

June 4, 1901

Chicago, Ill., June 4th, 1901. 190

Mr. Chas. W. Chestnut,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My Dear Friend:-

If you remember when we met in Boston last year I promised to arrange to have you come to Chicago for a recital. I was not able to keep my promise, because illness in my family at the time the different clubs were making up their calendars prevented me seeing them in time. A good many of them are at work now perfecting their programs for the whole of next year; I therefore write to ask if you could give us one or two dates, and what you would charge me for coming to the city.

You remember I told you that prospects were not bright to offer you much from a money point of view, since so few of these clubs pay anything for services of that kind. What I thought might be arranged would be to arrange one or two entertainments in some of the colored churches and charge an admission fee therefor which would pay your expenses and enable me to pay you something for your work, and then go to work and make several dates with some of the leading white clubs of the city to have you address them at some of their regular meeting days. This would be for the purpose of introducing you and your work to them. But as I said a moment ago there will none of them pay anything for giving you a place on their programs.

Now what I wish to know is would you be willing to have me arrange some dates for you with that understanding. Also would you promise to give yourself exclusively into my hands for ~~that~~ ^{the} period of time, ^{you will be in the city,} say a week or ten days? And what is the most reasonable figure you can do this for? Of course if I did not hope to have a large interest stimulated which would create a demand for your books I would not have the face to h a

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opposition to you. On the other hand there are plenty of people in our city who, if they knew you were coming would undertake to arrange entertainments for you and promise you more than you would feel like letting go by, if you would consent to let them announce you during that time, but if you did so it would militate against the success of my plan and prevent me doing what I would like in that respect.

Please write me fully what you think of the venture, and if you could come to us some time in February just what your figures will be.

I see that you have been getting out a new book since I saw you last. I hope it is as successful as the others have been, if not more so. Trusting to hear from you at an early date, I am,

Yours truly.

I. B. W. Barnett