

Copied

Armstrong Academy, E. N. Nov. 18th, 1855 -

To the Board of School Trustees, and Council assembled.

Your Article of agreement between yourselves & the Domestic Board of the Southern Baptist Convention of Marion, were handed to me yesterday, by Capt. Robert Vail. After a careful examination of said Article, I think that you have thrown an obstacle in the way, which will prevent the continuance of the School, under the direction of said Board. And I as the Agent of that Board, knowing more about the affairs of the Academy, than any officer connected with that Board, must reject the 3^d and 6th conditions. And if the 3^d and 6th conditions cannot be altered. You will please to appoint a suitable person, to come and take the Charge of the Affairs of the Academy, as soon as convenient.

With all the Bills of expences, since this school went into operation, before me, and after a very careful examination of the same, I know it to be impossible to sustain the school if the ~~same~~ farm is not carried on by the scholars. The net profits of the farm, arising from Corn, wheat, oats, potatoes, peas and hogs, one year with another is about \$600. Besides this, the boys cut & haul all the fire-wood used on the place. Moreover there will be an additional expence of \$400, to be paid to a Superintendent, as the former Superintendent received his pay from the U. S. Government.

The objections which I have to the 6th article are as follows. A large portion of Missionary funds, are made up of the cents and dimes of the poor. And it is the Duty of every Mission Board, as an agent for the Churches, to appropriate the money to the best advantage. Now the Marion Board may be at great expence in sending a sufficient supply of laborers here, and according to the 6th Article, immediately on their arrival at the Academy, the Board of Trustees, may take it into their head to discontinue the school, consequently the laborers must return home without having effected any good, and the Board must be at the additional expence of paying their expences home.

In the place of these two Articles, I will propose the following amendments for your consideration.

as there is some foundation for such a charge I will explain the matter, and I am confident that every unprejudiced man will justify my course. I was suddenly imposed upon by a man, calling himself a Physician, and I employed him for a short time to teach school with the liberty to practice medicine among the Natives. He did so. He practiced medicine among the Natives, and in course of time, as he did not find it convenient to go great distances, he of his own accord, without my knowledge, invited people to come to the Academy to stay, and be cured. My wife and self bore this imposition as long as we could we had them here, with their horses, one or two weeks at a time, using my own beds, and bedding. I came to the painful conclusion, that we must put a stop to such, and concluded to charge every one who came to remain to be cured. The said old man came remained all night, as he could not see, I led him in and out of the dining room. I led him to his bed, when he was ready to go I had his horse caught, and saddled. He came again next week, and I did the same. He came again, and the Dr. invited him to remain and as soon as I heard that fact, I opposed it, and stated, that no such provisions were made by the Trustees, and that if he did remain that I would charge him. The old man handed me 25 cents, which I did not receive.

And now while I am on this subject, let us look at facts right in the face, and with the fear of Jehovah before our eyes. It is well known, that this Academy is situated on public roads, one leading east and west, and another north & south. Since the meeting of the Council last Nov. 1854, there have been no less than 1473 persons with horses entertained, Natives, Whites & Blacks. For the comfort of these Individuals I have had to use our own bedding I have only charged a few white men. Now I would ask in all candor, is there an Academy in the Nation, that does this? Is there one in the United States? Instead of being an Academy, it is a place of public entertainment. It is a piece of imposition, and murder on those in charge. And my wife now lying in the cold grave, is a monument to its truth. And should the Academy continue, it is a solemn duty which the Nation owes.

3^d No manual labor to be performed by the pupils except procuring firewood for the use of the Academy, except by the special written consent of the party of the first part, and in case such consent is given, the Superintendent and Board of Trustees to determine the nature & ^{extent} ~~extent~~ of such labor, and that a correct account of all expenditures be kept by the Superintendent, which shall be examined by the Board of Trustees, at the close of every fiscal year. And when approved by said Board, the amount of expenditures be presented to the Choctaw Council, and whatever deficit may arise, by not carrying on the farm, that it shall be made the duty of the Council, to make an appropriation to meet that deficit whatever it may be.

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6- That the Armstrong Academy shall be under the direction of the Domestic Board of the Southern Baptist Convention for a period of six years, and that either party to have leave to terminate the arrangement made by this agreement on giving six months notice to the other, and that at the expiration ^{of six years}, the same contract may be continued, by the mutual agreement of both parties.

If you consent to this change in the 3^d and 6th articles or the same in substance, you can send it inclosed, directed to Mr. Joseph Walker, Cor. Sec. Merion Ala. If not you will please return the whole to ^{me} by the bearer.

Mr Robert Nail informs me that two charges have been preferred against me, as Superintendent, As I was appointed to that office by the Board of Trustees, and Council, to them alone I am responsible for my conduct.

One is that I sent one of our pupils over to the store near here, to get a pair of shoes, and with directions to have the shoes charged to the boys father (Tunepeloma), I knew nothing about the boys going to the store. It was all done without my knowledge or consent. The affair is easily investigated, and I hope that it will be investigated.

The second charge is that I charged a Choctaw for remaining at the Academy all night. It is not true that I charged him, but

us, themselves, and the scholars, to take some measures to stop
such impositions. We have always felt it to be our duty to provide
for the Parents & friends of the scholars, the Trustees and officers
of the Nation, and people on business connected with the Academy
but no more.

You will please take the whole matter under consideration
as soon as possible. I sent to Texas yesterday for help, and
will expect, Rev. Mr. Postman of Bonham, on Tuesday night.
I have likewise secured two young ladies to attend to domestic
affairs, and sew for the Institution, who are now here.

Mrs Moffat. Died on the 14th inst. after a few days illness
her last labor was performed in school, from where she retired
to bed, which proved to her the bed of death. She died, feeling
that she had done her duty to your people. All who knew
her will testify, that a more faithful laborer cannot be found. She
truly did what she could. My loss is very great. But I humbly
trust that my loss is her eternal gain.

All of which is respectfully submitted
Your Friend
A. G. Moffat.

P.S. The health of our school is now good.

Read in the Senate
January 1840
Presently inserted

A. G. Moffat.
E. W. Allen