

Letter from
Dr. Robert E. Parly
to Dr. Booker T. Washington
about Mr. Work, Monroe U.
(given by Mrs. Work)
to Records & Research. (COPY).

Oct. 18, 1909.

My dear Mr. Washington:

I think I ought, now as "The Story of The Negro," is off our hands, to say something of the way in which Mr. Work has helped me during this long, tedious, and often very discouraging, task. From the very first, although the work I was doing was not anything, he felt responsible for ~~it~~, and although the demands I made upon him often interfered with his own work, he has never shirked nor complained. He has met every demand I made upon him in perfect cheerfulness, and has done the work I asked him to do, in the way I asked him to do it, as faithfully as if he were working at some task of his own choosing and according to his own methods and ideas.

When I called upon him at the end of August to help me, he had already planned to take a week's vacation and was in the midst of moving his household goods from the cottage on the grounds to Greenwood. He gave that up without a murmur and went to work. Later, when you wanted us to work night and day on the index, he put your request literally into execution. For three or four days, he worked steadily from seven o'clock in the morning until ten o'clock at night without a stop except for meals, and at a kind of labor about as exhausting as I could well

#2. Mr. B. T. W.

imagine. I ought to say, also, that I have received the most hearty assistance from every one in your office from Mr. Scott down, for which I am very grateful. In the Library, Mr. Wood and Miss Sewall have done everything they could to aid me, and the demands I made on their time and patience were by no means few.

I have undertaken to write you in detail in regard to Mr. Work because I think the qualities he has shown are so rare and so exceptional that they deserve to be recognized, and because I think it is important you should know the sort of man you have working for you.

Very truly yours,