

Basel Mission Archives

"Rösler's Report on the Akim Middle School during 1885"

Title: "Rösler's Report on the Akim Middle School during 1885"

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Description: 21 students, 8, 6 and 7 in Classes I, II, & III respectively, A responsibility which has caused him many difficulties, that they have no proper buildings and so live in lower storey of the Mission House, which causes many problems. An examination held in May was so bad that the pupils sent a letter accusing the housefather of responsibility to the District Präses - he however refused to receive it, and they were punished. The housefather had been guilty of irregularity in the holding of lessons. He gives a list of subjects taught and hours devoted to them - History of Revelation 2, Greek 4, English 5, Geometry 2, (all taught by Rösler), Singing 2 (Mohr), Explanation of Bible Passages 4, Biblical History 2, World History 2, Geography 4, English history 2, Arithmetic 4, English 5, Ga 2, Writing and Spelling 5, Playing the harmonium each day. He issued a weekly timetable, which was taken amiss by both teacher and students as indicating that he did not trust them. In order to improve the morale of the school after several attempts to do so by speech and milder punishments had failed, he threatened expulsion to anyone failing Jos. Müller's next examination - and 5 were eventually expelled. Two students were expelled on grounds of misbehaviour - two had previously been expelled and then asked urgently for re-admission. The one had been drunken, the other had go to drunk also, on the occasion of his mother's death (Rösler regards this as falling into a heathen custom rather than giving in to the temptation to drink). In the end neither had passed the examination, and were therefore finally expelled. The second had been broken out in hatred against the Mission, and exerted himself to get the non-Christian pupils to leave the school, and had in fact largely succeeded. Looking at the school as a whole he has more hope for the two younger classes. They have entered straight from the Kibi school, while the oldest class includes several already in their twenties, and too old for school life.

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