

HISTORY
OF
The Diocese of Central Pennsylvania,
1871-1909.
AND
The Diocese of Harrisburg,
1904-1909.

BY
*The Rev. JONATHAN W. MILLER, Rector Christ
Episcopal Church, Frackville, Pa.*

WITH AN INTRODUCTION
BY
*The Rt. Rev. ETHELBERT TALBOT, D. D., LL. D.,
Bishop of Central Pennsylvania.*

VOL. I.

FRACKVILLE, PA.
PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHOR.
1909.

1890, this Parish had one hundred families, one hundred and thirty-five Communicants, two hundred and sixty-one members in the Sunday School, a Church, Rectory and Parish House, valued at \$20,000, with \$2,300 of a debt. In 1895-6 the Church was newly carpeted throughout. By the year 1900 St. Paul's Parish had increased to two hundred and twenty-eight families, six hundred baptized persons, one hundred and sixty-two Communicants, one hundred and eighty-four members in the Sunday School, a Church, Rectory, and Parish House, valued at \$20,000, and free of debt. After having labored faithfully in this part of God's vineyard for almost thirty years, on Wednesday evening, January 30th, 1907, The Rev. Dr. Clerc passed peacefully to his reward in the Paradise of God. This left St. Paul's vacant. During the Conventional year 1907-8 The Rev. Franklin T. Eastment became Rector, and continues to the present.

PIKE—St. Matthew's Church.—As far back as 1814 this Mission was admitted into union with the Convention of the Diocese of Pennsylvania. And the Church building was erected in 1817. Prior to September, 1874, St. Matthew's had been vacant for about three years. On the above date The Rev. George P. Hopkins took charge. The few Church people were, at this time, scattered and the Mission in a very weak condition. In the spring of 1875 a Church of England man, living ten miles from Pike, walked all that distance to attend a Sunday service. An effort was made, at this time, to organize a Sunday School, but the children were few and scattered. During the Conventional year 1875-6 an organ was purchased, and a choir organized. Some improvements were made to the Church during the year 1876-7. In 1880 this Mission had nineteen families, twenty-seven baptized persons, twenty-six Communicants, twenty-nine members in the Sunday School, and a Church. On May 31st, 1883, the Rector had this to say of the work here: "Our great difficulty is the removal of parishioners to other parts, while but few come to us. We suffer also from skeptical tendencies, and from lukewarmness and indifference in quarters and among persons from whom better things might be expected, but we still rejoice in the faithful few remaining in our midst." This was the first organized Episcopal Parish in

this part of the State, its charter dating back to the year 1817. In the winters of 1884-5 and 1886-7 the services were very much interrupted by bad roads and the severity of the weather. The Archdeaconry of Scranton met in this Parish on September 26th and 27th, 1889, which proved a great inspiration to this handful of Church people. May 31st, 1890, St. Matthew's Church had eight families, twenty-five baptized persons, eighteen Communicants, and a Church, valued at \$4,000. In 1892 an effort was made to unite St. Matthew's with Tunkhannock and Springville, under one Missionary. During the summer of 1893 some repairs were made to the Church, but as these became more extensive than was at first expected, they were not completed until in the spring of 1894. The work having been completed, the opening service was held on Tuesday morning, April 10th. After serving this Mission faithfully about twenty-five years, The Rev. Mr. Hopkins resigned in 1899, and from this time nothing further has been done here.

PITTSTON—*St. James' Church*.—This Parish was admitted into union with the Convention of the Diocese of Pennsylvania on November 12th, 1849. From May, 1871, until January 14th, 1872, St. James' was vacant. Upon this latter date The Rev. John K. Karcher became Rector. During this interregnum there were occasional services by visiting Clergymen, and the Sunday School was kept up regularly. After continuing at the head of St. James' Parish for about two years, The Rev. Mr. Karcher resigned. From this time the Parish was vacant until The Rev. George C. Foley took charge, during the Conventional year 1875-6. The following year (1876-7) the lecture room was refitted at a cost of six hundred and seventeen dollars and twenty-eight cents. Having served this Parish until Easter, 1879, The Rev. Mr. Foley resigned, and was succeeded, in the following winter, by The Rev. George H. Kirkland. In 1880 this Parish had one hundred and sixty-seven families, one hundred and thirty-three Communicants, one hundred and sixty-six members in the Sunday School, and a Church. During the winter of 1881-2 an epidemic of smallpox closed all services for a considerable time. At this time St. James' Parish included both East and West Pittston, separated by the Susquehanna