SOME FACTS

CONCERNING

The State Normal School

MONTGOMERY, ALA.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

HON. R. M. CUNNINGHAM--Governor of Alabama.
HON. I. W. HILL-----State Supt. of Education.
COL. H. S. D. MALLORY----------Selma, Ala.
HON. J. KIRKMAN JACKSON---Montgomery, Ala.
COL. W. B. JONES----------Montgomery, Ala.
HON. J. M. DAVISON----------Brewton, Ala.
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REV. NEAL L. ANDERSON, D. D.-Montgomery, Ala.

JANUARY, 1905

SOME FACTS

CONCERNING THE

STATE NORMAL SCHOOL

MONTGOMERY, ALA.

ORGANIZATION.

This school was established in 1874, by the State of Alabama. It was the first, and for many years the only school supported by a Southern State for the higher education of the Negro. Its Board of Trustees consists of the Governor and State Superintendent of Education, and six prominent citizens of the State.

CONTROL.

It is strictly a State school, owned and controlled by the State, and receiving no contributions from individuals. The Principal of the School has taught the colored race since 1870, and from the beginning has appreciated the importance of securing the interest and support of the white people in this work.

LOCATION.

It is in the center of the Black Belt of Alabama, with most ample railroad facilities, and with three-fourths of the colored population of the State within 75 miles of it.

ATTENDANCE.

It is giving instruction to over 1,000 pupils. While designed primarily for a Normal School, it has also industrial departments, where carpentry, blacksmithing, wagon-making, cooking, sewing, and dress making, agriculture, and horticulture are taught.

GRADUATES.

It has graduated 320 in the past twenty-two years. Of this number, twelve have died, sixty-four women married and house-keeping, 185 are teachers, four merchants, eight medical doctors, twenty-one farmers, one house plasterer, one each dentist, blacksmith, house painter; two in Government service, three book-keepers, eight dress-makers, two teachers of music, seven students in higher schools.

INSTRUCTION.

This School has left it to others to prove the capacity of the colored race for the so-called higher education. It cultivates depth and breadth rather than height—preferring the intensive to the extensive. Believing that the method of instruction is more important than the matter of instruction, it has avoided the extremes of both the colleges and the industrial schools, the results of which, in many instances have been very superficial. Judging by the results in this institution, the education of the colored race is not a failure, and we have

reason to look hopefully to the future. There is a long distance between the savagery and barbarism of Africa, and the civilization of the twentieth century. To span this distance we must build a solid foundation of elementary education. Its system of manumental training, including drawing and clay modeling, is such that the whole child is at school and all the faculties are developed through the hand and the eye. This cultivates accuracy and neatness, and develops creative or inventive power. Drawing, sewing, wood and iron working are taught to all the pupils, all these being considered a part of the general education which every child should have.

GOSPEL OF WORK.

The "Gospel of Work" is inculcated by precept and by example, and the students are continually reminded of the fact that the School is supported by the State, for the purpose of disciplining their minds, developing genuine character, and making them useful citizens. This discipline, or moral training, is considered by the Faculty as the most important part of education. As a result of this training, not one per cent. of those who have been taught in this institution have ever been arrested for any crime, and *not one of its graduates.*

RESULT.

This school was located at Montgomery fifteen years ago, against the protest of many of

its citizens. Its management and the good results of its teaching have been such as to disarm opposition, and make warm friends of some who bitterly, though honestly opposed it at first. During these fifteen years, through its students, it has reached nearly every colored home in Montgomery, and has been the most potent influence in lifting the people up to a higher plane of living. Montgomery, "the Cradle of the Confederacy," one of the most substantial and progressive cities of the South, offers one of the finest fields in the South for an investigation of the relations between the two races, and the results of education on the colored race. Here we find perfect harmony between the races. Most of the manual labor of the city is performed by colored men. White and black mechanics work side by side on most of the buildings going up in the city. Hundreds of colored men in Montgomery have bank accounts, and hundreds of homes having from three to six rooms, are owned and occupied by them.

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Further information concerning the school may be obtained from the President,

PROF. W. B. PATERSON,

Montgomery, Ala.

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT
ARCHIVES AND HISTORY
MONTGOMERY.