

6051

A Negro Conference

TO BE HELD IN THE

Black Belt of Alabama.

There will be an interesting and somewhat unique Negro Conference held at Tuskegee, Alabama, under the auspices of the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute of which Booker T. Washington is principal, beginning Feb. 23d, 1892.

The aim of Principal Washington is to bring together for a quiet conference, not the politicians and those usually termed the "leading colored people," but representatives of the masses—the bone and sinew of the race,—the common, hard working farmers with a few of the best ministers and teachers.

In the Conference, two ends will be kept in view: First, to find out the actual industrial, moral and educational condition of the masses. Second, to get as much light as possible on what is the most effective way for the young men and women whom the Tuskegee Institute and other institutions are educating to use their education in helping the masses of the colored people to lift themselves up.

In this connection it may be said in general that a very large majority of the colored people in the "black belt"—cotton district—are in debt for supplies secured through the "mortgage system," rent the land on which they live and dwell in one room log cabin.

The schools are in session in the country districts not often longer than 3 months and are taught in most cases in churches or log cabins with almost no apparatus or school furniture.

The poverty and ignorance of the Negro which show themselves by his being compelled to "mortgage his crop"—go in debt for the food and clothes on which to live from day to day is not only a terrible draw back to the Negro himself but is a severe drain on the resources of the white man. Say what we will the fact remains that in the presence of the poverty and ignorance of the millions of Negroes in the "black belt" the material, moral and educational interests of both races are making but slow headway.

Any information about the conference may be had from Booker T. Washington, Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, Tuskegee, Alabama.

To *Mrs. A. W. Torgue*

You and your friends are invited to be present.