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1867-1891

STORER · COLLEGE

HARPER'S FERRY, W. VA.

BRIEF · HISTORICAL · SKETCH

· · · BY · · ·

MISS KATE J. ANTHONY

With Supplementary Notes



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BOSTON
MORNING STAR PUBLISHING HOUSE
1891

STORER COLLEGE.

OUR WORK AT HARPER'S FERRY—ITS HISTORY AND PROMISE.

[A paper presented at Ocean Park, Aug. 15, 1883, by Miss K. J. Anthony, of Providence, R. I.]

HOW naturally, when we speak of *Home* Mission fields, does the mind turn to Harper's Ferry. Of all our various missionary agencies there are none more important or achieving a grander work than that accomplished at and through Storer College.

There are many who recall the events of our civil war, and how as the glare and din faded away the North beheld a sight which aroused its keenest sympathy. More than four million men, women and children, just liberated from a cruel and demoralizing bondage, were stretching forth helpless, appealing hands for aid,—not bodily merely, but *mental, moral* and *spiritual* aid.

Among the denominations first to respond was the Free Baptist. It was agreed with the American Missionary Association that the beautiful valley of the Shenandoah should be left with our people to cultivate. This valley is one hundred and sixty miles in length by thirty in width, and the freedmen here were generally acknowledged to be more enterprising and intelligent than in most sections of the South. At various points, from Harper's Ferry to Lexington, our missionaries were stationed to inaugurate and carry forward day-schools, night-schools and Sabbath schools,—the whole placed under the supervision of the Rev. N. C. Brackett, a young man peculiarly qualified for the position. Rarely adapted in mind and character, he had also gained a deep insight into the capabilities of the

colored people while serving under the Christian Commission—in this same valley—during the last year of the war. And at this time he was Superintendent of Schools there for the Freedmen's Bureau. This preliminary educational work was first set in operation at Harper's Ferry, and in the same old government building where two years later Storer College had its birth.

As the work progressed, the vital necessity of Normal Schools became apparent, where those who had mastered the rudiments of education might be fitted to go forth as teachers and ministers to aid in elevating their race. Our missionaries early recognized the truth that colored teachers could do efficient work in fields where no white person could enter. Many facts showed that the salvation of the freedmen demanded that instructors and helpers be raised from their own ranks and that the chief energies of Northern workers should be bent in this direction. Trusting and praying, our little band toiled on till through the providence of God a way opened to meet this urgent need.

In February of 1867, Pres. O. B. Cheney visited Mr. John Storer of Sanford, Me., in behalf of Bates College. Although not a Free Baptist, Mr. Storer was deeply interested in the history and aims of our denomination. During the conversation he said to Dr. Cheney, "I have determined to give \$10,000 to some society which will raise an equal amount toward the founding of a school in the South for the benefit of the colored people. I should prefer that your denomination have this money, only that I fear that they will not or cannot meet my condition. I am old and I desire to see the school started before I die, so as you came I was about writing to the American Missionary Association making them this proposal, and I am confident they will accept and rapidly advance the project."

In reply Dr. Cheney pleaded that we be allowed to make an effort. He told him of our Southern enterprise, of its needs, and added, "A school there is just what we must have in order to carry forward the work. We shall feel that God has heard our prayers and is blessing our labor if you

will give us your support. You may set your own time, one year, six months, or less, — *only let us try!*"

It was nearly midnight when Mr. Storer came to a favorable decision and agreed that we should have till July, and if he then saw we were thoroughly in earnest the time should be extended to the 1st of January, 1868. It was Mr. Storer's wish that the institution eventually become a college and it be so chartered, — with a proviso that it be operated as a Normal School or Seminary till the endowment funds should be adequate for college purposes. And that it be open to both sexes without distinction of race or color.

Our people gratefully accepted the proposition and vigorous measures were set on foot to raise the \$10,000 required. To some the whole scheme appeared wild and well-nigh absurd, and a college in the South was to them "a railroad to the moon!" But God's benediction seemed to rest upon the movement, and hearts and pockets were wonderfully responsive. \$4,000 were pledged as with one breath at a remarkable meeting held at Fairport, N. Y., in connection with the Genesee Yearly Meeting in June, 1867. This gave assurance of success, and through the efforts of Dr. G. H. Ball a large portion of the \$10,000 was secured in that state.

Meanwhile Dr. Cheney went South to confer with Mr. Brackett. They settled upon Harper's Ferry as the location most advantageous for the school and purchased a farm of one hundred and fifty acres on Bolivar Heights, about half a mile from the present site. Dr. Cheney then went to Washington, laid the plans before Gen. O. O. Howard, of the Freedmen's Bureau, and received hearty sympathy and encouragement in a promise of \$6,000 from that department. Secretary Stanton and Senator Fessenden also were visited, and, at a later date, Gen. James A. Garfield, to enlist their influence in a grant of Government property situated on Camp Hill, at Harper's Ferry. By all the project was most kindly and favorably received. This property consisted of four large, brick mansions, former residences of

the officers of the Government works, and though greatly injured during the war would be of inestimable value to our enterprise. One of these buildings had been loaned to Mr. Brackett and used in the school work.

At the annual meeting of the Home Mission Board in Northwood, N. H., June 6, 1867, a body, composed of twenty-five gentlemen, was organized as "The Commission for the Promotion of Education in the South." To enable them to transact and carry forward all necessary business, an Act of Incorporation from the New Hampshire Legislature was secured, and the organization legally effected on the 24th of the following month. During its early existence the college interests and affairs were conducted under this Commission.

It was decided that the school be started the ensuing fall. And on Monday, Oct. 2, 1867, Storer College commenced its noble work,—the outcome of which eternity alone can truly unfold. It began with nineteen pupils (from the immediate vicinity) and with one assistant teacher, Mrs. M. W. L. Smith, of Maine, under Mr. Brackett as principal. The school opened in the government building alluded to—known as the "Lockwood House"—and this one building served for dwelling-house, school and church.

The efforts to obtain a gift of this property were now redoubled. Dr. James Calder of Harrisburg, Pa., was especially active in furthering this project. Finally, through the earnest support of Mr. Fessenden in the Senate and of Gen. Garfield in the House, a bill to this effect passed Congress Dec. 3, 1868, and the four buildings with seven acres of land, worth about \$30,000, became the property of the institution. Had this failed, the site of the school would have been at the Bolivar Farm. As it was, the farm, through cultivation and sale of lots, largely assisted in supporting the school during its infancy.

In September of 1867 the Freedmen's Bureau donated \$500, which was used in making needed repairs, and soon after the school opened, paid over the promised \$6,000 to a temporary Stock Company organized under the laws of

West Virginia. But the "Bureau" did far more than it promised, and as long as it existed ceased not to render generous and efficient aid. Among its further benefactions were \$4,000 to renovate the shattered government buildings, and about \$1,500 toward the running expenses. Altogether, including about \$4,000 for the erection, in 1868, of Lincoln Hall — a boarding-hall for boys — the Freedmen's Bureau contributed \$18,000 toward the upbuilding of Storer College. How the institution could have flourished or even lived without this external aid it is difficult to realize, for the denomination was heavily freighted with the needs of other important enterprises. In tracing its history nothing is more striking than the manner in which God has re-enforced our efforts.

About the time the Normal School opened, Rev. A. H. Morrell, whose heart had been strongly drawn to the work, was sent to Harper's Ferry by the Home Mission Society to engage in special missionary efforts and build up Free Baptist churches. A revival in the school soon followed and on Nov. 12, 1867, a little church was established, composed of six members, while four candidates were received for baptism.

A few months previous, June 9, two of the pioneer teachers, Miss A. S. Dudley and Miss E. H. Oliver, had called to their assistance a colored minister and organized a church at Martinsburg. *This was the first Free Baptist church in the Shenandoah Valley and, you will observe, was the result of woman's work!* Another church of thirty-six members was established at Charlestown, Dec. 22, and on Jan. 26, 1868, the three churches of Harper's Ferry, Martinsburg, and Charlestown were organized into a Free Baptist Quarterly Meeting with an aggregate membership of one hundred and fifty. The evidence of Mr. Morrell's untiring zeal and faithful labor is indelibly and fitly illustrated by the churches which radiate from Harper's Ferry in every direction, promulgating the Gospel of Christ and sowing the seed of everlasting life. The school and mission work are inseparably interwoven with each other.

An incident worthy of commemoration is recalled in connection with Mr. Storer's death, which occurred Oct. 23, 1867, at the age of seventy years. He had expressed an intention to bestow \$1,000 for the establishment of a library at Harper's Ferry, but this was not embodied in his will. The heirs, however, nobly fulfilled their father's design and united in promptly paying that amount.

As the time approached when the conditions of Mr. Storer's bequest must be met, Mr. Brackett went to Washington to ratify the contract and receive the \$10,000 from Senator Fessenden with whom it had been deposited, and who was to decide if the requirements were legally fulfilled. Including the \$6,000 from the Freedmen's Bureau, nearly double the necessary amount had been pledged.

On the morning of Jan. 1, 1868, a telegram was received at Dover stating that the money must be actually collected and invested,—notes and pledges would not be accepted. Two, only, of the Executive Committee were at hand, Revs. I. D. Stewart and J. M. Brewster, and thus suddenly were these men confronted with the destiny of the enterprise; for, were the conditions not fulfilled on this day the Storer donations reverted to his heirs,—and upon this donation rested our whole structure. Fortunately, over \$7,000 had been collected; but between \$2,000 and \$3,000 must be added thereto *before midnight*. There are emergencies when men wrest success from seeming impossibility. We cannot now enter into details but the requirements *were* met and Storer College saved,—though that day is often referred to as the "Black Wednesday."

Another important step was gained when on March 3, 1868, a college charter was granted by the legislature of West Virginia. This Act of legislation met with intense and violent opposition and was barely won. Judge Hoke, a prominent Union man in war times, was one of the legislators and also a member of our Commission, which office excluded his vote on the question. Carefully watching, however, the progress of events and perceiving how close the contest was likely to be, he resigned his position among

our trustees in time to cast the decisive vote, for the success of the measure turned upon his foresight and the Act passed by *one* majority. Judge Hoke was re-elected a trustee and has ever been an active promoter of the welfare of Storer College.

The school grew rapidly. You will remember that it started in October with nineteen pupils, in January it numbered thirty-six, and in March, at the time the charter was obtained, it averaged seventy-five students. It soon followed that the Lockwood House proved inadequate to meet the increasing demands, yet, such was the opposition of the surrounding community to the school, that even after the property was nominally ours, some time elapsed and much difficulty was encountered before actual possession could be gained. As soon as secured, one of the other buildings was fitted, and dedicated Dec. 23, 1869, for chapel and school purposes.

For many years the necessity of better accommodations for the girls was realized. All possible space in the teachers' homes, every nook and cranny, was crowded with these freed young women eager to obtain the advantages here offered for education. In 1873 steps were taken to provide a girls' boarding-hall, but after little more than the foundations were laid the work came to a standstill from lack of funds.—From the outset of this Southern enterprise a cardinal principle has been, not to incur the *dragging weight of debt*, and one familiar cry has never been heard from Harper's Ferry.—Earnest efforts were again put forth, in 1877, to complete the girls' hall. The Sabbath school scholars throughout the denomination brought offerings, and many small donations paid for doors, windows, and even bricks. The Woman's Missionary Society appropriated \$1,000. The Centennial Jubilee Singers contributed \$600 and with individual gifts the work was steadily advanced. On May 30, 1876, Myrtle Hall was dedicated, free from debt, under the auspices of the Woman's Missionary Society.

But through these years Storer Normal School outgrew

for the second time its school accommodations and was long hampered by its cramped condition. Here again God answered their need through the hearts and hands of his people. At the Centennial Conference in 1880, two movements toward the erection of a new school-building were simultaneously made. A project to raise funds for this purpose was started by the Woman's Society, and, unaware of this, a gentleman presented a memorial offering of \$5,000 to be devoted to the same object, provided another \$5,000 be raised by the denomination. The double work of raising money in the North and expending it in the South was rapidly carried forward. Various church auxiliaries and young people's societies selected different rooms to finish and furnish. The old chapel, thoroughly remodeled, was retained in the left wing of the new edifice, which stands midway between Lincoln and Myrtle Halls. Dedicatory services were held on May 30, 1882, but the building had already been in use some five or six months, even while the din of the workmen resounded through its halls.

Crowning, as they do, the heights of Harper's Ferry, these buildings are conspicuous objects in every direction. A passing allusion should be made to the wondrous scenery which surrounds Storer College,—to witness which Thomas Jefferson wrote it were "worth a journey across the Atlantic." And the most unappreciative observer can but feel that the outspread grandeur and beauty must exert an elevating influence.

We have mentioned opposition. Perhaps it is not well to dwell much upon this in these better days, but some reference is requisite to a true comprehension of what has been achieved. Shortly before the Normal School was established a teacher in the vicinity wrote home: "It is unusual for me to go to the post-office without being hooted at, and twice I have been stoned on the streets at noonday." It was considered necessary that our lady teachers have a military escort as they went from place to place. But when *Storer College* was set in their midst, prejudice and opposition intensified to fever heat. Unceasing endeavors were made to

prevent the bestowing of charter or government property, and after these were conferred almost any expedients were adopted to wrest them from us. At the next session of the legislature mass-meetings were held and strong efforts put forth to annul our charter. Here, Judge Hoke again proved a "friend in need." Scandalous reports and petitions to revoke the grant of government buildings were sent to Washington to such an extent that an officer was finally dispatched to investigate affairs. "Riots" dissolved into prayer-meetings! The worst charges, and what appeared true causes of complaint, were traced to their own doors and even proved to have been created by themselves to attain their end. For the first years teachers and pupils went armed. There were threatenings from the Ku Klux and some disturbances; and even after fear of personal danger had passed they were yet looked upon and treated as outcasts and pariahs. No scandal concerning them could be too absurd and vile for general belief. The motives of these Northern workers were totally misunderstood. Strange as it may seem to us, with a large proportion of the people their prejudices were honest ones and were a part of their birthright, their education and religion; but this only rendered the bringing about of a true recognition a slower and more difficult process. We can only hint at facts, as one of the participants truly says, "The thrilling incidents and experiences of those early years would fill a volume." Naught but an unflinching trust, an undaunted courage and noble self-sacrifice could voluntarily endure and cope with these adverse elements, and such was the spirit which permeated and upheld our brave workers.

The change in public sentiment is indeed marked and wonderful. To-day, the inhabitants of Harper's Ferry hold a true interest and even a pride in the college. Some of its old opponents are now numbered among its most devoted friends. And no person in the community is held in higher honor or warmer esteem than Mr. Brackett, once of all men most hated and despised. From whatever standpoint one studies the advancement of Storer College this thought arises

involuntarily and repeatedly, that if *ever* God made the man for the place it is *here*.

The institution has three departments,—preparatory, normal, and classical. It has had over 1,200 different pupils, has sent out more than 300 teachers and about 30 ministers. The past year its students have numbered 232, and both total and average attendance are constantly increasing. In 1875 a summer term for teachers was inaugurated. Its session holds through June and July, and it is greatly appreciated by those whose only opportunity for further study and progress is at this time.

No one can visit Harper's Ferry without coming away overflowing with wonder and enthusiasm. One stands abashed before the brave spirit, the devotion and never-mentioned sacrifices of our toilers there.

The financial management is remarkable. Who that has seen aught of it has not *thought* the words of a business man who said: "Nowhere else in my life have I seen a dollar made to go as far and accomplish as much. Whoever puts money here makes a sure investment."

Nor do they aim or wish to bestow the advantages of the school as a *free gift* to the colored people, only to bring these within reach of earnest desire and effort. The students are taught that they must work for these things, and unless they are willing to sacrifice and labor for their education they are not worth educating. And thus is fostered a spirit of independence, self-reliance, and thrift, of great worth to them in after life. In every possible way the instructors endeavor to develop in the pupils a true manhood and womanhood. Realizing that there must be "education of the instincts, the feelings, the habits, the will, the conscience," the most careful attention is paid to everything pertaining to morals and character, down to principles of industry and economy. We quote the remark of a graduate: "Why," said he, "even if we never opened nor saw the outside of a book, to come here would repay any labor, any denials, for just what we learn in good habits and character."

A marked characteristic of the school has been its relig-

ious spirit and influence. The feeling prevails among the students that, however well prepared intellectually, they are scarcely fit to teach, even, unless they are followers of Christ, so deeply are they impressed with the needs of their people and their own responsibilities.

Such, in bare outline, is the history of our work at Harper's Ferry in the past; and in view of what has been accomplished is there not rich promise of a noble future? It is no complete and finished story we trace. All that is and has been is but the pledge, the prelude, to greater and grander achievements. Storer Normal School is already reaping fruit from its early seed-sowing. The scholars who now seek admittance are from a much higher plane than formerly,—steadily rising year by year; and the demand comes again and again for wider and higher facilities. The value and far-reaching influence of this institution is better understood when we consider that for West Virginia, much of Maryland, the western part of Old Virginia, Southern Ohio and Pennsylvania, it is the only school above primary grade. From nearly every Southern State come occasional students. The four millions of citizens whom the war bequeathed to our country have now grown into seven millions. Shall we not "enlarge the place of our tent, lengthen the cords and strengthen the stakes"? The immediate future demands that the summer term, this germ planted eight years ago and so arduously nourished, shall mature into a well-equipped Teachers' Seminary. The need of a more complete college-fitting school is also deeply felt; and the not distant future should hold a theological department. Probably we should place first of all the imperative want of a larger corps of teachers, one which we ought to supply most speedily. As a matter of policy, merely, we cannot *afford* that the few laborers there attempt to carry longer the burdens laid on their willing shoulders.

We must meet and keep pace with these demands; the work cannot wait without grievous loss. Let us so give of our sympathies, our prayers, and from our treasuries, that the earliest and latest wish of its founders and builders shall be

consummated and Storer College finally develop into what its name implies; as its president expressed the hope, "A college modeled after the Oberlin plan, with modern improvements, and retaining the Teachers' Seminary." But our work at Harpers' Ferry has yet a deeper significance and a broader promise than the local elevation of the colored race. Every patriot, every true lover of his country, as well as philanthropists and Christians, has here much at stake and a personal interest. While we toil for the educating and uplifting of this people we lay firm foundation for the fair future of our republic. The nation's weal or woe depends in no slight degree upon the success or failure of just such efforts as this, and the solution of many a vexed question betwixt North and South lies here. This national aspect, however, is not the great one. Within the horizon which bounds our vision, and against the dark clouds that but lately spread their blackness above us, arches a radiant bow of promise. "God moves in a mysterious way"; from even the evil thoughts and ways of men he bringeth to pass "glory to God, and peace, good-will to men." As through the selling of Joseph into Egyptian slavery a great nation was prepared for the work of the Lord and the future advent of Christ to the world, so may we trace beneath the pall of slavery and war in America this golden gleam of overruling grace,—a people separated, educated, trained for the salvation of their race; to bear the light of the Gospel and of civilization to the "dark continent" of Africa teeming with uncounted millions of darkened souls. May the thought of the grandeur and ultimate outcome of our labor inspire us to aid in this "great preparation that is to make straight the way of the Lord."

Our work at Harper's Ferry holds a glorious history and a more glorious promise,—promise for the elevation of the American colored race, the stability and advancement of our republic, the redemption of a vast continent, the progress of the world, and the exaltation of Christ, the Saviour of all mankind!

SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES.

CO-OPERATION OF SOUTHERN PEOPLE.

With great reluctance, but in the interest of truth in the light of later developments, we need to say, with reference to Miss Anthony's statement on this subject, that while the better class of citizens of Harper's Ferry are friendly to the school, some still retain the old-time prejudice against whatever tends to elevate the Negro, as indicated by measures which, at the last session of the House of Delegates, defeated the bill allowing to Storer College \$3,000, annually, of the appropriation by Congress for Industrial Education.

Both charity and self-interest stimulate the workers among the colored people, sorely in need of every possible reinforcement in the crusade against ignorance and vice, to give the ruling classes, in the sections where they live and labor, full credit for all the friendly spirit manifested. There is, without doubt, among the best citizens of the South, a growing appreciation of the work of the schools. Conspicuous among these, in this vicinity, is John Aglionby of Shenandoah Junction, W. Virginia, Secretary of the Board of Trustees, than whom Storer College has no more sincere and appreciative friend, and who has for years been untiring in his efforts to promote her interests.

COURSES OF STUDY.

Though this School has not yet been able to carry out the plan of its founder, John Storer, in establishing a College Course, it has steadily encouraged the Higher Education, has maintained classes in the classics and higher mathematics, at great labor and expense, and has constantly been sending its brightest and most ambitious students to the schools with higher and professional courses. We determined not to let a false ambition or pride take us from the field where our work was demanded to one already well occupied.

The great need of the masses is still in the Normal and Industrial departments.

INDUSTRIAL DEPARTMENT.

Though from the beginning of the school its influence has strongly maintained the dignity of labor, and much attention has been given to teaching sewing, mending, cutting, etc., this department has no endowment except a gift of \$2,000, from Mrs. Mary DeWolfe, of Illinois. This has been supplemented by yearly appropriations from our Woman's Missionary Society, and finally by its assuming the support of the teacher of dressmaking. The sewing-room is one of the attractions of Anthony Hall. In addition, we have the printing-office, where most of the school printing is done, and a small number instructed in type-setting, and a carpenter shop with six benches supplied with tools, for which we are principally indebted to Mrs. M. M. Brewster of New Hampshire. In this, one or two lessons daily, by one of the regular teachers, is all we can do at present. We hope somebody will furnish us the means of enlarging this department, as well as of increasing its efficiency in the branches already started. The interest of \$100,000 could be wisely used in this direction. We quote from a private letter recently received from the well-known author of the "Underground Railroad."

"The more largely the mechanical branches can be practically introduced and taught, the more thoroughly will the noble ends of your labors be accomplished. The sample of printing you sent me was very creditable.

"Still feeling that so far as earnest, self-sacrificing labor to advance true education among the colored people of the South is concerned, Storer has no superior,

"I am very truly yours,

"W. STILL."

HELP FOR STUDENTS.

How to help young men and women to an education without destroying their self-respect or self-reliance is a great question.

It must not be forgotten that there are many in fields of

great usefulness who could not have done their work but for the aid given them by generous friends. It is our opinion, after many years of careful study, that as a rule young people who need help, and many need it sorely, had best receive it as compensation for some work on the grounds or buildings, or for some service to the poor and destitute around them, or for labor in some poor church or Sunday-school within their reach, thus saving them the humiliation of becoming the recipients of charity, and giving them the discipline of labor, and the needy the advantage of their service. Sums, large or small, that can be used at discretion for these purposes are thankfully received.

Perhaps the most characteristic feature of Storer College is its effort to stimulate self-reliance among the people. It does not take young people, however worthy and promising, and educate them. It *simply* tries to show them how to educate themselves. It offers either sex a *home* in its comfortable buildings, at a merely nominal rent. It offers instruction in such branches as each is prepared for at a price so low that the poorest can meet it. It offers labor at fair pay to as many as it can find places for.

It has been the purpose of its managers, from the beginning, not to make paupers of any. It is a special source of satisfaction, after almost a quarter of a century of labor, that in this, at least, there has been a good degree of success. Storer graduates are not found in the great army of do-nothings, but are almost without exception among the workers.

The circumstances of those who have come to us have been so nearly alike that it has seemed wiser to use our means in bringing the school within the reach of all than in helping a select few, though an annual donation from the Free Baptist Woman's Missionary Society has enabled us to give some special advantages to the young women in Myrtle Hall.

Provision is made for students to board themselves, to board in small clubs or large clubs, doing their work themselves if they choose, or in private families, as may be best suited to their circumstances and habits of life.

EXPENSES.

The following brief extract from our last circular gives a fair idea of the necessary expenses of students.

Board in families, per month,.....	\$7.00
Tuition and room rent, per month,.....	1.50
Washing,	1.00
Fuel and lights,.....	.50

Thus the cost is \$10.00 per month. As young ladies in Myrtle Hall pay but \$1.00 per month tuition and room rent, and may do their own washing, their expenses need be but \$8.50 per month.

Board in clubs, per month,	\$3.00 to \$4.00
Tuition and room rent,.....	1.00 " 1.50
Washing,.....	1.00
Fuel and oil,.....	.50

This makes the cost from \$4.50 to \$7.00 per month. The cost of living, as will be seen, depends much on the habits and thrift of the student. Many of our most deserving young people have lived and done good work on less than five dollars per month. Room rent and tuition ranges from \$1.00 to \$1.50, depending upon the location. In each room is a stove, double bedstead, chairs, a table and washstand.

SUMMER BOARDING.

Almost fifteen years ago the venerable Dr. John Chickering, who was a frequent visitor and a firm friend of Storer College, suggested that our situation was so beautiful it might be practicable to use it as a summer resort. That remark started a new line of thought and effort. The next year one of the families that had come to educate the children concluded to make a beginning. Though the house was quite destitute of furniture, the rooms were large, airy, and kept clean. Visitors came, and were charmed by the surroundings, pleased with the bearing of the students,—who waited on them,—and sent for their friends. From year to year other buildings were fitted up and opened, till Camp Hill, which had previously been quite like a graveyard in the

summer, has become the center of life in the town, having all available rooms filled to overflowing with an excellent class of summer boarders. Several hundred guests come annually, and the number increases every year. This gives business to the town, and employment to a considerable number of the students, while the guests are sure of having intelligent, honest and faithful attendants.

Though the principal profit, thus far, has been to the people, it is becoming a matter of no inconsiderable financial interest to the school. The earnings of the buildings, without interfering with school use, for the year just closing, have been above \$900.

Some of them are to be run, in future, by a company of students, the profits to be divided between them and the school. Though this will require a considerable outlay for furniture, exclusively for summer use, and will be a severe tax upon the time and strength of some of the officers and teachers, it is undertaken in the hope that it will yield a larger revenue to the school, and give the students who engage in it a certain amount of business training.

The summer boarding, begun and carried on under the auspices of the school, has been the principal agency in bringing into the market certain portions of the school farm, thus rendering an indirect profit much larger than the direct. We are not without hope that some day some generous summer boarder may add liberally to the endowment of the institution.

THE BOLIVAR HEIGHTS FARM.

Purchased in 1867, through the foresight and liberality of Dr. Cheney, before the money was raised or the school chartered, and which has at times been a heavy burden on the hands of the principal, is proving an excellent investment. The sale of lots from it has already more than doubled the \$7,600 paid for it, and forty acres in house lots yet remain unsold. The profits have helped the school over several hard places, while many families have been aided in securing homes by the liberal terms given them. Though

nearly a mile away, the elevation of this farm brings it in full view, throughout its entire extent, of the west windows of the buildings represented and described in the following pages.

STORER COLLEGE BUILDINGS.

* To one looking west, the principal ones are seen as in the cut (from a photograph taken in 1889), and extend nearly north and south on the summit of Camp Hill, the bluff between the Shenandoah on the south and the Potomac on the north. The two rivers are in full view from different parts of the grounds and buildings, which face eastward toward the gap in the Blue Ridge where the rivers unite,—only a few rods away, though several hundred feet below. In the center is Anthony Hall, 130 feet long, built in 1881, toward which Dea. L. W. Anthony of Providence, R. I., contributed more than \$5,000. For the other thousands we were indebted to a host of friends, many of whom are now on the other shore.

The right wing antedates the war, though it has been entirely remodeled since it was the home of the superintendent of the armory, and, during the war, a hospital for sick and wounded soldiers. Anthony Hall contains a chapel, lecture room, recitation rooms, library, quarters for the principal's family, treasurer's office, and janitor's rooms.

To the south near the Shenandoah brink is Lincoln Hall, a three-story wooden building 40x75 feet, containing 34 double rooms for young men. We received over \$4000 toward the erection of this Hall, from the Freedmen's Bureau in 1870 and 1871.

Myrtle Hall, for young ladies, at the north is of brick, with a mansard-roof and, including those for preceptress and matron, has 35 rooms above the basement, which is used for cooking, washing, etc. The foundation of this Hall was laid in the faith and hope of Mrs. Anne S. D. Bates, by whom the first thousands toward it were solicited. After years of weary waiting, the work was taken up by our Woman's Missionary Society, led by Mrs. F. S. Mosher and others and carried on to completion. There are few buildings



anywhere that represent a larger ownership than Myrtle Hall. Thousands of children paid for single bricks, with nickels and dimes.

The same agency that completed the building has been the principal force in furnishing the means for making it useful since its completion. The building (hidden by the foliage in the picture) is 43x80 feet, a monument to the energy and efficiency of the Woman's Missionary Society.

The second cut is from a photograph taken in 1890 from the yard in front of Anthony Hall, the buildings being located eastward from those already described. The most distant, the Lockwood, which commands a wonderful view of the gap and confluence of the rivers, formerly the home of the treasurer of the armory, furnished quarters for missionaries, teachers, school and church from 1865 to 1868 and for the school till the beginning of 1870. In summer it is used for city boarders, in winter for students,—young men. The roof had been shattered by shells from Maryland Heights, while the four years' occupancy by officers and soldiers of the contending armies had rendered it almost innocent of doors and windows. The mansard-roof, with the ten new rooms, was added in 1883.

The next, which is less changed than the others, was the residence of a government clerk before the war, of a branch of the Sanitary Commission during a portion of the war, and was the home of the principal's family and the teachers, as well as of a dozen or twenty young women of the school, for many years after it came into our possession in 1868.

The Morrell House (showing the flag), half of which was added a few years since, was for many years the home of the model missionary and pastor, Rev. A. H. Morrell. It also afforded dormitories for from twenty to twenty-seven girls during those years of close quarters and hard work. There was always room for another at Bro. Morrell's. These three buildings, with the small cottage, occupy about five acres of ground.

A history of the work centering in Storer College would be scarcely worthy of the name, without special mention of

the late Rev. A. H. Morrell. The more than fourteen years of such efficient selfdenying service as few men are capable of rendering cannot be reckoned in money,—money will not buy it. It comes only as the offering of a great soul, wholly given to God and his cause. Those years of toil were a constant sermon from the text on his monument in front of the Lockwood, —“Who hath made of one blood all nations of men.”

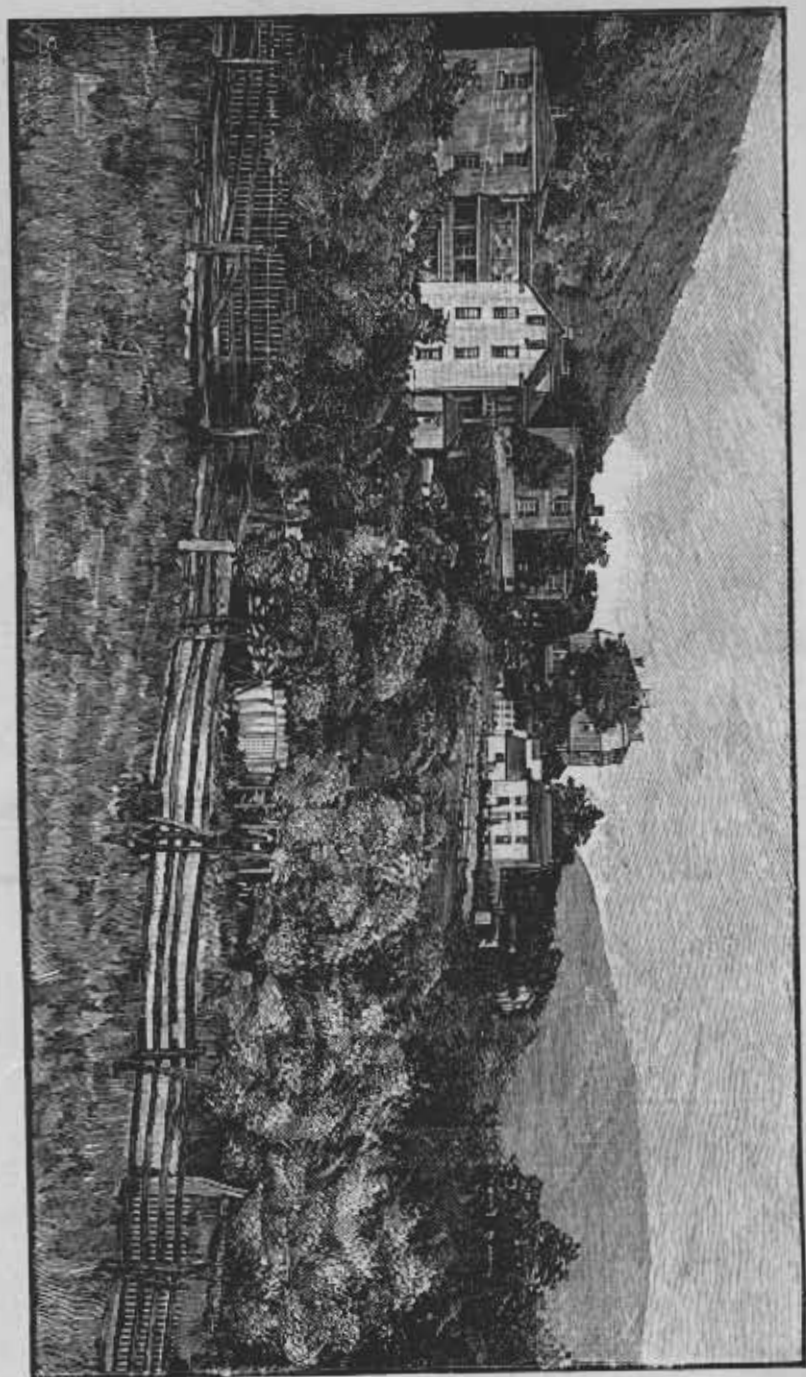


REV. A. H. MORRELL.

Mr. Morrell died at Irvington, N. Jersey, Dec. 24, 1885, and was buried at Harper's Ferry on the 27th.

CHURCH EXTENSION.

In the Southern work church extension should be a subordinate consideration. The number of churches any of the denominations except the Methodist and Baptist can afford to have under present conditions depends upon the annual outlay they are able to make in caring for them. We cannot save or lift up the people by an "ism" or an ordinance. They already have enough of both. They need missionaries and teachers who will not intensify denominational differences or magnify theological points, but who will teach obedience to the commandments—missionaries who are first and foremost the exponents and exemplars of a higher



life rather than of a sect. Intense sectarianism is certainly one of the serious hindrances to the progress of the people. Our appeal for aid has been the plea of humanity, patriotism, and Christian faith rather than of a sect. This plea ought not to need emphasis to Free Baptists in view of their record in that part of our country's history which has made Storer College and her sister institutions possible. Fred Douglass told the people at our Anniversary not long ago he was glad Storer was a Free Baptist school, for on the question of freedom and equal rights, while most of the churches had sometimes gone wrong, the Free Baptists had always been right.

Among the churches organized since Miss Anthony's paper was written is one at Lovettsville, Va., with a neat place of worship paid for in full; one at Hagerstown, Md., with a small house and a debt of a few hundred dollars; one at Pittsburg in need of a place of worship and another at Baltimore now making a heroic effort to secure one.

AN APPEAL.

We beg of all whose eyes fall upon these pages to remember that while we have a site unrivaled for healthfulness and beauty, buildings sufficient to accommodate a good number of students, a small endowment and no debt, we are still principally dependent on the gifts of the generous for the yearly necessary expenses of the school. To avoid debt, we have been carrying on the school for many years on a scale so economical as to incur the censure of many who did not understand the necessity, while vacations of teachers have been spent in various efforts to raise money.

It seems especially appropriate that Harper's Ferry, a name inseparably connected in history with that of John Brown, should be the seat of such an institution as Storer College. It ought to be so endowed by the generation of anti-slavery men that witnessed the death of slavery as to leave no uncertainty about its future. We firmly believe that money cannot be used where it will do more for God's cause and to help his people. We ask of those whom God

has prospered in the goods of this world, the means not only to carry on this work, but to enlarge it and make it more efficient. Some who cannot give largely while living may, like the late Mrs. Mary Mitchell of Maine, make bequests to the institution that will be an honor to their memory and a blessing to the world. The \$5000 given by her in bank stock and real estate securities is to be kept separate forever as the Chas. E. Mitchell Fund.

The example of the late Rev. J. L. Sinclair of N. H. is



REV. J. L. SINCLAIR.

worthy of imitation. Some years before his death he placed \$10,000 in the hands of the treasurer of Storer College, securing an annuity during his and his wife's life. In his will he provided that \$2000 more be added when not needed by his widow. Mrs. S. has already paid into the treasury \$1000 of that amount. The \$12,000 will be kept permanently as the Sinclair fund.

Is some one asking what is the most pressing want of the cause at Harper's Ferry? There are so many departments that need endowment, that it is difficult to answer. The plea

for the Industrial Department, first in the opinion of many, has already been made. To others it seems that the means to employ a successor to Rev. A. H. Morrell is the greatest want at present. A man who could give instruction in Biblical Literature to young men who have the ministry in view, and occasionally preach to the school and act as counselor to the ministers and churches in the vicinity, would find a field of labor, the importance of which cannot be over-estimated. Here is a chance to confer an inestimable blessing upon the people.

It must not be forgotten that not quite half of the \$20,000 for the Morrell Memorial Fund has yet been paid in to the treasury, or so secured as to be interest-bearing.

Bequests should be made to "The President and Trustees of Storer College, Harper's Ferry, W. Va." Checks and drafts may be made payable to the Treasurer of Storer College.

Donations made for a specific purpose will be sacredly kept for the purpose indicated by the donor.

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