

American Missionary Association Work Among Negroes in Canada

(Concluded from last issue)

Teall was joined by Miss Mary Teall, presumably a relative. Rev. Mr. Kirkland reports that in the townships of his district there are between three and four thousand fugitives. There are four or five schools in which two of the teachers are colored but even at that from one half to three-quarters of the children do not attend school.

"Our settlement is rapidly enlarging," he reports. "The Fugitive Slave Law appears to be a dead letter in its operation, judging from the number who get safely to Canada."

Rev. Hiram Wilson, writing from St. Catharines, reports that he has organized a Refugee Slaves' Friend Society the membership of which includes some of the most representative citizens of the place. His report includes this interesting incident. In July (1851) twelve former slaves, of both sexes, were brought to St. Catharines by a North Carolina slaveholder and given into his care. Their master had died a year before and in his will had given them their freedom, leaving also some considerable property to be used for their benefit. Mr. Wilson also reports the arrival of over a dozen fugitives just before he sent in his report.

Difficulties encountered in carrying on the work in Canada are again pointed out in this report issued in 1852. "The missionary in Canada finds many whom he labors to bless who regard his efforts with great disfavor. There is a class of preachers and self-constituted collecting agents who, to retain their own influence, are laboring, some of them avowedly, to drive every white missionary from the colony. The influence of this class of men has been very extensive."

The report issued in 1853 also draws attention to the opposition to white missionaries which was added to by the misrepresentation of some of the colored preachers. The Mount Hope station was closed in 1852 as the Negroes had moved away from that district. The Kirklands continued to labor at New Canaan, assisted by Miss Lyon and Miss Mary C. Beals, a newcomer. Hiram Wilson was at St. Catharines, the Tealls at Mount Hope until it closed and Mary Shadd is also reported as working again at Windsor.

From this time on there seems to have been comparatively little growth in the Canadian Mission work. In 1853 only one school was in operation the teachers in which were Miss Beals, Miss Lyon and Miss Abigail B. Martin. The need for strong men is stated in the 1854 report but they do not seem to have been found. The name of Rev. David Hotchkiss appears most prominently in the reports from this date. He made his headquarters at Windsor for the next two or three years and then removed to Rochester, not far distant. He appears to have been closely allied with Henry Bibb's project of the Refugee's Home Society. His field was a hard one for Windsor had its full complement of small sects. The report issued in 1856 states that he has been preaching to small congregations at four places and that his wife has been teaching school. The next year's report gives details of serious trouble that developed. The house that he used for a church was burned following threats and when he opened up services in another house this was also burned. In the report for 1858 it is stated that Rev. Mr. Hotchkiss is now at Rochester where he has organized his church and his wife's school has nearly forty scholars. "There are numbers who cannot come to school for want of suitable clothing" says this report. "They are nearly naked."

The report issued in 1859 reports that Rev. Mr. Hotchkiss is located at Rochester but is also looking after missions at Little River, Pike's Creek

and Puce River, all in the southwestern part of the province. There has been a marked revival of religion and at Puce River there are 25 members with religious services well attended. This year Mrs. Hotchkiss had to give up her school work through failing health. The name of Rev. L. C. Chambers (colored) appears for the first time, with headquarters at Dresden.

In 1859 Rev. Mr. Hotchkiss and Rev. Mr. Chambers were the Association's two mission workers in the Canadian field. Chambers was removed to Ingersoll during the year, where there was a church of 45 and he also preached in London on alternate Sundays to a congregation with a membership of 65. Mr. Hotchkiss died Nov. 27th, 1859, aged 57, after nine years' work in Canada. The work under Mr. Hotchkiss seems to have grown. He required total abstinence from his members and was able to report 16 members at Little River, 22 at Puce River, and 6 at Pike's Creek.

The Secretary of the foreign department of the American Missionary Association visited Canada in the early part of 1860 and his observations on the Canadian work were printed in the March, April and May numbers of the American Missionary. The 1861 report estimated the Negro population of Upper Canada at about 40,000 "by the most reliable estimates." There was much that was deplorable in the condition of the fugitives. "They reach Canada almost literally naked, hungry, destitute and in want of all things." Emphasis is laid upon the need for more missionaries and more schools "for in many parts of Canada they are shut out from the public schools."

The opening of the Civil War disturbed the American Missionary Association's work seriously. Records of the Canadian field become more scanty until in the American Missionary for July 1864 there appears this significant statement:

"The mission among the refugees in Canada has been suspended. Its last missionary, Rev. L. C. Chambers is now sustained by the people among whom he labors. Some aid has been given and may be continued to sustain teachers there."

Interest Shown In Election of Johnson

(By The Associated Negro Press)
Chicago, Ill., July—Colored America looks with deep interest upon the trend of events in the great Northwest, following the election of Magnus Johnson, of Minnesota, to the United States Senate, succeeding the late Senator Knute Nelson.

Senator-elect Johnson has openly declared that he favors a law to prevent lynching, sponsored by the United States government. Being outspoken on this subject naturally appeals to the group. Senator Nelson's interest, although chairman of the judiciary committee handling the lynching bill, was only passive.

National political leaders have begun to realize that colored voters are doing their own thinking with regard to political conditions. At this time the majority of the voters among colored people are undoubtedly unfriendly to Republican administration. This feeling of protest has been expressed repeatedly wherever an opportunity, at the ballot, presented itself. It is known that Republican leaders are proceeding now along the line, having a tremendous task before them.

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