



President's House.

University.

Ashmun Institute.

Professor's House.

LINCOLN UNIVERSITY,
Oxford, Chester Co., Penna.

LINCOLN UNIVERSITY;

OR,

THE NATION'S FIRST PLEDGE

OF

EMANCIPATION.

BY

WILLIAM D. JOHNSON,

A STUDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY.

"Come back to the truths that are in the Declaration of Independence. You may do anything with me you choose, if you will but heed these sacred principles. You may not only defeat me for the Senate, but you may take me and put me to death."

ABRAHAM LINCOLN, 1858.

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generally are not able to pay the necessary expense of pursuing an education. How many of our noble young men, from this very cause, are now hampered or circumscribed by ignorance? Lincoln University proposes to meet this difficulty. In most colleges a scholarship covers only the charges for tuition; but here it includes the cost of board, instruction, &c. And the Trustees have borne at least two-fifths of the entire expense of all the students since 1857.

In view of the necessity and the time in which we live, no one can fail to see, that for the education of our people, these social and religious, literary and pecuniary advantages must place Lincoln University far in advance of all similar institutions in the country. And this is the result of its broad national character.

VII. NECROLOGY.

Rev. James Ralston Amos.

James Ralston Amos was a native of Pennsylvania. He spent the early part of his life on the farm, in the pursuits of which he was very industrious. Although he had but little education at this time, he was possessed of an uncommon amount of native good sense. He was a devoted servant of God; and became a minister in the M. E. Church. He felt an intense desire for education, and having failed in many attempts to secure it, he knew not what to do. Being strong in faith, he went to God in this time of need. He was seen regularly to approach a large stone near the present situation of Lincoln University, but then a secluded place, where he was accustomed to pray that a door of education might be opened to him.

In 1853, he wrote a letter to Rev. John M. Dickey, D. D., in which he described his feelings in regard to his inabilities, to perform with satisfaction the duties of the ministerial office, and implored the required assistance. Dr. Dickey says: "Such an affecting letter I never before read." It is much regretted that a copy of it cannot be obtained for publication. He was immediately accepted by Dr. Dickey, and entered upon a thorough course of study under that eminent divine, who was ever afterwards his most devoted friend.

While thus prosecuting his studies he attended regularly to his appointments as a travelling minister, walking a distance of twenty-seven miles each week.

Soon the plan for the establishment of Ashmun Institute was projected and carried forward. For a year he was engaged as an assistant in erecting the buildings, and afterwards as the first steward of Ashmun Institute. During all this time he prosecuted his studies with remarkable success. He kept constantly in mind the expressive maxim, that "The oil of gladness glistens only upon the brow of labor."

He graduated with the class of 1858. In October of the same year he was licensed and ordained by the Presbytery of New Castle, Delaware, and afterwards sailed a missionary to Africa, in company with Rev. Armistead Miller, and the present pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Monrovia, his brother, Rev. Thomas Amos, also a graduate of the institution.

Rev. James R. Amos and his companions arrived safely in Liberia, in the summer of 1859, and in a few weeks was successfully operating in his missionary station at Greenville, Sinou county. Subsequently he established a missionary station at Niffou, where he was the means of accomplishing much good. The following extract is from his letter to Rev. Dr. Dickey, dated Niffou, June 5th, 1861.

"We are happily situated in this place, and find it to be the greatest and most interesting field in Liberia. We are among the largest and most tyrannizing tribe on the coast; and they say that their tribe extends back to the volcanic mountains on the North, and to the waters of the Niger River Northeast. We have written the Board for advice in relation to exploring that part of the continent.

"Our school is full, we have twenty-four boarders, and the Sabbath-school is very large; the people come to hear the word of God. Morning and evening prayers find many in attendance. We have access to many thousand heathens.

"We have built a boat since we acclimated, with which we transport our goods and effects from Greenville. She is a most excellent sea boat. Thomas and myself have taken passage in her several times. She is manned with five

natives, one of whom is captain, a worthy and trusty fellow. The President and many others have given us the greatest applause for our adventure.

“You must know, that even never tiring perseverance and undaunted courage, without the special direction of the providence and grace of God, could never have accomplished what we have been the humble instruments in doing, in the last six months.”

It will be seen that the labors of the missionaries were not simply to preach the word, but also to open up the way for that great work. Besides a necessary acquaintance with the useful arts, it was found that a knowledge of the natural sciences was, to them, of much service.

While Mr. Amos was travelling as a missionary, he contributed some valuable accessions to the museum of Ashmun Institute, as well as other scientific collections.

In 1864, Mr. Amos was called to the United States, on business relating to his labors in Africa. He visited New York, Philadelphia, Reading, and other cities of the Union. While laboring temporarily in the Presbyterian Church at Reading, Pennsylvania, he died of consumption, only a few months from the time he landed in the States.

In the death of Mr. Amos, an important link of connection between two great continents was severed, and very many hearts were made sorrowful by the severe stroke of Providence, which removed him from labor to reward.

Mr. Amos was kind and gentle in his disposition, though possessed of much force of character. As a gospel minister he sought the salvation of all, but felt that his great calling was to seek the conversion and elevation of his own oppressed people in Africa; and the results of his patient and faithful labors in that benighted land, have enrolled his name with the most distinguished missionaries and pioneers who have visited that continent.

Mr. John W. Holm.

An extract from the Presbyterian Almanac for 1864.

John W. Holm, son of John W. and Margaret (Baron) Holm, was born in the town of St. Thomas, in the Island of St. Thomas, Danish West Indies, in the year 1837. While but an infant his mother and father died, and he