

occupy it. The society was organized in 1860, with Samuel Jack, Sr., Wm. D. Mitchell and James P. Haynes, Ruling Elders; and a membership of thirty.

In the spring of 1863, Rev. C. Y. Hudson, a Cumberland Presbyterian minister removed to the vicinity, and was called to the pastorate of the Church. He ministered to the congregation until the fall of 1867, when he was called to a pastorate in Central Illinois. During Mr. Hudson's administration the Church prospered, the membership reaching forty-five, and at one time had sufficient funds subscribed to erect a church building, but from want of agreement among members as to the dimensions and style of the structure it was indefinitely postponed, and the project has never been consummated.

J. W. Hudson, Hiram Campbell, Henry Rudolf, D. T. Hill, W. J. Hale and Brownlow Logan have acted as Ruling Elders. The organization is still maintained, yet regular services are not held.

GERMAN LUTHERAN CHURCH, NEW AT MINDEN, ILLINOIS.

BY REV. M. EIRICH.

This Church was organized by Rev. C. Scholz, a native of Germany, in 1846. The organization comprised about a dozen families.

In the same year a small Church-building was erected. Mr. Scholz continued his labors with this charge, until 1860, when he resigned to accept a call to other fields.

He was succeeded by Rev. F. Huesemann. The German-speaking population had by this time greatly increased in this part of the county, and consequently the accessions to the church had been numerous. The old church-edifice was found too small to accommodate the congregation, and a large and commodious building was built in 1861. This building is of stone and is 75 by 45 feet, with galleries on three sides. Its seating capacity is over 800. It has a large organ, and a bell that weighs more than 2000 lbs.

At the present (1879) its membership embraces about 160 families.

In 1864, Rev. Huesemann died, and in 1865 Rev. M. Eirich was appointed to the charge, who has served continuously ever since, and is the present Pastor.

Adjacent to and in connection with the Church is a large substantial brick school-house, the dimensions of which are 50 by 32 feet. The school is under the direction of the Church, and has an average attendance of 150 pupils. It was erected in 1878.

THE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, O. S.

OF
WASHINGTON COUNTY.

BY REV. D. G. THOMPSON.

In 1831, the families of John and Archibald Hood, and James and Thomas McClurken, emigrated from South Carolina and settled in Elkhorn Prairie, Washington County. These families formed the nucleus around which was organized the first, and only Church of the denomination, named at the heading of this chapter.

They were for a considerable time after their settlement without a preacher, and their religious services consisted of social meetings held at each other's homes.

Their first Preacher, was Rev. Samuel Wylie, of Randolph county, who preached occasionally for some years.

In 1833 they were joined by three families of their brethren and former neighbors, from South Carolina. For more than a year after this they were without preaching.

In 1834, they were visited by Rev. David Steele, who was appointed to this charge by the Pittsburg Presbytery. This gentleman organized the congregation at the house of Archibald Hood in July, 1834. The elders were John and Thomas McClurken, and John Donnelly, and there were 19 members. In 1835 Rev. Samuel McKinney was called to the pastorate of this congregation.

In 1836, after much labor, and self-denial, the congregation succeeded in finishing a plain, but commodious building, which they occupied for many years. The membership of the congregation increased under Mr. McKinney's administration to 120. He was succeeded in the pastorate by Rev. Wm. Sloane, who accepted the call in 1840. During his administration a board of Deacons were elected, and the membership increased to 150. In 1858 he was succeeded by Rev. A. C. Todd. During his pastorate the membership increased to 220.

Upon the breaking out of the war of the Rebellion, Mr. Todd was chosen captain of a company of men, raised from his own congregation, and enlisted in the service of the Government, for three years or during the war. Many of them found soldiers' graves, on the fields of the South. The pulpit was supplied during Mr. Todd's absence, in the field, by various ministers, and upon his return he resumed his pastoral labors.

In 1867, a new, substantial and commodious brick building was erected in the village of Oakdale, and the old structure sold to the United Presbyterian Church, a denomination that had recently been organized in the community.

Its mouldering ruins can yet be seen two miles east of Elkton, on the Coulterville road; and many tears of sadness are shed, when memory recalls the loved faces of brethren and friends, whose remains lie buried in that old church-yard, by the brethren who gaze upon all, that Old Time has left to tell of the sad, sweet story of when they loved and worshipped with the dear dead friends of long ago.

In 1871, Mr. Todd at his own request was released from the charge, and with a colony made up from the congregation removed to Evans, Colorado.

He was succeeded August 1st, 1872, by Rev. D. G. Thompson, the present incumbent of this pastorate.

About the first act of special importance after the installation of Mr. Thompson, was the taking by the congregation, of the American covenant, as prescribed by the Presbytery. Mr. Thompson was assisted in the administration of this rite by Rev. H. P. McClurken, of New Concord, Ohio, and Rev. D. S. Farris, of Sparta, Illinois. These ceremonies were solemnized on the 20th day of August, 1872; more than 150 took upon themselves the obligations, and subscribed to the Covenant.

Since the time of the "Covenant Renovation," eight members have been received, and about an equal number lost by deaths and removals to other congregations. The membership is now, 1879, 121, and a Sabbath-school of 120 scholars. This, as well as all other congregations of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, O. S., are devoted and attached to civil and religious liberty, and to the fundamental laws of our country, yet they refuse to take any part in the political matters of the country, not even voting or holding office. This privilege is not exercised for reasons that are sufficient to them; the principal one of which, is that the name of the Deity is not recognized in the constitution of the United States. They cheerfully pay their taxes, and consider it one of their highest duties to defend their country from foreign or domestic foes.

