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Salman, D.C.

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY
BALTIMORE

May 7, 1895.

Dear Sir:

In a recent conversation with one of the Trustees of the Slater Fund, Mr. William E. Dodge, he spoke to me of two matters pertaining to the welfare of the colored race in the South, and suggested that I should write to you in regard to them. The first is the tendency of the Negroes to borrow money on their land and other property, often at exorbitant rates, and usually by mortgaging their property to foreigners. Second, the tendency, in some parts of the country, to revert to uncivilized and almost barbarous methods of life, or at least to ignorant and superstitious religious practices.

We raise the question whether a well-chosen colored man, of intelligence and tact, might not get at the facts by visiting certain regions and gathering information which cannot be brought out by any of the usual processes of statistical inquiry.

Will you regard this letter as confidential, and let me know what your impressions may be?