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A CIRCULAR

FROM THE

BOARD OF MANAGERS

OF THE

CAPE PALMAS

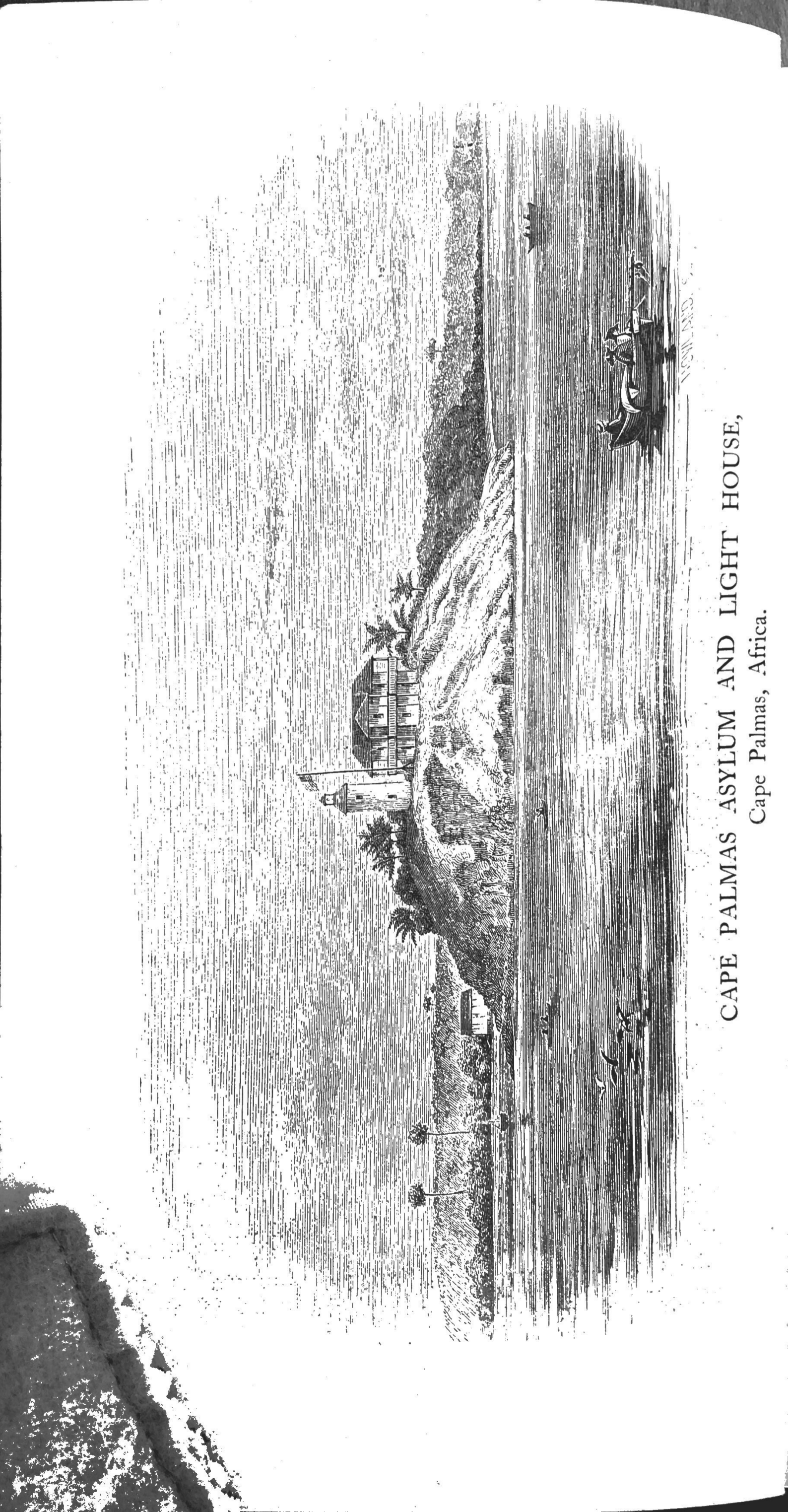
FEMALE ORPHAN ASYLUM,

TO THEIR FRIENDS AND PATRONS.

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CAPE PALMAS ASYLUM AND LIGHT HOUSE,  
Cape Palmas, Africa.

W. & A. S. 1852

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Female Orphan Asylum,

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1856.

CAPE PALMAS ASYLUM AND LIGHT HOUSE,  
Cape Palmas, Africa.



## C I R C U L A R.

WE desire to call the attention of all the friends of the Orphan Asylum, to the following interesting letters which have just been received; one from Mrs. Scott, who, with her husband, the Rev. H. R. Scott, has the charge of the Institution, and the other from Bishop Payne. They are both addressed to the Board of Managers, through their President. Mrs. Scott's letter is as follows:

Orphan Asylum, Cape Palmas, Africa,  
*July 21st, 1855.*

REV. ———.

Dear Sir:—Mr. Scott wrote to you a short time since, *per* barque "Cora," to inform you of the safe arrival of the articles shipped by her for the Asylum.

The supplies now on hand will be quite sufficient, we trust, for the needs of the establishment for some time to come. We have been trying to calculate exactly how long they will last; but we find that we cannot ascertain *certainly*, until we shall have all the children in the building.

On Monday morning, God willing, I shall open a *day* school in the attic; this, with one chamber, and the dining-room, being the only part of the Asylum as yet habitable.

It doubtless seems strange to our friends in America that the Asylum is so long being built; but they must recollect that large buildings must necessarily go up slowly in Africa, where the number of good workmen is so very small. We are now daily expecting a supply of plank from Sinoe, by the brig "Pierce." Should it arrive, the carpenters assure us that the house may be sufficiently finished for the children to move in during the month of September. I need scarcely say that *we* are very anxious to see this Institution in full operation, but we are obliged to exercise patience. Were I asked

what virtue is most needed by a missionary to Africa, I should answer, patience, patience.

We hope that the benevolent ladies, who support this Institution, will not expect too much at first. They must bear in mind that most of the children, who are to become inmates, have been sadly neglected both in mind and body. There will be much to *unlearn*. Some of them have acquired bad habits, which cannot be conquered in a day. Scarcely one of them is well acquainted with the rudiments of an English education. For example, one of the oldest girls—now living with us—came in yesterday morning, and said, "Mr. Scott, I *done catch all your fowls, 'ceptin three*." No necessity for teaching her the "ologies," and fine arts at present, you perceive. Only two of the number know anything about writing, and they know very little. When they shall have learned to write well, if you and the ladies have no objection, we will encourage them to write to you occasionally. It will be a very improving exercise for them. Most of these children possess, naturally, good minds; and, I doubt not, will acquire knowledge rapidly. The chief difficulty will be to make them acquire habits of neatness, order, and regular application to work and study. We presume the ladies wish, as we do, that these girls shall become proficient in sewing and housework, as well as in study; so that they may be qualified to fulfil all the duties of women.

We feel willing to endure much, and labor long, for the good of these children. Sixteen, or twenty, pious, educated young women, will prove great blessings to this new and struggling colony; and they may be instrumental in leading hundreds of heathen souls to the Saviour.

There is, probably, no place in the world where good teachers are more needed, than here. Many sprightly little ones are running idly about the colony, who need only judicious training to make them useful members of society.

The Orphan Asylum is highly esteemed of this community, most of whom are of importance of education, and anxious for their children, in future, will arise, and call this Institution indeed, in the sight of God, will be planned it, and equally blessed their operations.

August 13th.—The brig "Piercing plank for the Asylum. We move into the building in a few weeks, and feel much encouraged. With much respect, I remain, I

Rev. and Dear Bro.—It will how much behind this stirring Feb. 7th, sent by only reach hand the James so far posed much shall be Broth to the then end

Cavalla, near Cape I

[POSTSCRIPTS.]

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The Orphan Asylum is highly esteemed by the people of this community, most of whom are awake to the great importance of education, and anxious to obtain its inestimable privileges for their children.

We doubt not, that, in future years, many Liberians will arise, and call this Institution blessed. Blessed, indeed, in the sight of God, will be the noble spirits who planned it, and equally blessed those who shall sustain its operations.

[POSTSCRIPTS.]

August 13th.—The brig "Pierce" has arrived, bringing plank for the Asylum. We trust the scholars can move into the building in a few weeks.

August 14th.—I have now been teaching nearly four weeks, and feel much encouraged.

ANNA M. SCOTT.

Cavalla, near Cape Palmas, West Africa,

August 3d, 1855.

Rev. and Dear Bro.—It will assist you in realizing how much behind this stirring age are the present facilities for benefiting Africa, to learn that your letter of Feb. 7th, sent by Rev. Mr. Thomas, of the Jamestown, only reached me a few days since, and this by another hand than the one to which it was committed, said Jamestown not having yet reached the Cape Palmas, nor, so far as known, the coast of Africa. And now, I very much fear, that this will not reach you before your proposed public meeting in October or November. But it shall be ready for the first opportunity.

Brother Scott will have informed you that he removed to the Asylum on the 19th day of April. The building was then but partly finished, and notwithstanding our best endeavors in procuring materials from every accessible source, such is its condition still. Plank is wanting to lay the floors of the school-room, matron's and sleeping apartments, and lime to plaster them, and the same to finish the kitchen. Every hour plank is expected from

1\*

Since, one hundred miles up the coast, (it being impossible to get it at Cape Palmas,) while the time for plastering is—in African style, accumulating at the Cape. In the meantime, Mrs. Scott, determined to wait no longer, resolves to call the children selected for the Asylum together, and teach them as day scholars in the attic. Miss Alley, the teacher to be associated with Mrs. Scott, is still a member of our family, her room not being quite ready in the Asylum. She is an active, pious lady, and will do her duty faithfully, I am sure. The cost of the Asylum building, thus far, has been five thousand (\$5,629 12). The plastering is yet to be done, the piazza and lower floors of the Asylum and the kitchen floors to be laid, and at least \$1500 more, fully paid. I think it will require out-houses, and arrangements on the grounds, making the original estimate, and still less, This is far beyond the original estimate, and getting the vast expense to be incurred in procuring and getting materials together. I only hope it may not exceed even the generous anticipations and believe, however, that as we have had no motive to act in our power, so we are conscious of having done the best in our power. It may not be amiss, however, one of the building; besides the original cost of the building, the house has much increased the original cost of the building; and that is, that in securing a level foundation, however, it became a *three-story building*, besides the basement furnishing abundant store-room, there will be a great advantage in the end, since, there will be in it an admirable dining-hall. Under the kitchen, also, owing to the same cause, there will be a spacious cellar, suitable for stores of the family having charge of the Asylum. The current expenses of the Institution, (so far as

they can be ascertained before actual experiment,) may be thus stated:—

\$850 00	-	Salary of married Missionary
350 00	-	Do. " female Teacher
250 00	-	Do. " Matron
1210 00	-	* Support of sixteen girls, at \$75
	-	Contingent expenses, for improvement of
100 00	-	grounds, &c.
<hr/>		
\$2760 00		

We hardly think it expedient to send out ready-made clothing for the girls, except bonnets, shoes, stockings, and such things. Mrs. Scott just informs me, that most of the garments sent out by the "Cora" are too small, except for the youngest girls; and there must, of course, be always uncertainty about fitting clothes when made in the United States. Better, therefore, send out the material for clothing; and the *making*, while affording employment to the members of the Asylum, would constitute a part of their education. Of course, whatever may be contributed of ready-made clothing or materials for the same, must be placed to the credit of your Association, as so much towards the aggregate cost of the Asylum.

The only means of making the Orphan Asylum assist the Mission generally, as you suggest, that occurs to me, would be to have its inmates work, *e. g.* making clothes for the destitute children attending our Sabbath-schools in the Colony. There are, of course, many other orphans besides those whom it is possible to take into the Asylum. And therefore assistance rendered in the way here suggested would be very important. The ladies of your Association might here again contribute materials, and ready-made clothing to be distributed through the Asylum.

\* The estimate first submitted to you was \$50 per scholar-ship. This, with the advanced prices in provisions, both at Cape Palmas and in the United States, is insufficient. I have accordingly put down \$75. It rests with your Association to reduce the number of scholarships or not.



I like your suggestion to have the scholarships taken up by individuals or Sunday-School Classes. By giving appropriate names to the scholarships, *e. g.* the name of the Church, or of the Rector, whose school or members furnish the means, the interest might be increased, and perhaps the number of scholarships increased far beyond sixteen—the present limit.

For the *kind of clothing* needed, I must refer you to the orders which may be sent from time to time, by those in immediate charge of the Institution, but with my approval.

Since the date of your letter, our Mission has met with another bereavement, in the death of Rev. Robert Smith. And yet, I have never known anything to be attended with such marked benefit to the cause of the Gospel as that same mournful event. It appeared, for the first time, to arouse our native minister and assistants to a sense of their responsibility. At our monthly missionary meeting, which was held very soon after Mr. Smith's death, our Deacon, Clement Jones, delivered the address. It was upon the great commission. He dwelt particularly upon the promise, "*Lo, I am with you,*" showing that it was Christ's presence which gave efficacy to the Gospel anywhere, and *must give efficacy to it everywhere.* "The gospel itself," he reiterated again and again, "*is words, such words as I speak—as any one present may speak; and such as now God calls upon us all to speak.*" In the sudden death of our late Missionary, God commands us not to look abroad for laborers—not to depend upon them, *but to arouse ourselves to effort.* For what purpose have we received the gospel, if it be not to communicate it? And what have we done? For myself, I feel humbled before God that I have done so little—that we have all done so little. I am resolved to amend, and I call upon all others to amend also. Let every one do his duty in the station to which God has called him, and Christ will be with us too." C. F. Jones was followed by N. S. Harris, a native candidate for orders. This address was in substance much like the one

before it. Similar language was used by the  
ties, and teachers, at the late examinations of the schools  
in June. Nor in vain. Teachers and scholars so exerted  
themselves in the discharge of their duties, as to leave  
little trouble for the superintendents. Catechists and  
teachers, and older scholars, set themselves to the work  
of seeking out those who had been in the schools, and  
influencing them and their people to receive the gospel.  
In a number of instances, parties visited the heathen  
towns, caused the town drums to be beaten, called to-  
gether the people, publicly reproved them for past  
remissness in reference to the gospel, and extorted from  
them promises of amendment.

The foreign missionaries have not been less engaged  
than formerly, it is hoped, in prayer and in labor. And  
God's blessing has attended the efforts of his servants.  
In the past two months, *fifteen* adult heathen—grey-  
headed, middle-aged, and young, men and women—have  
received baptism, as many more are seeking this ordi-  
nance, and a *general* conviction of the truth of Christi-  
anity is openly avowed. A middle-aged man said to me,  
a few days since, "there was a time when the truth of  
Christianity was questioned, and there was quite a party  
opposed to it; but that state of things no longer exists.  
*We all believe it now, and will receive it ere long.* You  
have the proof of this in the number now applying for  
baptism."

A touching illustration of the power of Divine grace,  
came before me a few days ago. In a visitation to a  
neighboring town, I took with me a little slave boy.  
(Domestic slavery, you know, everywhere prevails in  
Africa.) I had noticed him frequently in Sabbath  
schools, and marked the intelligence and earnestness of  
his answers. He had sometimes, too, professed to me his  
faith in the gospel; and on our way, at the time I refer  
to, he said he was accompanying us because we were  
going to preach the gospel. But still I was not prepared  
for what I was about to witness. This was nothing less  
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preached, and the manner of the people, now, as too generally at this place, (*Wotte*), had left little to comfort me, except the consciousness of having done my duty. When I had offered up the concluding prayer, and was about to leave, to my astonishment, *Sako*, the little boy, commenced speaking. Stretching forth his hands, and with a countenance beaming with tenderness and interest, he said in substance: "You never can find true peace, until you shall have believed the gospel. The greegrees in which you trust are vanity and lies. Cut them open; will you ever find anything in them? Cast them away, and receive the gospel. Beware how you reject it. God once destroyed a town called Sodom, for the wickedness of its people. He may punish you, if you persist in your sins." He added many like words, and great was my anxiety as to their effect. His youth, and social position, I thought, must certainly call down upon him the indignant frowns of his audience. But no. As he proceeded, all around exclamations, "hanhte ne pede, hya; hanhte ne pede," (you speak the truth, child; you speak the truth,) were heard. And when he had finished, an old man, in confirmation of what was now said, related what he had lately heard in the native chapel at Cape Palmas, from *Hyano*, the converted demon-man of Cavalla, and declared his conviction that all must soon embrace Christianity. At the second village which we visited, *Sako*, unasked, again delivered his testimony, and with similar effect. On the way, I asked if his master interfered with his becoming a Christian? He said, "Yes; the last time I attended services on the Mission premises, he tied and beat me, and here are the marks," (and so they were,) "on my arms and body. But," he added, "I have no fear or shame about God now, as I once had. *In my heart I believe on him.*"

I could add much more, like this, in proof of interest in the things of God here at Cape Palmas, and other places. But time and paper fail. Please present my Christian regards to the members of the Orphan Asylum Association. Remind them, and the members of your