

The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON Papers

to impress upon him was the fact that notwithstanding the outcry about your placing Negroes in office the facts showed that you had nominated but one colored man to office in the South in a locality where no colored man was holding office before you came into the Presidency, and that was the case of Dr. Crum. On the other hand, the net result of your Negro Southern appointments shows that there are two less Negroes holding Presidential offices in the South than was true under President McKinley. You have increased the quality of Negro officials in the South and reduced the quantity. This fact I am getting into the ears of the people North and South wherever I have the opportunity. Dr. McBee said that he did not intend to have any more adverse editorials upon your position at present at least.

I had a long conference with Dr. Lyman Abbott and Mr. Lawrence F. Abbott. Both of them, especially Mr. Lawrence F. Abbott, feel that they have been supporting your policy as they have understood it and were somewhat chagrined to feel that you had the feeling that they had not stood by you. Mr. Lawrence Abbott has already sent you his most recent editorials. Dr. Abbott is going to have an editorial in an early number of *The Outlook* which I think will place matters in a more satisfactory condition so far as *The Outlook* is concerned. I furnished Dr. Abbott a statement, as I did the editor of *The Churchman*, as to what you have actually done in the South in the appointment of Negro officials, and Dr. Abbott is going to use these facts in his editorial.

I am now making an effort to get hold of some Southern editors with a view of trying to acquaint them with the facts in relation to your Southern appointments. Yours truly,

Booker T. Washington

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¹ Silas McBee (1853-1924), a graduate of the University of the South (1876), was editor of *The Churchman*, a national weekly of the Episcopal Church, from 1896 to 1912.