

COUNTRY CLERGY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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open for a long time, but they were kept in repair. There was also a need of clergy near Philadelphia. Long after the Revolution the Church was weak. Mr. Kemper received no remuneration for this journey, only taking what was needed for its expenses. In 1814 he made a second journey. He was the Secretary of the Advancement Society, and, doubtless, a faithful one. The subscriptions of that day were very creditable. The missionary work of Mr. Kemper was voluntarily offered. He started on his second tour of observation, August 15th, 1814, and returned from his extensive journey on the fourteenth of the next December. The trustees considered the mission an effective and useful one. Mr. Clay's visit was in 1813. Bradford County had sent an affecting appeal to Bishop White for a missionary visit. Some of the dwellers in what were "then remote valleys" told Rev. B. J. Douglass forty years ago, sometimes weeping, "of the intense interest attending that mission of Mr. Kemper." In 1850 Bishop Potter established the North East Convocation, which nobly kept up the missionary spirit. A favorite gathering place of the clergy in those later days was St. Matthew's Church, at Pike, in the valley of the Wyalusing, in Bradford County, where Kemper's memory is still preciousy cherished. Mr. Kemper administered Holy Baptism to "one hundred and twenty-five persons." The Holy Communion was given to waiting souls, who had scarcely expected ever again to enjoy the blessed privileges of its reception. He preached where no clergyman of the Episcopal Church had ever before proclaimed the Word of God, and formed "several new congregations," while it was expected that others would be gathered. A demand arose for prayer books, and many souls were benefited by the public preaching and

private counsel of the clergy of the Advancement Society. Bishop Kemper stands high among these missionaries.

A kindred spirit was Rev. Dr. George Boyd, rector of St. John's Church, Northern Liberties, Philadelphia. This was the mother church of the parishes in the northern portion of the city, and it had great zeal in missions, and the parishes in Wilkesbarre, Springville, New Milford and Pike "owe their organization" to it. Dr. Boyd's life may be found in the volume on the "Early Clergy of Pennsylvania and Delaware." In 1816 Dr. Boyd was Secretary of the Advancement Society, but in 1819 Bishop Kemper was again corresponding secretary. In passing, Mr. Douglass notes that in 1815 Rev. Messrs. Milnor and Kemper alternated in a service in Commissioners' Hall, in Third Street, from March until June 18th, when a clergyman was employed to take up the work. In 1816 Mr. Kemper writes Rev. Jacob M. Douglass, who was acting for a few months as the acceptable missionary of the Advancement Society in Western Pennsylvania, that he is "much pleased with his proposal to visit the Western States." As the Advancement Society operated only in Pennsylvania, Mr. Kemper suggested a Missionary Society, especially of young men, to aid in more general mission work, to support Mr. Douglass for a year of Western work. In a later letter the same year he describes the progress of his plan, and says that Mr. Breintnall has acted as lay-reader in Adams County, and appears to have animated the people very much." He adds, "Muhlenberg was at Huntingdon, where there are many children to be baptized." He wrote Rev. J. M. Douglass again that the Episcopal Missionary Society was about to be organized. Mr. Douglass received a commission "which entitled him to the honor of being the first missionary of the