

**EDUCATION OF AFRICANS.****(Circular.)**

**SIR—We take the liberty of addressing you on a subject which, we have no doubt, you will consider interesting to humanity. A proposition was laid before some of the members of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, at their last session, for the establishment of a seminary to educate African youth for the Gospel Ministry, by giving them a classical and scientific education, preparatory to theology. Mr. Mills, so well known as a zealous and successful missionary, interested himself warmly for the establishment of such an institution.**

**The subject has been long talked of among many enlightened and humane Christians: such a seminary has, however, been already commenced in the city of Philadelphia, among the Africans themselves.**

**In May last, a Board of Superintendants was organized, for the establishment of an institution of the**

**nature contemplated. A Committee was appointed to procure funds, by subscription among the coloured people, and ascertain what number of pupils could be had to enter the school. The Rev. Nathaniel R. Snowden, a graduate of Princeton College, and a pupil in theology of the celebrated Dr. Nesbet, was elected Principal of the seminary, which has been styled, Augustine Hall. Mr. Snowden accepted the offer, and, for a small compensation, devoted himself to this laudable undertaking.**

**On the 1st of June, the seminary was opened, with prayer, by the Rev. Absalom Jones, pastor of the Episcopal Church in this city, and the Principal entered on the duties of his office. The smiles of Providence have, in a remarkable manner, rested on our humble endeavours. Some Africans, who have no children to educate at present, have**

subscribed, and paid liberally for the establishment and support of Augustine Hall. There are already, though the seminary has been opened but one month, five remarkably promising African youth engaged in the study of the Latin tongue, English grammar, geography, &c. We had an examination, which was attended by a great number of coloured people, and several other respectable people of this city, among whom were the Rev. Dr. Janeway, Rev. Messrs. Jones, Allen, and others, who expressed very great satisfaction at the progress which the youth had made. The names of the boys are, Richard Allen, son of the Rev. Richard Allen, pastor of the Methodist Church in the city; Jeremiah Gloucester, son of the Rev. John Gloucester, member of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, and pastor of the African Presbyterian Congregation in Philadelphia; William Gordon, William Thomas, and Philip Perkins. Many more are expected soon to enter the seminary. Could the funds be procured, many, who are unable to defray the expense, would willingly devote themselves to the Ministry.

This is surely the true way to strengthen the African missions. Let youth, instructed in a knowledge of the original Scriptures, and in general science, be raised up, to display the banners of the Cross, from the mouth of the Nile to the Cape

of Good Hope, and from the Straits of Babelmandel to the mouth of the Gambia, where there are 50,000,000 of our fellow-creatures destitute of the word of life.

There have been combined in this city, many circumstances highly favourable to this object. Through the benevolent exertions of the pious of different denominations, and particularly of the Society of Friends, nearly all the slaves in Pennsylvania have been liberated. Many Africans possess very considerable wealth and very liberal views. There are twelve English schools, in which there are 500 coloured children acquiring the elements of learning. These will be leaders to Augustine Hall. There are three flourishing Christian congregations. One, in six years, has from six to two hundred communicants; and, on a late communion season, there were thirteen adults added to the same church. Truly, we behold Africa stretching out her hands to God.

We hope you will be willing to assist us in collecting funds for the promotion of this, which, we trust, you will consider a laudable, charitable, and pious undertaking.

*Resolved,* That this circular shall be published in the papers of those who are willing to insert it gratis.

JOHN GLOUCESTER, Pres't.  
JAS. R. WILSON, Sec'ry.

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