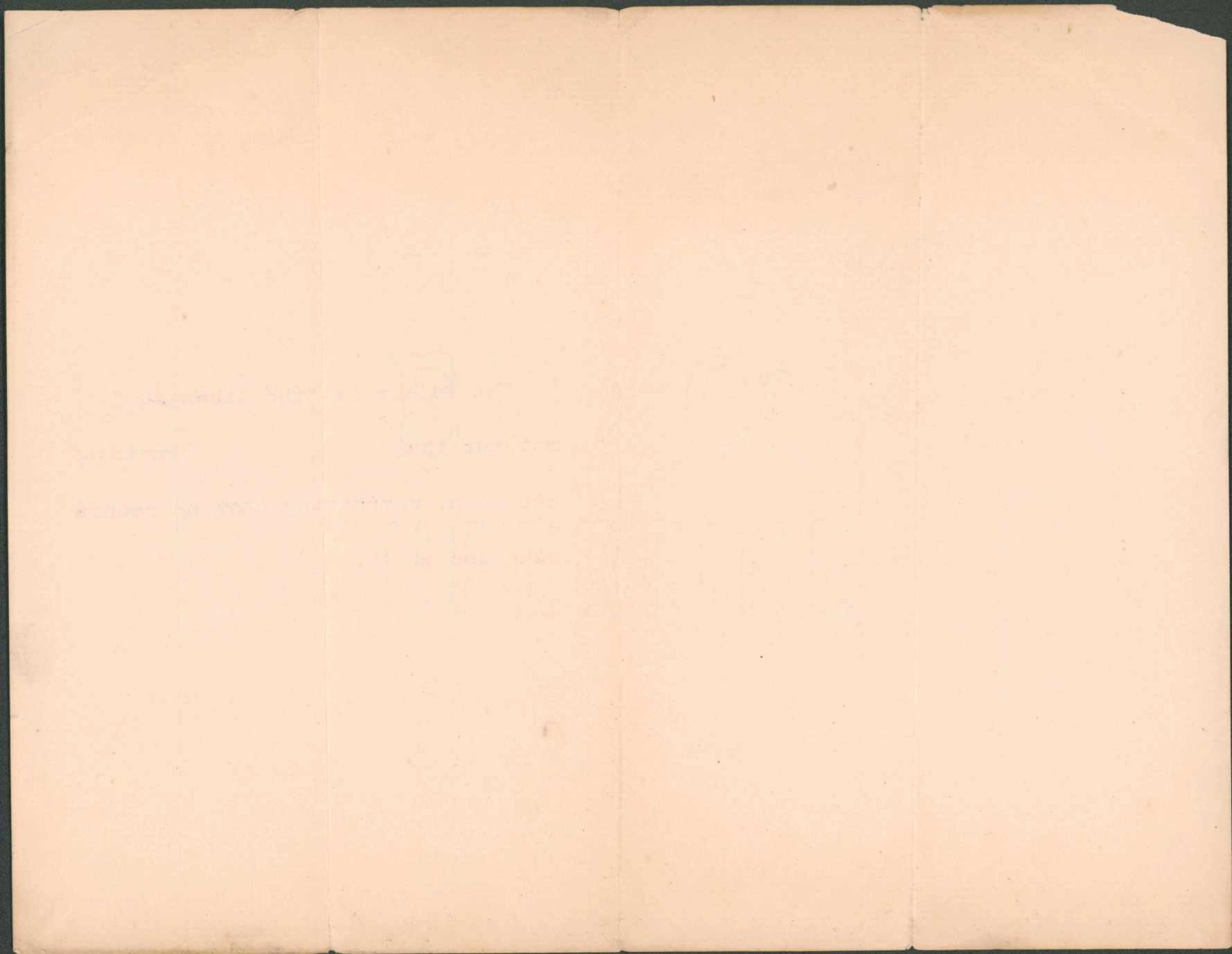


To: Mrs. Alice M. Dunbar
Wilmington, Del. [?]
From: "The Athenaeum"
New York [?]

May 19. 1909.

The Editor of "The Athenaeum"
returns the *MS.* enclosed
herewith, regretting that he cannot
make use of it.

Wordsworth's Use of the Miltonic Word.
Century
Poet Lore



ITHACA
N. Y.
APR 11 2- 1909

~~POSTAL CARD~~



THE SPACE BELOW IS FOR THE ADDRESS ONLY.



Mrs. Alice M. Dunbar,

1008 French Street,

Wilmington,
Delaware.

To: Mrs. Alice M. Dunbar
Wilmington, Del.

From LANE COOPER,
Cornell University
Ithaca, N. Y.

April 9, 1909.

I have read with
interest and approval
your comparison of
Wordsworth and Milton
in Mod. Lang. Notes
for April. Try
it again!

Yours,

Lane Cooper

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON
PRINCIPAL

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To: Mrs. Alice M. Dunbar
Wilmington, Del.
From: Emmett J. Scott
Tuskegee, Alabama

WARREN LOGAN
TREASURER

THE TUSKEGEE
NORMAL AND INDUSTRIAL INSTITUTE

FOR THE TRAINING OF
COLORED YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, ALABAMA

January 20, 1909.

Mrs. Alice M. Dunbar,
1008 French Street,
Wilmington, Del.

My dear Madam:

I have your kind letter of some days ago.

The only address upon Lincoln made by Dr. Washington, of which I have any distinct recollection at this time, is one made by him before the Hamilton Club of Brooklyn some time ago. I have been making an earnest effort to secure a copy of that address so as to send it to you, but so far, without success. Most likely I shall be able to put at your disposal a typewritten copy of the speech very soon.

I do not know whether you have "Up from Slavery" in your school library or not. If so, you will find on pages 7, 8, 263 and 309 references to Lincoln.

Regretting that I am not serving you quite as faithfully in this matter as I should like to be doing, I am:

Yours truly,

Emmett J. Scott
Secretary.

S.

I shall not forget
to write you again.

WOMAN AND CHILD LABOR

January 20, 1902.

Mr. Alice M. Hamilton,
1005 Wisconsin Street,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Madam:

I have your kind letter of some days ago.
The only address upon Lincoln made by Dr. Washington, of which
I have any definite recollection at this time, is one made by him before
the Hamilton Club of Brooklyn some time ago. I have been making an ear-
nest effort to secure a copy of that address so as to send it to you, but
as far, without success. Most likely I shall be able to put at your dis-
posal a typewritten copy of the speech very soon.

I do not know whether you have "Up from Slavery" in your school
library or not. If so, you will find on pages 7, 8, 222 and 209 refer-
ences to Lincoln.

Regretting that I am not serving you quite as faithfully in
this matter as I should like to be doing, I am,

Yours truly,

Secretary.

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON
PRINCIPAL

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To: Mrs. Alice M. Dunbar
Wilmington, Del.
From: Emmett J. Scott
Tuskegee, Alabama

WARREN LOGAN
TREASURER

THE TUSKEGEE
NORMAL AND INDUSTRIAL INSTITUTE

FOR THE TRAINING OF
COLORED YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, ALABAMA

January 23, 1909.

Mrs. Alice M. Dunbar,
1008 Front Street,
Wilmington, Del.

Dear Madam:

I send you herewith the address made by Principal Washington before the Union League Club of Brooklyn, February 12th, 1906, in compliance with my promise of a few days ago. Will you kindly return it to me when it has served your purpose?

Yours very truly,

Emmett J. Scott
Secretary.

S.

NORMAL AND INDUSTRIAL INSTITUTE

January 22, 1900.

Mr. Alfred A. Bunker,

1003 Third Street,

Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

I send you herewith the address book of the
before the National League Club of Washington, February 1900, in
please with my friends of a few days ago. Will you kindly return it
to me when it has served your purpose?

Very truly,
Yours,

Edmund

ADDRESS OF BOOKER T. WASHINGTON BEFORE THE UNION LEAGUE CLUB
, BROOKLYN, FEBRUARY 12, 1896, ON ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

Mr. President and Gentlemen:

You ask him whom the great emancipator found a piece of property and left an American citizen, to speak of Abraham Lincoln. My first acquaintance with our hero and benefactor is this: Night after night, before the dawn of day, on an old slave plantation in Virginia, I recall the form of my sainted mother bending over a bunch of rags that enveloped my body, on a dirt floor, breathing a fervent prayer to heaven that "Marsa Lincoln" might succeed, and that one day she and I might be free; and so on your invitation, I come here tonight, Mr. president, to celebrate with you the answer to those prayers. But be it far from me to revive the bitter memories of the past, nor would I narrow the work of Abraham Lincoln to the black race in this country -- rather would I call him the Emancipator of America -- the liberator of the white man North, the white man South; the one, who in unshackling the chains of the Negro, has turned loose the enslaved forces of nature in the South, and has knit all sections of our country together by the indissoluble bonds of commerce. To the man in the North who cherished hatred against the South, Lincoln brought freedom. To the white man who landed at Jamestown years ago, with hopes as bright and prospects as cheering as those who stepped ashore on Plymouth Rock, Lincoln for the first time gave an opportunity to breathe the air of unfettered freedom; a freedom from dependence on others' labor to the independence of self-labor; freedom to transform unused and dwarfed hands into skilled and productive hands; to change labour from drudgery into that which is dignified and glorified; to change local commerce into trade with the world; to change the Negro from an ignorant man to an intelligent man; to change sympathies that were local and narrow into love and good-will for all mankind -- freedom to change stagnation into growth, weakness into power; yes, to us all, your race and mine, Lincoln has been a great emancipator. Even the treasure of nature in our

Southland, that seemed to hide themselves from the hand of man, have felt the inspiring thrill of freedom; and coal, and iron, and marble, have leaped forth, and where once was the overseer's lash, steam and electricity make go the shop, the factory and the furnace.

NEEDS.

But all is not done, and it remains for us, the living, to finish the work that Lincoln left uncompleted. You of the great and prosperous North, still owe a serious and uncompleted duty to your less fortunate brothers of the white race South, who suffered and are still suffering the consequences of American slavery. What was the task you asked them to perform? Returning to their destitute homes after years of war, to face blasted hopes, devastation, shattered industrial system, you ask them to add to their burdens that of preparing in education, politics and economics, in a few short years, for citizenship, the four or five millions of former slaves. That the South, staggering under the burden, made blunders, that in some measures there has been disappointment, no one need be surprised.

The 4,000,000 slaves that Lincoln freed are now nearly 8,000,000 freemen,. That which was three hundred years in doing can hardly be undone in thirty years. How can you help the South and the Negro in the completion of Lincoln's work? A large majority of the people Lincoln freed are still ignorant, without proper food or property, or skill, or correct habits; are without the requisites for intelligent and independent citizenship. ^{the more} ~~hash~~ flat of law could not make a dependent man independent; it could not make an ignorant voter an intelligent voter; could not make one respect another man. These results come by beginning at the bottom and working upwards; by recognizing our weakness as well as strength; by tangible evidences of our unworthiness to occupy the highest positions. Unfortunately, too many of my people, because of ignorance, began at the tip, instead of at the bottom; grasped for the shadow, instead of the substance. We have spent time and money in attempting to go to Congress and State Legislatures, that could have better been spent in becoming the leading real estate dealer or carpenter in our county. We have spent time and money in making political stump speeches and in attending political conventions, that could better have been spent in starting a dairy farm, or truck

Req.

[3.]

garden, and thus have laid a material foundation on which we could have stood and demanded our rights. I come to your state and say the German is ignorant; you point to the best paying truck farm operated by a German. I say the German is without skill; you point to the largest machine shop in your city owned and operated by a German. I say the German is lazy; you point to the most magnificent dwellings on your avenue; that is the result of the savings of the German who began in poverty. I say the German cannot be trusted; you point to the German who is president of your largest bank. I say the German is not fitted for citizenship, you point me to the German who is the chief executive of your magnificent city--these are the kind of arguments that kill prejudice by the acre. When you come to Alabama, and ask has the Negro executive ability I want to show you, as I can, at Tuskegee, Alabama, an institution of learning, originated and controlled by Negroes, where there are 750 students, 69 teachers, 23 industries, 38 buildings, 1400 acres of land, \$225,000 worth of property. When you ask has the Negro mechanical skill, I want to show you the finest house in a county planned and constructed by a Negro. When you ask is the Negro lazy, I want to show you the finest farm that is owned and operated by a Negro. When you ask is the Negro honest, I want to show you a Negro whose note is acceptable at the bank for \$5000. When you ask is the Negro economical, I want to show you a Negro with \$50,000 in the bank. When you ask is the Negro fit for citizenship, I want to show you a Negro paying taxes on a cotton factory. I want to show you Negroes who stand at the front in affairs of state religion, education, mechanics, commerce, and household economy.

"By this sign we shall conquer." By this method we shall so knit our civil and business interests into that of the white man, that when he prospers, we shall prosper, when he fails, we shall fail. By this method we shall crawl, pull up, or burst up.

Yes, in answer to your proclamation, Father Abraham, we are coming 8,000,000 strong, we are coming by way of the college, by way of agriculture, the shop, the factory, the trades, the household arts. With this foundation, if God is right, and the Bible true, there is no power that can permanently stay our progress.

You cannot graft a fifteenth century civilization into a twentieth century civilization by the mere performance of mental gymnastics. You cannot convert a man by abusing him. The mere pushing of knowledge into the heads of a people, without providing a medium through the hand for its use is not always wise. The educated idle man is more dangerous than the ignorant idle man. An educated man standing on the corners of your streets with his hands in his pockets is not one whit more benefit to society than an ignorant man in the streets with his hands in his pockets. It is only as the black man produces something that makes the markets of the world dependent on him for something, will he secure his rightful place.

OBJECT LESSON.

Eight years ago I could have shown you a colored community in Alabama, that was in debt, mortgaging crops, living from mouth to mouth on rented land, paying from 25 % to 40% interest on advances for food, school lasting three months, taught in a wreck of a log cabin, people of all ages and sexes huddled together, often to the number of six or eight in a room, and without habits of thrift and economy. A little more than half a dozen years ago, four teachers, one a carpenter and blacksmith, one trained in agriculture, another in sewing, combined with literary education, went to this community. Go with me to that community to-day, and I will show you a large modern school-house, with school lasting eight months, farms well cultivated and owned by colored people, who live in homes of two or three rooms. I will show you a people free from debt, and a gin, and a store, and a wheelwright and blacksmith shop operated by Negroes; a community that has the respect and confidence of white citizens; a community that has been revolutionized in religion, education, and industry. Let us multiply these communities in every part of the South. By this way we are coming; by this way we are proving ourselves worthy of the confidence of our great emancipator. We mean to prove our worth not by mere talk or complaints or fault finding and the rest we leave with you.

HIGHER VIRTUES.

Nor shall we be lacking in the exercise of the higher virtues. In 1840 one of my race was sold from Virginia into Georgia. After serving his master in slavery for twenty years, seeing his children, and his wife subjected to the lash and other hardships, at the command of Lincoln he became a freeman. Conditions reverse themselves. By industry and economy the ex-slave secures a comfortable home, educates and trains his children along industrial lines; he becomes prosperous and independent. In the meantime, his former master and mistress grow infirm, have reverses, going down till poverty and want are reached. The black man, the ex-slave, hears of the conditions of his former owners, and at great expense and inconvenience finds his way to them. Grasping them by the hand he lets them know that the past is forgotten, tells them of his prosperity and future hopes. This black man brings his former owners to his own home, builds for them a neat cottage, nurses them, feeds them, warms and protects and cheers them into happiness and contentment. This, my friends, is an example of the true emancipation; let white men North and South strive to match it, to excel it, if they can.

This is the new emancipation we seek to bring about at Tuskegee; to emancipate the white man to love the Negro; to emancipate the Negro to love the white man; to emancipate the Negro into habits of thrift, skill, economy, and substantial character; to teach the Negro if another man is little, he can be great; if another man is mean, he can be good; if others hold malice, he can cultivate charity. Thus rising day by day in stepping on our dead selves, we hope to bring help the black and the white man bring about that larger, that higher emancipation for which Avraham Lincoln lived and died, and to which you and I should dedicate our means, our influence and activities.

