

# HOME MISSION MONTHLY

VOL. XIX

APRIL, 1905

No. 6

## EDITORIAL NOTES



THE third Tuesday meeting should be marked in her calendar of engagements by every woman who can attend. From month to month vital subjects come to the fore. Missionaries and speakers who know the work at close range present its needs. All these things can be gleaned at this Board meeting for the use of any society living near enough to send a delegate.

UNUSUAL value is given this Freedmen number by the very discriminating articles whose writers, widely known throughout the church, have had opportunity for close observation of the Freedmen work, and understand the negro people as a race and as individuals.

ONCE more the mellow cadence of silver anniversary bells! This time they sound the twenty-fifth anniversary of the first Praise Meeting. The Missionary Society of the Central Presbyterian Church, Denver, Colo., inaugurated the custom and in February celebrated the quarter century anniversary in the history of Praise Meetings. Meantime, the custom has spread from society to society, from coast to coast, and has given an impulse and uplift to many a church, large and small.

How that first Praise Meeting came about was rehearsed at this twenty-fifth gathering. A small band of women, eager to send as large a sum to the Board as they had sent the previous year were apparently unable to do so, being shut in on all sides by difficulties and unusual circumstances—the church was in debt, without a pastor, and typhoid fever was raging, a fearful epidemic, having laid low five hundred at one time. Small wonder that the little band of women, who gathered at that missionary meeting a quarter of a century ago, could not see their way clear to enlarge their treasury. They were

about to unite in the closing prayer and adjourn, when they began to consider their own personal blessings; then in confidence and trust they approached the Throne of Grace, and out of this spirit grew the plan for the Praise Meeting, with its thank-offering, which, to their happy surprise, swelled their treasury beyond all previous records.

A MEMBER of the Board for Freedmen states that its plans for the future concern the development and broadening of the work, with a readiness to learn and adopt new methods; and, further, that the Board has always kept itself aloof from political questions and in its plans has never considered social questions; but believing, as President Roosevelt says, that "the prime requisite of the race is moral and industrial uplifting," has set before it this purpose and this alone.

A PRACTICAL feature of work among advanced negro pupils of the Danville school is a course of bi-weekly lectures which is very helpful to the people as well as to the teachers and pupils. The subjects, treated in a simple, practical manner, are such as, Hygiene of the Home, Proper Clothing, Proper Foods, Deportment in Public Places, The Worth of a Dollar.

THE value of the Freedmen work shows in more than one way. The President of Harbison College says that he has been in the community more than twelve years and has never seen a pupil arraigned before the bar, nor heard of one being summoned. "I know of many youths being charged with crimes and convicted, but they were not pupils of our school nor from the schools of other denominations, so our friends can put their faith in Christian education. It is the power to uplift the race. The money invested in these schools yields returns which no arithmetic can compute."

# OUTPUT OF BIDDLE UNIVERSITY

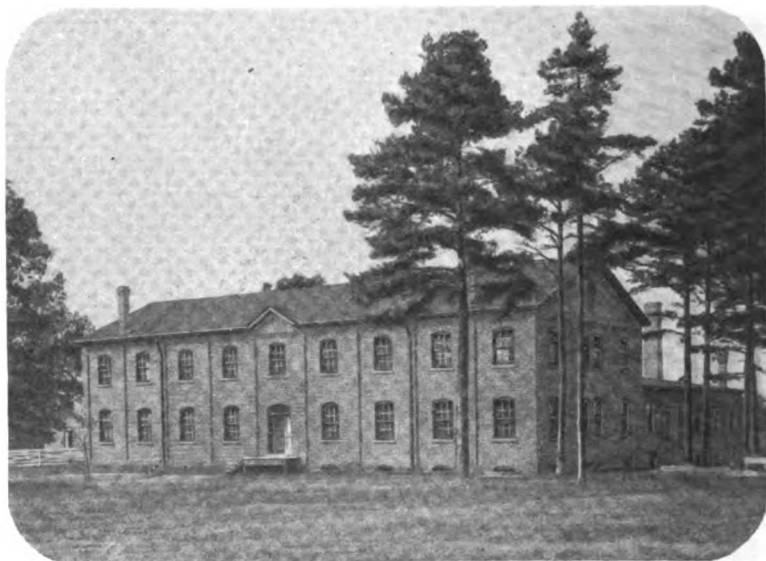
By D. J. Sanders

**I**T is probably not a serious question among many Presbyterians whether Biddle University should be sustained and enlarged in its important work. It is also true, doubtless, that a large number of Presbyterians have not been seriously impressed with what this institution stands for, what it has accomplished, and what it is now doing.

As a center of uplifting influences for the colored people, in thorough harmony with the mission of Jesus Christ, the school should be better known. It will be informing and therefore helpful to take some note of Biddle graduates and what they are doing, without individualizing too much, so to speak. For instance, there have been 376 graduates from the Normal and Preparatory school. About half of these continued their education; the other half dropped out and became agriculturists, tradesmen and teachers in the common schools. Only about ten per cent. of the enrollment from the beginning have graduated from the regular courses, due to the fact that for the first ten years there was no student material except in the rudimentary studies. While these classes were large, the poverty of the patrons prevented regular and prolonged attendance by their boys. Certainly it is fair to presume that this large number of short stayers have contributed considerably to the good of the community as a result of having attended Biddle.

With reference to the living graduates: two are in the tailoring business, four are in printing, two in the Government printing office at Washington earning large pay, one city and managing editor of a paper at Portsmouth, Va.; one the foreman of the press department of the National Baptist Publishing House at Nashville, the largest negro publishing enterprise in the world; two are holding good paying and responsible positions in an iron foundry at Knoxville; several are in the brick business, five are in the United States Mail service, two are boss carpenters and are doing well, three

are successful lawyers, five are dentists, five are pharmacists, eighteen are successful physicians, forty-six are professors and teachers. A goodly number of these are noted both on account of



THE NEW INDUSTRIAL BUILDING, BIDDLE UNIVERSITY

their efficiency and the prominence of the positions they hold. Eleven of these are professors at Biddle, eight of whom were called to fill their present places after years of successful experience as teachers, principals and professors in other schools. Fourteen of the alumni are now in the theological department, and in the ministry there are seventy, all except four of these being in the Presbyterian ministry. With reference to the theological department, there are 97 graduates at work in the South and two in the North. More than one-half of the colored Presbyterians of the country are dependent upon Biddle preachers for their pulpit instruction, and a colored Presbyterian population of sixty thousand are under their influence and leadership. These facts are freighted with profound and far-reaching significance as setting forth the work and value of Biddle University as a Presbyterian institution in the southland; let every praying, liberal Presbyterian ponder them.

Such is the leadership furnished by Biddle. Her graduates sent out into every walk of life where they may go, are men of positive Christian character. Those not found in the ministry, are in the eldership, or the Sabbath-school, leading the moral and Christian forces of their respective communities.

