

JULY · 1896

¹ BTW's address was billed as the highlight of the last day of the convention, and one newspaper said his session was the "most crowded" of all. (Unidentified clipping, [July 11, 1896], Con. 1029, BTW Papers, DLC.) The *Buffalo Courier* reported that BTW spoke twice on the evening of July 10, to more than 5,000 people. (*Buffalo Courier*, July 12, 1896, 11.)

An Interview in the *Buffalo Courier*

[Buffalo, N.Y., July 10, 1896]

"I was born in bondage in Virginia before the War had fairly got underway. When a child, I removed to West Virginia, and was educated in the Hampton Institute, in that State. Fourteen years ago I went to Tuskegee, Ala., to become principal of the Normal Institute (then in its infancy), in that place. We have built the institute up by hard work and contributions from well inclined people, until this year we have 800 students, learning how to take care of themselves and becoming men, under our guidance. Most of our buildings were of brick, made by our students, and all of the labor was performed by them. So far, we have sent 300 graduates into the world, equipped to battle with life's tribulations and uphold and lead their race on to better and nobler things.

"This is my second visit to Buffalo. I was here some four years ago, and I am strongly impressed with the evidence of growth, push, and prosperity that I see about me. I believe there is a strong sentiment in Buffalo, in fact, in Western New York, for the colored man, and it gratifies me to be thus impressed. I am only sorry that I was unable to reach here early in the week so as to be present at all of the deliberations of the N.E.A. I consider these annual conventions an educator for the educator, and I am pleased to learn that as many as 40 colored teachers from all parts of the country have been present at the convention here in Buffalo. These meetings between the colored and white teachers do much to help both races. A great many white people know only the colored man of the bar-room, of the street corner, or the servant behind some hotel counter, but these conventions serve to bring together the better and more intelligent white and black people, and the white teachers go away with new impressions and thoughts about the black man and black woman. They have seen and talked with cul-