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Cable, George Washington

George Washington Cable

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Mr. G. W. Cable,
Paradise Road,
Northampton, Mass.

Dear Mr. Cable:

I have yours of December 29th and reply as far as I can. You may not knew that the State of Alabama has so far provided no school houses for the public schools. That is left to the people, and the result is that the schools among the colored people especially are usually taught in church houses. In some of the larger towns and cities the local authorities have made provision for the building of school houses. I have looked carefully over the State Superintendent’s report and find that he gives no estimate of the value of school property owned by the State, but I am sure I will be inside of the truth when I say that the property owned by the State and used by the benefit of the colored people is valued at less than $250,000. I am sorry that I cannot give you a more satisfactory answer.

Yours truly,

B. T. Washington
Mr. Geo. W. Cable,

Northampton, Mass.

My dear Mr. Cable:

There is to be a large meeting held in Trinity Church, Boston in the interest of Tuskegee, on Sunday evening, the 16th of December. Both Dr. Donald and myself are very anxious to have you present as one of the speakers on that occasion. It is not very often that Trinity Church is open for any such meeting as this, and we are very anxious to make the meeting a highly successful one, and we all feel that your presence will add much to the value and success of the meeting.

I know, of course, that your time is very valuable, and I also know your interest in the cause for which I am laboring. I do hope you can come.

Of course I shall be responsible for your expenses and any other charges that you may make.

Please send an answer to this address.

Yours truly,

Booker T. Washington.

Prin.
Tuskegee Normal School

FOR TRAINING COLORED TEACHERS.

Tuskegee, Ala., Feb. 1, 1889,

Mr. Geo. W. Cable,
Paradise Road,
Northampton,
Mass.

Dear Sir:-

I have kept you waiting in order to get such information I could use the subject of your letter. Within the last year about 1 dozen families in good circumstances have left Montgomery county and settled in California. But those are now leaving and have been doing so since Xmas in large numbers are the common plantation hands. I suppose 600 have gone from Montgomery and adjoining counties within the time mentioned; the majority are going to La. and the Mississippi bottoms where floating inducements are held out by labor agents.
who are paying the traveling expenses.

As to the cause, I feel quite sure it is to be found in the fact that the colored people are tired working hard all the year and getting nothing for it. It is simply impossible to pay the present mortgage system for them to get a head—they can not pay 25 or 30 per cent interest on the dollars, and many of them have reached the conclusion that no change can make their condition worse.

I have not been able as to this time to get the addresses of but one, Rufus Lewis, Wurdfy, Ark., from whom you (one) get direct information.

Yours truly

Booker T. Washington
Mr. George W. Cable,
Northampton,
Mass.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed I send you a copy of the recent law passed by the Alabama legislature for the distribution of the school fund between the races. You will notice that the entire matter is left in the hands of the township superintendents. As our students have not returned from their vacation I cannot send you at this time their testimony as to the working of this law, but it has greatly cut down the appropriations to the colored schools.

Yours truly,

Booher T. Washington.
Susquehanna Normal School,

For Training Colored Teachers.

Susquehanna, Ala., Oct 8, 1889

Dear Mr. Cobb:

I am very sorry to be so late answering your letter regarding the operation of the craft here now in Alabama, but any minute of my time has seemingly been wasted since receiving your letter. I am glad you are going to give the subject attention and trust that my information is not too late for use.

Of course when the war ended the colored people had nothing on which to live while the first crops were being made. Thus, in addition to renting the land on which to make the first crop they had to get the local merchant or some one else to supply the food for the fruits of their labor...
while the first crop was being made. For every dollars worth of provisions so advanced the local merchant charged from 12 to 30 per cent interest, in order to be sure that he secured his principal and interest a mortgage on the crop in most cases was taken on the crop. Of course the farmer could not pay such interest and the first year found them in debt. The 2nd year they tried again but there was the old debt and the new interest to pay, and in this way the "mortgage system" has gotten a hold on every thing that it seems impossible to shake off. It is evident the colored farmers must mortgage their crops every year. Not only their crops before the many cases they are actually planted, but their horses, sign a release from the homestead. low and in most cases the mules, cows, farming tools and all other household furniture
in covered by the lien. It a gt
At a glance one is not likely
to get the full force of the
figures representing the amount
of interest charged. For example,
it a man makes a mortgage
with a merchant for $200 on
which to “run” during the year
the farmer is likely to get
about $50 of this amount in
Feb. or March, $50 may, $50 in
June or July and the remainder in
Aug. or Sept. By the middle of
Sept. the farmer begins returning
the money in cotton and by the first
of Oct. whenever he can pay the
farmer his fund, but the merchant
charges as much for the money
gotten in Feb. or Aug. as for that
charged in interest over 12 months. And as the
“advance” is made in must
cases it provisions rather than cash, the farmer in addition to paying the interest mentioned, is charged more for the same good than one buying for cash.

If a farmer have to raise a wife and 7 children, the merchant has it in his power to feed out those who work and if some times he says to the farmer to send his children to school no actions can be drawn for them while they are attending school.

After a merchant has "run" a farmer for 5 or 6 years and he does not "pay out" he decides to try mortgaging with another merchant. The first merchant in such cases usually "cleans up" the farmer that is takes every thing mules, cows, hogs, chickens, food, every thing. Except wife and children. It is not very often the merchant furnishing the supplies owns the land, this is most cases is selected from a different point. So you see...
that the 2 factors, home farmer and merchant, who have the most contact with the land, have nothing to no interest in it or to get as much out of it.

The result of all this is seen in the "general run down" conditions of 3/4 of the farms in Alabama. Houses unpainted, fences tumbling down, live animals poorly cared for, and the land growing poorer every year. Many of these colored farmers have almost given up hope and do just enough work to secure their "advances."

One of the strongest things that can be said in favor of the colored people is that in almost every community there are one or two who have shaken off this yoke of slavery and have bought farms of their own and one.
there are a few who rent land and mortgage and still do some things that I have referred to are in most cases sanctioned by the laws of the legislature or are not prohibited by law. A few years ago the Ala. legislature passed a law abolishing the crop lien law but it had no beneficial effect and the next session of the legislature reinstated the old law.

I feel safe in saying that all classes - merchants, landowners and farmers are fast learning through this sick of the practice.

Enclosed I send you a statement made by Prof. Newton which I consider the nearest to the truth that has been made by any Southern white man.

Then I called your attention especially to what the Montgomery Advertiser says under the
Sensim, "The Mortgage Night Mode"

For the good of the work to which I am devoting my life I prefer that my name not be used in any printed manner. If I can help at any time in the good cause I shall be only too glad to do so.

Yours truly,

Boomer T. Woolley

Please return the "Southern Letters" as they are the only copies I have.
Tuskegee Normal School,
© Moorland-Spingarn Research Center
FOR TRAINING COLORED TEACHERS.

Tuskegee, Ala., February 20th, 1889.

Mr. George W. Cable,
Paradise Road,
Northampton,
Mass.

Dear Sir:

Since writing you the other day, I find that at least a dozen families have gone from Montgomery and its vicinity to California. If you will address Mr. Joe Clinton, Red Bluff, Cal., he can give you the information you desire.

Yours truly,
Booker T. Washington.
Dictated.

Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute.

For Training Colored Teachers.

Tuskegee, Ala., May 19th, 1890

Mr. Geo. M. Cable

Dear Mr. Cable:

By this mail I send you a marked copy of the "Southern Workman" containing a very interesting article which I feared might escape your notice.

Your friend,

Booker T. Washington.
Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute,

For Training Colored Teachers.

Tuskegee, Ala., April 7, 1890.

Mr. Geo. W. Cable
North Married
Mass.

Dear Sir: From very kind

Your position in this matter
would certainly do so many

I have delayed an answer

Some days thinking that an

That I might know of

I have known for some

© Moorland-Spingarn Research Center
was to be held, and it seems that
I thought that it was a little strange that
no invitation came to me,
still I supposed all along that
other colored men had been
invited. I do not think I can
be called a sensitive man,
but the disposition on the
part of many of our friends
to consult about the Negro
instead of with - to work
for him instead of with
him is rather trying and
punishing at times. The
actions of the members in this
conference I wonder I can
not understand and cannot
see that the exclusion of
colored men will in a
large degree cripple the
influence of my delegation the
conference may make.
If any interest you to read
a mixed article in the Cleveland
Gazette which I send by this
mail. Should an invitation come
later I shall inform you.

Boeker T. Washington
was to be held, and I thought it a little strange that no invitations come to me. Still, I supposed all along that other colored men had been invited. I do not think I can be called a sensitive man, but the disposition on the part of many of our friends to consult about the Negro instead of with him, instead of with him, is rather trying and perplexing at times. The action of the negro in this conference is wonderful. I can not understand and can not see that the exclusion of colored men will in any large degree cripple the influence of my delinquency. The conference may move.

If my interest you to read a signed article in The Cleveland Gazette, and send a copy of this mail. Should an invitation come later I shall be glad to go.

Sondergut, Washington
Tuskegee Normal School
FOR TRAINING COLORED TEACHERS.

Tuskegee, Ala. Nov. 2, 1885

Mr. E. W. Cable
Union Square

Dear Sir: After considerable delay by sickness I send the answers to your questions:

To instill into them in addition to the mental ideas, strong Christian characters and in most cases giving them a missionary spirit, and to let them

Moorland-Spingarn Research Center
2 No more the large majority of them desire the school and work for the education of their children. There are few now who do not believe in education.

3 A leaving out of practical education and giving that which was not practical.

4 Concentrate the students in that which he will be likely to use.

5 No enlargement is needed. To enlarge would be to make the room more spacious.
Would give a great and much-needed stimulus.

9. Ministry at Talladega College, Handicraft at Tuskegee Normal School, and first of training given at linen college.

10. Has 3 colored Normal schools.

Sears

B. T. Washington, Principal.
To: George W. Cable

Will you speak for Tuskegee at old South Sunday evening meeting important and invitation urgent urbel

Adena House

Booker T. Washington

George A. Gooden
Normal School.
Lerchegee, Ala.

Dear Sir:
The information which you ask for will be sent you in a few days.

O. Y. Washington.
Mr. George W. Cable
Northampton, Mass.