

The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON Papers

as a victory for the opposition. L. is further satisfied that the race has some secret enemies who are in the confidence of the Pres.

Enclosed find clippings. Very truly

W. McKinlay

ALS Con. 236 BTW Papers DLC.

¹ Louis Emory McComas (1846-1907), a delegate to the Republican national convention and secretary of the Republican national committee in 1892, was U.S. senator from Maryland from 1899 to 1905.

² Louis Theodore Michener (1848-1928) was Benjamin Harrison's political manager from 1884 to 1892 and was chairman of the nominating committees of the 1888 and 1892 Republican national conventions. He was attorney general of Indiana from 1886 to 1890. After 1890 he practiced law in Washington, D.C.

³ Robert Smalls (1839-1915), born a slave in Beaufort, S.C., was the son of a Jewish slaveowner and a black slave woman. Trained by his father to be a sailmaker and helmsman, he hid his family and a few chosen companions on his master's vessel, the steamship *Planter*, early one morning in 1862, sailed it out of Charleston harbor, and delivered it to the federal fleet. He remained in command of the ship, gained a rudimentary education, and returned to Beaufort as a Reconstruction political leader. He served in the 1868 constitutional convention, in both houses of the legislature, and in Congress from 1875 to 1879 and from 1882 to 1887. From 1889 to 1893 and from 1898 through 1913 he was collector of the port of Beaufort. Never a general, he sought unsuccessfully for years to get the U.S. Navy to give him the rank of captain in recognition of his Civil War services.

BTW was never a close friend of Smalls, but when the latter was removed by the incoming Wilson administration, BTW wrote to Franklin MacVeagh, Taft's Secretary of the Treasury: "The colored people are very much disappointed and almost embittered because of the displacement of Robert Smalls. Most of the colored people thought that he at least would be permitted to retain his position. I was in Beaufort, S.C., a short while ago, and it was most pleasing as well as interesting to see how highly he is regarded by white and colored people in Beaufort. The white people look upon him as a kind of godfather, and there is not the slightest trace of bitterness against him because of the office he has held so many years." (Apr. 17, 1913, Con. 762, BTW Papers, DLC.)

To Theodore Roosevelt

Crawford House, Boston, Mass. December 1, 1902

Personal.

My dear Mr. President: First I want to thank you for your strong and clear letter on the subject of appointing Negroes to office. It seems to me that this letter states the whole matter for all time so