Purinton, Elmer E.

Letter from Dr. Elmer Purinton to W. E. B. Du Bois, March 23, 1908

Purinton, after reading the Souls of Black Folk and being requested to research Freedman's Aid, asks Du Bois his opinion on the appropriation of the Freedman's Aid funds. Du Bois's notes for reply on reverse state his opinion of how the funds should be expended.

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Dr. Elmer E. Purington

57 Genesee Street

AUBURN, N. Y. March 12, '08. 190

Dr. W. E. B. DuBois.
Atlanta, Ga.

Dear Sir: Having greatly enjoyed reading your "Souls of the Black Folk", and having been requested to give a paper on the work of the Freedmen's Aid, at a coming Convention, would I beg a few minutes of your valuable time to answer the following question:

In what way do you think the most good could be derived from the expenditure of moneys appropriated by the churches, the Freedmen's Aid and Southern Education Fund? In other words, how would you personally advise the expenditure of that fund? Thanking you in advance, and wishing you God-speed in your work, I am most sincerely yours.

Dr. E. E. Purington.
Thank you for your letter. I beg to say that in my opinion the money the Freedmen's Aid should be extended.

1. To good town high school, school with college preparatory and manual training departments designed & fit for college & for trade.

2. As supplementary aid to Negro common schools in county districts where the Negroes themselves are already aiding the schools.

3. For the support of the 5 or 6 well-established colleges, regardless of denomination.