

The Life of Bishop Kerfoot.*

JOHN BARRETT KERFOOT was the first Protestant Episcopal Bishop of the Diocese of Pittsburg. He was a pupil and a life-long friend of Dr. Muhlenberg, whom he resembled in the spiritual temper of his mind and his constant devotion to the highest interests of religion. Early in life he became the head of St. James's College in Maryland, and there he remained until the Civil War compelled the abandonment of the institution. The chapters devoted to his experiences of the War are remarkably interesting, and give an accurate and minute account of the struggle in that border State. For a year or two he was the President of Trinity College, Hartford. When the Pittsburg Diocese was formed in 1865, he was unanimously selected to fill the

* Life of the Right Rev. John Barrett Kerfoot, first Bishop of Pittsburgh. By Hall Harrison. 2 Vols. New York: James Pott & Co.

difficult position of its Bishop. His work amply justified the choice which had been made. He gave to the duties of his office a rare wisdom and a sound judgment. His rule was loving and gentle, and his administrative qualities superior. His interpretation of religion was liberal in spirit, and he believed in the things which make for peace and the upbuilding of God's kingdom, rather than in the questions which divide schools and sects. He represented the American churches in the Bonn Conference of 1874, as well as in the Lambeth Conferences of 1867 and 1877. The spirit of unity which those conferences represented was eminently his own, and he was greatly interested in thus drawing together various religious bodies. The two volumes containing his biography are well written, and in a wise and judicious manner. His own letters and diaries are freely drawn upon, and the work is to a considerable extent autobiographical in its nature. The life of such a man will be a constant inspiration to those of all communions, commending to all that religion of the spirit which is broader and deeper than the special faith of any sect. With the names of Dr. Muhlenberg and Bishop Whittingham, Bishop Kerfoot's will long be associated, as that of a gentle and devout Christian believer and worker.