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Du Bois, W.E.B., Letter.

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Williamstown, Mass. 13 - Aug. '05

Messrs Archibald Grimke
and Kelly Miller;

Gentlemen:

Sometime ago you urged me to a step which I declined to take. As it seemed to me at the time the strongest argument you put forward was the fact that Mr. Washington's committee was practically the only efficient active force in the field, so that it was that or nothing. I determined that this should not long be the case and the result has been the successful launching of the Niagara Movement.

I did not ask you two gentlemen to join me in this movement, first because you both belonged to Mr. Washington's committee and membership in both organizations seemed to me inconsistent; and secondly I was not sure that I could find 50 men who had not bowed the knee to Baal.

To day we have a growing enthusiastic organization of nearly 75 members, educated determined and unpurchasable men. I am writing to ask you men to join us as charter members. The platform is I am sure essentially agreeable to you. The members want you and regretted your absence at Buffalo. We are united for active work, not against persons but for principles. Will you not join us? I shall send you a copy of the constitution and declaration if you desire them.

Meantime I await your decision with interest.

Very Sincerely Yours,

W.E.B. DuBois

42 Wrentham St.,
Dorchester, Mass.