

BALLAD OF BOOKER T.

1st draft
May 30, 1941

Old Booker T.
Was a practical man.
He said, Till the soil,
and Learn from the land.
Let down your buckets
Where you are:



In your own backyard
~~Could~~ There could
~~Right~~ be a star.
Train you ~~heart,~~ *head,*
Your ~~head,~~ *heart,* and your hand.

To help yourself
And your fellowman
Thus Booker T.
Built a school,
With book-learning there
And the workman's tool.

For ~~to~~ ^{needs} smart alone
Is ~~not~~ ^{surely} meet---
If ~~you~~ ^{can} haven't ~~got~~ ^{also} ~~got~~
~~got~~ /Something to eat.

He started out
In a simple way---
For ~~(Yesterday~~
Was not today.)
Sometimes he had ~~com-~~ *com-*
Compromise in his talk,---
For a man must crawl
Before he can walk
And in Alabama in '85
A joker was lucky
To ~~stay~~ ^{be} alive.
But ~~not~~ Booker T.
Was nobody's fool:
You may carve a dream
From an humble tool---
And the tallest tower
Can tumble down
If ~~is~~ ^{it be} not rooted
In solid ground.
He said, Train your ~~heart,~~ *head,*
Your head, and your hand

~~train your~~ *heart*
Your head, ~~and~~ and your hand--
For Booker T.
Was a practical man.

[AC7059]