

Proposal by Messrs. Teichelmann and Schürmann
to the society in Dresden.

When they reported on their rural life and the condition of the Aborigines in the province of South Australia, they stated that they were increasingly convinced of the necessity to establish a separate settlement for the natives, so that they could be as far away from them as possible, due to the harmful influence to which the natives were exposed by numerous unscrupulous Europeans, with whom they came into contact more frequently than with any other part of the white population, and to which the spirit of a New Holland Aborigine was more likely to succumb than to the pattern of those who want them to become useful members of society. However, they considered it inappropriate to rely solely on government support for the success of such a plan, as they would to some extent have to take on the obligation to respond to the generally hopeful expectations of a mixed committee and the success of such an endeavor; and that, no matter how liberal a government might be in this regard, the missionaries would sometimes experience restraints that they felt hindered them, and whenever a failure of such an undertaking should occur, it could harm the cause of the gospel among the natives more than the comparative benefit of it; - considering that a Christian society knows that the best planned plan for promoting the gospel depends solely on the blessing of the head of the church, and whenever the society can rely on such an institution, and if it should prove to be prosperous and successful, its claim to state aid would carry greater weight and be less susceptible to objections.

1. Excerpt from a letter from the Dresden Society dated August 30, 1839.

"We would like to know whether it would not be expedient to acquire land in the vicinity of the city, where the natives could be settled at the same time." Under the given circumstances, the promotion of colonization from Saxony would gladly benefit the civilization of the Aborigines. It is also important to know whether another station could soon be established under a different tribe that has not done so. However, if they come into contact with Europeans, a settlement might be formed where the natives could be gathered. The costs that would inevitably arise from exploring the feasibility of the goal are ready to be borne.

2. Excerpt from a letter etc. dated February 22, 1844.

"In response to our request, you have informed us of your opinion regarding the acquisition of land and the positive results that could result from its cultivation for the mission. - A member of our society, based on your report, agreed to donate 100 pounds to the society for the purchase of land, informing you of this as proof of our society's providence. Sir, we also ask you to look for a suitable location and seek the advice of reasonable people. We hope that you will exercise all caution in conducting your business, as a means of gradually making our mission independent of European support."

Mr. Teichelmann wanted to write to the society that he believes there is not enough land in the 80 areas for the establishment of a settlement, which should focus on indigenous families and support them and their teachers. Therefore, he says that £1,000 will be necessary as a minimum amount to start with, if the success is to be sufficient until the end. Because, in addition to the purchase of land, agricultural equipment, livestock, the construction of necessary buildings, seeds, and other minor things, it is necessary for the operation to be provided with a twelve-month supply before it can expect a return on its labor. With a not insignificant amount, he would advise the committee to embark on such a venture, as he fears that it could prove to be a failure with less funding and the cause of the mission in his own country could easily be damaged.

However, the committee in Dresden would greatly benefit from the advice and suggestions of the present gentlemen regarding the aforementioned plan. Mr. Teichelmann therefore respectfully requests to present some of his own questions at the current meeting, on which he would like to hear their opinions.

1. Is it necessary to establish an institution for the preservation of the Aborigines of this province and for their more effective Christianization? - Or is it sufficient for the missionaries to focus their attention solely on the spiritual and religious institutions of the natives?
2. Could an institution of this kind be planned in such a way that it could, with God's blessing, serve as a source of support for the missionaries alongside the Aborigines, thereby relieving the society in Dresden of the burden of providing financial support to the missionaries?
3. To what extent should this happen?
4. In what way could it be carried out?

Chr. G. Teichelmann.