

Front of Letter: Mr. Hamilton Hill<sup>1</sup>

Oberlin Institute St. Lorain Ohio

Dawn Institute<sup>2</sup> October 21<sup>st</sup> /45

Dear Brother Hill

Your kind letter of the 10<sup>th</sup> has just come to hand and as Brother Wilson<sup>3</sup> is not here it falls to my lot to answer it. I am sorry I have not time to write you such a letter as I know you would be glad to receive, respecting the dear people in Canada in whose welfare you take such great interest, but as my duties are so manifold a laconic one must do for the present and when I get time you and the dear friends at Oberlin shall have a long and lucid one respecting the above we.

Blessed be the Lord his work is still going on among us, in a number have believe through grace. I was called yesterday to go 20 miles to preach a white young lady's funeral sermon, who died in the triumphs of faith. God was with us and the judgment alone will reveal the results of the day.

Tonight I am called to preach at a camp meeting 5 or 6 miles from this place among our white Methodist brethren, which has been in progress for several days and I hear there are many who have submitted to Jesus.

My brother pray for us and ask the church to pray also, for we need the power of the Holy Ghost that we may speak with the ability which God giveth this ministry and succeed in turning men from sin to holiness and from the power of Satan to God.

The institute<sup>4</sup> is in a better condition than ever before. We have now some 90 students and they are coming in almost daily. Two young ladies arrived yesterday and we have nowhere to put. It comes near to breaking our hearts today, when we had to turn away a man who applied for admission because we had nowhere to put him or food to share for him to eat. Brother Wilson and Hanson<sup>5</sup> have left on an agency and should they fail to obtain help, we must stop operations in few weeks for the want of food. But our hope is in God, we know, the gold and silver are his and the cattle upon a thousand hills.

You will please write to Brother Adair<sup>6</sup> for us immediately and ask him to forward the \$50 respecting which you wrote us. He had better send a cheque payable at Detroit or Cleveland, it will be as good as the cash to us and decidedly the surest way to send it, as it must come by mail.

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<sup>1</sup> Treasurer/Secretary of Oberlin College from 1841-1864 (Oberlin College Archives)

<sup>2</sup> Settlement at Dawn (near Dresden)

<sup>3</sup> Hiram Wilson was an abolitionist who attended Oberlin College

<sup>4</sup> Oberlin Collegiate Institute set up to teach African Americans in Canada (Oberlin College Archives) British-American Institute

<sup>5</sup> Josiah Henson abolitionist who went to Canada with Wilson to establish schools for free black children

<sup>6</sup> Samuel Adair, who was born April 22, 1811, in Ross County, Ohio to George and Margaret Ramsey Adair, was educated at Western Reserve College and received his ministerial degree from Oberlin (Encyclopedia entry by Deborah Keating, University of Missouri-Kansas City)

Please say to Brother Brodwell there is land enough to be had here and on very reasonable terms too, and that he can be well suited no doubt but that he had better come over and make his own selection as we might not suit him were we to do it for him.

We have no stand in this country so he could do but little at his trade here. We have a good country and he could do well I am satisfied were he here.

Say to Brother Geo. Whipple<sup>7</sup> that his letter has arrived and that he shall hear from me before long. Many catalogues came safely and we thank you for them. Remember us respectfully to your beloved family and the friends generally and be pleased to accept the same for yourself from yours with greatest respect

Mr. P Newman<sup>8</sup>

(Hamilton Hill Esquire)

PS I should like to have the Quarterly Review sent now. The money shall be forth coming as soon as I can get it. W.P.N.

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<sup>7</sup> On September 13, 1836 Rev. George Whipple was appointed Principal of the preparatory department at Oberlin (The Illustrated History of the Whipple Family in America, 1631-1987)

<sup>8</sup> William Newman<sup>1</sup> (1815-1866) was born a slave in Richmond, Virginia, but escaped in the 1830s. Attended Oberlin College between 1842 and 1843. In 1845, Newman was offered an appointment in Canada West from the American Baptist Free Mission Society. He arrived in the Dawn Settlement in June of that year, and was given secretarial duties within the settlement's executive committee. (<http://www.union-baptist.net/site/about-us/our-history/pastors/william-newman/>)