

Prominent Educational Correspondence

Correspondence between the Principal and Superintendent of the Rankin-Richards Institute, and the United States Commissioner of Education, Washington, D. C., and the Superintendent of Public Instruction of North Carolina, relative to the education of the colored people.

The reader will readily observe that the contrast is as great between the statement made by the Commissioner of Education and the Superintendent of Public Instruction of North Carolina, as the intelligence of the section of the country where the Commissioner resides is commendable over the illiteracy of the section where the North Carolina Superintendent resides.

Questions by the Principal and Superintendent of the Rankin-Richards Institute.

MAY 11, 1891.

HON. S. M. FINGER,

Superintendent of Public Instruction of North Carolina:

DEAR SIR:—I respectfully ask that you will send me your statement in answer to the following questions:

- First.* The whole number of colored people in North Carolina according to the last census?
- Second.* The whole number of persons of school age in North Carolina?
- Third.* The whole number of colored persons of school age attending school in 1889-90?
- Fourth.* The amount of public money spent for the education of colored persons in 1889-90?
- Fifth.* The amount of money per capita for each colored person who attended said public schools?
- Sixth.* The average length of said public schools in days or months?
- Seventh.* The portion of North Carolina where the colored persons of school age are numerically the greatest?

Eighth. Is the Superintendent of North Carolina required by law to visit the several counties in the State in the course of his official administration?

Ninth. Has the present Superintendent of Public Instruction of North Carolina visited, personally, all of the counties which now compose the Second Congressional District of North Carolina, including the County of Bertie, in the course of his present administration?

Hoping to have an early reply to the foregoing questions,

I am, yours very respectfully,

RHODEN MITCHELL,

Principal and Superintendent.

Answers by the North Carolina Superintendent of Public Instruction.

RALEIGH, May 13th, 1891.

MR. RHODEN MITCHELL, *Principal,*

WINDSOR, BERTIE COUNTY, N. C.

DEAR SIR:—For answer to yours of the 11th inst., written from New York, I respectfully refer to my report issued last December. If you have not a copy you can have access to one at the office of the County Board of Education, or of the Clerk of your Court, or at the Office of the Register of Deeds. All the questions that I can answer are therein answered. I cannot give you the whole number of colored people in North Carolina according to the last Census.

So far as the duty of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction is concerned relative to visitation to the several Counties of the State, I refer you to the statute. He has been trying to do his duty as best he knew how and has visited almost every county in the State, which he is really not required to do. And besides, he has sent persons to every county in the State to hold institutes and represent him. He thinks he has done his duty and complied with the law notwithstanding your intimation that he has not. He is required to keep his office in Raleigh. His first duty is there.

Very Respectfully,

S. M. FINGER,

Supt. Pub. Inst.

*Questions by the Principal and Superintendent of the Rankin-Richards
Institute.*

TO THE HONORABLE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION,

DECEMBER 23rd, 1890.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

DEAR SIR:—Allow me to respectfully ask that you will send to me a statement which will contain about the following:

The number of colored teachers now employed in the schools of the United States?

The number of colored children now attending said schools?

The whole number not attending any school?

The number of schools incorporated by the State, or of an advanced order, under the control of colored principals or teachers.

The whole number of colored children now of school age in the United States?

The number of graduates annually from the schools under the charge of said colored teachers or principals?

The amount of tax paid by colored men or persons, according to the Census?

The number of meritorious cases of benevolence known as colored persons?

Do colored persons prosper more where their race is numerically great, or where their race is numerically small?

Does the Census show that colored people have increased proportionally in the last Census over the previous one?

What is the whole number of colored people according to the last Census?

Do colored children make more or less progress, as they are near or remote from white children?

Would the colored children make more or less progress by attending school with white or colored children in the District of Columbia?

What is the aggregated number of colored persons belonging to religious organizations?

Has the accession of communicants to colored churches been greater or less the last Census or the previous one?

What is the aggregated number of colored communicants?

What is the whole number of colored preachers?

I most respectfully ask that you will answer the above questions at your earliest convenience and send to me a statement of the same.

I am, Sir, Very respectfully yours,

RHODEN MITCHELL, *Principal and Supt.*

Answers to Questions by the United States Commissioner of Education

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF EDUCATION

Mr. Richard M. ...

... colored children attending school in the several States, ... 1,622,522 colored children ... with one or two ... ored people in those States ...

The same year (1888) ... States. Doubtless many of these ... but supposing they were all ... 480,000 colored children between ...

The number of teachers in colored schools in ... which to base a statement of ... their greater or less proximity to white children, or by attending school with them in the District of Columbia.

The inquiries relating to miscellaneous and church statistics of the colored race according to the last census can only be answered when the results of the census shall have become known. It is suggested that application be made to the Superintendent of the Census for such information, as soon as he is prepared to make it public.

A table (A) is enclosed, showing the number of Universities, Colleges, Normal Schools, Professional Schools, &c., with the number of graduates in the school years 1888-89 for the several States. A copy of the Report of the Mohonk Conference on the Negro Question has also been sent you by mail.

Trusting that this incomplete reply to your questions may be of some service to you, I am

Very respectfully,

W. T. HARRIS, Commissioner.

INSTITUTIONS FOR THE COLORED RACE

	Universities, Colleges and Normal Schools.	Schools of Theology, Law and Medicine.	Graduates from Universities, Colleges, and Normal Schools in one year—1888-1889, mainly.	Graduates from Theological, Law and Medical Schools in one year—1888-1889, mainly.
Alabama,	7	2	39	8
Arkansas,	3	0	12	0
District of Columbia,	3	4	45	63
Florida,	1	0	0	0
Georgia,	6	2	12	22
Kentucky,	1	0	2	0
Louisiana,	6	4	12	0
Maryland,	1	1	0	3
Mississippi,	6	0	26	0
Missouri,	1	0	5	0
North Carolina,	9	4	26	18
Ohio,	1	1	3	0
South Carolina,	5	4	44	29
Tennessee,	9	5	69	24
Texas,	2	1	22	0
Virginia,	2	1	51	2
West Virginia,	1	0	12	0
	63	29	380	169