

# PLANS OF VIRGINIA TO EDUCATE NEGRO

## More Free Schools and a Free Deaf, Dumb and Blind Asy- lum for Them.

Richmond, Va., Sept. 20.—Virginia is going to give further evidence of her people's solicitude for the colored man by establishing a number of new free schools and institutions for the race, prominent among which will be a college for negro deaf and blind children.

At the last session of the legislature S. Gordon Cumming introduced in the house a bill establishing such an institution. This bill was indorsed officially by the board of visitors of the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind in Staunton. The bill was passed by the house and went over to the senate, but in the scramble of the expiring hours was completely overlooked, and so never passed that body.

It is understood that a gentleman whose business is in Richmond, but who resides some little distance out in Chesterfield county, is ready to place at the disposal of the state fifty acres of excellent land, and two of his neighbors are inclined to add twenty-five acres each—making the total tract 100 acres—which they will deed to the state without charge for the site of the proposed school.

The movement originated with the state organization of the white deaf alumni of the Staunton school, at one of the conventions of the Virginia Association of the Deaf, held in Richmond some years ago.

The matter has been in the hands of a committee of the association, who have been diligently at work printing and distributing small leaflets of information on the subject to the past two or three legislatures.

Governor Montague was one of the prominent men whose interest was secured and who recommended the matter to the legislature in his last message.

This committee of white mutes has in its possession the names and addresses of more than 200 colored deaf and blind children in the state, with names of parents or guardians. Not only have prominent men been interested in the matter, but most of the newspapers of the state have also been approached and their interest and co-operation secured—many editorials having appeared at the time the legislature was in session, calling its attention to the need of this new state institution.

The matter will be before the legislature again this coming winter, when success will no doubt crown the efforts of the white deaf and blind citizens of the state, who have themselves received the blessed gift of an education of both mind and hand.

The site of the new institution is understood to be between Richmond and Petersburg and in easy reach of the "black belt," and for that reason alone of great advantage to the state is the matter of transportation of the pupils, the expense of which it will likely have to bear in the majority of cases. In this connection it may be added that in all the states that are educating their deaf and blind negroes, with the possible exception of one, the schools are under the management of white people solely, it having been demonstrated to be not only to the advantage of the state, but to its afflicted wards as well.