

JULY · 1884

Mater. The results of her work make its inspiration and cheer; her sons and daughters growing in true manliness and womanliness, fulfilling the trust here committed to their hands, are her "glory and crown of rejoicing."

*Southern Workman*, 13 (June 1884), 75.

<sup>1</sup> No person named B. T. McNeil was reported in the class of 1880. The only McNeil who graduated from Hampton between 1871 and 1890 was Alexander H. McNeil, class of 1877, born in Oakley, N.C., in 1858, a teacher in Maryland and Virginia after his graduation.

<sup>2</sup> Thomas McCants Stewart in 1884 was teaching history and literature at Liberia College in Africa. Born in 1852 of free parents in Charleston, S.C., Stewart attended Howard University and the University of South Carolina, where he received both a B.A. and a law degree in 1875. He then attended Princeton Theological Seminary and was ordained after two years there. In 1879 he became pastor of the Bethel A.M.E. Church in New York City, remaining there until attracted to Liberia in 1883. Returning after two years, he established himself as a lawyer and leading black Democrat in New York City. He actively supported Grover Cleveland in the elections of 1888 and 1892 and helped organize black Democratic political clubs. He was appointed to the Brooklyn Board of Education in 1891, a position he held until complaining Democrats dislodged him in 1895, causing him to switch angrily to the Republican party. A close friend of BTW, Stewart supported industrial education and racial business cooperation. After his return from Africa in 1885 he spoke mildly against colonization though supporting the idea of aid to and commercial relations with Africa, but he returned to Liberia in 1906, convinced that the struggle for equality of opportunity in the United States was hopeless. He was later named an associate justice of the Liberian Supreme Court. He published several books, including *Liberia—The Americo-African Republic* (1886) and *The Afro-American in Politics* (1891), as well as numerous articles for black newspapers and journals.

## A Speech before the National Educational Association<sup>1</sup>

Madison, Wisconsin, July 16, 1884

### THE EDUCATIONAL OUTLOOK IN THE SOUTH

*Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:*

Fourteen years ago it is said that Northern teachers, in the South for the purpose of teaching in colored schools, were frightened away by the whites from the town of Tuskegee, Alabama. Four years ago the Democratic members of the Alabama legislature from Tuskegee voluntarily offered and had passed by the General Assembly a bill,