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# THE ASSEMBLY HERALD



THE RURAL EVANGEL

SEPTEMBER 1914

# THE ASSEMBLY HERALD

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY ORDER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
A. W. HALSEY, D.D., JOHN DIXON, D.D., WILLIAM H. SCOTT, Committee

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### Collections for the Boards, Months, etc.

For churches that have not yet adopted the scheme of weekly offerings set forth in the Directory for Worship, Chapter 6, it is recommended that the first Lord's Day of the following months be set apart for contributions to the Boards:

1. Home Missions, November or other opportune time; 2. Foreign Missions, January and April; 3. College Board, February; 4. Sab.-school Work, May; 5. Church Erection, July; 6. Ministerial Relief, September; 7. Education, October 5; 8. Temperance, October 26; 9. Freedmen, December.

The money so received to be sent to the Board's Treasurer as designated above.

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# THE ASSEMBLY HERALD

*The Magazine of the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A.*

SEPTEMBER, 1914

## A Letter Among a Thousand

The National Bank of \_\_\_\_\_

John R. Sutherland, Associate Secretary,  
Ministerial Relief and Sustentation,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

My Dear Sir:--You will find enclosed my check for \$10.00. Your notice says that this is the last payment on my subscription of \$50.00. You may keep me on the list at \$10.00 per year. I hope some day to make more substantial payments toward this department of our Church.

My mother, the widow of a Presbyterian minister, was for a number of years materially helped by the Ministerial Relief. Mother is not with us now. She left five sons who are all paying into this fund and will undoubtedly, in time, pay back principal and interest, but we will never be able to pay the actual value of that money to mother and her boys when it was an absolute protection from suffering. It is an incentive to me in my business to be diligent, that I may be able some day to support you liberally.

\*\*\*\*\*You men do not realize yourselves the importance of your work. You would have to be on the other side once and hear a good old mother return thanks to God in heaven for the assistance she was receiving in trying to hold together her family, and you would have to be one of the boys of that family, and know what it was to need that kind of help very much indeed.

Keep my annual payment just as it has been, and perhaps I may increase it next year.

Very truly yours,

Dic

Cashier.

# Board for Freedmen

EDWARD P. COWAN, D.D., *Cor. Sec'y.*  
REV. JOHN M. GASTON, *Associate Sec'y.*

## Biddle University

THE last Annual Report of President McCrorey to the trustees of Biddle University at Charlotte, N. C., shows the enrollment of the entire school this year to have been 221, or 25 more than that of last year. The enrollment by countries and states was as follows: North America: North Carolina, 116; South Carolina, 57; Georgia, 14; Virginia, 12; West Virginia, 3; Kentucky, 3; Alabama, 5; Florida, 1; Tennessee, 1; Arkansas, 1; Pennsylvania, 3; New York, 1; Ohio, 1; New Jersey, 1; South America: British Guiana, 2. The enrollment by departments: Theological 16; Collegiate, 118; Preparatory, 87.

There were 82 graduates from these departments this year. Of these 53 were from the Preparatory Department, 19 from the Collegiate and 10 from the Theological Department. Forty-five students were enrolled as candidates for the ministry. This number is a little more than one-fifth of the en-

tire enrollment of the school. Of the 221 students enrolled, there were 179 boarders and 42 local students.

Logan Hall, which has been used as a refectory and dormitory combined, is quite old, being one, and the only one of the original buildings of the institution. MacNamee Hall is a small frame building, which accommodates only 30 students, two in a room, and these rooms are uncomfortable during the winter season. The only respectable dormitory is Carter Hall, which furnishes a home for the superintendent, and accommodations for 130 students, two in a room.

As may be seen, the 179 boarding students had to live this year in 80 small rooms and 15 of these rooms uncomfortable.

The Board of Missions for Freedmen is being asked this year to try to secure another brick dormitory, and a brick refectory at Biddle University as soon as possible.

## The Golden Year

S. J. FISHER, D.D.

AND ye shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof: it shall be a jubilee unto you." Lev. 25:10. Thus did God speak to His chosen people. Thus does history repeat itself, and thus again does He speak to this nation and His Church. Thus does He bid you and me proclaim the liberty wherewith Christ has made us free.

Fifty years ago four millions of slaves were set free from human bondage. But a greater

liberty should be theirs—a spiritual emancipation—a liberty from sin and eternal death.

This is our Golden Year. Fifty years ago there was not in all the South a legal marriage of slaves. There was not a lasting fatherhood or motherhood. There was not a home among these negroes which had any certain permanency, not one that could not be torn to pieces at a master's word—and parents and children separated to meet no more.

Fifty years ago four millions of slaves were forbidden chastity and discouraged in purity by law. Judge Jay said: "The laws do not recognize the parental relation as belonging to slaves. A slave has no more legal authority over his child than a cow has over her calf."

In this golden year these people have obtained larger privileges and the rights of human beings. Marriage is honored, parenthood is respected and enjoyed; the family is a blessed reality. All over this southland husbands and wives are living in a lasting affection and a Christian chastity. Children understand and enjoy the meaning of a true home; and Christian truths are making it the highest earthly joy of tolling men and women.

This is our golden year. Fifty years ago the slave had no protection of the law. The Supreme Court of Georgia held that the wanton killing of a slave was not murder, because the master had absolute dominion over his slave. Now the laws encircle all, and though not always given justice or protection, the negro is any man's equal before the law, and the best public opinion accords him every right.

This is our golden year. We sing the jubilee song. Fifty years ago, there was scarcely a school for these four millions of negroes in all the South. "It is contrary to law to teach a nigger to read. Intelligence and slavery have no affinity with each other." In 1884 the Presbyterian Synod of Kentucky said: "Slavery dooms thousands of human beings to hopeless ignorance. Throughout the whole land, so far as we can learn, there is but one school, in which, during the week, slaves can be taught. The light of three or four Sunday schools is seen glimmering through the darkness which covers the population of a whole state." Today the Presbyterian Church through its Freedmen's Board possesses a growing university for negroes, an agricultural college, five large and crowded boarding schools of a high character for girls only, twenty co-educational boarding schools, whose attendance could be quickly tripled if teachers and buildings could be increased. Besides these, there are one hundred and fourteen smaller day schools, giving to their communities an edu-

cation not only far superior to that of the average public school, but enlightened and intensified by religious instruction. What an advance! What a development from those dark days when the negro could learn the alphabet only in secrecy, and could not even possess a Bible as his own, to this year when 20,000 pupils learn in these day schools the fundamentals of knowledge, and more than 22,000 in the Sunday schools are taught to make the Word of God a lamp unto their feet and a light unto their path.

Will not Christian men and women—since God has prospered them—make this year still more golden by generous gifts, which shall enable the Board to more widely proclaim liberty throughout the land? Hundreds of thousands of growing boys and girls, young men and women are still unprovided for, still shut out from a Christian education and a wise training in the formative period of life. We need a new dormitory at Biddle University, where the rooms are too few and too small. Christian friend, will you not build this, and increase the remarkable usefulness of this institution which is furnishing leaders for this race? The pastor of the Scotch Presbyterian Church at Charleston, S. C., recently said that he felt convinced that trained and highly educated negroes could alone lead this race, and such leaders must be provided. Give Biddle increased means and capacity to provide Christian leaders, men trained with Presbyterian sincerity for power in every line of work.

Make this a golden year for our wonderfully useful boarding schools. Give them added rooms and teachers. Establish strong ones in unoccupied territory, where thousands need and thousands are eager for this wise and refining and strengthening and ennobling Christian education, which some of the best men and women of our race are giving them. Do not fear that the Board overlaps any other agency's work. Our schools never compete with, never limit others. Far apart are these schools, so far that many youth cannot reach them. They are like oases in the desert, and the desert is wider than many realize. Make a new one if you can. Deepen the well and add a palm tree at the present oasis, if your purse is not large. Make it a golden—a bright year!