

The general design of the society, as first formed, is set forth in the preamble of the rules adopted. This preamble is prefaced with two verses from the Old Testament, and reads as follows:

Preamble.--Arise, shine, for the light is come, and the Glory of the Lord is risen upon thee, -to appoint unto them that mourn in Sion, to give unto them Beauty for Ashes; the Oil of Joy for mourning, the Garment of Praise for the Spirit of Heaviness; that they might be called the Trees of Righteousness, the Planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified. Isaiah lx, 1, and lxi, 3.

When we cast our eyes around and behold a rising generation, the greatest part whereof must live in ignorance, on account of there being no place of instruction near them, where they can be properly educated: Also when we behold the orphan left forlorn, and the children of indigent parents, growing up more like a race of savages than christians, becoming thereby useless to their country, to society, and themselves; we cannot help being sensible to those tender feelings which the Divine Being has impressed on our natures; as a spur to prompt us to lend a helping hand to succor and assist the destitute.

If we will look into their own bosoms, and consider the generous seeds which are there planted, that might, if rightly cultivated, ennoble their lives, and make their virtues venerable to futurity, surely they cannot, without tears, reflect on the many fine geniuses in the remote parts of this State, who are entirely buried in oblivion, through lack of education.

Our country calls, nay the voice of reason cries aloud to us, to promote knowledge as the first cement of a state, and conscience insists that it is our indispensible duty to instruct the ignorant in the principles of Christianity, the more efficacious to do which, - We whose names are annexed hereunto, have cheerfully entered into a Society, &c.

A List of the Members of the Mount Zion Society, Commencing January 9, 1777 and including 1784.

Adams, Francis	Buchanan, Robert	Barnes, James
Austin, Robert	Buchanan, John	Bremar, Francis
Armstrong, John	Brown, Joseph	Baker, Jesse
Allston, John	Brown, William, Sr.	Baker, Francis
Arthur, William	Brickin, James	Baker, Benjamin
Atwell, Ichabod	Boden, Nicholas	Bochonneau, Charles
Adams, Samuel	Boyd, William	Bried, David
Adair, William	Brown, James	Bruce, Robert
Alexander, Alex	Beard, Jonas	Brown, Richard
Abrahams, Ema	Boyse, Alexander	Bowen, William

From the file of Mt. Zion