

Franckesche Stiftungen zu Halle

Brief von Christian Gottlob Teichelmann und Clamor Wilhelm Schürmann an das Komitee der ev.-luth. Missionsgesellschaft Dresden.

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Suggestions of Mrs. Feibelmann
& Schürmann
to the Society at Dresden.

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In reporting on their labours amongst and the state of the
Aborigines of the province of S. Australia, they stated that they
became daily more convinced of the necessity of forming a
separate settlement with the Natives, so that they might be as
much as possible removed from the injurious influence to
which the Natives were exposed by numerous unprincipled
Europeans, with whom they came more frequently in contact
than with any other part of the white population, and to
which the mind of a New Holland Aborigine more readily did
give way, than to the pattern of those who wish them to be
made useful members of the community. That however
in pursuing the realization of such a plan, they thought
it not expedient for the success of the gospel solely to depend
upon the assistance of the Government, as they should have
to take upon them in a certain measure the obligation
to answer the ^{generally sanguine} expectations of a mixed body
and for the success of such an
undertaking; and that however liberal a Government may
be in this respect, that ^{nevertheless the} Missionaries experience sometimes

a restraint, by which they see themselves obstructed, and whenever a failure of such an undertaking should happen, the injury to the gospel cause amongst the natives might be greater than the comparative benefit ~~from~~ ^{of} it;— whereas a christian society knows that the best planned scheme for the promotion of the Gospel solely depends in its success on the blessing of the head of the Church, and whenever the Society could establish an institution like this, and it should prove prosperous and successful, their claiming Government aid would have greater weight, and ~~less~~ ^{they} liable to be objected to.

1, Extract from ^a letter of the Dresden Society, dated August 30th 1839.

"We wish to know whether it might not be expedient to appropriate land in the neighbourhood of the town, where at the same time the Natives could be settled upon. Under the prevailing circumstances is the promotion of Colonization certainly beneficial to the Mission; some christian brethren from Saxony would gladly come to aid the civilization of the Aborigines. It is also important to know, whether not soon another station might be established, amongst another tribe who has not yet come in contact with Europeans, as there might be formed a settlement, upon which the Natives could be collected. The expence which necessarily would arise by the exploring of the practicability of the object, the Society is ready to undergo."

2, Extract from a letter etc. dated Febr. 22^d 1841.

"In answer to our wishes you have communicated to us your opinion regarding the appropriation of land, and the beneficial results which might likely arise from it for the Mission by its cultivation. — A member of our Society declared himself ready in consequence of your report, to present the Society with a donation of £. 100. for the purchase of land. In reporting this to you as a proof of the providential care of our Lord, we request you at the same time to look out for a proper place, and to purchase with the advice of judicious persons. — We cherish the hope that in transacting this business, you will use all precaution; for we are inclined to look upon it as the means by which our Mission gradually may be made independant from European support."

Mr. Teichmann intended to write to the Society, that he thinks two 80. acre sections would not be too large an extent of soil for the establishing a settlement, which is intended to locate upon aboriginal families and support them together with their teachers. He therefore says, that £. 1000 as the minimum sum will be necessary to make a beginning with, if the success shall be adequate to the ends. For besides the purchase of land, agricultural implements, cattle, erection of the necessary buildings, seed & other accidentals, it is necessary that the operatives must be supplied with a twelve months provision,

before they can expect any return of their labour. With no less a sum he would advise the Comite to enter upon such an undertaking, as with less means he fears it might prove a failure, and the cause of the Mission might easily be injured at home.

To the Comite at Dresden however the present Gentlemen would render a great service and highly obligate them by their advice and suggestions with regard to the said plan. Mr. Teichmann therefore begs most respectfully to lay before the present meeting several questions of his own upon which he is anxious to have their opinion.

- 1, Is it necessary for the preservation of the Aborigines of this province and for their more effectual christianization, that an institution ^{as the intended one} is established? — or does it suffice that the Missionaries confine their attention solely to the mental and religious instruction of the Natives?
- 2, Whether an institution of this kind can be so planned, that under the blessings of God it might yield a source of support for the Missionaries besides the Aborigines, so that by means of it the Society at Dresden in some measure might be relieved in supplying the Missionaries with pecuniary means?
- 3, Upon what scale this were to be done?
- 4, In what manner it could be executed?

Chr. G. Teichmann.