

Bigelow to Theodore Roosevelt.

(Copy)

21 Gramercy Park,
March 12, 1904.

My dear Mr. President:

I beg you to accept my cordial congratulations upon the permanent association of your name and administration,

First, with the creation of a nation;

Second, with being invested with the power to endow that nation with a waterway that shall unite the two greatest oceans of our planet, making ~~Ed~~ *E* *duobus*, Unum.

Any of your official predecessors might contemplate these achievements with envy if they are, as I hope they are not, any longer a prey to such an earthly emotion.

You may live to confer new distinctions upon your country, but your country can confer none upon you which henceforth can shed more than a lunar radiance.

To those who have assisted you in your marvellous work our country is under incalculable obligations which I trust it will not forget. Of those there are two, however, whose services no one is so competent to appreciate as yourself, and to whom therefore you will be anxious to appropriately testify that appreciation.

Neither of these gentlemen could be approached

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either with financial or political gratifications.

Under these circumstances I hope you will pardon me for volunteering a suggestion which could hardly fail to be grateful to both and would be sure to be received with applause by the whole country.

The Pacific end of the projected Isthmian Canal will be on United States territory and about two miles from Panama City, the Capital of the Panama Republic.

The Atlantic end of the projected Canal will be at Christopher Columbus within the United States territory and about half a mile from Colon, also a city of the Panama Republic.

It will be necessary to distinguish these Canal terminals, which are both destined at no distant day to become important cities, from the Cities of Panama and Colon, by new names. You are the Pontifex Maximus upon whom would naturally devolve the duty of baptising them. It is under the impression and the hope of suggesting what will be sure to prove to you a pleasant and no less gracious duty, that to these terminals you give the names of Hay and Buneau-Varilla.

I remain, dear Mr. President,
Your loyal and faithful subject,

John Bigelow.