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HOWARD UNIVERSITY
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DOCUMENT 1. A REPRINT

Annual Catalogue of the Normal and Preparatory
Department of Howard University,
Washington, D. C., 1867

DOCUMENT 2. A REPRINT

Connecticut Normal School, Established at
New Britain in 1850

By

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These Studies, to be published from time to time, will comprise works of original research by teachers of Howard University and by students in the Department of History. The studies will also include collections of documents, bibliographies, and reprints of rare tracts.

PREFACE.

The first of the following documents (Document I) is a reprint of the first annual catalogue of Howard University. It is called the "Annual Catalogue of the Normal and Preparatory Department of Howard University." The original document is in the possession of Professor George William Cook, a Dean of the University. It is a paper-back booklet of fourteen pages, each $8\frac{3}{4} \times 5\frac{1}{2}$ inches. It was issued during September, 1867. In this particular copy, there occur several curious interpolations.

For example, some one has stricken out the name of Reverend Charles B. Boynton, as President of the Board of Trustees and substituted that of Reverend Byron Sunderland. Someone has stricken out the name of E. M. Cushman as Secretary of the Board of Trustees, and added that of Reverend E. W. Robinson. The same one has stricken out the name of Reverend Edward F. Williams as Principal of the Normal and Preparatory Department and added that of A. L. Barber. James B. Hutchinson, E. M. Cushman, and Reverend Charles B. Boynton have been eliminated as Trustees of the University, and Reverend D. W. Anderson, Reverend John W. Alvord and Honorable Hugh L. Bond have been added to the Board. Doubt has been thrown around the date of publication of this catalogue by adding at the bottom of the front-cover page "Sept. 1868."

The identity of the person responsible for these modifications is easily established. A comparison of the handwriting on the document with that in other records of that period, including a personal letter, forces us to the conclusion that Reverend E. W. Robinson is the one responsible for the notations. Robinson was the Secretary of the Board of Trustees from December 20, 1867, to April 9, 1869.

Why Robinson made these changes is not easy to determine. It is almost impossible to establish a sufficient motive. Was he attempting to make a catalogue published for the term of school which closed in August, 1867, serve as a catalogue for the year 1867-1868?¹ If so, why did he eliminate any one who was in office a part of that period and add others who, like the ones eliminated, were also in office but a part of that time? Why did he eliminate Hutchinson as a member of the Board of Trustees, who served from March 19, 1867 to March 2, 1868, and add Alvord, who was not appointed until May 4, 1868? Why did he eliminate Boynton who served from March 19, 1867 to January 11, 1868, and add Bond who was not appointed until May 4, 1868? Why did he eliminate Cushman who served from March 19, 1867 to March 2, 1868, and add Anderson, who was not appointed until April 6, 1868? Why was Barber made Principal of the Normal and Preparatory Department instead of Williams who served from May 1, 1867 to September 17, 1867,—especially since Barber was not appointed to that office until April 13, 1868? And finally, why did Robinson substitute his own name for that of Cushman as Secretary of the Board of Trustees? Robinson was elected Secretary on December 20, 1867,—too late for his name to appear in this catalogue which, as shown below, was issued not later than October 7 of that year.

Whatever the motive for assigning September, 1868, as the date of publication, it is evident that that date is incorrect. This first catalogue of Howard University was published between September 10, 1867, and October 7 of the same year. These limits are established as follows: First, on September 10, 1867, the Board of Trustees appointed a Committee on Catalogue. Second, this catalogue as published announces in its calendar the fall term "To commence on the first Wednesday of October, closing on the 24th of December,

1. No catalogue can be found for this year, 1867-1868.

1867." Third, every item published in this catalogue is in existence on or before September 10, 1867, while no addition made by Robinson, with possibly one exception, could have been correctly made on or before that date. The one exception is the substitution of the name of Sunderland for that of Boynton as President of the Board. Sunderland was elected to that office on that very day, September 10, 1867. Fourth, and most convincing is the fact that the expression "Washington, D. C., 1867" appears in print upon the front-cover page of the document.

Remember, therefore, as you read the document that it is an accurate record of the first session of Howard University—a Summer Session. Note, among other things, that Boynton is not the President of Howard University, but is the President of the Board of Trustees; that the preparatory course of study is not modern, but rather medieval; that the normal course is more modern. Bookkeeping, voice culture, physiology, and practice teaching are familiar subjects. Bookkeeping, let me suggest, is the germ of the Commercial Department, established in 1869; voice culture, the germ of the Department of Music, established in 1870; physiology,—to one who recalls that the first plan of Howard University provided for a Theological Seminary with a chair of physiology and hygiene in it,—appears as the germ of the Medical Department, established in 1868. Natural theology and practice teaching are self explanatory. A Theological Department was opened formally in 1871. More than a quarter of a century later, in 1899, a Department of Pedagogy was established.

In 1871, when the Board of Trustees reorganized the Theological Studies, it also reorganized the Normal and Preparatory Department. The latter was divided into a Normal Department and a Preparatory Department. The Preparatory Department continued under that name until 1906, when it became the Academy of the University. This was a change in name only. In 1919 the Academy was abolished and, at the same time, all secondary work in the University. The Normal Department, on the other hand, continued as such from 1871 to 1899 when it was divided into an English Department and a Department of Pedagogy. The Department of Pedagogy in 1901 became the Teachers College. Since 1919 the pedagogical work at the University has been organized under the School of Education. This is a school of collegiate grade and confers the degrees of A. B. in Education and B. S. in Education.

A brief statement concerning the file of catalogues at Howard University may be fitting. The University has issued an annual catalogue, with two or three exceptions, since its opening. No number can be found in the file for the year 1867-1868, or for the year 1870-1871, or for the year 1872-1873. There is some evidence to the effect that no number was issued during those years. The evidence, however, is not conclusive. For the two-year period 1874-1876 one number was issued, that in February of 1876. For the two-year period 1876-1878 one number was issued, that in March of 1878. At first the Trustees appointed a special committee composed of members of the Board to issue the catalogue. Later the President of the University, as a committee of one, issued them. Since 1910 a standing committee composed of members of the Faculty has been appointed from time to time by the President as a Committee on Catalogue. At present this committee edits material which is collected and passed upon by another standing committee of the Faculty—the Curriculum Committee. The material before published is approved by the Faculty.

The second document following (Document 2) is a reprint of an announcement of the "Connecticut Normal School, established at New Britain in 1850." This document is found in the records of Howard University and refers to the

work done in that school at the time the Normal Department of Howard University was opened, May 1, 1867. For convenience, I refer to the two parts of this document as A and B. A is a folder of four pages, each $9\frac{1}{4} \times 6$ inches. B is a single sheet $7\frac{5}{8} \times 4\frac{7}{8}$ inches, printed on one side. This sheet has been pasted to the folder.

This document (Document 2) is reproduced along with the first catalogue of Howard University for purposes of comparison. The schools differed widely in location and in student body. It is interesting to know, however, that, while Howard University was established for the education of Freedmen primarily, it opened with all white pupils—five girls,² daughters of two members of the Board of Trustees. Their names appear in the roster of students. They were Sarah S. Nichols, Lydia B. Nichols, Matilda A. Nichols, Sarah M. Robinson, Emily E. Robinson and Mary L. Robinson. When comparing the curricula of the two schools, note especially upon what subjects of study the emphasis was placed.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Alumni Catalogue of Howard University with list of Incorporators, Trustees and other Employees, 1867-1896.

Minutes of the Board of Trustees of Howard University.

File of Catalogues at Howard University.

2. Miss Emily E. Robinson and Miss Mary L. Robinson, living at present in Washington, D. C., inform me that the six persons named above were members of the first class rather than five of them only, as stated by J. B. Johnson in Historical Papers, 1895, page 18.