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Amherstburg, The Terminus of the Underground Railway

(Continued from Page 1)

The number of transients in Amherstburg must always have been somewhat of a problem for those engaged in any religious or philanthropic work at this place. The missionaries placed here by the American Missionary Society were driven to the greatest extremities at times when some unusually large incursion of fugitives made demands upon them for food, or shelter, for clothing and all other forms of assistance that could be rendered. In 1849 Isaac J. Rice, who had been located at Amherstburg since 1838, wrote to the Liberator:

"Whole families reach us, needing clothing, provisions, a home for a few days, until arrangements can be made for life, and all this amid strangers, the prejudiced.

"They are driven from schools in the States, they are no better here. If they go in schools by themselves, their portion of public money is allowed; but Canadians will not teach them, so that your teachers from the States must do it and aid them also about getting land and various other ways.

"Seven or eight missionaries are here, brought by my influence..... Last month three of us lay sick here and two were not expected for a time to live.... We have received at our house and clothed more than fifty from the South.... We need about \$400 this fall. We are \$100 in debt. We greatly need better accommodation, a house that will cost \$250 or \$300."

Less than a year later a letter signed by Milly Morse, of Foxboro, made an appeal through the "Liberator" on behalf of Isaac Rice and his missionary work. This letter speaks of his efforts as follows:

"He has suffered much in silence and given himself up for the good of the slave.... He has lived principally on bread and beans and without the means to purchase these."

The letter goes on to state that Rice had divided what he had with the fugitives until he was actually wanting for clothing. He had sold his watch and even his beds to buy food. He is quoted as placing the Negro population of Canada at about 20,000 with 3,000 of them located in the district around Amherstburg. He had clothed as many as 300 fugitives in one year and had 90 pupils in his school at that time.

(To be Continued)

Questions and Answers

(Continued from Page 1)

Have the West Africans any universities?

No. There are many mission schools, but no universities of the name. The West Africans have been agitating for a university for some years. At present the wealthier of the natives send their children to Europe to be educated.

Who was the African woman mentioned in history as the ruler of the island of Rhodes?

Polyxo. She was a native of Argos, in Greece and a descendant of the Egyptian colonists.

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