

FEBRUARY · 1879

newspapers from there that are not used, and will let me know, I will send the money to pay the postage on them. I know you have heard very little of me at H. this year, but it is only because I have been so busy with my school. Yours faithfully,

W.

Southern Workman, 7 (July 1878), 52. The fact that the letter was written from West Virginia, where BTW was then conducting a school, and was signed "W" suggests that it was probably his letter, as does its general tone and style. The editors of the *Southern Workman* introduced the letter with these remarks: "From West Virginia comes a cheerful report. To introduce military inspection and a reading room to a public district school shows enterprise and progress, and an encouraging appreciation of some of the best lessons Hampton aims to give of the value of training outside of text-books."

¹ Because the letter was published in July 1878 it was probably written in 1878 and not in 1877 as printed.

From Samuel Chapman Armstrong

[Hampton, Va.] Feb 10. [187]9

Dear Washington: I write to invite you to make the *Post Graduate* Essay at the next Anniversary May 22nd.¹ I hope it will be convenient for you to accept.

The idea is to bring out the facts of actual experience, to show what clear heads & common sense colored graduates of this school have attained, and to win the respect of all by a generous noble manly spirit.

We would wish you to come here by May 1st to confer with you on your piece after it is written & give you time to learn it. You would not be charged for your board. Sincerely yours

S. C. Armstrong

ALpS Armstrong Letterbooks President's Office Vault ViHaI.

¹ BTW said of this speech in *Up from Slavery*, chap. 6: "This was an honour which I had not dreamed of receiving. With much care I prepared the best address that I was capable of. I chose for my subject 'The Force That Wins.'" The speech was refined and memorized under the supervision of his old teacher, Nathalie Lord, and pleased both students and teachers. A reporter for the *Congregationalist* of Boston said of the speech: "I must not forget to mention the post-graduate address. It is a pleasant custom of the Institute to recall each year one of its alumni to speak out of his new experience to the under-graduate members. It is a wise