

# THE CHURCH AT HOME AND ABROAD.

DECEMBER, 1894.

## APPROACHING DAY.

Have not we been passengers in a railroad car, when the whistle signaled near approach to the station at which our journey would end? Tired, and dull, and listless we have been in the monotonous progress of the train, but now, so near the end of the weary journey, so near home, we rouse ourselves, and in very animating and cheery tones call upon even the tired and sleepy little children to wake up too.

Home, a hundred miles off—home, to which we have yet many weary hours of travel before we can come, would have no such power to rouse us. Home near—home in sight—home from which loved and loving faces are even now looking forth to welcome us—this thought banishes drowsiness.

Paul, in one stirring passage, figures the time which has been passing as the night, and cheerily calls us “to awake out of sleep,” because now it is morning—or almost morning. “The day is at hand.”

Heathen minds, in their best culture, have thought of our earthly life-time as day, and conceived of it as ending in the “cold, silent night of the grave.” Paganism, nature, cannot look beyond the grave. It can only feebly conjecture whether there is anything beyond. It is as if, without geographical and astronomical knowledge, one were set down in the Arctic region, and should watch the

sun circling around the horizon, daily settling lower and lower towards it, till at last it has sunk quite out of sight, appearing only as a glow on the sky, passing round and round, and daily fainter, until it has faded utterly out. He would not know that, after the cold blue dome with its steady stars and its occasional auroral coruscations shall have made a hundred revolutions, the sun will be visible again, climbing in a reversed spiral, up the sky. If such a one—an illiterate sailor let us imagine—should receive from his captain books and kind instruction, teaching him the true geography and the true astronomy, what a revelation it would be! With what expectations of the coming day would such a revelation cheer the long waiting through that Arctic gloom! And when the faint blush should appear, and go its rounds, constantly brightening, until at length the narrow edge of the fiery disc should go moving around and widening, to what joyous outlook would the glad eyes open after every season of necessary sleep!

What Arctic gloom of hopelessness would wrap this earthly life, if the Bible did not give us this celestial geography and astronomy!

“I would not have you to be ignorant brethren, concerning them who are asleep, that ye sorrow not as others, who have no hope.” There is a morning to dawn on

# FREEDMEN.

## IMPORTANT.

### DO NOT FORGET THE FREEDMEN.

December is the month named by the General Assembly as the time for the churches to take up their annual collections for work among the Freedmen. Some churches have other plans; but very many fall in with this suggestion. As the time is near at hand we call upon the pastors to do what they can for this great department of the missionary work of the Church.

The Board of Missions for Freedmen is in great financial distress.

We have been compelled to cut down all salaries.

We have curtailed our expenses in every possible way.

We have shortened the term of many of our schools.

We have turned a deaf ear to many earnest cries for help that have stirred our hearts profoundly.

The cry from some quarters is little less than a wail.

If each church could only hear this wail, we are sure the needed help would be forthcoming.

Pastors will you not, from love to God, and to your fellow men, speak a good word for the Negro, to your people, and ask them to remember the Freedmen's Board in this its time of need?

EDWARD P. COWAN, *Cor. Sec'y.*

BIDDLE UNIVERSITY. — President Sanders writes: "I am glad to be able to report that we have had the best opening this year of any in the history of the institution. Our present number is about two hundred." He wrote thus in the third week of the term.

We also learn that the new dormitory is to be opened about the end of November, and to be named CARTER HALL, in memory of the late Miss Laura Carter, of Geneva, whose legacy enabled the trustees to erect this building.

## OUR SCHOLARSHIPS.

REV. H. N. PAYNE, D. D.

For the sake of intelligence and efficiency in administration the work under the care of the Freedmen's Board is classified. These departments are essential portions of the one work and must always be so regarded, yet each may be studied by itself.

Thus there is the securing of ministerial missionaries from various sources, directing their attention to needy portions of the great field, and sustaining and watching over them in their work. In this the relation of the Board to the Presbyteries is very close and their co-operation is very cordial. Indeed it is difficult to see how either could get along without the other.

Then there is the selection and support of teachers for all the schools. The erection and maintenance of church and school buildings constitutes another important feature of the work. Large amounts of valuable property of this description are held by the Board, creating a responsibility of which it would gladly be relieved were it possible. Finally there is the support of needy and deserving students in the various schools by means of scholarships. It is particularly of this department of the work that we would speak at this time.

### NEED OF SCHOLARSHIPS.

They are used to aid students who are obliged to leave home to get an education.

One acquainted with the South hardly needs to be told that not one Negro in a thousand would find it possible to send away to school and maintain there a son or a daughter. Most of the Negroes, especially in the country, live in rented houses. These are often one-roomed, comfortless cabins, the entire furnishing of which is not worth \$30. It is only by a struggle that the children are supplied with the plainest food, while the patched clothing, that seems so absurd and ridiculous to the northern traveler, is the