Here about twenty-four pupils, colonists and natives, attend ordinarily. This school did not exactly meet our expectations considering the time it has been in operation. As I had not the opportunity of seeing all the scholars, some being out at the time of my visit, I wrote brother Payne to furnish me with an account of the progress of his most advanced (native) scholars, and the point at which they had arrived in the particular branches to which their attention had been directed. The following are his own words in reply, which by his permission I here insert. "My class in Arithmetic has advanced as far as simple multiplication. In Parley's Geography as far as the 50th page, and have acquired such a knowledge of grammar as to be able to parse pretty correctly." I presume from what I saw he meant in simple sentences. "The lower classes, who are in Angel's Series No. 1 and 2, can read and spell in 2 and 3 syllables." As to my own expectation, considering the *adversities* to which this school has been necessarily subject, in the loss and frequent change of teachers, it may have been higher than it ought to have been.

The same remarks as to inconveniences, arising from small room, will apply here as in the cases above. A room of only about 12 by 14, is decidedly too small for the accomodation of the number of scholars attending there.

We stated our impressions to brother Wilson, who informed us that he too had been convinced of the fact, and was on the eve of enlarging it. This has since been done. Very good order prevailed in the school, which I was led to think from some circumstances, was characteristic of it. Important improvements, with little expense to the mission, may be made still, after those above named. Better benches might be had, and those with *backs* for small scholars, ought always to be preferred. It adds greatly to the comfort of the scholars, and the quiet of the school. Little children, upon high benches where their feet cannot touch the floor, are not in circumstances of great inconvenience only, but those, which if continued in long at a time, are sure to superinduce positive pain. In such a situation, children are necessarily writhing in torture for relief, and no system of government can possibly keep them still. Experience teaches those of riper years, that close application, and an aching back, are not very compatible. We leave our readers to draw the inference. Were I brother Payne, or in his situation, I would petition most earnestly for a *black-board*—an appendage, without which, schools, where the *common* branches of an English education only are taught, are, in my opinion, essentially deficient. In an establishment sustaining the important relation to this mission that White Plains does, *glass* windows ought to be afforded to it, as they would materially conduce to the comfort of the scholars, and of course, to the prosperity of the school, especially, during the rains and the tornado seasons. Much is done at this post of our mission work, but it is our impression that its relative and local importance to Liberia and to Africa, calls for enlargement in all its departments. But we cannot help considering this station, and Heddington in the immediate vicinity of each other, conducted in the expensive manner which the fine and costly buildings erected on each, seem to promise, as rather too much for that section, taking into view either the stage of our work, the fitness of our instrumentalities, or the number of children probably obtainable, with which to supply them. We are not advocating a contraction of our range of shot, but the acting at fewer well served points of concentrated ability and powerful effect.

Having made all the observations at this station which our limited time would allow, accompanied by brother Wilson, we set out for Heddington. Brother Erskine, the teacher, was not at home when we first arrived, but came shortly after. Either former statements of the condition of the school

at this noted point, were egregriously wrong, or it has gone down within the short space of two years, ninety per cent. Brother E. told us (as we did not see the scholars) that the school numbered 12 pupils. These I understood to be new recruits entire, all the scholars that formerly attended here, having left the premises, and a very great share of them lost to the mission. How far the prospects of the school so far as the present year is concerned, are, or have been effected by the present teacher, as we have heard contradictory, though credible statements on this point, which nearly balance each other, we are not prepared to say definitely, though *charity*, and the confidence which presumed *moral principle* in christian teachers always inspire, inclines us to the best construction.

One more *general* remark and we have done for this time. We have not observed in any of the schools above noticed, such a thing as a *recitation bench*. We think them a very necessary part of a school. Where something of the kind is not had, the bad practice of calling the scholars close around to recite their lessons, is apt to obtain, or something else equally injurious to them. A good bench ought to stand out on the floor at a suitable distance from the instructor, to which, during recitation, every class, as they recite, should be called. *Clearness* in every word, syllable and letter, ought to be insisted on and had, as well as sufficient *loudness*, which are not so likely to be obtained in any other way. By this method, with a little attention on the part of the teacher, habits of mumbling, clipping and confounding words and syllables into each other, may be corrected, if formed, and avoided, if not formed. Besides this, teachers ought to consider that during the term of childhood and youth, when the parts are so very flexible, the organs of speech readily accomodate themselves to any system to which they may be submitted for the sake of discipline—that their natural defects are easily remedied and habits of diction formed which will throw irreristable charms around every expression of their future life. This being true, it is a subject of great importance and cannot be either too early or too faithfully attended to.

Yours respectfully, F. BURNS.

MONROVIA, *December 15th*, 1842.

(From the Spirit of Missions.)

EXTRACT FROM REV. MR. PAYNE'S LETTER OF JANUARY 12th, 1843.

Death of Mrs. Savage—Fruits of her zeal during her brief labours—Feeble health of the members of the Mission generally.

As the time for transmitting semi-annual returns from the mission has arrived, I send you such extracts from my journal since September 19th, as it is hoped may be interesting to you. Before proceeding to do this, however, I must perform the mournful duty of informing you of another afflictive stroke of Divine Providence, by which our mission has been deprived of one of its most valuable and esteemed members. Mrs. Savage, late Miss M. V. Chapin, was most unexpectedly taken from us, after a few days illness, on Friday, December 23, about seven o'clock, P. M. I arrived at *Mount Vaughan* on the evening of the 22d inst. when she was said to be better. About 12 o'clock that night she was seized with violent convulsions, after which her husband expressed to her his conviction that they must soon be separated. She expressed her surprise at this communication, as she felt easier than for some hours before. She manifested the same calm and cheerful spirit, as she had done through her illness, and she requested of her husband if he thought she would not live until morning, that I might be sent for. As, however, there was every prospect of her surviving some time beyond this, I was not called until about day-break,

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