

United States Post Office,

County,
State of Raleigh, N.C.

Sept 27. 1890.

My Dear Mr Sawyer,

Your letter of 19th I rec'd on my return from Colorado yesterday. In reply, the A.M.E. Church is situated near the R R Bridge - adjoining Hillsboro St. Rev. R. H. W. Leak (Colonel) Pastor - about 8 years ago paid Sloan, Architect, of Philad., \$250. for drawings of a church estimated to cost \$6,000. It was carried up to above the first floor, the money exhausted, and the walls, (brick) covered. It has been standing so ever since. It will cost about \$20,000. After a hard struggle they got Leak out, and J S Thompson is now Pastor. He is very much liked here, one of the best colored men I have ever met. The church design is very elaborate, as fine as any white church in the city - and the congregation is a very large one, much the largest in the city.

United States Post Office,

County,

State of

188

having nearly 1,000 communicants - but they are much too poor to build after the plans. Thompson advises them to tear down and build smaller - but they are devoted to this building and will not consent.

I don't like to advise against a contribution in so meritorious a cause, but I must, in justice, say this, that a small contribution would be frittered away in maintaining the status quo - and a large one in just such extravagances as the \$250. for Drawings, because they know nothing of economical expenditure of funds. I think Thompson is an honest man - but no considerable sum ought to be put in anybody's hands for such a building who has no knowledge of building, and they have no skill. If you should elicit the sympathies of a man of wealth who was willing to do something to the extent necessary to success - advise him to place it in the hands of somebody

United States Post Office,

County,

State of

188

instructed to disburse it in proportion of completion
and it will undoubtedly prove a good gift well bestowed.
A small gift will be of doubtful utility, however bestowed.

Tell the Judge I have not yet rec'd the patents
for land on 29. Crested Butte. Colorado. but think I
have it now in shape in Washington. Slow work - is it
not? Gunnison region is not improving, looks much
like a wreck. All the projected R R improvements at Gun-
nison city have gone down. Smelter there and at CB has been
removed. Only the coal interest seems to be fairly pros-
perous. I am not yet discouraged. Over the whole face of
the Mtn from Durango line,

All well here - 3 weeks mail behind.

Yours truly,

W. H. Hoff