

To the Pupils of Room No. 3
Public School No. 1
Dallas Texas

~~Dear Children~~

I was highly gratified to learn through the letter of your Committee that you had honored me by ~~planting~~ designating the tree you planted ~~for~~ upon Arbor Day this year to me.

Especially ~~was~~ I glad to
I feel ~~honored~~ gratified that,
you ~~conferred~~ gave me
this token of respect because
I have spoken in favor
of justice to your people.

I trust the time is not
far away when every one
who claims recognition as a
civilized man as a fol-
lower of Jesus of Nazareth
will be willing to recognize

the same rights to justice,
liberty, security, and
equal opportunity as inhering
in all men without regard
to race or color. These men
will be known as friends of
humanity and not as the friends
of one race or another.

At the same time, there is a
great obligation resting on you.
Every colored boy and girl can
do something for ~~the~~ to improve
the future of his race. Humanity
is like a great forest and

men and women are like the individual trees. Did you ever notice a great wood? How soft and luminous are its anthems? How even is the curtain of green it stretches above the earth!

When you enter it you see the reason of this. Every tree does its part. Is there a rift that lets in the sunshine? Some tree stretches up and fills it.

The beauty of a forest depends, too, on the quality of the in-

dividual trees. If they are straight
and vigorous they make the
wanderer beneath their shade
think of the ~~dim light~~ ^{great}
lessering pillars of some ~~low~~
cathedral aisle; but if they are
~~crooked and gnarled, the wood~~
great balls grow on year after year
~~a dense tangle,~~
and century after century, defying
by their united strength the storms
and furnishing great stores of tim-
ber for the use of mankind.

If, on the other hand, the
individual trees are weak and

gnarled, the wood is ~~not only~~
~~and~~ becomes a mere ^{tangle}
and is without beauty or
value.

It is so with a race or
people. The strength, excellence and
virtue of each ~~one~~ adds to the
worth and ^{and strength} beauty of the whole.
Every colored boy or girl who deter=
mines to be ~~a~~ a wiser and better
man or woman than ~~them~~
~~and~~ father or the mother land
a chance to be and keeps
that resolution, has done

something to help his ~~and~~ ~~refuse~~
uplift his race to a higher level
of manhood and womanhood.

It takes many years for the
tree to grow to its full beauty
and ~~many~~ centuries for the
forest to mature its perfected
glory. No man knoweth when
the colored people of the United
States will secure that full
liberty which comes only with
the power to assert, defend
and enjoy equal right and
opportunity. It may be years,

it may be generations, it may
be centuries; but every boy or
~~girl~~ who grows into an honest,
intelligent, industrious man
and every girl who grows up
to an intelligent, self-respecting
womanhood, ~~has~~ will do some-
thing to bring nearer the hour
when there shall be no farther
discrimination of right or privilege,
power or opportunity, honor or
merit, between those whom God
has made of one blood though
of variant hue.

I would that the tree you
have planted in my house
as it grows up should remind
you of this great great truth.

Whenever it meets your view
may it ^{strengthen in the minds} remind you ~~of the fact~~
of each of you the resolution to
be true and brave; to study that
you may know the right; to work
that you may not be dependent
entirely on another's bounty; to
keep yourselves honest and pure
that your honor may redound
to the credit of your people.
Sincerely, your well-wisher