

there was, through prayer and work, a way out. And it was one of the greatest things she stimulated life with that determination that there was a way out if we put forth effort ourselves.

Johnson: Did you ever hear her call the name of the African race or tribe she belonged to?

Bethune: If so, it has passed out of my memory.

Johnson: Do you remember any words that suggested continuity of any African traditions?

Bethune: No. My mother was very, very, dark with soft, keen features: small of stature. She wasn't large. I took my robustness from my father. My father wasn't as strong willed as my mother. He was very kindly disposed, very sympathetic. My mother's will power and drive gave the impetus that held our household together. The majority in our family married off early.

There were seventeen of us, you know. I had nieces and nephews far older than myself. There were seventeen full sisters and brothers and it took my mother's spirit to build a home. Fa-