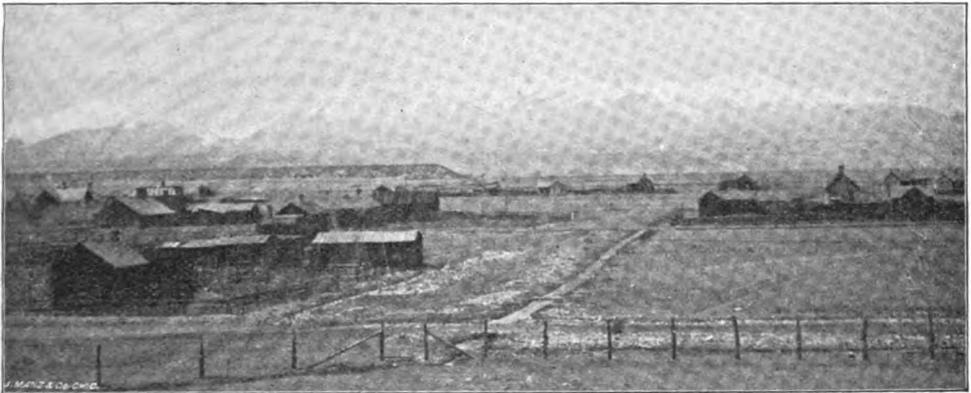


THE CHURCH AT HOME AND ABROAD.

FEBRUARY, 1894.



SALIDA, COLORADO.

THE BOARD OF COLLEGES AND ACADEMIES.

E. C. RAY, D. D., SECRETARY.

THE COLLEGE BOARD.

The last General Assembly said regarding the Board of Aid for Colleges and Academies:

“Resolved, That we recommend to the church—for the work of this board—to adopt as far as convenient the month of February for taking offerings of churches and Sabbath-schools.”

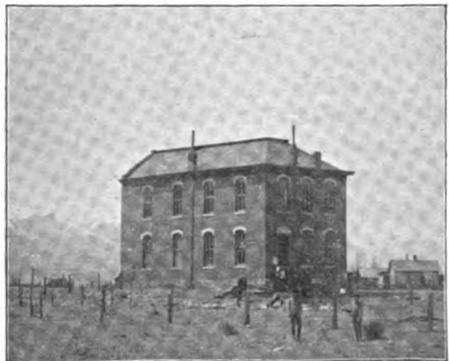
Hence the opening pages of this February number of our magazine are kindly given to the College Board.

THE BOARD.

It has headquarters in Chicago, its twenty-four members being residents of the Northwest. Professor Herrick Johnson, D.D., LL.D. of McCormick Theological Seminary, has been its President since its organization in 1883, and Mr. Charles M Charnley has been its Treasurer for the same period. E. C. Ray, D. D., is the Secretary.

ITS WORK.

It gives counsel in locating and opening Presbyterian colleges and academies in the West; gives aid in paying current expenses to such as commend themselves to its approval and comply with its requirements; and assists



SALIDA ACADEMY.

FREEDMEN.

SWIFT MEMORIAL INSTITUTE.

“Swift Memorial Institute” is the name given to one of the educational institutions under the care of the Board of Missions for Freedmen, which is located at Rogersville, Tenn. As a new and commodious brick building is now in process of erection for the future use of the school, and much of the money to be spent at this point is being contributed by ladies’ societies, churches and individuals, and more will be needed to put the new building in good running order than is now in sight, it may be well for the benefit of those who have given, as well as those who will yet give, to set plainly before our readers its past history, present condition and future prospects. This school is a rising claimant for the benefactions of the friends of Colored education in the South. Its location at Rogersville, Tenn., is a good one. The region round about has been strongly Presbyterian for many years, so that many of the Negroes have had an introduction to Presbyterian forms of worship and methods of work that is favorable to the growth of the work in that region. The work is under the care of a good man, Rev. W. H. Franklin, a colored minister who took his collegiate course at Maryville College, and his theological course at Lane Seminary. Mr. Franklin is himself a Tennessean, and has given ten years of good hard work to the education and evangelization of his own people in that State. He has won the respect and confidence of both black and white.

When I arrived at Rogersville I was somewhat surprised to note the prominence of our building in a little town of 1500 inhabitants. It is without doubt the most prominent building in the place; and residents inform me that when it is completed it will be the best building in the town. It stands on an eminence facing south, and on the opposite side of the town stands the Southern Presbyterian Female Seminary, for whites, facing

north. This latter building is larger than our building will be; but, the Swift Memorial, I am told, is superior in its construction. Indeed, our building, which is 116 feet long, 42 feet wide and 3 stories high, seemed at first glance almost obtrusive in its prominence; but, the selection of the site was not made designedly for the purpose of thrusting our work on the attention of the quiet and peaceable inhabitants of the town. It was almost, I may say, by accident; or at least without premeditated thought as to its prominence that this site was first obtained. Ten years ago, Mr. Franklin took charge of the work of preaching and teaching in Rogersville. At that time there was a small building on the north side of the town that belonged originally to the old Freedmen’s Bureau of Washington, D. C. Mr. Franklin obtained possession of this building and started his school. People of his own race, I am told, who did not care to have a Presbyterian school just there, secured an injunction against his occupying the building, and he was compelled to vacate for a few weeks. Later on a decision was given in his favor and he returned to that place, only to find one morning, after he had successfully resumed his work, that the building had accidentally or otherwise taken fire in the night and disappeared in smoke. This compelled Mr. Franklin to seek other quarters, as he was determined to pursue his work in the face of all obstacles. He found some small buildings available, not far from the scene of his former labors, which he could secure at a reasonable price; and, in connection with aid from the Board, and some assistance from friends in the town, he secured the lot and the buildings, which were originally dwellings, but which he put in shape for school purposes. These humble buildings Mr. Franklin occupied for a number of years.

In 1887, when Rev. Dr. Swift, who had been for so many years President of the

Board of Missions for Freedom, died, a committee was appointed to select some school to be named after him in recognition of his interest in, and valuable services contributed to our work among the freedmen. Mr. Franklin's school was then a prosperous and growing parochial school, and the Board decided to give it the name of "Swift Memorial Institute." Several years elapsed before the Board felt justified in enlarging Mr. Franklin's work; but, recently in view of encouragement received from Ladies' Societies, and other sources, they determined to build an institution that would be worthy of our church, and a suitable memorial to the name of this honored man of God. The site on which these old buildings stood naturally become the site for the new building, and when at last it took the place of these humble structures, it stood forth, as I have said, as probably the most prominent building in the town.

The people of Rogersville, many of them no doubt were greatly surprised to see this building make its appearance; and, some criticisms were offered as might be natural under the circumstances, concerning its pronounced conspicuousness. All comment, however, on this point has about subsided, and many of the inhabitants of the town visit the building now in process of construction, admire its substantialness, and congratulate the colored people on their prospective possession of so fine an edifice for their school. The building is plain in its structure, and no extra money has been expended in mere ornamentation. When finished it will accommodate about fifty or sixty boarders; and these are to be exclusively, females. The school is a mixed school, and since the new building has been commenced the Public School Commissioners have voluntarily granted to Mr. Franklin the Public School Fund that had previously been granted to other colored teachers in the town. This they did, first because these other teachers had not done good work, and secondly, because they saw that Mr. Franklin's school could and would undoubtedly do better work, under better appointments, for the colored people. This arrangement gives Mr. Franklin one additional

teacher whose salary the Board is not required to pay; and leaves Mr. Franklin the privilege of naming the teacher subject to the approval of the Board. Under this present arrangement, of course, boys and girls will both attend the school; but there is no provision for the boarding of boys. Such as come to the town for educational advantages will board elsewhere; and under present arrangements at quite a distance from the main building. The whole town is naturally unusually interested in watching the progress of Mr. Franklin's work. They have been surprised at his success, and as far as I heard expression they are gratified to know that he is being so generously supported by his friends in the North. Even the colored people of other denominations, who usually fight our schools when they are small, and patronize them after they find, later on, that they have come to stay, are now all enthusiastic over Mr. Franklin's work. What we have done and are now doing for colored education in Rogersville has led some of the inhabitants of the place to entertain exaggerated notions of what we are going to do; and I found the impression on some minds was that the present building was but half of what is yet to be done at that point. One man, who had furnished material for the present building, asked me when we expected to begin the boys' building, and seemed somewhat surprised, and possibly disappointed, to hear that we had no plans at present for any such addition. If this ever comes it will be some years hence. At present we will do well if we can, without financial embarrassment, put Swift Memorial Institute in good running order. It is the only important extension work that we were not obliged to stop when the panic of last summer made money so scarce. We were enabled, with difficulty, but successfully, to meet the payment that came due exactly when the panic made its appearance. Since then things have been easier and the work has progressed without interruption.

We are spending about \$15,000 on the building; but that does not take into account the furnishing of the rooms; or the apparatus necessary for heating; or other expenses connected with the water supply. Our

experience in establishing an educational institution of this kind is that before Mr. Franklin is thoroughly equipped for his work in Rogersville, on the scale on which it has been projected, the amount expended will not fall far short of \$20,000. If generous friends, interested in our work among the colored people, are looking for a place where their money will be likely to do the most good, I do not hesitate to suggest to them the "Swift Memorial Institute" at Rogersville, Tenn., as one of the places. Contributions to furnish rooms or toward scholarships for girls, which cost about \$45.00 per year, are greatly needed at that place. The school will be "As a City that is set upon a hill," and I trust, in years to come, will be as prominent a factor in the important work of elevating the Negroes as it is now a prominent structure in the quiet town in which it stands.

The arrangement of the building is simple

and practical. The lower story is for kitchen, dining-room, laundry, etc. The second story is devoted to class-rooms, offices, chapel, etc., and the third story is set apart for dormitories,—containing fourteen rooms, each of which is expected to accommodate four students, as a rule. The rooms are all light and airy; and the whole building will be a credit to the friends of the work who have contributed to its construction, to the honor of the Board and the church that inspired its erection; and at the same time it will stand as evidence of the faithful and indefatigable labors of Mr. Franklin—who by his past services drew attention to this point as a suitable place in which to rear an institution that would honor the name and perpetuate the memory of the services of Rev. Eliot E. Swift, D. D., in the cause of Negro Education.

EDWARD P. COWAN,
Corresponding Secretary.

PUBLICATION AND SABBATH-SCHOOL WORK.

SCOPE OF SABBATH-SCHOOL MISSION WORK.

The range of work included within the benevolent operations of this Board is far greater than is likely at first sight to strike the casual reader. The primary aim is to establish Sabbath-schools in places destitute of the means of grace, and in connection with this to visit and strengthen weak schools. In following up this practical purpose the work divides and subdivides into a number and variety of subsidiary aims calling for a judicious adjustment of means to ends, a constant study of the drift and character of our ever-changing population, a wise selection of agents and methods of work, and thorough and systematic oversight of everything relating to the movement. To establish a Sabbath-school means first, the discovery or selection of a locality and a careful and conscientious house-to-house visitation. The missionary must have the spirit of an explorer and a body able to bear the fatigue of long tramps on foot often in wild and uninviting

places. He distributes Bibles and good literature, selling and giving away at discretion. Here are three distinct aims, and as yet the Sabbath-school in a given locality is not a reality and may never become such.

The field chosen, then comes a demand for a new order of faculties and new methods of work. The explorer, evangelist and colporteur becomes a promoter and organizer. People of differing prejudices have to be brought together and enthused in a common cause. Not only must there be created a machinery of motion, but power must be put into it. Public meetings must be addressed, public spirit aroused, and workers enlisted.

The conditions of the work vary in different States. In the vast prairie, mountain, and mining regions of the West and Northwest, people of different nationalities are found. Sometimes it becomes necessary to approach them with special agencies. One of the largest Bohemian churches in the country is a direct outcome of Sabbath-school