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IMPROVEMENTS MADE AT TUSKEGEE IN ONE YEAR'S TIME

During the past year the improvements at Tuskegee have kept pace with the usual rapid growth of the institution since its birth.

During the term of '94–'95 there were added a Dairy and an Agricultural Department, a Department for physical and voice culture, a Machinist Department, a Department of repairs and a Horticultural Department; making in all six new and distinct departments added in one year's time.

Of these, the Dairy and Agricultural Chemistry Departments are perhaps the most important. Two new chemical laboratories have been fitted up and arrangements have been made whereby the students will receive the best possible training in agriculture. As the majority of the population of the colored people live by agriculture, Tuskegee Institute deems it the best policy to teach this branch of education thoroughly. A new dairy has been fitted up with all modern improvements and an average of about eighty pounds of butter is being made weekly. About thirty-five gallons of milk is obtained daily. The Agricultural, Chemistry and Dairy Departments are under the direct charge of Prof. S. W. Hoffman. Not long since, five pounds of butter were sent to Hon. Wm C. Oates, the Governor of the state, who wrote that it was exceedingly fine and that his wife thought it was the finest she had seen in a long time.

The Department of Physical and Voice Culture is conducted by Miss J. A. Robinson, who has worked with untiring energy and telling success as the upright position and regular step of the girls will testify.

The Repair Department is one that will be always much needed at so large an institution as Tuskegee. Mr. A. C. Perdue, the head of this department and, who, by the way is a graduate of the school, makes it his business to see that everything needing it, is repaired. Quite a number of boys are under his charge and in this repair work it is hoped that they will gain some technical lessons that they would not, perhaps, get in the main branch of the carpenter shop.

Perhaps one of the departments most needed is that of Horticulture So rapid has been the growth of the working and essential parts of the institution that very little time has been given to the beautifying of the grounds. A graduate of the institution, Mr. S. F. Bizzelle, who during his school life, was a member of the agricultural class, and who, after graduating took a special course in horticulture in the University of Wisconsin, at Madison, has been appointed horticulturist of the Tuskegee Institute grounds He seems to understand his work well and under his supervision the grounds around the school are fast presenting a different appearance. Mr. Bizzelle also has charge of the fruits, berries, grapes and trees on the campus.

The Machinist Department is a new and valuable feature in the many industries now carried on by the school. In connection with this department is a well regulated foundry in which are made grates for fireplaces, coal stoves and cooking ranges, irons, window weights, etc. All the grates used by the school during the past winter were made in the foundry on the school grounds. This work has been very much handicapped owing to the fact that a building in which to carry on the main part of the work was very much needed; one is now being erected and before commencement a machine shop, complete in all its parts will be added to the buildings. This department is in charge of Mr. H. E. Thomas, who is a master machinist. In connection with the work done during the term all the water pipes have been taken up and new ones put down, greatly facilitating matters along this line.

There is now in course of erection a cottage which, when completed, will be one of the most beautiful on the grounds. This building will be known as the "Seniors' Model Home." Here only the young women of the senior class will room and live as tho they were in their own private home. The object of this plan is to give the girls, just before they leave the institution, a better idea of household economy. Besides this, a neat ten-room cottage called the "New Annex" has just been completed for the accommodation of girls This with the "Model Home" will enable the school to room much more comfortably a greater number of girls for the coming term, a thing greatly to be desired as every year the school is compelled to refuse admission to a large number owing to the lack of room

Besides the large hall for boys, and the cottages, a temporary building was erected last fall for the accommodation of the young men It is merely a makeshift of what it should be and it is hoped that ere long the school will be able to build another large commodious building for the rooming of the boys. This, after a close survey of the whole institution grounds strikes one as being one of the greatest needs of the school at present

All the buildings on the grounds have been gone through with in the last year and thoroughly cleansed and renovated. The students' and teachers' dining rooms have been repainted, new floors and inside blinds put in which add greatly to their appearance. Other buildings and rooms on the place have received the same attention, inside blinds having been put in every room in Alabama Hall, the large building for the girls.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has established a food investigation department at Tuskegee to investigate the food of the colored people in the vicinity of the institution. After the investigation reports will be given an effort will be made to improve the food.

A fund of $10,000 for the perfecting of the nurse training department has been secured and improvements are being made daily. The school gives special attention to the developing of well trained nurses, having in its employ a graduate from the Provident Hospital of Chicago, who, under the direction of Dr. Washington, the resident physician, directs the work.

Also has been secured what is known as the "Dizer Fund" which is under the control of the school The first donation made to this fund was $1,500 but it has since been increased to $3,000

This fund is to enable colored people to buy homes and is loaned to those who desire to build and can give proper security.

As soon as it was made known that there would be a building set apart for the Negro exhibit at the Atlanta Exposition, The Tuskegee Institute went to work in a vigorous manner, preparing for it, and everywhere, in all the twenty-four industries and in every branch of the academic department may be seen people busy getting ready an exhibit that will cover about 2,000 square feet of space.

Principal Washington is chief commissioner from the State of Alabama and he is not only putting forth every effort to see that his school has a creditable exhibit but is bending every energy to see that the whole State is extensively represented as far as the colored population is concerned.

There will be 26 graduates this year.

A REPLY TO BENJAMIN AND MORGAN

BY MR. GEORGE HENRY.

MR EDITOR:—Thro the columns of THE STAR I wish to make a reply to Mr. R. C. O. Benjamin's speech of February 17, 1895, which I consider traitorous to American liberty. Mr. Benjamin said, "I give my unqualified endorsment to a separation of the two races as the only feasible solution of the problem." I say to Mr. Benjamin and his ideal—Mr. Morgan, president of the International Migration Society, and all others, that I challenge Benjamin and Morgan (his great leader) to show that there is more than one race of men. Upon this point I challenge you both and demand an answer. From where do you get your different races of men? I find in Genesis 1:26, "And God said let us make man in our image after our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the fowl of the air and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image; in the image of God created he male and female, created he them, and God blessed them and said unto them, be fruitful and multiply, replenish the earth and subdue it."

Upon this ground I stand firm I demand an answer arom Mr. Benjamin and Mr. Morgan. What was the color of Adam when God created him out of the dust? He was not white. Webster says white is a color. I ask Mr. Benjamin and Mr. Morgan, have they ever seen a man or woman but what was colored. Upon this point I demand an answer. The scriptures tell us there were different tribes of Israel. Go all thro the Bible and you see tribes not races. After the Flood the people commenced building a tower with the idea that a flood should never destroy it again God descended and changed their language and they scattered into families and then became tribes and yet they were all the same people from Adam. Now, Mr. Benjamin and Mr, Morgan, deny that if you can or let me never hear your statements any more about races.

Again Mr, Benjamin says, "No one could force them into the arms of another race." I say to Mr. Benjamin upon this point, we as Americans deny this assertion, but I suppose you must say something as you are paid for it. Upon this point, we hold there is but one race therefore this could not be done. I think Mr. Benjamin and Mr. Morgan are all great traitors to our race and country as Benedict Arnold was to the American people.

What have we native born Americans got to do with Africa? The Anglo Saxon and the African established this great America thro starvation and all the hardships of war and have made it an asylum for all the down-trodden and outcast of Europe and why should we want to leave our country to go to such a place as Africa—a country about which we know nothing.

I ask Mr. Benjamin and Mr. Morgan, taking the man of African descent from America who is one of its greatest defenders, both in peace and in war, what class of men would you put in their places to defend our free institutions and our flag? Answer this question. The loyal American people demand an answer. Under this flag was I born. Why is it sirs, that the Germans, Poles, Portugese, Turks, Englishmen and Jews don't want to go back to their homes? Why do not Messrs Morgan and Benjamin go thro the land and thro our free institutions lecturing to get these people, whom I have named to go back? No, Mr. Morgan we do not claim social equality—that will take care of itself, but sir, we do claim that in our free institutions we shall travel the length and breadth of the land and the law should protect us This I ask for every living person on American soil, over whom float the stars and stripes. I am no respector of persons.

I find in the Sunday Journal of February 24th, these words from Mr. Benjamin (with Mr. Morgan holding the pen for him): "Education will only lay bare Negro ambition." Mr. Benjamin asks: "Are there any reasons why the white man should educate the Negro?" In answer I say, the government of all the people should educate all its subjects. This makes a thrifty, wise and intelligent people. Now, let us discuss this for a moment. When Cæsar conquered the Britons, his general sent some to Rome to make slaves of them. Cæsar told his general not to send any more for they were so stupid they never could be taught anything, but in course of time, by mingling and intermingling with the Romans, they became possessed of learning and now the Anglo Saxons are the most intelligent people of the world. How does that suit you, Mr. Benjamin?

Again, in 1832 33, not one in a hundred of emigrants that came to this country could write his own name. They came from a land of bondage to a land of liberty, where there are free schools, free speech and free institutions and now they are becoming one of the smartest people among us How is that Mr. Benjamin? I go in for education. Mr. Benjamin says: "Education and Christianity will never close the breach between the races of men!" I still hold there is but one race of men. I now believe this Mr. Benjamin is not an American because he does not seem to have common sense. I ask the gentleman, what has civilized the world if the Bible and education have not? Suppose the Pilgrims had not been educated and had left the Bible behind, do you think we would have such a prosperous and civilized country? A gentleman once asked the Queen of England the secret of England's power. She took the Bible under her arm and said, "under God this is my guide and under her arms she plants civilization wherever she goes."

Poor Benjamin needs pity again. He says the Negro can never stand as a man and demand his rights in the name of his manaood. This assertion I deny. Mr. Benjamin is a man if he is honest and upright and if his confidence be established in the community he must and will demand his respect among his fellow citizens but when he sells himself we consider him a man no longer. A true man—it makes no difference about his complexion—will always stand for right and justice and liberty for his God and for his country, his fellow men and stand ready at all times to uphold and defend the stars and stripes under which he was born. This the Anglo Saxon and the Afro-American have done and always will do. Now Messrs Benjamin and Morgan what class of men do you wish to put in place of the Afro-American? I suppose you wish to place such men as you are upholding and supporting in the Southern States today. This is an important question to which I would like to have an answer.

I believe my country, America, is the best country that God ever gave to man. If not why should all the tribes of the earth come here to better their condition? Up to the time of the rebellion fully nine-tenths of the emigrants who came to this country could neither read nor write and now nine-tenths of them can read and write. We have schools and colleges why should we want to go to Africi, that dark uncivilized country? A young man, "Wash" by name, and myself, worked together for years. He went to sea. Returned in about two years and came to see me. I quote his own words: "Mr. Henry, I was there when the ship Ellsworth sailed from Charleston. I was at Liberia when she landed. That captain ought to be hanged. He landed the things upon the shore and piled them up. The emigrants were laying around them starving to death, and no one to help them." This is Africa—the place where S. C. O Benjamin wants us to go. Benjamin and Morgan say the American Negro should not object to Africa because it is his native home. I ask Mr. Benjamin (since he is the greatest editor in the world) how many Negro soldiers fought in the Revolutionary war? There were over two millions of people on this continent at the time of the revolutionary war and one thousand blacks, side by side with the Anglo-Saxon, fighting Great Britain for liberty. There were nine blacks to one white at that time and the blacks were clearing up land and raising food and clothing to keep the armies in the field. The handful of Anglo Saxons without these strong arms never, never, never could have declared their independence. This I defy any one to deny.

In 1620 the Anglo-Saxon and the African arrived in this country with just two months time intervening between their arrivals. The Anglo-Saxons were learned and came with the Bible in their hands and were the first to espouse Christianity in this country. But the Africans were stolen from their native land and sold into Virginia and the Bible was closed to them from that time up to the rebellion.

Such men as these are a disgrace to our country and ought to be driven from it. Mr. Benjamin says "all hail Senator Morgan's plan!" His plan is to emigrate all the colored people to Africa. This Mr. Benjamin heartily endorses. I hope that in the future no lady or gentleman of color will ever let him darken their doors and that no minister will permit him to fill a pulpit. Mr. Benjamin says, "Senator Morgan may be the rankest Southern Negro hater (that is to say he is) and that is why he endorses him. Please Messrs. Benjamin and Morgan read these chapters; Josiah 12, Ezra 26, Chronicles 15, II Samuel 5, Numbers 13. I say there is no such a thing as a race in the Bible. I have read the Bible and find nothing but tribes and families. You and Mr. Morgan must prove to the world that God did create another man and woman, then all intelligent people of the world will believe there is a different race. I stand as I first began.

Let us borrow the language of the emmortal Lincoln: "Fondly do we hope, fervently do we pray that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away, yet if God wills that it continue until all the wealth piled up by the bondman's two hundred and fifty years of unrequitted toil shall be sunk and until every drop of blood drawn by the lash shall be paid by another drawn with the sword, with malice toward none, with charity to all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work."

Now Mr. Benjamin, what do you say to that?

Providence, R. I.

BISHOP HOOD IN CAMBRIDGE AND BOSTON.

Since the presiding elders have been writing up their districts, we have not thought it necessary to cover the same ground; but during our visit here we have been so specially impressed with the magnitude of the work that we have been constrained to write. Four years ago Rev. W. B. Fenderson took charge of the Rush A. M. E. Zion Church. There was a heavy debt on the church and the congregation was small. By quiet, persistent and patient effort he has built up his congregation and largely reduced the debt on the church. Recently he has had a revival and added forty-six to the church, the conversions reaching about sixty. Among the converts are many of the most promising young men in the community, also several elderly persons. Mr. Richardson, whose wife has been a faithful member for many years, has embraced the Savior's love and united in full connection. Mr. Thomas Taylor, a man of considerable means, has become an active member, both in church and Sabbath-school. Mrs. Taylor, the elocutuonist, is also a very active member. Mr. Aaron Kellogg, a man of splendid business capacity, but who has heretofore taken no interest in the church, is among the converts, and is now a class leader. He is also at the head of a club of one hundred who are trying to pay off the remaining debt. When that is done it will be an easy matter to finish the main audience room. When it is finished, Rush will be "the church" of our people in Cambridge. The fact that there will be unanimous petition for the return of Elder Fenderson for the fifth year, is all that need be said of him, or of his faithful wife, who has co-operated with him in all his efforts.

In Boston we are assured by the officiary of the church that Zion is holding her own. On Monday night we were invited to meet the trustees; they informed us that Rev. Thomas H Johnson has proved a success. On the motion to tender him a unanimous vote of thanks some went so far as to say that in their opinon, he was the best preacher which had filled that pulpit within their recollection, and it was unanimously agreed that his congregation had been equal to the average for a number of years.

When Rev. G. L. Blackwell resigned this charge to take the chair of Theology in Livingstone College, it seemed a difficult matter to find a man who could successfully follow him. The minister of Zion Church in Boston, to meet the expectation of the entire congregation, must not only be a good man, a good preacher and pastor, but must also be prepared to go upon the platform on public occasions and measure up to the best orators of the day. To find such a man in the interval of the annual conference, and at a time when there were no other conferences in session was no small task. It happened that about that time Rev. Johnson came to Zion from the M. E. Church. He had filled some of the most important pastoral charges in that church, and had served a full term of five years as presiding elder. He was appointed to this charge, and those who were only expecting a good preacher, a good pastor and a careful disciplinarian, declared that their expectations had been fully met. Considering the fact that some of our ministers have usages that are not in the discipline, it is pleasing to learn that Brother Johnson, who had nothing but the discipline to guide him, has given such satisfaction that the official board have for him only words of praise. During the thirty-five years of my acquaintance with this church, it has never had a better official board than the present The loyal sentiment of the church is at high water mark. The chairman of the trustee board proposes that if the centennial committee will offer a banner for the largest amount contributed to the $100,000 fund, by any one church, he will go to New York and take the banner back with him. Notwithstanding the membership of the church is small in comparison with many other churches, yet he believes that they can more than make up by their loyalty what they lack in numbers. It is to be hoped the committee will prepare such a banner that he may have a test of loyalty. This is the gauntlet that Boston throws down to the connection. How many will take it up? The recollection of this visit will remain in memory by reason of a little incident which is too good to keep, and reminds us of what was frequent in bygone days, but is not so prevalent now. The ladies having prepared a reception for the bishop, at which a splendid program was rendered, consisting of instrumental music, splendid recitations and readings, and an elcquent discourse by Master Thornton, near the close of the services formed a circle around the altar and requested the bishop to stand up. After a neat little speech by the president of their association, we were handed a purse containing $12.00, with the request that we accept it as a token of their interest in our work. The trustees also kindly donated $8.00. We regard the situation here as most promising.

RIDGEWOOD NOTES

BY REV. J. T. TILGHMAN.

It is now time that the general interests of the church should be receiving their share of consideration. In the New Jersey conference many of our small churches need the assistance of both presiding elders and bishops. The bishop to our little churches is what a father is to a family with one child. It is encouraging to that child, when its mother says your papa is coming. The little child looks out of the window; she listens to the door rap of her papa. It is encouraging to our little churches, when they look for him they hope to see him, and he. He brings pastors to our churches from other churches and denominations. Such influence is [illegible] than I can express. When Bishop Hood came to my church there were six pastors. I sent out [illegible] vitation, making [illegible] great, and so worked [illegible] in this town among the [illegible] as well as among my [illegible] the citizens of this village [illegible] and never heard a [illegible] preach, that would be [illegible] any of our bishops on a [illegible] afternoon. We could fill our [illegible] or any opera house, with the [illegible] people of our town. These [illegible] bishops—yes we need them. [illegible] J. W. Smith was right when he said let the kickers kick, that old [illegible] will break down in 96. Zion [illegible] support her general officers. What is true of the bishop is also true of the presiding elders. If the New Jersey conference had two presiding elders and they could spend a Sabbath with the pastor and people on quarterly meeting Sundays, we could raise more money from our people on those days. These small country churches depend largely on church camp-meetings. During the Summer seasons our church camp-meeting raised for us fifty four dollars, when we should have raised a hundred and thirty dollars. A number of our small churches have not had a presiding elder but once or twice on quarterly meeting occasions. We must work for Zion; we must bring this church to the front—little or big. When a pastor has gone to a country church where the congregation is small, the pastor can do so much good by visiting with the pastor; we could raise twice that money. When my presiding elder was with me we raised and paid [illegible] over $11.00. The last two quarterly meetings we could not raise for him $5.00.

There are twenty-five or six appointments in this conference, and the way they are situated it is impossible for one presiding elder to serve successfully. In order to work up the general interest of these small country churches let us have a presiding elder that is not afraid to out in the country and take a soldier's fare with the pastor.

Come brethren, let us unite on this, you that hold small charges and are far off in the country. Ready for us go to the front, whether we get small or large salaries for pastors or presiding elders let us work for Christ. I will not receive half of my salary this year, but the general work shall receive all of my attention. Every department of the general work shall receive some money, the Sunday school Union, the General Fund, Livingstone College, the Book Concern, the STAR OF ZION, Superannuated Ministers, the Home and Foreign Mission, African Mission, Education, General Traveling Expenses, Widows and Orphans.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Ministers and Sunday-school superintendents are hereby notified that the Board of Bishops have ordered all collections for the Sunday-school department raised on Easter Sunday, to be sent to the superintendent at the Varick Memorial Building, 206 College street, Charlotte, N. C.

The committee of the department [illegible] it is at this time, and [illegible] which have been [illegible] Board of Bishops, accordingly we urge upon our brethren to put forth an earnest effort to make the collection as large as possible and to send it in promptly. Let all moneys collected on Easter Sunday and other moneys raised for the Sunday-school Union to Rev. R. R. Morris, superintendent Sunday-school Union, 206 College street, Charlotte, N. C.

DR. PRICE

Persons wishing a life size portrait of the late Dr. C. Price, which is the best picture of him in existence can obtain it by sending the money to Dr. W. H. Coles, [illegible] at Salisbury, No. Car. No colored family should be without this great and great picture of this noble man and Frederick Douglass [illegible] the [illegible] introduced [illegible] Agents wanted. Splendid terms [illegible] fired.