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THE ASHMUN INSTITUTE.

AT A STATED MEETING of the Presbytery of New Castle, held on the 5th of October, 1853, the following paper, after discussion, was adopted without a dissenting voice :

CONSIDERING the many Christian congregations of colored people in this country which are unable to secure educated ministers of their own color ; considering the communities of such people in many parts who need educated men amongst them to fill the place of teachers and other responsible situations ; considering the wants of Liberia, and the importance to its present and future welfare of having suitably qualified men to fill its offices and posts of authority, instruction, and influence ; considering the vast missionary work yet to be done in Africa, and to be mainly done by persons of African descent ; considering how extremely difficult it is for colored youth to obtain a liberal education in this land, arising from the want of schools for that purpose, and their exclusion from all the regular institutions of learning of a higher grade ; considering the strong recommendation to that effect from our Board of Education, and its full endorsement by the General Assembly of our Church ; and considering the favorable indications of Providence at this time apparently calling us to such a work :

This Presbytery, trusting in God, and, under Him, depending on the Christian liberality of the friends of the African race throughout our country, do determine as follows :

1. There shall be established within our bounds, and under our supervision, an Institution, to be called the ASHMUN INSTITUTE, for the Scientific, Classical and Theological education of colored youth of the male sex.
2. That J. M. DICKEY, A. HAMILTON, R. P. DuBois, ministers, and SAMUEL J. DICKEY and JOHN M. KELTON, ruling elders, be a Committee to whom shall be intrusted the temporary charge of this undertaking. It shall be their duty to collect funds for the same, and to appoint a treasurer to hold such funds and pay them out on their order, the expense of collecting to be borne out of the money collected. It shall be their duty to select a suitable site for the buildings, and, whenever a sufficient sum shall have been collected, to commence the erection of plain and convenient edifices for the purposes intended. It shall also be their duty to take immediate steps to procure a suitable charter from the State of Pennsylvania, by which the property may be lawfully held and managed by nine Trustees, to be elected from time to time by this Presbytery, to which Board, when duly organized, the Committee aforesaid shall surrender all their powers, as well as the money and other property belonging to the institution.
3. The Board of Trustees named in the charter shall consist of the following persons, viz : J. M. DICKEY, ALFRED HAMILTON, ROBERT P. DuBois, JAMES LATTI, JOHN B. SPOTSWOOD, JAMES M. CROWELL, ministers, and SAMUEL J. DICKEY, JOHN M. KEL-

TON, Esqs., and WILLIAM WILSON, ruling elders. It shall be the duty of this Board, under general instructions from this Presbytery, to put up suitable buildings and improvements, as they may have the necessary means, in no case ever involving this Presbytery in pecuniary obligations. They shall appoint the teachers and professors, and name their salaries ; they shall establish rules and regulations for the government of the institution ; they shall have authority to procure its endowment, not exceeding the sum of \$100,000 ; and, when required by this Presbytery, they shall report to it the state of the Institution, the state of the funds, and all interests committed to their trust.

On the fourteenth of November following, this Committee, having met and elected their officers, did agree to purchase a certain property, containing about thirty acres, for the sum of twelve hundred and fifty dollars ; they appointed a sub-committee to draw up a copy of the charter, and procure its enactment by the Legislature of Pennsylvania ; they appointed some of their own members to visit certain cities for the purpose of collecting funds and otherwise promoting the interests of the Institute ; instructed their chairman to open a correspondence with a minister of our Church, well known, and highly qualified for the work, with a view to procure his services in raising money for its erection and endowment ; and made arrangements for issuing this Circular.

To these items of information we would add a few words by way of address to the Christian public. It is well known that the climate of Africa is unfavorable to the white race, and as God in his providence has put under our hands near four millions of colored persons, who cannot find this difficulty to the same extent, may we not ask you whether it is not our duty to use all possible means to bring forward of their number, as far as it may be necessary, to take a part in this work of preaching the gospel in that dark land ? Is not our colored population to be brought into the Church and kingdom of God ? And if so, how are they to be employed in labor for the conversion of the world ? If there be a place for them in which thus to labor, is it not in Africa ? And may we not be (though in the spirit of self-sacrifice) supplanting them in their birth-right inheritance, the work of missions in their father-land ? But they must be prepared for the work, they must be prepared in this country, they must be prepared by white men, and they must be prepared mainly at the expense of white men. These points we need not argue. If white men are to be their teachers, they must live here, and here are the means of support and proper oversight while they are engaged in this preparation.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

13. May 1855--October 1857

1856