

SOME OF OUR MANY SCHOOLS.

LELAND UNIVERSITY.

Leland was founded by Deacon Holbrook Chamberlain in 1870 at New Orleans, La., in the basement of Tulane Avenue Baptist Church. The writer has often been told of this good man's self-denial and self-sacrificing spirit when establishing this great institution for the Louisiana Negro Baptists and the Negro race. According to Dr. R. B. Cook in his "History of the Baptists in All Ages and Countries," it seems that Leland's first President was an acting President--Elder M. C. Cole. Then follows the line of Presidents from 1870 to 1914--Drs. Gregory and

Page 201

Barker; Professor Traver, and then it appears that Dr. Cole acted President again until the election of Dr. Edward Cushing Mitchell in 1887. Dr. George H. Felton acted President a while after the death of Dr. Mitchell when Dr. R. W. Perkins was elected President. At present (1914) Professor Alfred A. Earl is President. Although he has been there only a short while, he has thus far made a successful fight for a greater Leland and made many improvements.

Deacon Chamberlain wrought more than he knew. He has established this institution for us and gone on, but his good works follow him. Leland has been and is the Educational Mother of Louisiana Negro Baptists. From her walls have gone out some of the best and most serviceable men our race has produced--some of whom are: T. A. Walker, A. M., M. D., Professors Jonas Henderson, A. M., John Jones, W. O. Boston, Francis Boley, B. A., Alfred Priestly, A. M., S. S. Gray, A. M., A. J. Lagard, B. A., A. L. Yates, B. A., John Yates, B. A., J. S. Clark, B. A., J. D. Stewart, B. A., J. L. Crosley, B. A., J. M. Frazier, B. A., M. J. Foster, B. A., Drs. C. L. Fisher, A. M., A. F. Owens, John Marks, Taylor Frierson, C. S. Collins, B. A., M. D., A. H. Brown, B. A., M. D., Wm. Hicks, B. A., D. D., and scores of others too numerous to mention here. Through these and her other great sons and daughters, the power and influence of Leland touches every part of Louisiana as well as extends into other states and Canada. This school is beautifully situated on St. Charles Avenue. It comprises two large brick buildings and about 10 acres of very valuable land. It has an endowment of \$100,000 or

Page 202

REYNOLD'S HALL--GIRL'S DORMITORY, COLEMAN COLLEGE.

Page 203

more. Dr. Simmons (white) was Leland's first instructor.

Coleman College is easily one of the greatest Negro Baptist Schools not only in Louisiana, but in the South. It is beautifully located at Gibsland, La., on one of the most picturesque hills in the state. The ridge on which sits two three-story brick buildings; one two and a half story brick building; and two two-story frame buildings, is nearly a complete horse shoe made by the hand of nature's God. This institution is the life-work of Professor C. L. Coleman who founded it in 1888. Brother Coleman began practically with no house, but to-day the above mentioned stately buildings beautify the campus.

Valuation about 26 years ago practically nothing; today, its valuation is \$60,000, and it is the largest school in the state owned exclusively by Negro Baptists. Through President Coleman's influence and push it is supported more liberally by the white people of the North than any other school of its kind in the South.

It is supported by the following: The Home Mission Society of Boston; The Home Mission Society of New York; The United States Government Bureau of Agriculture; and by the Negro Baptists of Louisiana. It has been and is now doing untold good for the Baptist cause in Louisiana, having sent out many splendid young men and women. *Coleman College* emphasizes Christian training, not failing each session to lay aside books for a week or ten days, and engage in revival work, with wonderful success. Present Faculty: O. L. Coleman, A. M., President; J. D. Stewart, A. B., Associate President; A. L. Yates, B. A., O. W. Gray, C. R. Dickerson, Principal

Page 204

District Department; T. J. Jordan, Bishop P. B. Lewis, Mrs. M. A. Coleman, B. S., Mary Clay, Rosa Lewis, and Katie Smith.

Houma Academy, Houma, La., fostered and operated by the Fifth District Association. It was founded by this Association under the leadership of the late Dr. H. C. Cotton--a man of sterling worth and ability. The Academy's valuation is more than \$2,000. Professor A. J. Legard, B. A., renders excellent services as Principal.

Israel Academy was founded by the late Bishop H. C. Cotton. It is a large well equipped two story frame building. This school is fostered principally by the great church at Bell Alliance of which Dr. Cotton was the honored pastor for many years. Miss Philemine Joseph succeeds here as Principal. Valuation of this school is more than \$2000.

Minden Academy, located at Minden, La., was founded in 1905 by Bishops: J. R. Moore, P. P. Mellon, Th. B., J. M. Moore, A. G. McDaniel, and others of the North West Louisiana Association No. 1. Its main building is a two story frame structure situated on about 33 acres of good land. Total valuation \$3000. It is doing good work under (1913) under the management of Professor J. D. Johnson, B. S.

Mansfield Colored Industrial High School, Mansfield, La., is fostered by the North West Louisiana Association No. 2. It was founded in 1902 by Professor John H. Whaley and Trustees. It comprises both a boy's and girl's dormitory, situated in a valuable plot of ground. Valuation of school (1909) was \$5000 and still it grows under the successful management of its efficient

head, Professor J. H. Whaley, graduate of Straight University and a summer student of Chicago University.

Howe Institute was established at New Iberia, La., in 1890. The sons of Peter Howe of Wenona, Ill., who out of filial regard for the wishes of their revered father, placed this beautiful property under the control of the President of Leland University for a number of years. In 1904 they gave the property in simple fee to the school management, and added a handsome donation. At this time (1914) the Institute is fostered and controlled by the Sixth District Association. In 1905-6 the Association erected a splendid two-story brick building costing \$8000.

Professor Jonas Henderson, B. A., A. M., is at the head of this institution. He is one of the leading educators, not only of his state but of his race. For many years he was an honored member of the Faculty of Leland University, filling with credit to himself and denomination the chair of History and Mathematics. The writer being one of his old pupils knows personally of the worth and ability of this great man. His wife--a splendid woman and a graduate of Leland University, is matron of this school.

Leland Academy is located at Donaldsonville, La. In 1892, its Trustees made application when it became auxiliary to Leland University. Professor S. S. Gray, A. M., was at one time Principal of this school.

The Tenth District High School at Monroe, La., is in a prosperous condition under the management of Professor M. J. Foster, B. A. Its recent enrollment reached 208. At present it comprises a large two-story frame building, a smaller one

and a large plot of ground. This school is fostered and controlled by the 10th District Association. It stands as a beacon light in North Louisiana, and is accomplishing much.

Opelousas Academy was founded in 1900, by Bishop L. C. Simon, Opelousas, La. Its valuation was \$20,000 in 1911. This institution has a good enrollment and is doing splendid work under the principalship of Professor B. J. Hurd, B. A.

Central Louisiana Academy is the widely known school of the 8th District Association. It was established under the management of Prof. Warner R. Wright, Elders C. L. Roberts, H. B. N. Brown, Israel Thomas and others were with Professor Wright in founding and building up this institution. It has done a deal of good and lasting work in the central part of the state.

Cheyneville Academy was founded by Dr. C. L. Roberts with the assistance of his three local churches, and it has been operated with marked success, helping the Baptist cause in and around Cheneyville. It has been principalled by some of the race's strongest men: C. S. Collins,

A. B., M. D., A. J. Lagard, B. A., A. L. Yates, B. A., and Wm. Thomas. The present incumbent (1913) is Professor Charles A. Martin.

Bunkie Academy is beautifully located in the town of Bunkie, La. Professor A. J. Willis is the efficient principal. He is "on the wall," doing a great work for Bunkie and cannot at this time come down. He has enlarged the building twice and yet there is not enough room.

WOMEN'S WORK THROUGHOUT THE STATE

Almost every Association of brothers, from the Gulf to the line of Arkansas and from the line of

Page 207

ELDER C. W. BROOKS,
1136 Cherokee St., New Orleans, La.

Page 208

Mississippi on the east to the line of Texas on the west, has an Association of Sisters working by its side.

These Christian women have done and are doing much good in their respective districts. In the First District, the 13th and the Freedmen's the women are loyally supporting Old Folks Homes. In other Districts they are helping the brethren to foster schools.

I tried to get the work of these Sisters more in detail, but could not. It must be said to their credit that they have already won the blessed applaudit "Well done."

SOME OF OUR MANY SCHOOLS.

Thirteenth District Normal and Collegiate Institute in the city of Shreveport, is owned and fostered by the 13th District Association. It was founded as the 13th District Academy by Wm. Hicks, A. B., D. D., the Trustees of Providence Academy (who afterwards went into disolution); and President I. A. Carter and his Executive Board of the 13th District Association. The school afterwards took the name--13th District Institute at the suggestion of Bishop Hicks. Dr. A. M. Newman was elected Supervisor of Education; with Brother Hicks as Principal. The Institute got down to work. 13th District Baptists accomplished much during the 9 years of Professor's Hicks' incumbency. He opened the school in an old dilapidated dwelling house in 1894, which he soon moved back; converted it into a dining room and kitchen; and erected in 1899, a magnificent \$3,000 two-story structure. The enrollment in the Boarding Department

Elder C. L. Fisher, D. D.

Page 209

reached about 40, and of the entire school nearly three hundred, with a maximum annual receipt of \$2,000. Professor Hicks organized a School Land Saving Association composed of both his converted and unconverted friends; by means of which five lots on west side of the two already paid for school lots were secured as District property. During the successful labors of Dr. J. H. Henderson as Principal, 120 acres were secured (about seven miles out from town) and added to the school property; and also the Boys' Department was enlarged.

Other Principals who have served this school successfully are: Professors A. C. Capers, B. A., A. Letherman, B. A., A. Cheatham, B. A., and Harris Hamilton. The Institute is getting on nicely now (1914) under Professor J. E. Wilson. The buildings and land of this institution easily value \$10,000.

Benton Colored High School was organized in 1907 by Elders S. H. Ralph, L. Ford, S. W. Jackson, Z. Flenouy, W. H. Hall and I. S. Mitchell, Jr. Bishop Ralph has wrought well as Principal. This school is valued at \$1,000 and has an enrollment of 150. It is destined to do much good in this part of the state, being within the bounds of the Calvary Association.

East Carrol Normal and Industrial Institute is one of our schools in North East Louisiana. It is located at Lake Providence on 60 acres of fine land. This school comprises three buildings. It was founded in 1898 by Bishop J. E. Brunswick. Under the present efficient management of Professor Emmett Louis Washburn, B. A., it bids fair to do much good as the years come and go.

Page 210

Ruston Colored Normal Institute, Ruston, La., is one of the best Baptist schools in the state. It was begun about 1896 by Professor S. A. Williams and others. After Professor Williams' incumbency, Professor I. S. Powell was elected to the Principalship. That Professor Powell has succeeded here and done a great work nobody doubts. This school comprises two large two-story frame building situated on a nice plot of ground. The grounds and buildings easily value two or three thousand dollars. Some of our most brilliant Baptist sons have been connected with this school; prominent among whom was the late Professor William Allen, B. A.--one of the most scholarly young men that has graduated from Leland. He was brilliant, pleasing in manners, morally strong, and a teacher of whom all Louisiana Baptists were proud. But the Lord took him after he had worked here successfully only a short while.

Professor Powell did not make excuses here at this school; he made good.

Homer Industrial and Bible Training School was founded by Bishop R. A. Mayfield in 1898. A Board of Mission sisters and brothers assisted him in the organization. Elder Mayfield labored hard but with marked success in the establishment of this school. Having just graduated from the Ruston Normal Institute, he came to this almost forsaken field and threw himself into this work. As a result of his labors he has built up one of the best schools in the state, valuing \$3000 or more. It is one of the North Louisiana Beacon Lights. After the establishment of the school, Bishop Mayfield became President. The following have served as Principals:

Page 211

T. C. Compton, B. A., and B. C. Lewis, B. A. The Lord has taken professor Compton to heaven. He was a splendid young man--strong in intellect and morals. To know him was to respect and love him. After well done work at Homer, he accepted the principalship of the Junction Arkansas Baptist Academy, Junction, Ark., where he was doing splendid work when he was called away. The Baptists lost in his departure an efficient teacher, a loyal husband, and a devoted father. Homer Industrial and Bible Training School gives promise of a deal of future usefulness.