

**THE
ASSEMBLY
HERALD**

Vol. 13 No. 5

MAY

ANDOVER THEOL. SEMINARY

✓
MAY 4 - 1907

— LIBRARY. —

**The Official
Publication
of the Presby-
terian Church
in the U.S.A.**

1907

Digitized by Google

The Assembly Herald

VOL. XIII

MAY, 1907

No. 5

The Pioneer Board

Alexander Henry, D.D.

We all know the character of the work done by a pioneer in a new country. When we think of the peculiar work the Board of Publication and Sabbath-school Work is doing, we may well call it "The Pioneer Board."

This is the Board which is laying the foundations upon which the Church and the various agencies of the Church will subsequently build.

The fundamental character of the service this Board renders the Church is not fully appreciated by us all, and is well worthy of our thoughtful consideration.

Working for the Children

Let us look at some aspects of it: First of all, it is, in an especial way, the Board which is working for the children. The children of our church are being trained and instructed in our Sabbath-schools. Before any other Board or agency of the Church begins to work with these children, the Board of Publication and Sabbath-school Work, through its lesson helps and Sabbath-school papers, is presenting truth to their youthful minds.

This is a great responsibility. Childhood is the time when the first and most lasting impressions are made. It is the desire of our Board to realize this responsibility and to meet it to the best of our power. We believe that our lesson helps and Sabbath-school papers are already of a high character. The fact that other Denominations, some of them leading Denominations, make use of our lesson helps and Sabbath-school papers in their schools, with but little change, is an evidence of the high estimation in which our work is held by others. This is but an incentive to

us to do still better work and to produce yet better helps and papers.

Pointing the Way to Sabbath-School Workers

We are not satisfied, however, with simply providing lesson helps for our teachers and scholars; we are desirous of aiding in the improvement and development of our schools.

This is one of the most important spheres of activity of the Board of Sabbath-school Work. We have more than 8,500 Sabbath-schools connected with our churches; and more than 3,500 under the care of our missionaries. Here are 12,000 Presbyterian Sabbath-schools, with more than 1,200,000 teachers and scholars. In addition to these schools, we are receiving a large number from what was formerly the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. In these schools we find a great variety of organizations and all grades of advancement. They need a leader; they need some one to suggest plans and methods of work, and to encourage them to adopt these methods and try these plans. They should have some one to inspire them with enthusiasm for the work in which they are engaged; to set before them its possibilities, its encouragements and its rewards.

This our Board aims to do. We wish to lead forth this great army of Presbyterian Sabbath-school workers into fields of Christian growth and service.

We would do this by the preparation of literature suited to the needs of our schools; by publishing text books and helps of various kinds; and by holding Presbyterian Sabbath-school Institutes in our Synods and Presbyteries. We should be glad to see an annual

Board for Freedmen

EDWARD P. COWAN, D.D., SECRETARY

Rev. D. J. Sanders, D.D.

The death of Dr. Sanders, President of Biddle University, at Charlotte, North Carolina, which occurred on the sixth of March, has already been announced to the Christian public and commented on in the various weekly religious journals. By common consent he has been acknowledged as the leading colored Presbyterian minister in this country, and his unlooked for death has produced a corresponding sense of loss in the minds of those whose hearts are in sympathy with the education and evangelization of the colored people.

Dr. Sanders was born a slave near Winnsboro, S. C., February 15, 1847, and had therefore just entered the sixty-first year of his age.

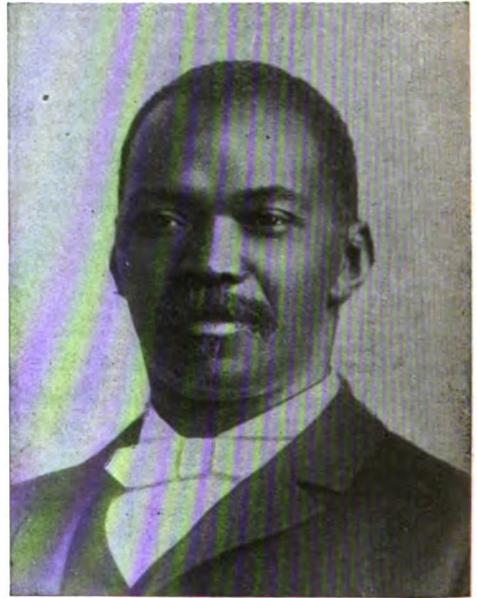
To those who were familiar with his strong and robust form, the announcement of his death came as a sudden shock and surprise, and so thoroughly had his life and energy and influence been identified with Biddle University, it is difficult even now to think of the institution apart from his name and personality.

Dr. Sanders' early life was spent on a farm and subsequently he learned the shoemaker's trade. Later on he entered Brainerd Institute at Chester, S. C., then under the principalship of Rev. Samuel Loomis. In 1871 he entered the Western Theological Seminary at Allegheny, Pa., and took the full three years' course, graduating in 1874, having during the course won the prize in a competitive contest for proficiency in Hebrew. Soon after leaving the Seminary he was sent to England and Scotland where he raised some \$6000, the proceeds of which were to be expended in training colored men for missionary labors in Africa. In 1895 he was again sent to England as a delegate to a meeting of the Pan-Presbyterian Alliance. He issued the first number of the *Africo-American Presbyterian*, January 1, 1879, and

has been the editor of that paper from its beginning until the time of his death.

The *Charlotte Observer*, the leading Southern newspaper in North Carolina, on the morning following the death of Dr. Sanders made the following editorial comment on the event:

"The death last night of Rev. Dr. D. J. Sanders, President of Biddle University, is



DANIEL J. SANDERS, D.D.

cause for real regret on the part of this community. He was a distinct agency for good, and no man in Charlotte has contributed more to the establishment of good relations between the races. His students have always been well-behaved, and no word of complaint is ever heard of them. They bear themselves as he bore himself, with deference, and quiet dignity, and his conduct during all the years of his life here was such as to compel the respect of the whites.

He was a man not only of good manners and good feeling, but of cultivation and ability, and his death is a loss to all Charlotte. We hope that Biddle University will be as fortunate in its next President as it was in its last."

Mt. Vernon Industrial High School, Palatka, Fla.

It is estimated on the basis of the Census of 1900 that the State of Florida at present has within its borders not less than 270,000 negroes. Among these thousands of Freedmen, our Board has one small parochial school at St. Augustine and a much larger and more flourishing school at Palatka, under the care of Rev. W. F. Kennedy, who is also pastor of the Palatka Colored Presbyterian Church. One hopeful and helpful feature of our school work at Palatka is that a number of Southern Presbyterian ministers and laymen in that vicinity have taken a deep interest in our work at that point and act as an Advisory Board, keeping the work under its watch and care and making valuable suggestions both to Mr. Kennedy and to the Freedmen's Board from time to time as to the character and conduct of the school. There are about 150 pupils in attendance and the number in attendance is only limited by the size of the rooms in which the work is being carried on.

Mr. Kennedy has been pleading with the Board, with all the energy and earnestness that he can summon, for a suitable school building, which he certainly needs, but which the Board has not been able to give him.

Mr. Kennedy writes:—"The needs of the Board's work in this place are of such a nature, that if laid upon the Christian conscience of liberal Presbyterians, I believe it would be met with a generous response."

With the hope that Mr. Kennedy is right in this statement and belief, we take the liberty of publishing an extract of one of his recent letters pleading for the help that he needs.

"We have bought three lots. Two of them were bought with contributions from friends and with money raised by the members of Mt. Vernon Church. The first payment of the third lot was made by the members of Mt. Vernon Church, and the balance was pledged by them.

They owe about £150 yet. The three lots cost \$1100. \$600 came from friends. There is no debt on our first two lots. Now what shall we do further? Shall we push the work with increased energy and zeal with the understanding that the Board will give us some hope of a school building? For four years we have maintained a good school under the most adverse circumstances, and now I ask the question, 'Does the Presbyterian Board mean ever to erect a good building here for the colored people?' This is a daily question. The patrons of our school are becoming much interested in the matter. Many white persons of all denominations have expressed themselves as being greatly interested in the establishment of this work. I refer to the white people of this city in particular. This is the Board's work and we are only humble servants, commissioned to do the work to the best of our ability. We are anxious to know whether the Board will promise us a building, and how soon we may expect to be relieved of our most distressing condition. We are turning students away every day who come to us from the country, because we have no place for them to board. This militates against our work and is undermining the foundation for the future power and usefulness of the Presbyterian Church for Negroes of this part of the Board's work. Our church grows and expands in proportion as we train the young people in religious faith as we find it expressly taught in the Bible and the Catechism.

"If this school can be spoken of with assurances of permanency as a pledge from the Freedmen's Board, it will not only give a decided prominence to the Presbyterian Church, but will also act as a mighty stimulus to us who are doing the work, and also to those who might be willing to help maintain it. It will also enable us to hold our grip on those parents who are sending their children to this school. No one cares to support the thing that will soon fall to pieces; that can offer no hope of permanency. As this is a Presbyterian institution, and strictly so in every department of its work, we are at a place where we do not know what to say in regard to its future, and we are asking the Board what we may hope for and expect."

We need \$4000 to establish this work and we need it badly.