

FEBRUARY • 1902

something else good, I favor his accepting and thus continuing the fight from a new vantage point.”

The President has missed another excellent opportunity and I am afraid that it requires more moral courage in him to make such an appointment against the machine than to invite you to dinner, and I am also afraid, unless he does something very soon, he is going to meet some very severe criticism from some of our best men. There is little or no excuse for hanging up such men as Deveaux so long, when white men similarly situated are rushed through. These things will be hard to explain. Hereafter it will be good policy not to enthuse our friends about his good intentions until he does some thing to justify it. Senators Bacon and Clay² have been quoted in the news papers as saying that they convinced the President that a negro was distasteful to the patrons of the Athens post-office. You can readily see what capital can and will be made out of that remark. I quite agree with Sen. Chandler's recommendation; that the President ought to be relieved of appointments, and hence such embarrassments as this would not confront him. Very truly,

W. McKinlay

TLS Con. 236 BTW Papers DLC.

¹ Charles Lyman (1843-1913), born in Bolton, Conn., a Union Army veteran, served for decades in the U.S. Treasury Department. In 1873 he was appointed civil service examiner. From 1883 to 1886 he was chief examiner of the U.S. Civil Service Commission, and was a commissioner from 1886 to 1893. He later served in the Secretary of the Treasury's office as chief of the appointments division.

² Augustus Octavius Bacon (1839-1914) and Alexander Stephens Clay (1853-1910) were Democratic U.S. senators from Georgia. Bacon served from 1895 until his death and Clay from 1897 until his death.

To Timothy Thomas Fortune

Tuskegee, Ala., Feb. 8, 1902¹

My dear Mr. Fortune: I am in receipt of yours of February 6th. When I go to Washington again I expect to have a conference with the Postmaster General. I have had a letter from him this week regarding matters in Alabama and he seems to rely upon me a good deal.