



READING OF THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION. THE SMALL LAD WITH SLOUCH HAT, STANDING AT THE FRONT, IS BOOKER.

He never saw three or four hundred men and women so tremendously in earnest as the students at Hampton.

"Many of them," he writes, were as poor as I was, and, besides having to wrestle with their books, they had to struggle with a poverty which prevented their having the necessities of life. Many of them had aged parents who were dependent upon them, and some of them were men who had wives whose support in some way they had to provide for. The great and prevailing idea that seemed to take possession of every one was to prepare himself to lift up the people at his home."

On leaving Hampton he became for a time a waiter at the United States Hotel, Saratoga, where he was often in after years an honoured guest.

When about sixteen he became teacher of a Negro school near his native place. He taught both day and night school and two Sunday-schools. He induced his brother and many neighbours to go to the Hampton Institute. Three years later he had a chance to enter Wayland Seminary. The deep, religious spirit which per-

vaded the atmosphere made a profound impression on his life.

He was invited to return to Hampton as a teacher. He began a night class with men who had to work all day in the saw-mill or on the farm. This grew till it eventually numbered six or seven hundred eager students. He was a born teacher, and was placed in charge of seventy-five Indian boys. He learned that "the main thing that any oppressed people needed was a chance of the right kind and they would cease to be savages."

At the request of General Armstrong he went, in 1881, to Tuskegee, a place so small that he could not find it on the map. It was in the heart of the Black Belt, where the Negroes far outnumbered the whites. This was the great opportunity of his life. Here his best work was done. He had no money, but borrowed five hundred dollars to make the first payment on an abandoned farm. This subsequently grew to be an estate of 2,460 acres connected with the Tuskegee Institute. Mr. Washington insisted on enforcing