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A
SERMON,

PREACHED AT NEW-ARK,

OCTOBER 22d, 1823,

BEFORE THE

SYNOD OF NEW-JERSEY,

FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE

AFRICAN SCHOOL,

UNDER

THE CARE OF THE SYNOD.

BY SAMUEL MILLER, D. D.

PROFESSOR IN THE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY AT PRINCETON.

TRENTON,

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impulse must be excited, and the national strength called into action. Every heart, and every hand must be opened. We must feel that it is a concern, and a most interesting concern, of the whole American family, and act accordingly. Then, and not till then, may we hope, under the Divine blessing, for complete success. In this great cause every one may do something; and every one ought to aspire to the honour of doing all that he is able. The evils which the plan in question is intended to remove, are every day becoming more serious and formidable. Ten years hence, the means which might now suffice, will be altogether inadequate. Deeply will it be to be regretted if we should hesitate and cavil until it shall be too late to act!

The Seminary on behalf of which I address you this evening, and for the benefit of which a Collection is about to be made, is one, the object of which is nearly connected with all the interests for which I have been pleading. It is a Seminary intended to train up such young men of the Children of *Africa*, as may be of promising talents and piety, to be *Preachers and Instructors of youth* among those of their own colour, in the United States, and in the land of their Fathers. I need not enlarge on the desirableness or the importance of such a Seminary. If conducted as it ought to be, and, under such management as it is placed, may be expected to be, it can scarcely fail of being useful, and, we hope, eminently useful. Would not every Christian rejoice to see it sending forth a succession of Ministers and Schoolmasters, qualified to go among the old and the young of their own colour, throughout our country, and to become instrumental under the Divine blessing, in raising their intellectual and moral character? Would not every benev-

olent mind rejoice to see it preparing young heralds of the cross, and teachers of youth, to go to *Africa*, to enlighten and to bless that benighted continent, and eventually to become, as we may hope, the spiritual fathers of redeemed millions?

If the colonizing plan should be efficiently prosecuted, as I sincerely hope it will be, then more pains than ever must be taken to PREPARE THE EMIGRANTS for the new and interesting situation in which they will be placed. Unwearied exertions must be made to give them some degree of intellectual culture, and to impart to them, so far as means can effect it, a CHRISTIAN CHARACTER. For if those who become colonists have but little of either, how can we expect them to form a comfortable community themselves, or to carry the blessings of civilization and Christianity to the African world? Besides all the advantages of it at home, then, an Institution like that which we are called to patronize, seem to be an essential handmaid to the plan of colonization.

I am instructed to say, that this Seminary is languishing for want of more ample means of support; and that without some efficient aid, it cannot be expected much longer to live, and far less to flourish, and to yield those important benefits which we all earnestly desire. On the publick bounty, from year to year, it is entirely, under God, dependent. Let not its existence be a course of perpetual languishment. Either abolish it altogether; or support it as becomes AMERICAN CITIZENS, who sincerely wish well to our beloved country; as becomes BENEVOLENT MEN, who feel in good earnest for the wrongs of *Africa*; and as becomes the DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST, who really desire to see the blessings of salvation sent to every portion of the world.—My Friends, to your