

*The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON Papers*

that under the circumstances I must consent to this arrangement for the time being. If I were a single man it would of course be easier. I trust that you will not feel that I am wanting in appreciation for what you have done or in any degree lacking in gratitude, but I have simply expressed my honest feelings in the matter, whether warranted, justified, wise or unwise.

Please write me at an early date and let me know what you think about it. Believe me, Faithfully yours,

William H Lewis

TLS Con. 393 BTW Papers DLC.

<sup>1</sup> A copy of George W. Wickersham to Asa P. French, June 26, 1909, is attached to this letter in Con. 393, BTW Papers, DLC.

<sup>2</sup> Asa Palmer French (1860-1935) was a district attorney in Massachusetts from 1901 to 1914. He was a graduate of Yale and of the law school of Boston University. In 1917-18 he was a delegate to the Massachusetts constitutional convention.

<sup>3</sup> Lewis obtained a copy of French's letter to Attorney General Wickersham before mailing his letter to BTW and enclosed a copy. French said: "I am particularly glad to have Mr. Lewis come back to the general work of the office, in accordance with your suggestion." He added, however, that Lewis's return to the office "will intensify the intolerable inconvenience resulting from our cramped and insufficient accommodations, which were the subject of my recent earnest appeal to you." (July 1, 1909, Con. 393, BTW Papers, DLC.)

## To Samuel Laing Williams

Huntington, L.I., N.Y. July 3, 1909

My dear Mr. Williams: After returning from my Virginia trip, I am just finding time to reply to your kind letter bearing upon the conference at which Mr. Manning of Alabama was present. Really I do not believe you need give any serious attention to him, although I thank both you and Mrs. Williams for what you said in the conference. Manning is one of those fellows who will take care of himself very soon. I mean he very soon disgusts everybody. He is one of these unprincipled fellows with whom one cannot afford to get on intimate terms. He scarcely knows a fellow before he is after his pocket book, that is, wants them to give him money or borrow money. He disgusts everybody in that way. I guarantee to say that if he is in Chicago that he has already disgusted the white