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Excerpt from Bp. Griswold's address to the Convention of Eastern Diocese

Bishop Chester Griswold

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Extract from Bishop Griswold's address before the Convention
of the Eastern Diocese at Windsor, Vermont. 1823. K. Ch. 230524. 17
The common objection to foreign missions, that our
own citizens require our utmost & undivided efforts,
this weighty & worthy of much attention, is more than
balanced by other considerations. It is like pleading
the wants of our family in excuse for our giving no-
thing in charity: not considering that almsgiving,
in proportion to our ability, is the duty of all - they,
generally, who are most charitable, best provide for
their own families; and have most reason to hope
that God will continue to them the means. And
it is a fact very much to the purpose, that those of
the various denominations of Christians who do
most for foreign missions, do most also for those
at home. To determine that foreign Nations shall
not by our efforts hear the Gospel at all, till all
the people of our own country hear it every week, or
till our own Nation is fully supplied, is not consistent
with the principles of Christianity: it is in effect to
determine that the Gospel shall for ever be confined
within its present limits - Christian Charity requires
us to give something not only from the abundance,
but even from the necessities of our Table, to feed
those who are perishing with hunger. Those to whom
we may send the Gospel never while they live
will hear the doctrines of life & salvation, if we neglect
to send it - During the last century there were

in England no small number of people for whose spiritual wants the national church did not effectually provide; but that was no valid objection against the formation of the Society for the propagation of the gospel in foreign parts; or to its making those generous and noble efforts of which we are still reaping the blessed fruits — True Christian zeal is diffused like the rays of light in every direction; its beams ^{indeed} are shed more profusely on nearer objects; yet they extend to regions the most remote

Let us not forget that we have committed to us the same gospel, which Apostles and Evangelists, at the risk of their lives, proclaimed through all the world — They thought no sacrifice of time or goods, of ease or safety, too great to make in such a cause

Man kind, in this their fallen state, are inclined to wickedness, and are naturally opposed to the doctrines of Christ, and a Godly life. — There is less, and after all we can do, there will be less, of virtue and the knowledge of the Scriptures, and the practice of piety, than is desirable, and even necessary to our best happiness in this world, and eternal life in a future state — We cannot in any prudence trust to

3.
the existing demand - the natural or general
desire of mankind, for righteousness and faith
and the love of God. Without the instruction
of Parents and other teachers, without the res-
traint of laws and government, mankind
would be intolerably wicked. And except
Means were provided & measures taken to in-
struct Men in Christianity, and persuade
them to a religious life, the Knowledge of God,
the faith of Christ, the practice of Godliness
would ~~soon~~ rapidly decline - We may add
that, in regard to worldly things, the demand
& of course the efforts to obtain them increase
in proportion to their wants or deficiency -
In Religion the fact is just the reverse; the
less of virtue or piety, or Christian Knowledge
men have, the less will they desire, & seek for it.
If then it is important that men should live
well; that they should know their spiritual
state; that they should receive the doctrines of
eternal life, and live as Christians; it is equally
important that the Gospel should be sent to
them, and means be provided for its regular
ministrations - Religious instruction
tends more than any thing, perhaps more than
all things besides, to the promotion of "all

virtue and goodness of living " to the increase
of peace on earth, and good will towards men

parts of the
History of St. James's Church Greenfield - Vermont -

Previous to the year 1812 there were 3 or 4 families
of Episcopalians in the Town of Greenfield, but they
had not thought of organizing themselves into
a Society, or attempting to perform service according
to the rules & order of the Church - they had been
visited at their req^d by the Rev^d Mr. Mayner
of Hartford Conn: on the 29th of June 1803. who bap-
tized &c these Baptisms were the first Epis-
copal Services ever performed in what is now the
County of Franklin - X on the 24th of Sept^r 1812
the Rev^d Mr. Chase, of Hartford Conn:, and now
Bishop of Ohio visited Greenfield, performed divine
service & baptized several children - on the even^g
of the 25th he preached a lecture at the House of
the Rev^d J. E. Hall - at this time a Society was
organized and articles of agreement signed
by five persons viz more particulars
follow and mention of the visits of two other
clergymen at different times - and a contribution
being made towards building a church - then
"on the 6th of May 1813. the Rev^d Mr. Chase
again visited the parish, and performed service
and preached several times - On the 10th of

^{imperfect} KCH 230574
the same month be laid with due solemnity the
corner stone of a church - from this time the
building was prosecuted with vigour, the members
of the parish having subscribed with great liber-
ality to the undertaking - In Sep-
following the Rev^d Mr Chese officiated again
at the House of Mr Hall - the church was
finished and consecrated by Mr Griswold
on the 31st of August 1814 - at which time 44
persons were confirmed - now 1823, there are
65 families and more than 50 communicants
in the parish -

Conclusion of the Report of the general Con-
vention 1823 -
"In conclusion, the House of Clerical & lay deputies
respectfully invite the attention of the House of
Bishops to the facts that many churches are without
Pastors; that in the West there exists a large
body of Episcopals, who are as sheep without a
shepherd; that our Missionary Societies are com-
paratively inefficient for want of missionaries;
and in fine that it is emphatically true as it
respects our Church that the harvest is plentiful
but the labourers are few - the House of Clerical
& lay deputies respectfully request the House of

6. Bishops to suggest such measures as may seem to
them the best adapted to secure to this Church
an increase of faithful and capable Ministers.
In making the preceding Statement, the House
of Clerical and lay Deputies solicit the prayers
& blessing of the House of Bishops, and respectfully
request their counsel in a pastoral letter
to the Members of the Church.
Signed in behalf of the House of Clerical
and lay Deputies William H. Wilmer. President
Philadelphia. May 24 - 1823.

Alice Chase Collection
Extract from
Bp. Gairdner's
Address 1823.

