

**THE PIONEER CHURCH:  
OR, THE STORY OF A  
NEW PARISH IN THE WEST**

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The Pioneer Church: Or, the Story of a New Parish in the West by M. Schuyler

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# THE PIONEER CHURCH;

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STORY OF A NEW PARISH IN THE WEST.

[*Original of the ...*]

BY THE

REV. M. SCHUYLER, D. D.,

RECTOR OF CHRIST CHURCH, ST. LOUIS.

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THE CAUSE OF DOMESTIC MISSIONS,  
WITH THE OFFERING OF ALL THE PROFITS ARISING FROM ITS SALE,  
AND WITH THE PRAYER THAT IT MAY HELP TO FOSTER  
AND ENCOURAGE THE PRESENT AWAKENING OF MIS-  
SIONARY SPIRIT IN THE CHURCH,

**This little Volume**

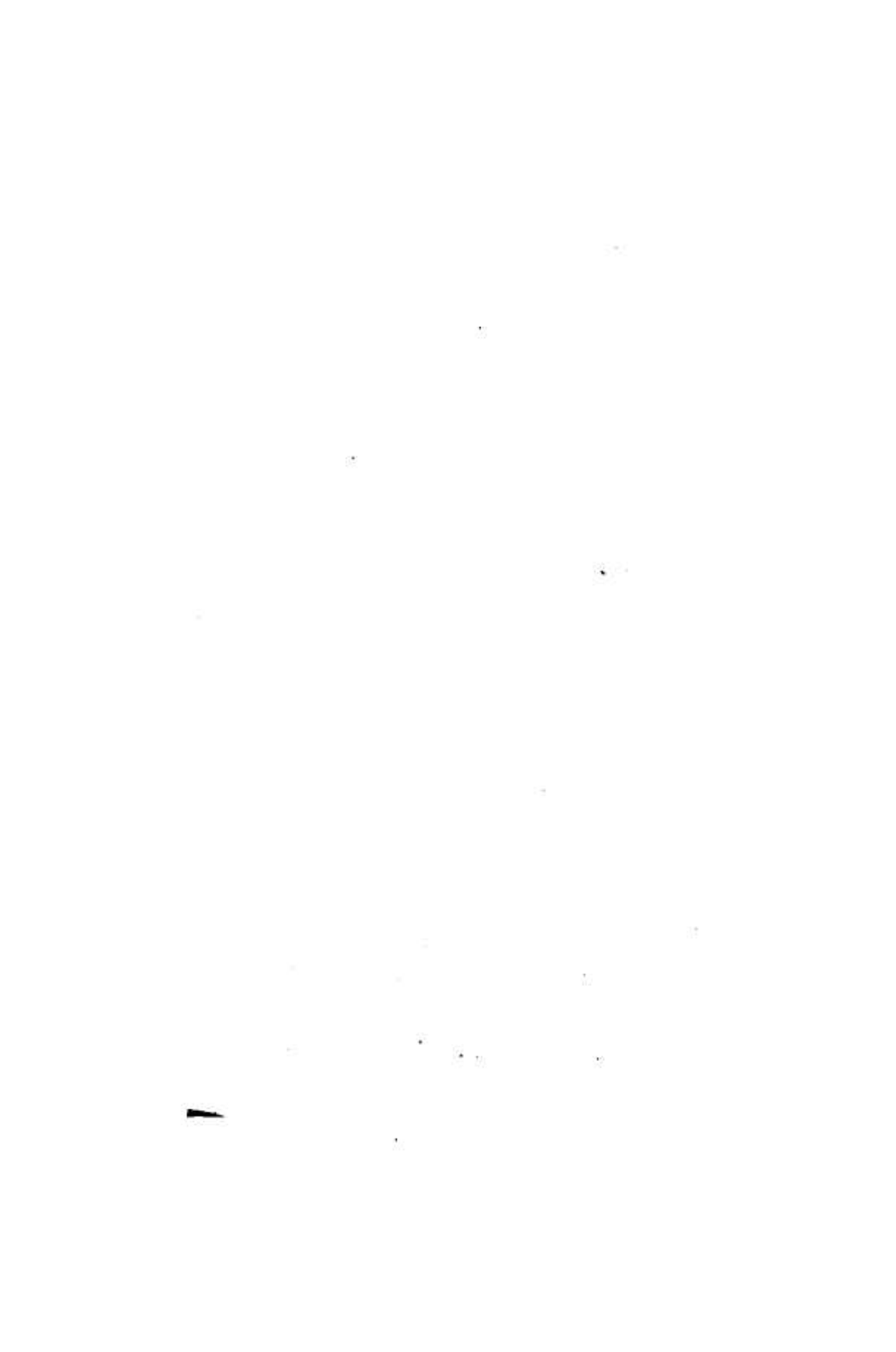
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## PREFACE.

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THE tardiness of the Church to take her true position as a pioneer at the West has long been with the Author a subject of mortification and sorrow. As a layman in a mere hamlet in Michigan he was instrumental, with three others, in organizing a parish, in inaugurating lay-reading, and building a church. He began his ministry in the same parish, and his experience convinced him that it was practicable, with two or more laymen of the right spirit, to do effective pioneer work for the Church, without waiting for an ordained minister. It is an encouraging sign of the times that there is an awakening on this subject in the Church, and that the lay element, both male and female, is being brought into more earnest and active sympathy with the work of Christ. He has marked out in the following pages a department of labor where

there need be no conflict or jealousy between them and the clergy.

Many of the incidents recorded are founded upon facts within his own knowledge, and he has written with the aid of some twenty years' experience in western life. It is his thorough conviction, that the great want of the Church is not so much more missionaries, but more working laymen, who, like Mr. Yates, will not forget Christ and His Church in the eager strife after money and lands; but, seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, will begin their work for Him when they are planning for themselves.

The story of Grace Church, Arlington, might be repeated in hundreds of villages throughout the Valley of the Mississippi, would the pioneer Churchmen, appreciating their responsibilities, seize each favorable opportunity and act with promptness and vigor, instead of casting blame for the neglect, upon the want of a missionary at the right time. Grace Church, Kirkwood, the most flourishing country parish in the Diocese of Missouri, was begun within the last ten years by lay services in a private parlor; and a tasteful stone church was built, and a class of fifteen prepared for Confirmation, before a Rector had been called.