

Negro Education

TAFT

*The White House,
Washington, D. C.*

"I am not one of those who believe that it is well to educate the mass of Negroes with academic or university education. On the contrary, I am firmly convinced that the hope of the Negro is in industrial education throughout the South, and in teaching him to be a better farmer, a better carpenter, a better machinist, and a better blacksmith than he is now, and to make more blacksmiths and more good farmers than there are now amongst the Negroes.


"But I have studied the matter considerably and have also become convinced that it is necessary to have a few high-class Negro universities for those who are to be leaders of the race and who are to figure prominently in a professional way—their ministers, their physicians, their lawyers and teachers, because **WE HAVE GOT TO TREAT THE RACE AS DISTINCT FROM THE WHITE RACE.**"

(An extract from President Taft's letter read at 45th commencement, Fisk University, at Nashville, Tenn., June 14, 1911.)

ROOSEVELT

"I most earnestly commend your work. You do not need to be told how emphatically I favor industrial education for the COLORED man no less than for the WHITE; but I cordially agree with Booker Washington in his support of Fisk, **because it is eminently undesirable that the Negro should have only a chance to get technical education in industry and agriculture.**

"With the NEGRO as with the WHITE, while such training is that of which there is fundamentally the greatest need for the greatest number, it is imperative for the sake of the race that there shall be opportunity of furnishing a different type of training for certain portions of the race."

(Extract from Colonel Roosevelt's letter, read at the 45th commencement, Fisk University, Nashville, Tenn., June 14, 1911.  873