

*The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON Papers*

mand for labor, he has in recent years come in ever increasing numbers. A large part of the demand for labor in this country has been in the cities. Not only has this demand drawn millions of immigrants from Europe but also from the rural districts of this country. In the twenty years from 1890 to 1910 the increase in the number of Negroes in the cities of the country was over 1,200,000. One result of the phenomenal growth of cities has been the creation of problems which to a considerable degree cities in the nineteenth century did not have. The immigrant and the Negro thrown into the midst of these city problems are so intimately bound up with them as to appear in many instances to be the problems themselves. It is a question in my mind, however, whether practically every problem which cities have to deal with would not have arisen if there had been no additions to their population of either immigrants or Negroes.

While I do not claim to be a special student of this subject it appears to me that the immigrants of today as well as those of yesterday are contributing much to American life. While I write there comes to my mind the great work which Jacob Riis did, the splendid lessons which Mary Antin<sup>2</sup> is teaching us. The European peasant and the Negro, however, I believe are at present contributing most to American life by teaching the lessons of helpfulness, patience, tolerance, forbearance, brotherliness, in fact all those things which are comprehended under what is characterized as the broader humanity.

[Booker T. Washington]

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<sup>1</sup> BTW enclosed the typescript of this article in a letter to the editor, Samuel Joseph of New York City, Sept. 22, 1915. (Con. 534, BTW Papers, DLC.) The article had been solicited for a forthcoming special edition in 1916. BTW's article was not published.

<sup>2</sup> Mary Antin (Grabau) (1881-1949) came to the United States from Poland in 1894. She wrote several books on the immigrant experience, including *The Promised Land* (1912).