

the land is cleared." The soil in the immediate vicinity is not strong, but "well rewards the labour of cultivation." The principal exports are "rice, cotton, gold, and ivory."

The progress of the colony towards civilization, as well as its influence on the neighbouring country, has been checked by the bad materials partially employed in its composition, and no less by the disastrous effects of the slave-trade. Yet both have on the whole been such as to afford encouragement to the friends of African improvement. Sir James Lucas Yeo, indeed, who seems out of temper with every thing in Africa that is English, and determined that no colonies shall exist but on the Gold Coast, falls foul of the people of Sierra-Leone because they have not civilized Africa in a day. In his impatient eye the colony "is still in a most deplorable state:" and though he affects to praise the present governour, Colonel M'Carthy, he more than hints at the existence of "great abuses and mismanagements," with an obvious willingness that the colonial department should overhear. But other witnesses view things in a different light. The yearly reports of the Sierra-Leone Company, as condensed by Gregoire, inform us that the negroes in general are "pious, sober, correct, good husbands, and good fathers;" that "they give numberless proofs of their honest sentiments," and "enjoy all the advantages of a social state;" that they "exercise civil functions, and among others those of jurymen, with firmness, mildness, and justice;" that the Nova-Scotians, who were mostly Methodists and Baptists, worship regularly in their "meeting-houses," and are kept in order by "the inspection of five or six black preachers." One who has had access to the best authorities, says, "Civil laws are obeyed, the children are carefully instructed in the schools, and the people regularly assemble on the sabbath in different places for the worship of God.—The internal state of the colony improves every year, and its future prospects greatly brighten."

Nor has its influence upon the surrounding country been inconsiderable. Besides its successful exertions in opposing the slave-trade, it "has done much to introduce agriculture and some of the arts among the native tribes." The latter

"show an increasing disposition to cultivate their lands, and to adopt European habits of dress and living. The children of the princes and others have been educated in the colonial schools," and many of the natives are employed in the colony as labourers. The confidence of the tribes is secured, and the word of God is scattered among them in the English and Susoo languages. (*Greg. p. 147—151. Morie's Geog. Memoir of Paul Coffee Sir James Lucas Yeo's Letter. Three Numbers on African Colonization, published in the New-York Spectator for October 21, 24, 27, 1817.*)

## L.

THE American Colonization Society was formed in the city of Washington on the first day of the present year. The honourable Bushrod Washington is president. The Auxiliary Societies, in the order of their formation, are those of New-Jersey, Maryland, Philadelphia, and Frederick County, Virginia; to which I may now add the Society of New-York, organized the beginning of November. A sixth Auxiliary Society has been formed in the state of Ohio.

Under the patronage of the parent Society, the Reverend Samuel John Mills and Mr. Ebenezer Burgess sailed from Philadelphia for England about the middle of November. It is their object, after conferring with the English philanthropists, to visit different parts of the African coast, and gain all possible information respecting the fittest places for colonies, and the best manner of establishing and conducting them.

## M.

### AN ACCOUNT OF THE AFRICAN SCHOOL.

AT a meeting of the Synod of New-York and New-Jersey in the city of New-York, October 1816, "an overture was laid before the Synod by the Committee of Overtures, on the subject of establishing an African School.—for the purpose of

educating young men of colour, to be employed as teachers and preachers among the people of colour in these States and elsewhere." The business was referred to a committee, who reported in favour of the measure; after which the following minute was adopted.

"The Synod will annually appoint by ballot a Board of twelve Directors, consisting of six ministers and six laymen, who shall be empowered, under the direction of the Synod, to fix the place for the School, to collect funds, to employ a teacher or teachers, to visit the School, to dismiss or reprove as circumstances may require, and to superintend all the concerns of the establishment.

The Board shall appoint their own officers, including a treasurer, and shall make their own by-laws, which, together with their minutes and a general report of their proceedings, they shall annually submit to Synod. [It has been since ordered that five shall constitute a quorum.]

Those who are admitted into the School must come well recommended, afford evidence of talents, discretion, and piety, and be able to read and write."

The Board was then elected; and in the course of the year adopted the following regulations and plan of the School, which the Synod have since approved.

#### REGULATIONS.

*I.* The officers of the Board shall consist of a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, to be chosen by ballot for the year.

*II.* The President, or in his absence the Vice-President, by the advice of two of the members, may call special meetings of the Board.

*III.* The Secretary, besides keeping the records, shall conduct the correspondence of the Board, and give each member notice of the time and place of meeting.

*IV.* No monies shall be drawn from the treasury without a written order of the President or Vice-President, authorized by the Board.

*V.* It shall be the duty of the Treasurer, at the last meeting in the year, to present his accounts for examination.

*VI.* A Standing Committee of three persons or more may be chosen for the year, whose business it shall be to receive those who apply for admission into the School in the intervals of the meetings of the Board, to receive them at once upon probation, and provide for them till the next meeting of the Directors. [It has been since ordered that two of the Committee shall constitute a quorum.]

*VII.* There shall be two stated meetings of the Board in each year; one on the first Tuesday in May at Newark at ten o'clock, A. M. the other at the same hour on the day previous to the meeting of Synod, and at the place of its meeting.

*VIII.* All the meetings of the Board shall be opened and closed with prayer.

#### PLAN OF THE SCHOOL.

*I.* The School shall be under the immediate direction of a chief instructor, who shall be called the Principal. As many other instructors may be employed as occasion may require.

*II.* The usual term of study shall be at least six months, and longer if the Board deem it expedient.

The first year shall be devoted, as the Principal may deem necessary, to Reading, Writing, Spelling, and the definition of English words, but chiefly to English Grammar, Arithmetic, and Geography; the second to the principles of Rhetoric, Mathematics, Natural Philosophy, and Astronomy; the third to Theology; the fourth to the elements of Ecclesiastical History, the more important principles of Church Government, and the Composition of Sermons.

The exercises of public Speaking and Composition shall be kept up through the whole course.

*III.* It shall be the duty of the Principal, from the commencement of the course to attend with special attention to the religious improvement of the pupils, to converse

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frequently on the state of their minds, to give them familiar instruction on the various branches of Christian and ministerial duty, and to form them by practice to habits of devotion and usefulness.

*W.* The ordinary time of entrance shall be at the close of the fall vacation. There shall be two vacations in a year, of five weeks each; one beginning the day before the fourth Tuesday in April, the other the day before the first Tuesday in October. There shall be one public examination in a year, which shall be held in the presence of the Directors and others, on the second Tuesday in July, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

*F.* The Standing Committee shall have the charge of providing clothing, books, stationary, and all necessary articles for the pupils, of disposing of them in vacations, and of putting them to labour as far as shall be expedient and practicable. They may employ the Principal to execute any part of this trust. They are authorized to discharge the regular quarter-bills. They shall keep minutes of their proceedings, and submit them to the Board at every stated meeting.

*At the meeting of the Synod in October 1817, the following minute was formed:*

“Resolved, that a sermon for the benefit of the African School be preached annually, on the second evening after the opening of Synod, and that the Board appoint the preacher for that evening.

Resolved, that it be recommended to the congregations under the care of this Synod to form societies to support the African School.”

On the 25th of March 1817 the Standing Committee, after careful and solemn examination, received upon probation two young men who had come well recommended from a number of gentlemen in Philadelphia; viz. Jeremiah Gloucester, son of the Rev. John Gloucester of that city, and William Pennington; whom they placed under the care of the Rev. John Ford of Parsipany, Morris County, New-Jersey. These young men were re-examined by the Board in May following, and

taken permanently under their care. They still remain with Mr. Ford, and by their conduct and progress give fair hopes of future usefulness. By permission of Mr. Ford they have held a weekly meeting for prayer with people of their own colour, to whom they have become much endeared.

Several other young men have been offered to the School from different parts of the United States; but as they were not able to read and write, their reception was delayed until they could obtain these necessary qualifications. They wish their friends in every part of the country to understand that they are prepared, and very desirous, to receive such as will more. They hope not to be obliged to turn any away who possess the necessary qualifications. Will there not be a great effort made by the friends of religion and humanity in every district of the Union to look out for suitable young men to provide the means of fitting them to enter the School? Will not Auxiliary Societies be formed wherever there are a few who partake of the compassions of Christ, and feel for the sorrows of Africa? The field is great and almost insurmountable, and requires the combined powers of all the Christians in the United States through a long and patient application.

The Board have not been inactive. Last autumn they appointed the Rev. Samuel John Mills to solicit donations for the School in the middle States. They have since visited and organized him and Mr. Burgess to lay the object before the friends of the cause in England. They have written to the professors of Theological Seminaries of Princeton and Andover, requesting the co-operation of the young men, at least in vacation. Two of the students at Andover, Mr. Edward W. Hooper and Mr. Hutchens Taylor, have accepted commissions to solicit donations and form Auxiliary Societies in any part of the country which they may visit. No others have offered. They have appointed the Rev. Messrs. J. F. Huntington, Esq. and Henry R. Weed to perform the same duties within the bounds of the Presbyteries of Newton, Jersey, and on Long-Island; and they have empowered a committee to designate agents for the city of New-York. The

*J. F. Huntington*

these appointments is not so much to obtain donations, as to form Societies for permanent aid. And although the Board are desirous to see such Societies established among people of colour, as a means of grace and elevation to them, they can rely for support on nothing short of efficient combinations among the whites.

Considerable aid however may be obtained from the blacks themselves. Of the Societies which are beginning to be formed among them, there is one which deserves to be set forth as a public example. "The African Association of New-Brunswick" was organized on the first day of the present year, for the sole purpose of aiding the operations of the Synod. Every free person of colour pays 50 cents at entrance, and one dollar annually. Every slave must bring a written permission from his master, and pay 25 cents a year. Females are admitted, but do not vote.

This interesting Society have already paid into the treasury of the Board \$41 55, besides their part of the collection which was taken up when the sermon was preached before them, which, with the addition of 50 cents sent in next morning by a young female slave, amounted to \$4 15; making in the whole \$46 70 which the coloured people of a single town have given in one year.

I conversed with Peter Upshur the Moderator of this Society, and found him a man of sense and apparent piety. He is about 42 years of age, with an intelligent eye, a large and prominent forehead, and a general physiognomy indicative of vigorous intellect. He is a member of the Rev. Mr. Huntington's church, prays regularly in his family, is much respected by the whites, and exerts a benign influence over his coloured brethren. He was once a slave in Northampton county, Maryland. In 1737, when about 17 years of age, he ran away from his master and came into the state of New-Jersey. He was soon taken up, and having no papers to show, was cast into prison. For \$16, the cost of the process, he was bought out and held a slave for nine years. In this time, by working at night, he supported the expense of learning to read. At length by the interference of some benevolent per-

sons his old master was brought on from Maryland, who receiving \$100 gave him his freedom, Dec. 1, 1796. By serving nine years, Upshur had to refund the \$16, and more which had been expended in an attempt to detain him. He was obliged to pay \$112 50 for the freedom of his wife and bought his two children at the price of \$37 50. In twelve months he refunded the \$100 which his friends advanced for him; and in the course of 21 years has not only extinguished all the above debts, but has acquired property worth several thousand dollars.

The influence of this Society, combined with other means, has produced a great effect upon the coloured people of New-Brunswick. In none of our towns does the African church stand so high. Mr. Huntington, a man of an excellent character, is setting an example to all his brethren of faithfulness to the neglected people. He preaches weekly to two or three hundred of them, who hang upon his lips and look up to him as a father. He intends soon to give them, in a series of courses, a familiar exposition of the Shorter Catechism. To see their order, their union, their regular and decent attendance in the house of God, and their judicious management of the concerns of their Association, is consoling to all that waits for the redemption of Africa.

## MEMBERS OF THE BOARD.

## MINISTERS.

REV. DR. JAMES RICHARDS,  
 REV. DR. JOHN E. ROMEYN,  
 REV. DR. EDWARD D. GRIFFIN,  
 REV. JOHN McDOWELL,  
 REV. GARDNER SPRING  
 REV. EVERETT J. F. HUNTINGTON,

## LAYMEN.

COL. JOHN NEILSON,  
 COL. HIRAM SMITH,  
 JOSEPH C. HORNBLLOWER, ESQ.,  
 MR. JOHN E. CALDWELL,  
 MR. ZECHARIAH LEWIS,  
 MR. RENSSELAER HAVENS.

## OFFICERS OF THE BOARD.

DR. RICHARDS, *President*.     DR. GRIFFIN, *Secretary*.  
 DR. ROMEYN, *Vice-President*.     MR. HORNBLLOWER, *Treasurer*.

## STANDING COMMITTEE.

THE PRESIDENT,     THE TREASURER,  
 THE SECRETARY,     REV. MR. McDOWELL.

The Rev. Dr. Romeyn is appointed to preach the next annual sermon, and in case of his failure, the Rev. Dr. Richards.

## POSTSCRIPT.

The sermon has been so long delayed in the past that we have an opportunity to subjoin a notice of the *African Society of Newark*. This association was formed on the 23d of October, 1818. Eighty-eight names were recorded the first year, including a few which had been given in before. The original Constitution was then adopted.

I. This institution shall be known by the name of the *African Society of Newark*.

II. The sole object of the Society shall be to aid in the support of the African School established by the Synod of the North and New-Jersey.

III. Every free person of colour who consents to have his or her name enrolled, shall be a member of the Society, upon paying fifty cents at entrance, and the same sum annually. Every slave who brings a written permission from his master or mistress, shall be a member, upon paying ten cents at entrance, and the same sum annually. If a member shall neglect to pay for two years in succession, she shall be liable to be struck off from the list of members by the Standing Committee, and to be considered a non-member.

IV. None but male members shall vote on any business, any under the age of sixteen; and none shall vote until they have paid up their arrears.

V. The officers of the Society, to be annually elected by ballot and by a general ticket, shall be a President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and eight Assistants. The President, Secretary, Treasurer, and four Assistants together shall constitute the Standing Committee.

The President, or in his absence the Vice-President, shall preside at the annual meetings, preserve order, settle all questions, silence those who do not address the chair, and the name who shall speak first when two rise at once. The speaker to the subject, allow none to speak sitting down more than twice on a motion without obtaining special leave from the chair, prevent every thing personal or indecorous, reject unconstitutional motions, (subject howsoever,) and give a casting voice in case of a tie.

division. He, or in his absence the Vice-President, shall preside also in all the meetings of the Standing Committee.

The Secretary shall keep a record of the transactions of the Society, first taken down in their presence, read to them, and approved by them. He shall prepare and submit to the Committee the annual report, and give notice of the time and place of the annual meeting. He shall also record in a separate book the transactions of the Standing Committee, first taken down in their presence, read to them, and approved by them.

The Treasurer, before entering on his office, shall give security to the Standing Committee in double the amount of the annual rates. He shall receive all monies, either directly from the members, or through the medium of a Collector, (in which latter case he shall give receipts,) and shall pay them over immediately to the Treasurer of the African School, (taking his receipts therefor,) except when he receives a written order from the President or Vice President, authorized by the Committee, for sums to cover incidental expenses. He shall keep a general account of receipts and disbursements and shall open a particular account of debt and credit with every member; all which, with his vouchers, he shall submit to the Society at every annual meeting, and to the Standing Committee as often as they require it.

The Standing Committee shall have power to meet at the call of the President and on their own adjournments, to make their own by-laws, and to fill their own vacancies. Five shall constitute a quorum. They shall have the charge of obtaining new members by going from house to house, of collecting the rates of the members, (for which purpose they may appoint a Collector, but not allow him any compensation,) of procuring books for the records of the Society and Committee, and for the Treasurer's accounts, and of printing the Constitution and their own by-laws; and they may draw on the Treasurer for sums sufficient to cover the necessary incidental expenses, specifying in their order the precise object of the expense. They shall inspect the Treasurer's accounts at least once a quarter, and as much oftener as they think proper; shall fix and publish the hour and place of the annual meeting, appoint the orator, invite whom they please to open and close the meeting with prayer, and do every thing, not contrary to this Constitution, which they may deem necessary to promote the design of the association.

VI. The annual meeting of the Society shall be held in the evening of the second Monday in April, at such place and hour as the Standing Committee, by notices from the several pulpits, shall appoint. Ten male members shall constitute

a quorum. The meeting shall be opened with prayer. A committee shall then be appointed to examine the Treasurer's accounts and vouchers, who shall report at the same time. The Secretary shall next read the report of the Standing Committee, detailing the number of members, the names of those which have taken place in that number in the course of the year, the amount of monies received, of incidental expenses (specifying the objects,) and of payments made to the Treasury of the African School, within the year, and generally of the things the Committee have done since the last report. The rates of those members who have not already paid to the Treasurer, shall then be received. The Treasurer shall next read the names of those who have not paid, both male and female; and the males on that list shall not be allowed for officers. The officers for the year shall then be appointed. After this an oration shall be delivered by some member previously appointed by the Standing Committee; and the meeting shall be concluded with prayer.

VII. No alteration shall be made in this Constitution, without the suggestion of the Standing Committee, and by the vote of two-thirds of the male members present at an annual meeting.

#### OFFICERS FOR THE FIRST YEAR.

ADAM RAY, *President*,      THOMAS GUNNAUGH, *Secretary*  
DAVID RAY, *Vice-President*,      PETER PETIT, *Treasurer*

#### ASSISTANTS.

HENRY COOK,      LEWIS THOMPSON,  
JOHN OFAKE,      POSEY VERNALL,  
WILLIAM DAY,      BENJAMIN FRELEN,  
BINGO VAN BLANKER,      ROBERT M. RICHARDSON

The Standing Committee met on the 25th of February, and adopted the following *by-laws*.

1. The Committee will stately meet on the first evening in every month, at 8 o'clock after the first of October, and at 7 o'clock after the first of November.
2. The meeting shall be opened and closed with prayer, whenever a professor of religion is present.
3. Members who are tardy shall assign their reasons, and names of the present and absent shall be recorded, and absentees shall render their excuse at the next meeting.
4. At the opening of each session the minutes

meeting shall be read, to bring up whatever business was laid over; and a docket shall be made of the subjects which require attention.

5. All business shall be brought before the Committee by a regular motion made and seconded. There shall be no discussion without a motion, and every motion must be seconded.

6. A motion shall be reduced to writing whenever the presiding officer requires it.

7. When a motion is made and seconded, it must be disposed of before any thing else is done, unless an amendment, a postponement, or an adjournment is moved.

8. A motion for amendment must be decided before the original question is further discussed. When it is carried, the question returns on the article as thus amended.

9. A motion for postponement yields to nothing but a motion for adjournment.

10. A motion for adjournment arrests all other business, and must be decided without debate.

11. No person shall speak more than twice on any motion without special leave from the chair.

12. The officer who fills that seat must yield it to another while he speaks, or take no part in the discussion, further than to state the point at issue, and keep the speakers to the subject.

13. Every question shall be decided by yeas and nays.

14. The presiding officer has only a casting vote.

15. When a question has been once decided, it shall not be brought up again at the same meeting, except by a motion for re-consideration, which must be carried by two thirds of the members present. And such a motion shall not be made after any one who voted with the majority has retired.

16. No person shall leave the meeting without permission from the chair.

17. These by-laws, together with the Constitution, shall be read before the Committee at least once a quarter.