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Hotel New Netherland, New York City, December lIst 1893. Dear General Howard:-

I hope this may reach you before you shall have replied to mine sent this morning. I had quite a little laugh to myself that you you be thinking what does she want me to do ? to present "Black Patti." This was what I had in mind, that you might be able to touch some friends to fill the house. For instance a word to one like Dr. Mac Arthur and a word from him to influence people to take tickets; and I thought I might send some tickets to each of those to whom I sent those letters. It would then stand explained. I had not a fond hope that any would reply to those letters. I only se them to open a way so that when Mr. W. was in in N. Y. pleading for his work he should follow sup what I had done, tell more of the detail workingshat Tuskegee, and after so much I having paved the way to a hearing he would get some such answer as this: "Well, I'll try what I can do, you'l hear fra me through General Howard ". and I am keeping the list of names to whom I appe aled for Mr. W. when he returns. Meanwhile I have thought much to day of this concert plan, and asked the doorkeeper of a great hotel here, who was at Hampton, to get me a list of the colored churches. I talked with Mrs. Earle, as a daughter of the Revolution and other things, she should have a certain cachet in such matters as to distributing
ticfets, etc. At first she was a little distrait, I saw her blue eyes wander off over the Park, as if questioning how far she'd be disloyal to her General and D. B. D., she asked is "she black"/ But she followed me to the door and seemed quite interested, saying let me know what you think of doing. If I were only stronger, I should personally try to place the tickets, if we get the thing going, as when I mett people I generally carry my point.
As ever truly yours,

## M. E. Berry.

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## (Copy)

Hotel New Netherland, New York City, December lst 1893. Dear General Howara:

Glancing up and down my paper, so full of the hideous brutality, my eye is arrested by the singing of " Black Patti " and a refreshing thought to offset disgust. I am going try to reach her and get her to give us a concert. May I count on your help to the extent of endorsing my plan , did I succeed in reaching her. I know not her address, but $I$ could send my letter to the P. O., asking they send it right, I feel that they will, she is so well known, I shall enclose one of the circular letters and add a request for her to kindIy aid with some of her exquisite songs, and I will promise her to try and get Carnegie Hall. Walter Damrosch ought to remember me and help me. He came to my house two winters to give my daughter musical instruction. That for personal interestand he married a Blaine, and should be sound on some questitions.

All this comes as I tie my bonnet-string. My heart a little fails me. They may say, you started this thing, now get people to buy tickets, and I am so retiring in my habits and I know not the way of pulling wires, still should that deter what springs in my mind as a bright thought to be acted on ? Pardon haste, dear kind friend,
























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DE WITT \& COMPANY,
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OFFICE, 47 CORTLANDT STREET,
Dee 1, 1893

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KILIAEN VAN RENSSELAER,
56 Wall Street.
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Hotel New Netherland, New Iork ity, Dec. 3rd 1893.
Dear General Howard:
I trust this will find you on the right road to recovery, if not entirely well. Dont you think kind friend, you might apply some of that advice you give others to yourself, just try to rest in a sweet spirit of forgivness and keeping yourself right before Him, to, whom all hearts are open and no secrets hid, and not try do so much.

I wonder greatly at you powers of endurance, and touching on anothing thing that the unthinking call a hobby of mine, I will say I shuddered when you mentioned having spoken in the Baptist Church in 57th Str. It leas̃t I think that is Dr. Mc. Arthur's. Oh, it is so full of sewer gas, but then all churche es are. A sexton is rarely a man of scientific observation. I stopped there one afternoon, swung the door ajar in passing, as it is such a pleasing pile outwardly, I desired to see the interlor and know either the choir, preacher or sexton should have the door ajar, but oh, dear me, beat a hasty retreat. Reared south where those tell tale, insidious odors are unknown, I am very sensitive, I flee and shun them as I would the plague, and it has made me to live so much apart. I can keep my own room free, but I cannot purify the parlors and halls of other people, so I stay at home.

Your letter was most kind, I have written to Mr. W. in Boston to tell me of some substantial colored people, and talt ing with Mrs. Earle, this A. M. she kindly offers me the pamaim parlor here, but I fance Mme. Jones would desire loftier ceilings to be just to her voice, and we would want more seating capacity and more money.

Hoping my dear friend friend is much better,

> I am sincerely yours,


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