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West Medford, Mass. 3/19/'99

My Dear Boy:-

My letter must be brief but frank. Don't you know that you are all wrong about my wielding any influence with publishers? I have none or even if I had, literature does not go by influence. Merit alone tells. As for helping you, no one can help you. Either the work is good or is not. The publisher decides this without advice from outside parties.

As for my strong hand--I had two poems and three stories returned last week and week before from different periodicals. As I told you before, the only thing to do is to keep on writing and sending to editors--that's the test. It wouldn't do any good for me to read your work again and I am a very busy man, but if, as you say, you have profited by the advice I gave you, send it out and that will tell the tale.

Hoping that you may soon enjoy the pleasures of the literary life with fewer of its sorrows than I have known,

I am Sympathetically Yours

Paul Lawrence Dunbar

To Wm Stanley Braithwaite

128 Prospect Hill St.

Newport, R. I.