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W. O. Wright.

MINUTES

OF THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE

Presbyterian Church

IN THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

NEW SERIES, VOL. XIX, A.D. 1896.

PHILADELPHIA:

PRESBYTERIAN BOARD OF PUBLICATION.

BY THE STATED CLERK.

1896.

MINUTES
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WITH AN
APPENDIX.

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education is harmonized with the control of theological education by the General Assembly. In addition to the veto power over the election of Professors in the Theological department, the Board agreed to apply for a change of charter, to the end that all property and funds henceforth given to Lincoln University for theological education shall be held in trust for the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, and that the General Assembly shall have power to protect the trust on which such property is held according to the plan proposed by the Committee of the Assembly.

Should this plan of oversight and coöperation be ratified, we hope that the Assembly will express its approval of the full and separate endowment of the Theological department of Lincoln University.

Of the seven chairs of instruction now recognized in this department, three are endowed in the sum of only \$20,000 each, and one in half that amount. The deficiency of salary for these chairs, and the entire salaries for the other indispensable chairs of instruction, must be gathered from other sources. Uncertainty makes even the courageous timid. Our work develops more slowly than it ought because of the variability and uncertainty of income. We could at once quadruple our work, if we could be secured from the odium and danger of debt.

During the past year the total income of the funds appropriate to this department, including professorships, has been about \$4200; and the cost of administration, exclusive of Professors' salaries, has been \$6544. Almost the whole of this amount is drawn from the general fund of the University, which would otherwise develop and enlarge the collegiate work, to the increase of our candidates and improvement of the quality of their preparation.

Not only Lincoln University, but every effective agency working in this field needs strengthening and enlarging. Considerate and well-informed educators in the South, recently assembled in Tuskegee, estimate that in large portions of the South not more than one-fifth of the Negro population is reached by an intelligent and trustworthy minister.

The year now closing has been one of internal prosperity. The students have been quickened in their spiritual life, and they have been diligent and successful in their studies.

No one acquainted with the work done in this institution and by its graduates can say that the higher education of the Negro is premature or fruitless.

God has given them the highest capabilities. Grace makes them efficient and unselfish. And a high degree of Christian and Presbyterian education is steadily transforming them into all that is best in our Anglo-Saxon civilization. We regard it as an honor and a pleasure, as the agents of the Church, to have a hand in this transformation.

Herewith an illustrated catalogue of the University for the year 1895-96, containing a list of our graduates who are enrolled in the various Presbyteries, under the care of the General Assembly, is sent for information.

The Faculty of Lincoln University extend a cordial invitation to the officers and members of the General Assembly to visit the institution, where they will receive a cordial welcome and a generous entertainment; and will find an opportunity to see what is done in their name for our colored brethren, and may learn what they are able to do for their own people with the advantages which they here acquire.

Respectfully submitted by order of the Faculty,

ISAAC N. RENDALL.

President of Lincoln University.

XIII. BIDDLE UNIVERSITY.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FACULTY.

THE Faculty of Theology in Biddle University respectfully presents to the General Assembly their Annual Report for the year ending April 1, 1896.

1. BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

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Class whose term will expire June 1, 1897 :

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Class whose term will expire June 1, 1898 :

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Rev. J. P. E. Kumler, D.D.,	Pittsburgh, Pa.
Mr. Robert S. Davis,	Pittsburgh, Pa.
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2. SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY.

FACULTY.

Rev. D. J. SANDERS, D.D., President and Professor of Systematic Theology.

Rev. A. P. BISSELL, D.D., Ph.D., Professor of Hebrew and Greek Exegesis.

Rev. YORKE JONES, D.D., Professor of Biblical and Ecclesiastical History and Homiletics.

Rev. W. M. HARGRAVE, D.D., Professor of Christian Evidences and Pastoral Theology.

Rev. A. U. FRIERSON, D.D., Assistant Professor of Greek Exegesis.

3. STUDENTS.

SENIORS.

William P. Donnell, A.B.,	Greensboro, N. C.
Walter B. Middleton, A.B.,	Charleston, S. C.
Timothy R. Veal, B.S.,	Feasterville, S. C.
Dennis Compentte Wilkes,	Chester, S. C.
P. Arthur White, A.B.,	Richmond, Ky.

MIDDLERS.

James H. Cooper, B.S.,	Mayesville, S. C.
Junius Gregg, A.B.,	Sumter, S. C.
James E. A. Jeffrey,	Demerara, S. A.
Joseph A. Rollins, A.B.,	Charleston, S. C.
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William D. Rice,	Slighs, S. C.
Frederick H. Watkins, A. B.,	Erie Mills, N. C.

Biddle University continues to grow and prosper under the manifest favor of the Head of the Church, and the good work of Christian, higher education, as conducted there, is becoming more and more effective in uplifting the people for whom it is designed. The year just closed compares favorably with its immediate predecessors in all respects, and there is an increase in the number of students in the School of Theology, and there is greater efficiency in training candidates for the ministry.

The closing exercises of the School of Theology will take place June 3, and the commencement of the School of Arts and Sciences the same day. The number of students in the School of Theology is twenty-two, three more than last year, and, with four exceptions, all have taken a regular course of training. The growth of the school is quite marked in all respects, and the indications point to an increased number of students next year.

Preparation for the work of the Christian ministry is maintained as the leading feature of the work at Biddle. In all there are seventy-eight students in the institution who have the ministry in view, and nearly all, the Presbyterian ministry.

There have been twenty-five professions of religion among the students within the past year, nearly all uniting with the Presbyterian Church.

The total enrollment in the University this year is 249, a decrease of 11 from last year.

It is fully recognized that industrial education, as one of the essentials in solving the problem of industrial emancipation for the Negroes of the South, should be encouraged, and so it is desired to enlarge the facilities in that department of the work; and these have been enlarged somewhat during the past year.

Special care is taken to educate the students up to the condition of self-support. Their total earnings for the twelve months ending October 1, 1895, was about \$12,500.

The total graduates number 351, distributed as follows: Theological, 69; School of Arts and Sciences, 107; Normal and Preparatory School, 175. Fifty-eight are active ministers, serving colored Presbyterian churches in the South, and one is at work in the North. Seven are serving at Biddle University, six as Professors and one as Superintendent of the Home Department. One is a foreign missionary in Africa and Professor of Latin and Greek in Liberia College. One is a Bishop in the A. M. E. Zion Church. A number are lawyers and physicians. Twenty-seven are principals and teachers in Normal and High Schools, and scores of others are teachers in public schools. The above leaves out of consideration hundreds of students who failed to reach graduation from one and other causes and have entered the ordinary walks of life to exert an influence for good.

Thus it appears how the ever-deepening and widening power of usefulness of Biddle is taking hold of and uplifting the people.

Those in immediate contact with the work are greatly encouraged by the evidence of a growing interest in the institution and its mission among the colored people of the South. The General Assembly at Washington recommended that steps be taken to endow Biddle University. Financial depression has retarded progress in that matter. It is not out of place to call attention here to what endowments will do.

They will—

1. Permit an enlargement of the facilities and usefulness of the School of Industries and other necessary improvements.

2. Enable Biddle to cope with the demand for scholarship aid, supplementary or as a whole, to indigent, worthy students.

3. Place Biddle University upon a secure foundation, where the Presbyterian Church stands pledged to place it, by what the Master has enabled her to do through this institution for the highest emancipation of the Negro in the South, and by the more promising future, under the divine blessing.

4. Endow Biddle and \$15,000 of the current income of the Freedmen's Board from the churches will become available for the general work. Thus, to endow Biddle will be to furnish means for greatly enlarging our whole work in the South, and the reproach of non-aggressiveness in reaching out and occupying needy fields will be taken away.

In Biddle University the Presbyterian Church has its most powerful instrument for reaching out and uplifting the Negro.

Respectfully submitted,

D. J. SANDERS, *President.*

Charlotte, N. C., May 13, 1896.

XIV. OMAHA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.

THE Board of Directors of the Presbyterian Theological Seminary, at Omaha, Neb., respectfully presents to the General Assembly its Fifth Annual Report, for the year ending April 23, 1896.

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J. C. DENISE, M.D., *Corresponding Secretary.*

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