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3901
P935

Presbyterian magazine
vol 11 no. 11

THE
ASSEMBLY
HERALD

THANKSGIVING
1905

R. L. M. C.

1905



EDWARD P. COWAN, D.D., SECRETARY.

Thanksgiving.

Rev. Samuel J. Fisher, D.D.

In one of the scenes described in "Uncle Tom's Cabin," where the troubled hearts of the humble slaves are bemoaning their harassed condition, Uncle Tom rouses them with the exhortation, "Think on the mercies, children—think on the mercies." This lowly black man was a Christian philosopher. His wise suggestion may prove of value not only to the individual, helping him to count his blessings, but to all who are apt to contemplate the difficulties of service and the discouragements in reform. Uncle Tom's cheery words are the echo of the great apostle: "In *everything* give thanks." Most applicable are they to our Church as it surveys its Freedmen's Missions. For it is easy to recognize the difficulties. No effort to elevate an ignorant and long enslaved people is likely to show great results quickly. And when we realize the innate selfishness of many a heart and the prejudice and passion which oppose every noble work, we shall find in Uncle Tom's suggestion a blessed inspiration. It is in keeping with the day of national and personal thanksgiving that our Church should think on its occasions for gratitude in this special field of missions. In the days of "chill November's stormy blast," our thoughts may pass to the Southland, and review this work.

Then shall we find that one occasion for gratitude is the greater recognition by every true Christian of the necessity of giving this race the Gospel and its blessings. Our statesmen may have had to revise some of their earlier theories concerning the development of these freedmen, but each year has intensified in the minds of every intelligent citizen the need of doing exactly what our Church set itself so long ago to do. We have had re-

cently wars at home and abroad, great political changes and economic discussions to call off the national attention from this work. Nevertheless it is one of the foremost still, claiming the attention of sagacious statesmen and editors, pushing its way into our literature, more important than ever. We may be thankful that God has quickened this interest in this so long helpless people and roused and continued to rouse the master minds of the world to discuss their future.

Another cause for thanksgiving is the continued interest this race feels in their own education and elevation. Years of ignorance and degradation and of occasional oppression have not weakened their desire to learn and to grow. Even a false or imperfect ambition is more desirable than indifference; and while it should be our duty to awaken them to a conscious ignorance and a true thirst, it is our privilege to mark the persistence of a desire for better things. Our schools are overcrowded, even where the restrictions are wisely severe. Our Church has no lack of open doors for usefulness. It is the lack of means, not of opportunity that hinders a greater result.

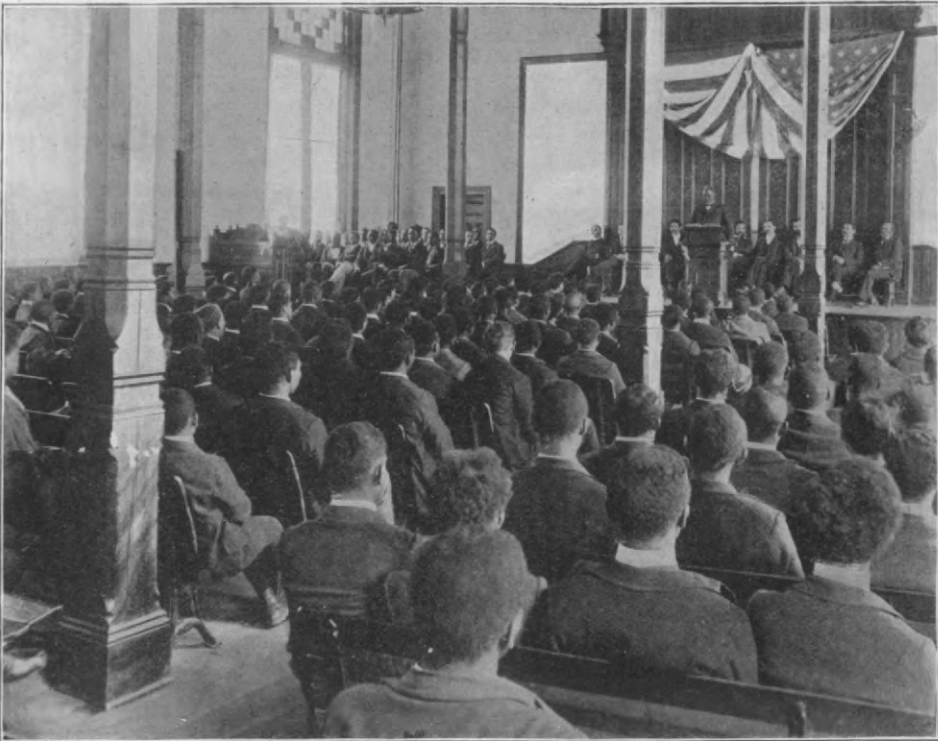
Another occasion for gratitude is the devotion of our missionaries and the increasing interest which leads so many to offer their services in this field. All the ridicule and harsh judgments which the few have cast upon this race have not lessened the number of those who should be glad to labor among them. And it is often delightful to read the story of some such worker and mark the confident earnestness with which he chronicles the slow yet certain advance.

We may be grateful, also, for the lessened antagonism in some portions of the South

toward the white missionaries. There is a growing respect for them as individuals, and a broader appreciation of their aims and work and oftentimes a removal of the once prevalent social ostracism. This may be emphasized by the marked kindness and goodwill which all truly Christian men and women manifest toward our work. They continually act as most useful advisers for our workers and afford your Board the benefit of their counsel and hearty endorsement. These Christians of

ment that our Church has carried on this work so prudently and so judiciously and in most instances so faithfully, that the greater number of its workers, white and black, have won the regard and sympathy of their white neighbors. That there are exceptions shows that some of these pastors or teachers share the infirmities and possess the faults of some of their white brethren elsewhere.

We are grateful, also, that our schools have grown, and our churches increased in power.



HIGHER EDUCATION, BIDDLE UNIVERSITY.

the South exhibit a wise sympathy with this race, and rarely fail to recognize the high purpose of this Board, and gladly assist it in every way. It was the opinion of a prominent lawyer of the South that "the Presbyterian Church is best fitted to develop and elevate the negro"—and this in connection with the churches and schools established by our Board. It is no little thing after these long years of work for this people among populations easily suspicious and capable of misunderstanding, during periods of great disorder and excite-

New buildings have been erected, the industrial facilities enlarged, resources more wisely managed. Large communities have received for years the quiet, refining and Christianizing influence of our schools and churches, until neighborhoods have been taught a new meaning to life, a new use of hand and brain. Along with this we are grateful that God has turned the generous thoughts of many of His servants to bestow their gifts upon our work. The many loving and self-sacrificing givers of small amounts are not forgotten—they are



PRIMARY EDUCATION, GOODWILL, S. C.

treasured in the Lamb's Book of Life—and they will not feel we honor more those whose larger gifts evince a hearty confidence in the work our Board directs. Forceful still are the gifts of Biddle, Thaw, Barber and McMillan, as are the later ones of Harbison, Phipps, McGregor and others. When from the intelligent study of this work of our Church men and women of wealth devote it to an enlargement of the schools and churches, we are thankful that the work is appreciated and its value seen.

And last, but not least, we are grateful that as a Church we are workers for Christ

among this people and workers with Christ. That He has called us into His kingdom and glory: that we are His and Him we serve; that we are following His example and command when we carry to this degraded, superstitious and long oppressed people His Gospel and its blessings, is a privilege divine. It is a gladdening thought that we as Christians are bringing Christ to a lost race and helping the fulfillment of the prophecy that into the New Jerusalem shall come men from every nation and tribe, from the east and the west, from the north and the south, to sing the new song and to awake in our Redeemer's likeness.

After Forty Years.

The man who is not interested in the many problems yet to be settled that spring out of the presence of nine and a half million negroes in this country must be a man whose thoughts are centered all in self, a man who has no recollection of the past, a man who has not kept himself informed as to present conditions, and who as to the future is alike indifferent to the welfare either of his country or his church.

To those who think, these problems must present to their minds a multitude of different questions yet to be settled; and from various points of view a multitude of different suggestions are made as to the wisest course to be pursued.

So many are the different opinions and theories that one might well borrow a form of speech used by the Apostle John, and say that were these various views and suggestions wise and unwise to be all written down, "I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written."

These problems reach up and touch the constitution of the United States; they touch the constitutions of the various states in which these people live; they touch politics and society, commerce and trade, capital and labor, and are interwoven with almost everything that affects the life and prosperity, and possibly the perpetuity, of our nation.