

1823.

HENRY VAN DYKE JOHNS

Henry Van Dyke Johns, clergyman, was born in New Castle, Del., Oct. 13, 1803, son of Kensey Johns, chancellor of Delaware, and a descendant (third generation) of Richard Johns, who emigrated from Wales and settled in Calvert county, Md., 1671, and who became "a man of much influence for good in the Province." His collegiate education commenced at Princeton and was concluded at Union College, Schenectady, in 1823. His theological studies were prosecuted at the General theological seminary, N. Y., and he was admitted to the diaconate by the venerated Bishop White in Emmanuel church, New Castle, Del., 1826, and was ordained priest by Bishop Chase in St. John's church, Washington, D. C. Although assigned to the vessel that was to convey General Lafayette after his last visit to the United States back to France, he declined a chaplaincy in the U. S. navy, preferring to organize his first parochial charge in the city of Washington. In an unfurnished hall with a rude pine table as his pulpit he laid the foundation for what is now Trinity church, Washington, D. C. Thence he removed successively to Baltimore, to Frederick, Md., to Cincinnati, and finally returned to Baltimore as rector of Christ church, to which he ministered until the organization of Emmanuel church in 1854, in the service of which last-named church he died. Dr. Johns possessed remarkable power and poise of intellect. His style was singularly chaste, almost classic; his language polished, transmitting thought as through a clear crystal, untinged and unrefracted. The rare gift of saying exactly what he desired to say was also his. His ministry was eminently successful. To the city of Baltimore alone he left, as the result of patient, persevering work, three churches free from debt, viz: Emmanuel church, Emmanuel chapel, and Cranmer chapel, all in full operation. At the time of his death Emmanuel church, one of the youngest in the diocese, is seen from the journal of 1858 to be the first in number of communicants and with general evidences of parochial prosperity. Dr. Johns was married to Lavinia Montgomery of Lancaster, Pa. He died in 1859. The clergy of all the churches, including the Roman Catholic, attended his funeral as a mark of respect to his worth.

The N. C. of A. B., Vol. V, Page 253.