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THE HOME MISSION MONTHLY



Freedmen Number

WHAT NEGRO WOMEN ARE DOING
FOR THEIR OWN RACE

THE OBLIGATION OF THE CHURCH
FOR THE FREEDMEN

NEGRO FARMS AND FARMERS

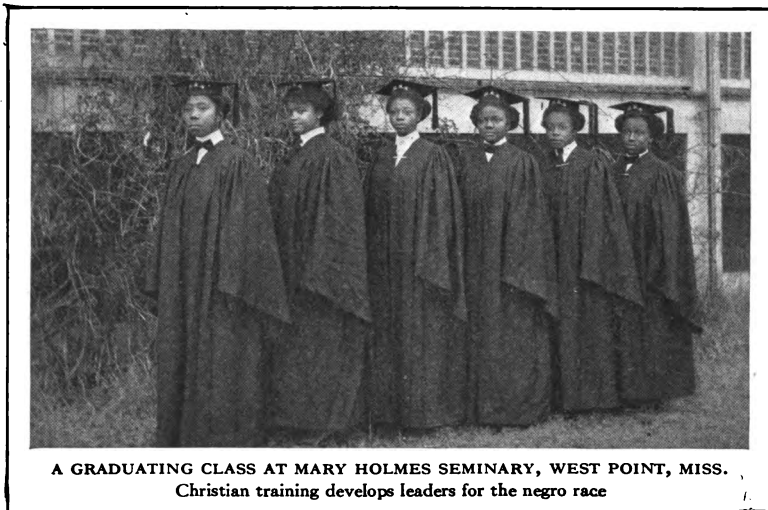
AUNT DINAH PLEADS FOR THE
FREEDMEN

WOMAN'S BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

HOME MISSION MONTHLY

VOL. XXVIII, NO. 6

APRIL, 1914



What Negro Women Are Doing for Their Own Race

By Mrs. D. J. Sanders

THE history of organized effort among the women of America would be incomplete were not note taken of the worthy struggles of the Afro-American woman. After years of unfortunate environment, she found herself facing problems most difficult. With faith in God and a heart full of love for humanity, she is laboring zealously to improve conditions.

The Young Men's Christian Association is one of the oldest organizations for religious and educational uplift for men. In many instances our women render valuable service through auxiliary organizations. Many Y. M. C. A. buildings owe their existence to the efforts of our women, and traveling secretaries are now engaged in organizing Young Women's Christian Associations in schools and cities throughout the land.

We have twenty-five federated clubs in North Carolina. The State Club gave substantial aid to the Reform School for Negro Boys, which is located near Charlotte, and has for its present object the building of a

Rescue Home for Wayward Girls. The Civic Club, of Salisbury, has done considerable work along betterment lines; its recent successful work of cleaning up a certain section of the city was favorably mentioned in the leading papers of the State. A club of seven, in this same city, educated a young woman in Scotia Seminary.

A first-class library is the object for which the Woman's Club of Henderson is working. One of the Durham clubs furnishes linen for a large hospital. At Charlotte we have the Banneker Literary, the Friday Evening Industrial and Literary, the Progressive Reading Circle, and the Priscilla Needle Club, all in excellent working order.

The Virginia Federation of Colored Women's Clubs reported forty clubs at our last meeting. The ways and means committee reported \$2,237.34 for the Industrial Home School for Wayward Girls. A farm and grist mill have already been purchased by this Federation, at a cost of \$5,200.

We must not fail to mention the success-

The Budget and the Women's Boards

IN view of the fact that the relation of the funds of the local women's missionary societies to the budget of the Church is under consideration in so many places, the following action taken by the Executive Commission of General Assembly at its meeting in New York City, February 18th, will be of interest. This action was taken after conference with representatives of all the Boards of the Church, including the Women's Boards of Home and Foreign Missions. The action taken is as follows:

"I. That the Women's Boards of Home and Foreign Missions shall be included and specified in the general budget prepared for General Assembly, it being understood that

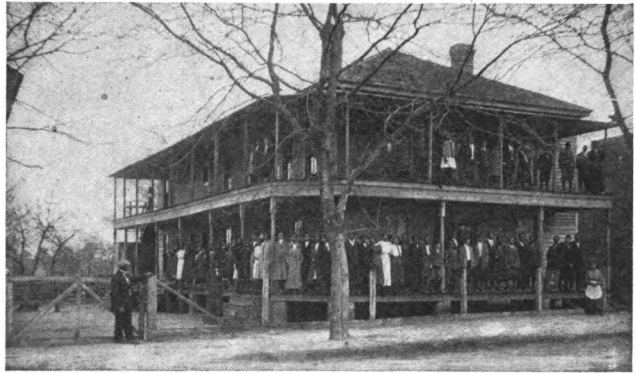
the Executive Commission shall confer with these Boards each year as to the amount of their budget.

"II. That the women of the Church should take their part in the Every-Member Canvass and the Weekly Subscription Plan of supporting the benevolences of the Church.

"III. That the offerings of the women for the Women's Boards of Home and Foreign Missions be not included in the *budget of the local church*, but that the local auxiliaries of the Women's Boards continue to make their contributions to these Boards and to conduct their missionary and educational work through their own separate activities as heretofore."

Coulter Memorial School

By George W. Long



COULTER MEMORIAL ACADEMY, situated at Cheraw, S. C., in the center of one of the best cotton farming sections of the South, has unlimited opportunities for helpfulness and expansion. Hundreds of boys and girls will never have Christian education except through this channel. This year we have more than three hundred children of all ages, and have had to turn others away.

A few weeks ago, a young man, six feet three inches in height, with broad shoulders, came from one of the dark communities near here, seeking admission as a boarding pupil. We could not take him. He returned a few days later, having secured board three miles out in the country; he wanted to enter as a day pupil. We told him every seat was taken and there was really no room. He looked me straight in the eyes and said: "Prof. Longs, I came to dis school jest to git enough education to read and write and work some figures. I has made thirteen dollars on my cotton patch dis year and I am gwine ter spend dat to learn to read and write. So if dar ain't no seats I will stand up. I must come to school." This is one example of many that might be given to show the need and desire to learn. This whole section is a dark corner, and

more than twenty-five years behind the times. Not long since we had a call from some of the ministers of the Methodist and Baptist denominations who wanted a special course in Bible study, together with a few other branches. You can appreciate, in some degree at least, what this means when I say that here, in three large counties, there are about three hundred ministers of all denominations, and there are only five who have college education. Three of these are of the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A. "Like priest, like people" is literally true in this community, and this shows what a colossal task lies before us.

Ignorance, immorality and dirt are the three great scourges of this people. Much of our work must be to improve the home life. To some it seems simply preposterous to be required to take daily baths. A young man complained of the blankets being too short to cover his feet and head at the same time. When told that the blankets were not intended to cover his head while he slept, he replied, "Pa said we must cover our head, say'n hit will give you consumption." In a countless number of homes like conditions exist.

Crowded space, both in buildings and grounds, is our greatest handicap. Our church, school-



THE ADVANCED CLASS IN COOKING AT COULTER

ground. There is ground adjoining which, if obtained, would give us breathing room. We have taken a few girls into the home, that they may have the influence of Christian living, but we need a place for the boys who must now board outside. We, also, need industrial equipment.

We have endeavored to show what this

house and home combined, store room, wood-yard, pump and outhouses are all on one lot, 100 feet square. We have no garden and no play-

school stands for, why it is needed, what we are doing and what we need. Who will make it possible for us to do more and better work?

The Outlook for Negro Education

By H. L. McCrorey, President of Biddle University, Charlotte, N. C.

THE illiteracy of the negro race in the United States has been reduced, during the past fifty years, to 30.4 per cent. Such progress is marvelous, especially when one considers, first, that 80.5 per cent of these people live in the South and that in part of this country school facilities for negroes, and whites as well, have been quite inadequate; second, that the vast majority of negroes live in rural districts. It is well known that, as a rule, educational advantages in the country are not nearly so favorable as in cities. It is encouraging to know that efforts are now being made to better the educational opportunities of negroes in the South; not, however, by encouraging them to go North to live, nor to leave the country and go into the cities; but by giving better school facilities where they now live.

The Southern white people, through whose hands the State school funds pass, having learned that the educated negro is usually a better and a more useful citizen than the illiterate negro, and that ignorance, in the long run, is more costly than education, are giving more attention than formerly to negro schools, especially rural schools. In many Southern States the Department of Education is just now giving special attention to the matter of improving the rural schools for negroes by providing better school buildings, more efficient teachers and longer terms. Through the

Jeanes Fund, which is confined to rural schools for negroes, that work is being rapidly pushed. The North Carolina State Department of Education is now preparing an industrial course of study for the training of negro teachers, the main effort being to prepare teachers in large numbers, and as rapidly and efficiently as possible to do effective, practical work in rural schools. If this proposed industrial training in rural schools is to supplement the educational training now given, thus lengthening the present school term, it will prove a step forward in negro education. On the other hand, if the intention is to introduce the industrial feature without lengthening the time already allowed, which is about four months in a year, it is seriously doubted that anything will be gained, for that would practically be substituting industrial for literary training, which should not be done since both types of training are indispensable factors in practical education.

Church schools for negroes, which during the past half century have wrought marvelous changes in the moral and educational status of this people, are steadily increasing in number and efficiency. As in the past so to-day, these schools are potent factors in the education and evangelization of the negro race. They are offering all forms of education essential to permanent uplift, namely, elementary, collegiate, professional and industrial training. Young men