

[1899]

Tuskegee Alabama, Feb. 21st.

Dearest Wife:

I got your telegram on arriving here yesterday and was very much disappointed. I was especially sorry to hear of Leila's illness being increased, but sincerely hope that it will not really prove serious. I was so longing to see you and take you in my arms and this hope had kept me up through my long journey.

But we shall be all the happier for the meeting when it does come. I will write you a letter about the conference as soon as it is over.

I was glad that you got my telegram and did not stop in New York although I made the faux pas of sending one to you in care of Mrs. M. who I suppose purchased it.

The first thing I was told when I got here was that I should have to write the same night. I did, but was so tired that I only did four pieces. I am the guest of Charles Winter Wood who read with me in New York last Monday. He is a delightful fellow and the trick the Washingtons did last night & thought very shabby. They asked me to dinner, formally, by note & did not ask my host. Of course I could not refuse without causing feeling on their side & this is not policy. I left all my Phila. Press photos at home & may have to telegraph Ed Arnold to send if I have to go on to Nashville & I hope I won't.

It has been raining here and the roads are in very bad condition so Mr. M. does not expect a large attendance at the conference this year. The matters we discussed there even last night, he forced a discussion upon me at his house. Well, he retired from the field after awhile

Thomas E. Smith

after having had ⁽²⁾confused that every argument had been met. He is slick, - pardon me I meant with a capital (S), so.

As I have been writing the wheels have been running so that finally I arose & went to the window and lo! there was one of my beloved ox-carts passing. I have seen several of these here, the patient animals plodding along sometimes hitched only to the back wheels of an old wagon the driver sitting on the tongue. I wish, how I wish you could be here! But a month from today or a week before that if you are still there I shall see you.

I am feeling very fairly well only I am blind with rage that Mr. Clure's should have dared to send back an article which they had ordered. They wrote that it had come too late for them and that they had not expected just that kind of an article. I wonder what kind they did expect?

Now, darling I must hurry to get this in the mail. I hope I shall hear from you tomorrow though I do not know when to tell you to write to me next.

Give my love and sympathy to all the family and drop mother a line when you can.

Adieu, my darling, a thousand kisses -
Hubbards.

