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## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LIBERIA MISSION.

To the Corresponding Secretary of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Rev. and Dear Sir:—A year of unparalleled prosperity to the Liberia mission has just closed upon us, and it becomes my pleasing duty to present to the Board of Managers of the Missionary Society, my regular annual report, with the prospects which lie before us, and an estimate of the probable amount necessary to enable us to meet the expenses of this mission for the ensuing year. In doing this, sir, I feel entirely unable to express my gratitude to the great Head of the church for the repeated manifestations which he has given us during the past year, that the glorious work in which your missionaries are engaged is the work of God; and for the great success which he has condescended to grant unto their feeble efforts. The fervent and united prayers with which we commenced 1837—'save now, we beseech O Lord; O Lord, we beseech thee, send now prosperity'—have not been in vain. The thousands of pious hearts among the christians of America, which have been devoutly supplicating a throne of divine grace for Africa, have not been pleading for nought. The spirit of God has been poured out upon us in rich and copious abundance, and we have had seasons of revival which have been hitherto unknown in the history of this mission. Scores of precious souls have been turned from darkness unto light, and from the power of Satan unto God. Nor has this work been confined merely to the citizens of Liberia. Our hearts desire to see the gospel of the Son of God extending itself more generally among the natives, has been granted unto us to some good degree; and upward of twenty of Africa's degraded and benighted children have learned to know that Christ, whom to know is life eternal. We have witnessed with no small degree of interest, their transformation by the renewing of their mind—we have listened to their strong cries and groans, while they have been bathed in tears at the feet of Jesus; and, as we have wept with them when they wept, so have we been enabled to rejoice with them, when having passed from death unto life, they could rejoice in God their Saviour. The people of God too, in almost every settlement, are becoming strong in the Lord and in the power of his might. Holiness seems to be the pursuit of a great many, their constant cry is to be saved from the dominion and pollution of sin as well as its guilt, and be enabled to love their God with all their heart and soul. Some have entered into this rest of full redemption, and are not ashamed to confess that God is faithful and just to cleanse from all unrighteousness.

Another cause of heartfelt gratitude to God, is the help which has been afforded us in the addition to our missionary band of the three beloved ones who arrived in the Charlotte Harper, last July. And not only can we rejoice at their coming over to help us, but at the great goodness and mercy of God in sparing them. For while others have fallen—while we have been called to mourn over the loss of our dear sister Matthias, the wife of our excellent brother, the governor of Bassa Cove, and over the death of the pious Miss Annesley too—the hand of affliction has been laid most gently on these. The accession of a physician to your missionary establishment in Africa, and such a one as you have sent us—pious, active, skillful—calls loudly for our praise to our heavenly Father. His almost total exemption from African fever, save two or three slight touches, not of consequence enough to name scarcely, is quite unprecedented in the history of any of the pale-faced ones who have come to Liberia, and spent so many months on its shores. But while we attribute this, primarily, to the kind interposition of a gracious Providence, it would be injustice in me, sir, and an injury to those who come after, to withhold the fact, that such is the extremely temperate and abstemious life of Dr. Goheen in all things, such his lynch-eyed vigilance at every minutiae which might invite disease, and his great self-denial in the use of what may be termed only the common comforts of life, that I wonder not the pestilence which walketh at noon-day, can find no spot in his system on which to rest even the sole of its foot.

In the ministry, too, there is an evident progress in the divine life; in the acquisition of useful knowledge, and in zeal for the Lord's house and the cause of the Redeemer. The Liberia mission annual conference closed a very interesting session of four days on the 8th inst. Three promising young men have been received on trial; two into full connection, and every thing combines to encourage our hope that the 'little one will yet become a thousand, and the small one a strong nation.'

But it will doubtless be pleasing to the friends of this mission to hear separately from each station and department of the work.

**Monrovia.**—This place is our stronghold. We have a society here, in which there are men, in whom their fellow-citizens place such confidence, that a large majority of the public offices in the government are filled by them. The church generally are coming up to their privileges, and trying to press on toward the mark for the prize of their high calling. The schools taught during the year by brother Herring, the stationed preacher, and sister Eunice Moore, have been tolerably well attended, and have done well. But here I would beg leave to report to the Board of Managers, that having long since discovered the absolute need of an institution of a higher grade than our common day schools; and as providentially, the school-house intended to be erected in 1837, and included in the estimate for the expenses of that year, was never built, I have concluded, and do earnestly hope that it will meet the sanction of the Missionary Society, to erect a building for the purpose of establishing an academy of such a character as to meet the wants of this rapidly increasing mission. We have long since heard of plans for the establishment of a college, of a high school in Liberia; but we have only heard of them, and read in American periodicals of liberal collections

made for this purpose. We have seen nothing done; and while others talk about the matter, we have concluded to be up and doing. If I have been too fast, my fathers and patrons will, I trust, correct me. But sir, such is my conviction of the need, the great need of the institution of a 'Liberia Mission Conference Seminary,' that the site has been obtained, and in a most beautiful and elevated part of our town—the foundation laid, the walls going up, and the anxious expectations of the Methodist societies in Liberia looking up to the rising building as a place where their young men, their children, will receive an education suited to the claims which their church, their country, will have upon them in a future day. Here we have more than a score of the most promising young men converted to God during the past year, anxious to be fitted for future usefulness. They cannot be sent to the United States, Here they must be trained, if at all. Here we must enrich their minds, and prepare them if called by God to go out into this wilderness of perishing souls to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, and those things which pertain to the kingdom of God. Pursuant to this plan, I have determined in the fear of God, notwithstanding my accumulating labours as our work spreads, to concentrate our forces in Monrovia, and in a few days to commence myself, in conjunction with Miss Beers and Mrs. Moore, a school of the character alluded to.\* We shall occupy a part of our large church until the academy is completed. But, sir, it will be seen that this amount of additional labour will be more than I can continue long to perform without doing injury to other departments of the work. Here then let me appeal to that body of men who have honoured me with their confidence, and pray the board of the Missionary Society to send us help. Men and fathers in Israel, help! You are destined in the providence of God, to be the main prop of this growing colony—this prosperous mission—the guardian angel of this benighted land. Send us a young man of a good classical education, of a true missionary spirit, a graduate of one of our excellent literary institutions. Let him come out to us, and be the principal of this institution. Friends of Africa, help us with your means to meet these increasing expenses. Look at the probable results. Instead of depending as we have hitherto been obliged to do, for all our men from America—instead of being compelled to accept the services of females, to whom this climate proves so particularly destructive, we shall be laying the foundation for raising up our teachers, our ministers on the spot. O! that the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States would wake up more thoroughly to this subject. Brethren! beloved and respected brethren, I pray you, in Christ's stead, come up to the help of the missionary cause! I thank you in behalf of poor Africa, for what you have done; but this only opens the way to us to discover how much more remains undone. The little spot in the moral waste which you have already cultivated, only lets in the light to render the darkness and gloom around us more visible. The young native Africans which have been converted and added to us, are anxious to learn, so that they may teach others also, the way of life and salvation.

**New Georgia.**—Here, too, the society prospers, and the school is doing well. At a meeting, of several days continuance, held not long since, many souls were converted, and among them several natives. Our hearts yearned over them, while we adored the goodness of that God who thus convinceth us of a truth, that he is no respecter of persons, but that in every nation, he that feareth God and worketh righteousness is accepted of him.

**Caldwell.**—A sweeping reformation has gone through this town. Old hardened sinners, of whom their fellow-citizens had but a faint hope, have humbled themselves under the mighty hand of God, repented and forsaken their sins, and are now rejoicing in hope of the glory of God. Besides this, several natives have also been made the happy partakers of God's converting grace.

Here let me remark, for the purpose of undeceiving a certain part of our friends in America, that though some of our native converts are right out of the bush, yet that many of them are individuals who have been residing in the families of colonists, have been taught by them the knowledge of the christian's God—have witnessed their pious examples, which have proved unto them a savour of life unto life, and owe in a great measure, their salvation to them as instruments in the hand of God. Away then, with the notion, that the colonization scheme does nothing for the native African—that the missionary enterprise is confined to the emigrants, and that the natives benefit nothing by it. Let me stop, sir, the mouths of these gainsayers, by proclaiming the names of Johnson, Williams, Davis, Devaney, Phillips, Tulliver, White, Willis, &c. &c. American colonists, in whose families native boys and girls have grown up under daily instruction and pious example, and are now converted to christianity, and members of christian churches in Liberia. Let me add, that in this respect salvation has come too to the mission houses within your mission in Africa, and boys attached to our families and institutions have been born of God.

The school in Caldwell has been faithfully kept and proved very efficient and successful. Brother G. S. Brown leaves us, however, for a few months, to return more fully prepared, and qualified to live, work, and spend his days in this excellent cause.

**Millsburg.**—What shall I say about this spot. The wilderness is blossoming as a rose. The solitary place is becoming glad, and rejoicing for them who have been sent to cultivate the hitherto barren field, and to diffuse light amid the gross darkness. And, thank God, the darkness is comprehending the light. O sir, think what the Lord has done for us here! A society of 11 members, as reported at the close of 1836, has now grown to 63. The White Plains manual labour school has been owned and blessed of God. We have among us converted to God, Africans, named J. O. Andrew, N. Bangs, John Clark, P. P. Sandford, &c. &c.; and these already begin to recommend

\* January 29.—This has been done, and with a bright prospect. We have already no less than one hundred pupils.

this holy religion to others. Take an affecting incident to the point, as related to us at the session of our conference last week by Rev. B. R. Wilson, your missionary at White Plains. Not long since, the father of the boy, named Nathan Bangs, an African prince of an adjoining tribe, visited his son at our mission premises. Nathan being inquired for by the missionary, at a certain hour of the day, to go to work with the other boys could not be found. In searching for him, moans and sobs were heard issuing from the school-house the upper rooms of which are occupied as the lodging places of our young proteges. In drawing near to the house, brother Wilson discovered little Bangs had got his old father in private, pleading with him in tears to look for the American's God, and get his soul converted to christianity. The effects of this on our congregation in Monrovia was thrilling.

Sister Wilson has commenced her school at Millsburg, in good health and spirits, and has 45 scholars, including our manual labour school boys.

Brother Wilson is extending his ministerial labours to the surrounding native tribes—has held meetings among them through an interpreter, and reports the prospect as very promising.

**Jack's Town Mesurada.**—We make but little progress here. The school has not increased in the number of pupils, but the few boys belonging to it have made some improvement. Our help here is not as efficient as we could wish it to be, but for the present we can do no better, praying that the piety and holy example of our labourer in this place may at last prove a light in a dark place.

**Edina and Bassa Cove.**—I had my fears that the absence of brother Barton would be sensibly felt here, and that the cause would languish and decline. In some respects it has been so, but brother Moore, the preacher in charge, has been zealous and faithful. Not being an ordained man, however, we have been indebted to the Rev. J. J. Matthias, the governor of Bassa Cove, for his aid on sacramental occasions, for which we are very grateful. There has been an addition to the number in society, and my recent letters report the church as going on generally in the ways of righteousness and peace.

The young woman who had the school at the beginning of the year, it was judged best should close her services in July last; and I had engaged a young man of good qualifications to take it; but while I was absent at Cape Palmas, in August and September, to my surprise he embarked for the United States in the Charlotte Harper. Br. Herring having been appointed this year to the charge of Bassa Cove and Edina, will, as soon as he arrives there, and gets settled, resume the school, and we trust, with his wonted zeal and faithfulness.

**January 13.**—I had written thus far yesterday when a vessel, which had been signalized for some hours previously, came near enough to communicate with the shore; and a note from the Rev. John B. Barton announced to me his safe arrival in the ship Emperor, but gave us the afflicting intelligence of the loss of our mutual friend, Capt. John W. Keeler, who was knocked overboard by the spanker boom, during a stormy night when only five days from Norfolk. On going on board, in company with Dr. Goheen, we found that brother Barton was accompanied by his wife and mother, Dr. and Miss Skinner, and the Rev. Mr. Clark and lady. I have not failed during the night to peruse attentively the despatches which have come to my hand. In them I hear, with mingled emotions of surprise and regret, that your treasury, sir, is again in debt. O that I could be, for a short period, in the midst of the assemblies of American christians, to plead with my tears in this cause! But it may not be. I can but write. I can but beg through the medium of a letter, and at this great distance from them, not to let the Missionary Society be curtailed in its operations. Ye members of the M. E. Church in the United States, hear the cries and groans of bleeding Africa. To this day her children are torn from their friends and country, and borne in bondage, by cargoes, to other lands. The laws and enactments of nations are laughed at. The slaver eludes all their vigilance. But you have the means of striking a death-blow to this unhallowed traffic. It is the Gospel which can do it, and the Gospel alone. Send men to preach this Gospel; send means to support your mission. Brethren, I tremble, I sicken at the thought of your permitting your treasury to be empty; nay, even to be in debt. I dread that hour when it shall be said, that a draft of one of the missionaries of the M. E. Church has been protested for want of money to honour it, when the Church contains nearly 600,000 members. Let me die of African fever; let me see all I hold dear wilt and drop into the grave before me, let me be recalled from my post of honour—to me worse than death itself; but let me hear no more that such a body of christians as compose the Methodist Church suffer their Missionary Society to be cramped in her effort for the want of means to send the bread of life to a ruined world. But I resume my report.

**Cape Palmas.**—I made my annual visit to this place during the rainy season. Taking my little, sickly, fast fading Henry with me, we embarked in one of the colonial schooners, and after 13 days of suffering for want of comfortable accommodations, and even necessary refreshment, we got to the end of our voyage, a distance of only 240 miles. Not wishing to leave again in so short a time as five days, having a great deal to inspect and adjust, I permitted the vessel to come away without me, and risked the getting of an opportunity back in some vessel passing. But upward of ten weeks elapsed from the time I left home before my return.

The church at Palmas is in an excellent condition. We had times of much rejoicing during my visit, and several were converted to God. The increase, however, for the year has been small, owing to some who, having walked disorderly, had to be cut off.

Br. Burns is faithful to his charge; he has at last completed the mission house so as to go into it, and his family are now therefore residing at Mount Emory. We have been obliged to employ a school teacher. Br. Burns' health, and the necessary attention required in building in this country, rendered it impossible for him to teach school

himself and do justice to all parts of his charge. I have employed a Mrs. Thomson, a member of the Protestant E. Church, to take this school. She is a pious woman and well qualified.

Our meeting-house at Palmas, of thatched roof, &c. was not only getting too strait for us, but was falling into decay. I concluded to build a substantial one of stone, preparations for which are making in the collection of materials.

This is a growing colony, well organized, well supplied by its patrons in America with every thing conducive to its welfare, and receiving semi-annually an emigration of choice emigrants. The native population even within bounds of the colonial territory is numerous, and presents a vast field for missionary enterprise. The persevering and faithful labours of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, who are at the head of the mission supported by the A. B. C. F. Missions, are very useful. I accompanied Mr. Wilson in an excursion 18 miles down the coast to the Grahway and Cavalry countries. We stopt at several towns, and had much intercourse with the natives. We could easily establish a mission in the Cavalry country. In doing this we could not be considered as interfering with or trespassing on the ground of our christian fellow-labourers—for the harvest is plentiful, the field is the world; and if they take the right hand, let us turn to the left, and so contrariwise. Many extracts from my journal, as to the manners and customs, population, &c. &c. of the Greybo and other tribes in these regions, might here be given; but they have been so often described, and more accurately too than I could, that it would be swelling this report uselessly to too large a size. I would only add, that such is the great proficiency which Mr. Wilson has made in acquiring the Greybo language, that a large and accurate vocabulary has already been published at their printing establishment; and we have reason to hope that other christian missionaries could obtain the aid of these in prosecuting missions among the natives.

**Junk.**—Appeals have been made to us from this place to send them help. For months they do not hear a Gospel sermon, nor have they a school of any kind. It may truly be said by them, 'No man careth for our souls.' But help is at hand. I have employed a school teacher to go down and reside there, and one of our young men, received on trial into the annual conference, will take the charge for this year—visiting them as often as the modes of conveyance in this country will admit.

**Sinoe.**—It is difficult to determine yet what had better be done in this place. A governor and physician have been sent out; and with a few pioneers from Monrovia, have endeavoured to continue the settlement begun by the active and laborious Daniel Johnson, but no emigrants have yet arrived for that place, and the lives of the few Americans have been at times in the most imminent danger from the natives, who have risen en masse, and vowed to cut them off. Under such circumstances to send a missionary, to spend money in building, &c. would be premature. It would be much more safe to make an effort there were there none but natives, and they at peace, than to risk the entangling a missionary, and the reputation of a christian mission, in these broils between the emigrants and savages around them. We wait the openings of divine Providence.

**Boporo.**—While I was at Palmas an expedition from the Condoe country, of which the above is the capital, arrived in Monrovia, and brought me a letter from Moses Jacobs, which I received on my return. He was well, confirmed the news of King Boatwain's death, and writes that the kingdom is so cut up and divided, so many head-men setting up claims for the crown, (if it may be called such,) that the probability is still less than ever of our getting an effectual foothold in that country. He had insisted on returning, and urged Parcol (one of the principal rivals for royalty) to afford him an escort down to the cape, had even packed up his things, and resolved to start alone and unprotected, if he would not send a guard with him. This elicited a promise that it should be done soon, even during the present dry season. But we have had more than six weeks fine weather, several parties have come down since that period, letters have been received by some of the colonists from Jacobs, but he has neither arrived, nor have I received a line from him in answer to a long letter, in which I urged his return, explained the fallacy of expecting pay from the society for so long a period spent in doing nothing, &c. In one of my letters from you, sir, which I have had no opportunity of answering yet, is the expression, 'I wish you would penetrate into the interior.' Permit me here to observe to the board, that this is in perfect accordance with my own wishes. I have long desired anxiously desired this, but hitherto the way has seemed hedged up, and particularly the way to Boatwain's dominions. But, inasmuch as there are other fields which promise, at least, as good a harvest as the Condoe country, I have been laying plans which I hope will soon be carried into operation. There is an opening in the Pessah country, from seventy-five to one hundred miles east of the colony, which I have concluded to avail myself of. We have an intelligent member of the church, who frequently goes into their country for purposes of traffic, and reports to me that every thing appears favourable to the undertaking. I have written a letter to Zoda, one of their principal head-men, which he has taken, and will read and explain to him, in which I request, if he wishes a visit from me, to afford an escort, and I will go. I have sent him a dash, as a very necessary preliminary to our acquaintance, and will probably be able to get away about the middle of February, and be gone four or five weeks. I need not assure you that every effort which I am capable of making shall be made to enlist their toleration and protection of a mission school among them. They are at peace with themselves and their neighbours—and the few I have seen of that tribe appear friendly, and much pleased with the notion of my visit. That there is much fatigue, exposure, and danger attending the excursion, cannot be doubted, and some think too much for me to endure. But in coming to Africa I counted the cost, and thank God, if I am to fall, it matters but little where the spot may be—an American settlement, or the town, or village of an African tribe, so I fall in the path of duty.