

**HISTORY OF THE MISSION
HOUSE OF THE PROTESTANT
EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE
UNITED STATES**

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History of the Mission House of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States by
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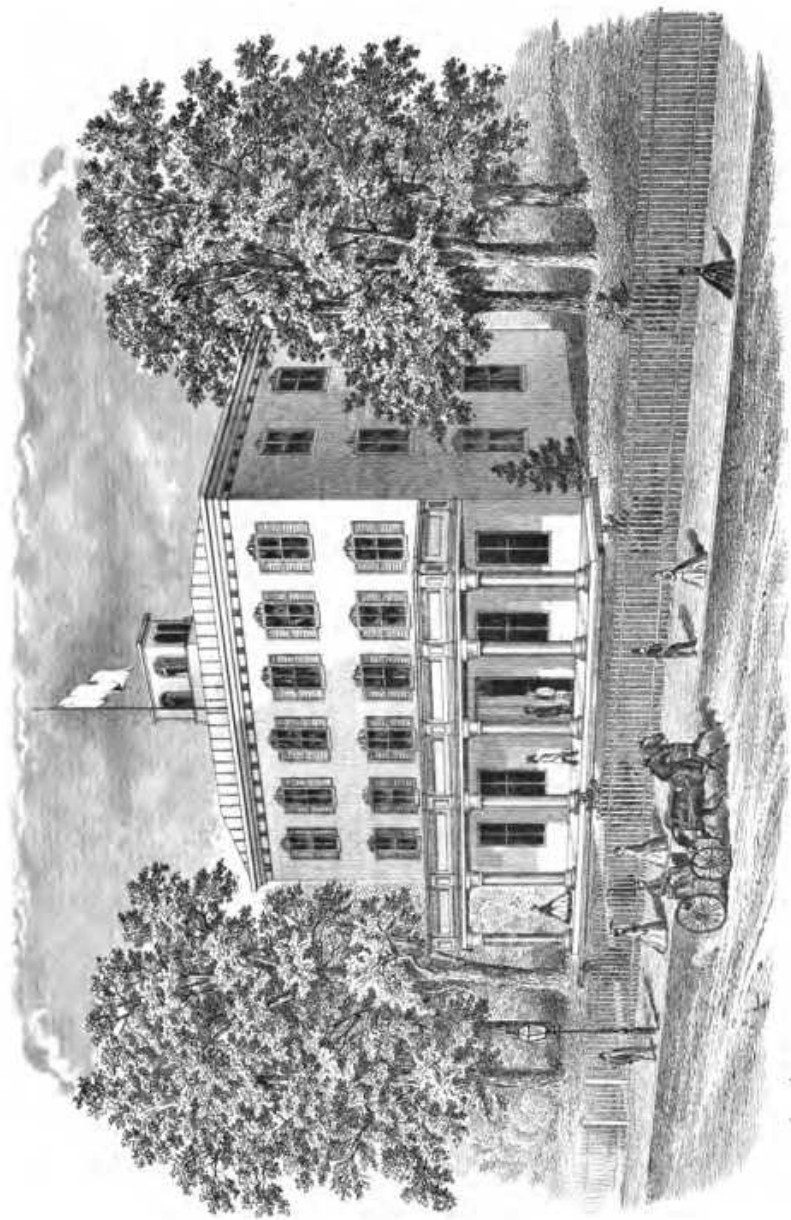
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CHARLES B. DURBOROW

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HOUSE OF THE PROTESTANT
EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE
UNITED STATES**



R. F. FOREIGN MISSION HOUSE, WEST PHILADELPHIA, PA.

HISTORY
OF THE
MISSION HOUSE

OF THE
PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH, IN THE
UNITED STATES. —

PRINTED WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS.

MISSION HOUSE LOCATED IN W. PHILADELPHIA,
No. 3518 Lancaster Avenue.

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TREASURER,
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HISTORY OF THE MISSION HOUSE

OF THE

Protestant Episcopal Church.

NTIL a comparatively recent period the supply of Missionaries for the Foreign field, was drawn from students educated at the Theological Seminaries in the course of studies designed to prepare them for parochial ministrations; or from the ranks of the clergy already in Holy Orders, who had not, at the time of their ordination, entertained the idea of preaching the gospel to the heathen in foreign lands. Within a few years, however, the inadequacy of the supply, and the unfitness of some who were willing to serve, has aroused the friends of foreign missions to the urgent necessity of taking proper steps to increase the number of foreign missionaries; and to give them, beforehand, that special training which would fit them to labor successfully in their respective fields.

Two plans were suggested: one, the foundation at each Divinity School, of a Professorship of Missionary Training; the other, the establishment of a special institution, to give the requisite education and training to the young men in whose hearts God's Holy Spirit might implant a desire to go abroad, and preach the Gospel of His Blessed Son to the benighted and perishing heathen.

On this latter plan this institution was organized. It recognizes as a fundamental basis, the idea that men designed to engage in a *special Missionary work* like that of the foreign field,—*require special training*.

Although such an institution, before this organization was completed, was wholly unknown in the United States, the abundant success which had attended similar institutions in Europe, made it evident that it was by far the most feasible plan. The Missionary College at Basle, Switzerland, founded about fifty years since, is engaged in educating men to be foreign Missionaries. It has trained and sent out upwards of four hundred messengers of the Good Tidings, who, in various zones and climates of the globe, and in connection with various Protestant Missionary organizations, have labored most zealously and successfully. In England, the Church Missionary College, at Islington; St. Augustine's Missionary College, Canterbury; and St. Aidan's College, Birkenhead; are devoted specially to the education of young men, to be properly prepared and qualified Missionaries in foreign countries. Though none of them are yet old institutions, their success has been most encouraging, and the Church Missionary College alone, has furnished some three hundred clergy for the foreign field.

On the other part, the college of the "*Congregatio de Propaganda Fide*," instituted in Rome, in 1622, has been devoted to the special work of educating men to spread Romanism among the heathen.

These were some of the facts and considerations

which led to the establishment of the institution, known successively by the titles of the "EPISCOPAL MISSIONARY TRAINING SCHOOL," the "GAMBIER MISSION HOUSE," and the "MISSION HOUSE OF THE PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH," in the United States. We proceed in the following pages, to give a connected and somewhat detailed account of the history of this Missionary establishment of the Church, drawn from the minutes, and from various other sources.

ORIGIN OF THE MISSION HOUSE.

1863.

The first movement towards the organization was made by the REV. J. G. AUER,* one of the Missionaries of the Protestant Episcopal Church, in Liberia; but at this date absent on leave in the United States. Both his own education at Basle, and his experience as Missionary in Africa, made him feel very much the want of a special Missionary school in the United States, and soon after his return from Africa he began to prepare the minds of churchmen to feel with him. The very first step taken by him to call *public attention* to the subject, was the delivery of a course of Special Missionary Lectures, in the lecture-room of the Church

* **NOTE.**—The Rev. J. G. AUER was educated at the Basle Missionary College, and afterwards engaged in the Basle Mission on the Gold Coast. He became a candidate for Holy Orders in the Protestant Episcopal Church, and in February, 1862, he was ordained by Bishop PAYNE, and appointed to Behten Station, Liberia.

He is a gentleman of much practical experience, filled with burning zeal in the cause of Missions, and is one of our most diligent and successful Foreign Missionaries.

of the Epiphany, Philadelphia, in behalf of such a school, on November 2d, 3d, 4th and 5th, 1863.

Bishop POTTER, Bishop STEVENS, and other eminent clergy, and laymen, advocated the plan warmly. A contribution of about \$100 was made in the Church of the Epiphany, and \$20 by Emmanuel Church, Kensington, Philadelphia. Mr. AUER, as Agent of the Foreign Committee of the Board of Missions, had to travel through the Western Dioceses. At Gambier he also emptied his heart concerning a Mission House, first to Bishop BEDELL, and afterwards to the clergy at Gambier. Bishop McILVAINE, then in the east, hailed the enterprise with joy, and gave the full weight of his influence to bring it to life. A little before this, Bishop PAYNE in Africa, to whom the plan had been communicated, expressed his sympathy with the movement.

Even then it was asked whether the institution should be located at Gambier, or Philadelphia. The Gambier friends had the advantages of concentration and easy organization; while the clergy of Philadelphia were less easily brought together, and at the time, had their hands full with the newly-established Divinity School, Episcopal Hospital, Christian Commission, &c. Thus Gambier acquired the honor of being the *Cradle of the Mission House*.

In November, 1863, Mr. AUER, addressed a letter to Bishop BEDELL, suggesting the advantage and practicality of establishing a Mission House in the United States, from which we quote the following portions: