

been drained annually of one hundred and fifty thousand of its inhabitants—And let us not repress the shameful acknowledgment, “the great receptacles of this unhappy race have been the West Indies and the United States. A million and a half are supposed to exist in our own free country!”

Nothing is too wonderful for an age of wonders. It is no uncommon thing at the present day, to find good men and bad, nations and individuals uniting their protestations against the cruelties that have for ages been so wantonly inflicted on the African race. Since the establishment of the colony of Sierra Leone, and the revolution in St. Domingo, it can no longer be made a question, that a brighter day is rising on this long neglected people. Few more ardently than Mr. Mills anticipated this glorious consummation. All his measures in behalf of this depressed race, seem to have been adopted and pursued with a kind of supernatural assurance, that the time was not far distant when the galling chains of African bondage should be broken, and, under the mild reign of the Prince of Peace, Ethiopia should be lifted from her degeneracy, and “stretch out her hands unto God.”

With the piety of the Christian, and the wisdom of the statesman, he early suggested, as one of the means of accelerating this work of benevolence, the establishment of a School, to qualify young men of colour for preachers and teachers to the African race. While he was lingering in New-York and New-Jersey, in the summer and autumn of 1816, he suggested and matured this plan. In his itinerations through

the states, he had been preparing the minds of many gentlemen of influence to favour such an establishment, and had received from them so much encouragement, that he was heard to say, that if only a treasury was opened at the north, it would be filled from the slave-holding states. Arrangements were made to bring the subject before the Synod of New-York and New-Jersey, at their annual meeting in October, 1816. It was suggested to him to write to his friends in the different states on the subject; and before the session of the Synod, a large number of answers had been received, containing many interesting facts in favour of the establishment. The matter was brought before Synod. A committee was appointed to examine the subject, some of whom when they went out, regarded the project as visionary and impracticable. But the extracts from these letters of Mr. Mills' correspondents overruled every feeling of opposition, and secured perfect unanimity in the committee, and subsequently in the Synod, who at the same session adopted a system of regulations, and formed the plan of the School.

This Institution is now in a course of successful operation, under the management of a Board of Directors annually appointed by the Synod. In their narrative of the state of religion within their bounds for the year 1819, the Synod say of this Seminary, that “They would gratefully recount the fostering mercies of providence upon that Institution of their own efforts and prayers, the African School. Since the last report, four additional pupils have been admitted, making seven in all, whose deportment and

proficiency have been such as to warrant the past expenditures of their patrons, and animate them to present hope and perseverance in this cause of Christian philanthropy; in the consummation of which, according to the tenor of prophecy, the destinies of Africa are to be elevated, and her sons introduced to the dignities and heirship of the children of God." The agency of Mr. Mills in giving existence to this Institution, is very affectionately acknowledged by the Directors, in their Report to the Synod in the year 1818, soon after the tidings of his decease. The extract is as follows:—"But while the Board refer to these encouraging events, they cannot pass over one which has filled them and many of the friends of Zion with sorrow. They allude to the death of him to whom, though his modest and retiring nature concealed his agency from the world, the praise really belongs of originating the African School, as well as several other institutions, which rank among the most important and beneficial in our country,* who died in the service of Africa. The name of Samuel J. Mills ought to be known to the churches, and to be had in grateful remembrance, while worth is honoured, and humble, disinterested, laborious piety is beloved. For a mind teeming with plans to extend the Redeemer's kingdom, wholly devoted to that single object, and incessantly engaged to rouse others to the same spirit, they fear they shall not soon look upon his like again. When Africa has lost such a friend, her helpless and

*The writer of this article knows that the formation of the American Bible Society may be traced to the suggestions of Mr. Mills.

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