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Norrell to Dr. Silver, 15 June 1963

Norrell H. Noble

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Saturday, June 15

Dear Dr. Silver,

You have probably gone to Georgia by now, but I suppose this will be forwarded to you. You mention this speech but you don't say where you will deliver it. We should like to know. I have still had no word from Cabaniss or the Registrar's Office, in spite of the fact that my brother spoke to Cabaniss, who said he would write. I often feel I should write to the Chancellor and speak my peace, but when I wrote him in October, expressing my distress over the Meredith situation, I got back a rather watery reply. How sad it is to have one's whole set of mores, one's entire boyhood and youth, even one's position with one's parents torn to bits and left on the trash heap. It really seems that way to me. I am honestly much relieved that I do not have to go back to Mississippi now.

We are very much looking forward to our summer in Switzerland and our year in New York. If I do well at Columbia, and I shall do my best, and receive any encouragement for more study, I shall continue. There is a Dr. Scanlon there who is a friend and who has been extremely helpful this spring. I can depend on him for a good word, etc. If we don't go on in school after this MA, I hope to teach in New England or New York for the following year. After that, who knows? With our international background and experience and with our interest in seeing the world and really living in various places to get to know the people, perhaps we'll go abroad again. We hope ultimately to end in Switzerland, where we shall one day be landholders. This idea pleases me tremendously.

I've just finished James Baldwin's The Fire Next Time. It is a powerful thing and everyone, black and white, should read it. Perhaps he overstates his case and perhaps he mixes too much religion into it, though he says he doesn't go near a church or mosque these days. He says the whites must reach a point where they can know themselves and stop pushing everything unpleasant about themselves upon the Negroes. He even says that a white will be much more honest and self-emptying with a Negro than he will with any white, push all of his guilt and ugliness onto the Negro, who he thinks is inferior and is useful in this way. He thinks the Negro can be the real salvation of American democracy - certainly we must learn to protect them as a genuine minority if democracy is to have any real meaning, for I think this protection of minorities is the real test of it. Ultimately Baldwin says the answer is LOVE, and I think this a truly valid point.

Politics here becomes more frightening with each day. Recently two European judges were told they could not prosecute (should I say try?) a certain person who was a friend of the Regional Commissioner. The two judges resigned. There was also a stink at a hotel in Anuska because of "insulting conduct" toward Sekou Toure of Guinea — was our young country in 1990s like this? I've just read Page Smith on John Adams — good, I thought —
 Our best to you and Mrs. Silver,
 Norrell

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BY AIR MAIL
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MISS. 1963



Dr. James Silver
 Dept. of History
 Emory University
 Atlanta 22, Georgia
 U.S.A.

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Sender's name and address: Dr. H. P. O. Box 374,
 Labor, Tanganyika,
 E.A.

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