

BAHA'I LEADER PRAISES DR. THOMAS ELSA JONES

Mr. Robt. S. Abbott,
Editor, The Chicago Defender,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mr. Abbott:

There was a matter about which I meant to speak to you when last in Chicago, but the strenuous days of the convention at Wilmette crowded it out. Perhaps it is now not too late to do any good that may connect itself with its mention.

Last spring I spent a month at Nashville, Tenn., and was on the campus when Fisk University and its president, because of a theatre incident, were receiving severe criticism from some members of the press. Without reviewing the details of an incident closed, it is my wish to record my conviction that President Thomas Elsa Jones was not only innocent, but entirely ignorant of a contract entered into by a white theatre and an independent group of jubilee singers, the details of which spelled humiliation for the Race. It first came to his notice when he was called up by the theatre which sought to have him use his influence with the said singers to reduce their terms of service. When the matter thus came to him he took very prompt measures to suppress the entire undertaking. Therefore the censure of him was unmerited.

I have personally known Dr. and Mrs. Jones for a number of years and have been in their home many times. They are rare souls and live their ideals in race relations to the superlative degree. The faculty of Fisk University includes Northern and Southern whites of unusual calibre, also the very flower of the Race. The social amenities and apparent cordiality among them seem the bright augury of a better day. In fact, nowhere save in the Baha'i religion whose foundation is the oneness of humanity, have I ever seen a group of people who so bravely live the principles they espouse as those included in the faculty of Fisk University. We can ill afford to harm our friends.

Very truly yours,

LOUIS G. GREGORY.

Chairman, National Baha'i
Committee for Race Amity.