

Fayetteville State University

DigitalCommons@Fayetteville State University

---

Charles Chesnutt

FSU Founders

---

1898

## 5-2 Letter to Mr. Page March 20, 1898

Charles W. Chesnutt

*Fayetteville State University*

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.uncfsu.edu/charles\\_chesnutt](https://digitalcommons.uncfsu.edu/charles_chesnutt)

---

### Recommended Citation

Chesnutt, Charles W., "5-2 Letter to Mr. Page March 20, 1898" (1898). *Charles Chesnutt*. 20.  
[https://digitalcommons.uncfsu.edu/charles\\_chesnutt/20](https://digitalcommons.uncfsu.edu/charles_chesnutt/20)

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the FSU Founders at DigitalCommons@Fayetteville State University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Charles Chesnutt by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@Fayetteville State University. For more information, please contact [ltreadwell@uncfsu.edu](mailto:ltreadwell@uncfsu.edu).

1898

My dear Mr. Page:-

I have written you a business letter to-day, and sent it to you with some stories, under another cover. As this letter is rather of a personal nature I enclose it separately.

A friend of yours, Mr. Keatinge, of New York, with whom I have had more or less business for several years in connection with a railroad receivership out here, was in my office a few weeks ago, ~~and~~ <sup>in the course of our</sup> conversation the Atlantic was <sup>referred to</sup> ~~mentioned~~, whereupon Mr. Keatinge said that one of his best friends edited the magazine, <sup>mentioned</sup> and ~~called~~ your name, <sup>the fact</sup> ~~He also~~ that you were a North Carolinian by birth and breeding, and a member of the old ~~and~~ <sup>Virginia</sup> family of the same name.

Of course I ought to have known all this before, but when one lives far from literary centers and is not in touch with literary people, there are lots of interesting things <sup>one</sup> doesn't learn. I <sup>and know of your editorial work in North Carolina</sup> had even read some of your papers on the South, but when I met you in Boston I did not at the time connect you with them. I calmly assumed, as ~~would~~ <sup>would offhand,</sup> nine people out of ten that an editor of the Atlantic was of course a New Englander by birth <sup>and breeding</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>Harvard</sup> graduate, and a Bostoner in every sense of the term. But when Keatinge

enlightened me on the subject, I immediately proceeded to correct my impressions, <sup>by reference to</sup> ~~and looked you up in~~ a biographical dictionary.

You may imagine my surprise, and it was <sup>an</sup> ~~a~~ pleasant surprise, to find that were <sup>"born or raised"</sup> ~~within~~ 50 or 60 miles

of the town where I spent my own boyhood and early manhood, and where my <sup>own forefathers</sup> ~~ancestors~~ have lived and died and laid their bones.

I frankly confess that if I had known ~~some of the things~~ I have learned since I might have spared you, among other things, some of ~~the information I thought I was imparting to you about~~ my rather free criticism of the Southern people. Good taste, to say the least, would have suggested a little more reticence. I thought I was imparting information, but I suspect you understand the subject quite as well as I do. <sup>and even so brief an acquaint-</sup>



~~ance as ours, I admit that I would have to revise to some extent  
my expressed views of the Southmen, if you insist on being one  
of them.~~

*hope you will find time to read ~~the~~ <sup>and that you may like them.</sup>*  
~~I trust you will like my "cunjuh" stories, They are made~~  
out of whole cloth, but are true I think, to the general "doctrine"  
of ~~Conjurati<sup>on</sup>~~ <sup>very far</sup> ~~witchcraft, or fetishism or "animism", and do not stray beyond~~  
the borders of what an old Southern negro might talk about. ~~If~~  
~~these stories are not interesting to an N.C. reader, reciter, or~~  
~~bus, they would not attract anyone, and if they interest you I am~~  
~~frank to confess that the value of a favorable opinion at your~~  
~~hands would be enhanced in my eyes by the fact that you are a N.C.~~  
~~my daughter of seven years old finds them of absorbing interest.~~  
~~(For heaven's sake don't think I intend to institute a comparison~~  
~~there; but a story that interests a child I imagine has the vital~~  
~~dramatic element.)~~

~~I hope you may find time to read the stories yourself, and~~  
~~shortly, and that you may find them worth using. In the meantime~~  
~~I remain,~~

~~Sincerely and cordially yours.~~

I am going to write on the novel  
I have been ~~thinking of~~ <sup>thinking of</sup> ~~it is~~  
a North Carolina story. With your  
permission I shall sometime soon  
write you a ~~line~~ note briefly outlining  
the plot & general movement, ~~and ask~~  
and ask you whether there is anything  
in the subject that would make it  
unavailable for your house. I am not easily  
discouraged, and I am going to write some books  
and I still cherish the hope that either with  
cunjuh stories or ~~some other~~ <sup>many other</sup> ~~novels~~  
~~novels~~