

1-9-1891

# Cable, George Washington

George Washington Cable

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TUSKEGEE NORMAL AND INDUSTRIAL INSTITUTE,  
© Moorland-Spingarn Research Center  
For Training Colored Teachers.

Tuskegee, Alabama January 9th, 1891.

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 know 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 <sup>for</sup> the benefit of the colored people is valued at less than ~~\$150,000~~ <sup>200,000</sup>. I am sorry that I cannot give you a more satisfactory answer.

Yours truly,

Bowen T. Washington,



# TUSKEGEE NORMAL AND INDUSTRIAL INSTITUTE

(INCORPORATED)

FOR THE TRAINING OF COLORED YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN.

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Crawford House, Boston,

~~Tuskegee, Ala.~~

Nov. 27th, 1894.

Mr. Geo. W. Cable,

Northampton, Church

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.

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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,

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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 what information I could on the subject of your letter. Within the last year about 1 dozen families in good circumstances have left Montgomery & vicinity and settled in California.

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But these 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 flattering inducements are held out by labor agents.

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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  
under the present mortgage system  
for them to get ahead — they  
can not pay 25 & 30 per cent  
interest on the dollar and many  
of them have reached the conclusion  
that no change can make their  
condition worse.

I have not been able up to  
this time to get the addresses  
of but one, Rufus Lewis, Wampoa,  
Ark, from whom you could get  
direct information.

yours truly  
Booker T. Washington



*Tuskegee Normal & Industrial Institute,*

For Training Colored Young Men and Women.

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*Tuskegee, Fla., Aug. 31st 1892*

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.

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Yours truly,

*Booker T. Washington,*



## Tuskegee Normal School,

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For Training Colored Teachers.

Tuskegee, Ala., Oct 8 1889

Dear Mr. Coble;

I am very sorry to be so late answering your letter regarding the operation of the crop lien law in Alabama, but every minute of my time has seemingly been employed 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 crop was being made. Thus, in addition to securing 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 family to eat



while the first crop was being made. For every dollar 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 or lien was taken on the crop in most cases not then planted. Of course the farmers could pay no such interest and the <sup>end of the</sup> first year found them in debt. The 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. Yet its evils have grown instead of decreasing, until it is safe to say that 5% of the colored farmers mortgage their crops every year. Not only their crops before, in many cases they are actually planted, but their wives sign a release from the homestead. Now and in most every case mules, cows, wagons, plows and and after all "house hold" furniture



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is covered by the lien. At a glance one is not likely to get the full force of the figures representing the amount of interest charged. Example, if 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 best of Oct whatever he can pay the farmer has paid, but the merchant charges as much for the money gotten in July or Aug, as for that gotten in Feb. The farmer is charged interest one all, for one year up 12 months. And as the "advance" is made in most



Cases in 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 in a family say wife and 4 children, the merchant has it in his power to feed out those <sup>who work and</sup> if some times he says to the farmer if he sends his children to school no rations 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" or decides to to try mortgaging with another merchant the first merchant in such cases usually "cleans up" the farmer that is takes every thing mules, cows, plows, chickens fodder - every thing except wife and children.

It is not very often that the merchant furnishing the supplies owns the land, this in most cases is rented from a different party. So you see



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that the 2 parties, ~~have~~ farmer and merchant, who have the most contact with the land, have nothing to no interest in it except to get all they can out of it.

The result of all this is seen in the "general run down" condition of  $\frac{1}{10}$  of the farms in Alabama — houses unpainted — fences tumbling down, ~~and~~ animals poorly cared for, and the land growing poorer every year. Many of the 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 <sup>who</sup> have shaken off this yoke of slaves, and have bought farms of their own and are



making money - and there  
are a few who rent-land  
and "mortgage" and still do  
~~some~~ some thing the practices 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  
~~was~~ reenacted the old law.

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

Enclosed I send you a state-  
ment 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  
specifically to what the Montgomery  
Advertiser says under the



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caption: "The Mortgage Night  
More"

For the good of the work to  
which I am devoting my life  
I prefer that my name <sup>should</sup> not  
be used in any printed matter,  
if I can help at any  
time in the good cause I  
shall be very too glad to  
do so.

Yours truly

Booker T. Washington

Please return the "Southern  
Letters" as they <sup>are</sup> the only  
copies I have.



# Tuskegee Normal School,

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FOR TRAINING COLORED TEACHERS.

Tuskegee, Ala., February 20<sup>th</sup> 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,  
© Moorland-Spingarn Research Center  
Booker T. Washington,



Dictated.

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Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute.

For Training Colored Teachers.

Tuskegee, Ala., May 19<sup>th</sup> 1890

Mr. Geo W. Cable  
Northampton  
Mass

Dear Mr Cable :-

© Moorland-Spingarn Research Center  
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,  
© Moorland-Spingarn Research Center  
Booker T. Washington.



## TUSKEGEE NORMAL AND INDUSTRIAL INSTITUTE.

FOR TRAINING COLORED TEACHERS.

Tuskegee, Ala., April 7 1890,

Mr. Geo. W. Cable  
Northampton,  
Mass.

© Moorland-Spingarn Research Center

Dear sir! Your very kind  
favor regarding the Mohawk  
conference I found awaiting me  
on my return from the North.  
Were it possible for any action  
of yours to increase my  
respect and love for you  
your position in this matter  
would certainly do so many  
fold. I have delayed an answer  
some days thinking that an  
invitation might reach me  
or that I might hear of  
one of the other gentlemen  
suggested by you receiving one.  
As yet I have heard of  
none. I have known for some  
time of that this conference

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was to be held, and members that  
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 - to work  
for him instead of with  
him is rather trying and  
perplexing at times. The  
actions of the movers in this  
conference & members I can  
not understand and can not  
see ~~but~~ that the exclusion of  
colored men will in a  
large degree cripple the  
influence of any deliberance the  
conference may make.

It may interest you to read  
a marked article in The Cleveland  
Gazette which I send by this  
mail. Should an invitation come  
later I shall in forward you,  
yours truly,  
Booker T. Washington



was to be held, and remembers that  
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 - to work  
for him instead of with  
him is rather trying and  
perplexing at times. The  
actions of the movers in this  
conference I remember I can  
not understand and can not  
see ~~but~~ that the exclusion of  
colored men will in a  
large degree cripple the  
influence of any deliverance the  
conference may make.

It may interest you to read  
a modest article in the Cleveland  
"Gazette" which I send by this  
mail. Should an invitation come  
later I shall inform you.  
Yours truly,  
Booker T. Washburn



# Tuskegee Normal School

FOR TRAINING COLORED TEACHERS,

Tuskegee, Ala. Nov. 2, 1885

Mr. G. W. Cobble  
 1111 8th Avenue  
 N. J.

Dear Sir:

After considerable  
 delay by sickness I  
 send these answers to  
 your questions:

I go in with them  
 in addition to the  
 mental ideas, strong  
 Christian characters and  
 in most cases giving  
 them a missionary  
 spirit, and to let them  
 know the dignity of



labor.

- 2 To make ~~the~~ <sup>a</sup> large majority of them desire ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~educational~~ and work for the education of their children. There are few now who do not believe in education.
- 3 A leaving out of industrial education and giving that which was not practical.
- 4 Concentrate the student's mind on that which he will be likely to use.
- 5 No enlargement is needed. To enlarge would be to make the work poorer.
- 6 Grant Harris



# Tuskegee Normal School

FOR TRAINING COLORED TEACHERS.

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7 yes

8. Would give a great and much needed stimulus.

9 Ministry at Talladega College, Handicraft # at Tuskegee Normal School, # and part of training given at Penn. College.

10 Has 3 colored Normal Schools,

Yours &c  
B. T. Washington  
Prin.



# THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

INCORPORATED

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THOS. T. ECKERT, President and General Manager

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CHECK

21 Burton

21 Paid 3ex

RECEIVED at

Newhampton Mass

Dec 1

189)

Dated

Boston Mass

To

Mr George W Cable

Will you speak for Tuskegee at old South Sunday evening meeting important and invitation urgent will Crawford House

Booker T Washington  
George A Gooden



Normal School,  
Tuskegee, Ala.  
Sep 4-89.

Dear Sir:-

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

B. J. Washington.





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NOTHING BUT THE ADDRESS TO BE ON THIS SIDE.

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*Mr. George W. Cable.  
Northampton  
Mass.*

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