Friday, October 11, 1844. This was in turn an offshoot from the Niagara Street Methodist Episcopal Church, to which reference has already been made, which had theretofore held services in the building now occupied by the congregation of Temple Beth Zion. The first pastor of the Swan Street Church was the Rev. John Dennis, D. D., who remained until 1846. He was succeeded by the following named pastors:—Revs. Alpha Wright, 1846–48; James M. Fuller, 1848–'50; S. Seager, D. D., 1850–'52; A. D. Wilbor, D. D., 1852–'54; P. E. Brown, 1854–'55. June 2, 1855, the society moved to the present place of worship; Grace Methodist Episcopal Church was dedicated on the same day by Bishop Simpson. Since that time the following pastors have been appointed:—Revs. W. H. DePuy, D. D., 1855–'57; S. Hunt, D. D., 1857–'59; A. D. Wilbor, D. D., 1859–'61; D. D. Lore, D. D., 1861–'63; S. Seager, D. D., 1863–'64; J. H. Knowles, 1863–'67; George P. Porter, 1867–'70; D. H. Muller, D. D., 1870–'72; G. W. Paddock, 1872–'74; R. C. Houghton, D. D., 1874–'76; D. H. Muller, D. D., 1876–'77; S. N. Lloyd, 1878–'80; R. N. Stratton, D. D., 1881. The present house of worship is valued at $30,000, the parsonage at $7,000. The membership of the church has increased to four hundred, and of the Sunday school to two hundred and fifty.

Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church.—The old Niagara Street Methodist Episcopal Church was the parent of this as well as of the Swan Street (Grace) Church. The first meeting with a view to the organization of the new church was held in the Niagara Street Church by the trustees thereof on Monday evening, March 22, 1847. The original membership numbered sixty-eight. The lot on the corner of Pearl and Chippewa streets was bought for $2,700. The first meeting in the new building erected on this site was held June 16, 1848. The Rev. J. H. Waldee was the first presiding officer of the society sent by the conference. Under his auspices a Sunday school was organized. In September, 1848, the Rev. Schuyler Seager, D. D., was appointed the first regular pastor of the infant church. The edifice was dedicated by him on the 23rd of the same month. Dr. Seager's successors have been as follows:—Revs. Eleazer Thomas, 1850 to 1852; H. K. Hines and L. Stiles, 1852 to 1854; J. B. Wentworth, D. D., 1854 to 1856; E. E. Chambers, 1856 to 1858; James Fuller, 1858 to 1859; W. H. DePuy, 1859 to 1861; P. R. Stover, 1861 to 1863; D. D. Lore, D. D., 1863 to 1864; J. Allison, 1864 to 1866; Allen Steele and D. H. Muller, 1866 to 1869; A. D. Wilbor, 1869 to 1870; J. B. Wentworth, D. D., 1870 to 1873; W. V. Kelly, 1873 to 1874; George R. Strobridge, 1874 to 1876; C. A. Van Anda, D. D., 1876 to 1877; T. J. Leak, 1877 to 1880; T. M. House, 1880 to 1882; George C. Jones, 1882 to 1883. In 1850, at the beginning of the pastorate of Rev. Mr. Thomas, the name of the church was changed from the Pearl Street Church to Asbury Church, in honor of the Bishop of that
name. At the same time a reorganization took place. In October, 1870, a new church edifice was projected. The new edifice was consecrated December 22, 1872, by Bishop Jones. The cost of the building was $38,885.64; organ, furniture, etc., $6,155.37. The membership of the church now numbers over four hundred. The present officers are:—trustees, H. H. Otis, president; Abram Twitchell, treasurer; A. J. Riege, secretary; William Pooley, W. M. Citterly, Charles Nelson, Isaac Holloway. The Sunday school has an average attendance of one hundred and eighty.

The Riverside Methodist Episcopal Church, Black Rock.—This is one of the oldest churches of this denomination in the city. The first Methodist preacher in this vicinity was the Rev. Glezen Fillmore, in 1817. It became a regular appointment with a settled pastor in 1820. Its entire early history is that of a prolonged struggle with poverty and discouragement. It seems to have entered upon a new life in 1858, with Dr. Smith as pastor. The earliest records of the Riverside Quarterly Conference now in existence reach back to the year 1863, when the Rev. J. M. Fuller was presiding elder and the Rev. A. D. Wilbor, pastor. The corner stone of the present elegant and commodious edifice, corner of Bird and West avenues, was laid September 16, 1872, and the dedication services were held on the 12th of April, 1874. The church was erected at a cost of $33,000 and its property is now valued at $35,000. It has a membership of over two hundred and twenty-five. The present pastor is Rev. George W. Peck, LL. D. The present officers of the church are as follows:—trustees, W. C. Earle, J. E. Rebstock, B. Woodall, J. S. Carter, M. Tilson, W. A. Searle, George Sheriff, Alfred Barnett, Abner Adams; stewards, J. E. Rebstock, C. W. Armstrong, W. C. Earle, W. A. Searle, George S. Searle, J. F. Sieffert, W. J. Woodall, J. S. Carter, Isaac Morris. The following have been pastors of Riverside Church since 1847:—Revs. L. L. Rogers, B. F. McNeal, W. Barret, W. Leak, S. H. Baker, H. Butlin, W. Luce, S. Parker, G. Smith, L. Welch, E. L. Newman, W. H. DePuy, A. D. Wilbor, W. S. Tuttle, A. P. Ripley, E. T. Green, O. S. Chamberlayne, G. W. Kittinger, J. S. Simkins, E. H. Latimer, S. McGerald, George W. Peck.

Plymouth Methodist Episcopal Church.—This church had its origin in a "class" organized in the year 1857 by the Rev. E. E. Chambers. The organization took place in what was known as the "Father Ketchum building," which stood where the Normal school now is. In this place the society continued to worship, without any regular pastor, but with occasional preaching by the pastors of other churches, till May, 1859. Then the meetings were moved to a chapel on North street, where a Sunday school had been held for some time under the management of members of the Niagara and Pearl Street Methodist Episcopal Churches. In 1861 the class was formally organized into a church and named the North Street Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1869 a church was built
under the pastorate of the Rev. R. E. Thomas, on the corner of Plymouth avenue and Jersey streets, and named the Jersey Street Methodist Episcopal Church. January 25, 1873, in the pastorate of the Rev. J. E. Bliss, the church was burned to the ground. On the 12th of July in the same year the corner stone of the present edifice was laid, on the opposite side of Plymouth avenue from the old site. At the same time the name of the society was changed to the Plymouth Methodist Episcopal Church. Between the burning of the old church and the taking possession of the new, the society worshiped in school-house No. 36. The chapel of the new church was dedicated March 1st, 1874, when the Rev. P. R. Stover was pastor. The audience room was not completed till many months after, in the pastorate of the Rev. E. E. Chambers. Plymouth Church is now (in the year 1883) in a very prosperous condition. It has two hundred and thirty members and a Sunday school of three hundred pupils. It has no debt; its congregations are large; its revenues are ample. The list of its regular pastors is as follows:—Rev. W. M. Shaw, 1862; DeBias Worthington, 1863; (no regular pastor from 1863 to 1865;) William Magavern, 1865; R. E. Thomas, 1867; J. E. Bills, 1870; P. R. Stover, 1873; C. C. Wilbor, 1874; E. E. Chambers, 1876; A. N. Fisher, 1879; and C. W. Winchester, 1882.

St. Mark’s Methodist Episcopal Church.—The St. Mark’s church was organized February 24, 1857. The first trustees were:—John A. Ryder, Caleb Coatsworth, John D. Roberts, John H. Bidwell, Joseph McClure, James H. Scatcherd, Barton C. Niles, Oliver Bond and Tobias Faust. Services were for a short time held in a red school house which stood in what is now known as Scatcherd’s lumber yard. The Rev. Griffin Smith, the first pastor, came in January, 1857, and the building in which the congregation now worship, was dedicated on the following Thanksgiving day. He was followed in 1859 by the Rev. W. H. DePuy, who remained until 1860. His successors were as follows:—Rev. Hunt, Wilbor and Wentworth, the last of whom remained until October, 1864; Revs. S. Y. Hammond, 1864-'66; J. E. Bills, 1866-'69; S. P. Dickinson, 1869-'71; C. P. Clark, 1871 to spring of 1873; —— Hartley, to October 1873; G. W. Kittinger, 1874-'77; J. N. Simpkins, 1877-'80; C. P. Hard, 1880 to summer 1882; Rev. Mr. Cliff filled a three months’ vacancy ending October, 1882; T. E. Bell, the present pastor, came in October, 1882.

Delaware Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church.—This church is situated on the corner of Delaware avenue and Tupper streets. The lot has a frontage on Delaware avenue of one hundred feet and on Tupper street of one hundred and seventy-five feet. The church is a very substantial edifice, built of brown sandstone. The corner stone of the chapel was laid April 10, 1871, and of the main church May 21, 1874. The church was dedicated September 10, 1876. The society was organized October 18, 1870, and reported at the close of the first conference year one hun-
dred and six members; its present membership is about three hundred and fifty. Its first board of trustees was elected November 22, 1870, and consisted of James N. Scatcherd, John D. Hill, Charles A. Sweet, Francis H. Root, James Howells, John C. Jewett, Edwin A. Swan, Robert Keating and George A. Preston. The Rev. Langford Hunt was the first pastor; the second was the Rev. John G. Adams; third, Rev. Ira G. Bidwell; fourth, Rev. George W. Chandler; fifth and present, Rev. W. S. Studley. Its present board of trustees are James N. Scatcherd, John D. Hill, Charles A. Sweet, Francis H. Root, John C. Jewett, Robert Keating, James Howells, Henry Martin and Samuel B. Parsons.

_Eagle Street Methodist Episcopal Church._—This congregation owes its origin as a church to the missionary spirit of Grace Church. During the summer of 1871 the lot on which the church building now stands, having been bought through the efforts of the members of the Young Men's Association of the parent church, religious outdoor exercises were held at that place. The present edifice was built during the fall and winter of 1871 and '72. The Rev. D. H. Muller preached the dedicatory sermon. At the conference of 1872 the Rev. A. F. Colburn was appointed to the pastorate of the church. The church proper was organized November 17, 1872, at which time seventeen persons united with it. The first stewards were, Guy C. Martin, district steward; Jabez Harris, recording steward; Benjamin Woodall, John S. Carter, Errick Errickson. Mr. Colburn's successors to the pastorate have been as follows: Rev. L. T. Foote, three years; Rev. C. Millspaugh, three years and the present pastor, the Rev. S. A. Morse, now (1883) in his second year. The present board of trustees is composed as follows: Homer Sanderson, president; Thomas Dark, Sr., W. H. Brush, George Lewis, John A. Miller, John H. Usher, Monroe Wilder. The present full membership numbers one hundred and fifty-five with about forty probationers. The Sunday-school superintendent is Richard Olivey. The school has a membership of three hundred.

_Glenwood Methodist Episcopal Church._—October 28, 1875, a meeting of fifteen was called at the residence of G. S. Rice, No. 138 Glenwood avenue, to establish a Methodist society; H. H. Otis presided. Thereafter meetings were held in private houses in the neighborhood, the last one being held on Thanksgiving evening, November 25, 1875. Worship was subsequently conducted in a chapel on Glenwood avenue. For three years there was no regular pastor. Every fourth Sabbath in the month, services were provided by the Ladies' Temperance Union. A Sunday school was organized December 12, 1875, with H. H. Otis as superintendent. In October of 1876, the Rev. A. P. Ripley was appointed pastor by the conference. On May 19, 1878, a meeting was held to close up the society as an independent organization, whereupon it was adopted by the Delaware Avenue Church as a mission. The first "class" was then
formed July 7, 1878, by the Rev. Ira G. Bidwell, and called the Glenwood Avenue Mission class. J. W. Wright was the first leader. In November, 1878, the Rev. V. Copeland became the first resident pastor of the mission and remained until the fall of 1880. The church edifice was formally dedicated on Sunday, September 28, 1879, by the Rev. D. W. C. Huntington, D. D., presiding elder. The present pastor, the Rev. J. W. Johns, was appointed in October, 1880. The church was independently organized in November of the same year. The first trustees were as follows:—A. D. Jackson, John Osborne, A. H. Nye, R. C. Wilson, J. L. Moore and A. H. Tracy. On November 22, 1880, the following named persons were elected stewards:—A. D. Jackson, A. H. Tracy, G. W. Smith, William A. McKay, Mrs. A. H. Nye, Mrs. John Osborne and Mrs. John Beam. The present membership of the church is about seventy-two and of the Sunday school about one hundred and sixty.

First Free Methodist Church.—The organization and incorporation of this church took place on November 20, 1860, Rev. B. T. Roberts officiating. There were twenty-four original members. The society bought the old brick theatre on Pearl street near Eagle, and adapted it to the purpose of religious worship at an expense of about $5,000. The Rev. Loren Stiles, Jr., dedicated the building on the 19th of October, 1860. The following pastors served the church in succession:—Revs. D. M. Sinclair, 1860–62; Moses M. Downing, 1862–63; S. R. J. Chesbro, 1863–64; James Matthews, J. G. White and A. G. Terry, 1864–66; Epinetus Owen, 1866–67; occasional supplies, 1867–68; A. F. Curry, 1868–70; S. R. J. Chesbro, 1870–72; W. H. Trevise, part of 1872–73; William Gould, 1873–74; G. W. Coleman, 1874–76; John T. James, 1876–77; W. T. Hogg, 1877–79; William Jackson, 1879–81; A. H. Bennett, 1881–83. The old church edifice was sold in 1869 and the present brick building erected on the corner of Virginia and Tenth streets, at a cost of $10,000. The dedication of this structure was supervised by the Rev. B. T. Roberts. In February, 1861, a Sunday school with about one hundred members was organized in the old Pearl Street Church; Thomas Sully was its superintendent for many years. The present superintendent is George W. Johnston. A mission was begun at Black Rock in 1873, under the pastorate of Rev. William Gould. In a year a chapel, a small wooden structure, was built on Clinton avenue, at an expense of $2,500. It was dedicated on April 22, 1875, by the Rev. William Gould, assisted by the Rev. B. T. Roberts and others. A Sunday school was started in this chapel on the 2d day of March, 1875, Mr. George W. Johnston being its first superintendent. The mission, though known under the name of the Second Free Methodist Church, is in reality represented by the same officers as the parent society. The present trustees of the society are Rev. B. T. Roberts, George W. Johnston, James Wilcox, M. G. Cottrell, John A. Crane, W. J. Beyers, Thomas
Sully. The present membership of the church is a little over one hundred and twelve.

The African Methodist Episcopal Church.—The meetings which resulted in the organization of this church were first held in 1835, in a house on what was then called Tom alley, now Carroll street. The meetings were usually led by Rev. Mr. Walker, of New York. The first trustees were:—Moses Burton, Charles Andrews and a Mr. Smith. Mr. Walker remained about a year, after which the Rev. George Ware was sent by the conference. They removed in 1841-'42 to Clinton street, near Elm, into a house now occupied as a family residence. Here they remained until the fall of 1843. In 1844 the Rev. Mr. Jackson was appointed to the pastorate. The present church was dedicated about July, 1845, having cost in the neighborhood of $3,000. After the expiration of Mr. Jackson's term the following pastors were sent by the conference:—Revs. Ware, 1845-'46; C. Burch, (father of ex-Senator J. Henry Burch, of Louisiana); J. B. Campbell, (now bishop,) 1847; Mr. Jackson, James Morris Williams, Deacon Darrow, Mr. Pattison, William More, Francis J. Peck, William T. Catto, Abram C. Cripen, J. G. Mowbrey, Abram C. Cripen, Mr. Bailey, J. G. Mowbrey, (rejected by the congregation;) Mr. Darts and the Rev. J. J. Lewis, the present pastor, now in his second term. In 1882 the church edifice was remodeled and rebuilt at an expense of about $3,800. The present trustees are:—Joseph Lane, Alfred Keller, William Jackson, Frederick Wilson and John Johnson; stewards, William H. Lloyd and Lewis Smith.

Church of the Messiah, (Universalist.)—The First Universalist Church of Buffalo was organized on the 6th day of December, 1831. The first trustees were: Benjamin Caryl, Marvin Webster, Moses Baker, Ebenezer Day, James Durick and A. C. Moore. The first pastor was the Rev. Geo. W. Montgomery. A church structure was built on the east side of Washington street, a little north of Swan street, at an expense of $10,000. The second pastor, the Rev. William I. Reese, began duty in May, 1883. He was succeeded in October, 1834, by the Rev. Russell Tomlinson, who remained until the spring of 1837. The Rev. David Pickering came in at once and staid one year. On May 1, 1843, the Rev. S. R. Smith became pastor and remained in that capacity until May, 1849. In May, 1849, the Rev. A. G. Laurie, was secured as a pastor. He was succeeded in May, 1854, by the Rev. Richard Eddy, who remained about a year. His successor, the Rev. E. W. Reynolds was pastor from May, 1855, to April, 1858, when he gave place to the Rev. J. H. Hartzell. The corner-stone of a new church was laid August 2, 1864. The edifice was consecrated on July 3, 1866, under the name of the Church of the Messiah. The building cost, with an organ then purchased, about $70,000. Mr. Hartzell resigned in March, 1870, after a conspicuously successful pastorate. In June of the same year the Rev. L. J. Fletcher assumed the pastoral duties of the church.
On Saturday night, October 29, 1870, the church building was destroyed by fire. By the 24th of the following September, the church was again ready for consecration. Mr. Fletcher left in April, 1879, and Mr. Hartzell returned in May of the same year, remaining two years. On the 4th day of September, 1881, the Rev. William E. Gibbs, the present pastor, came. About one hundred and forty families are connected with the church, and the membership numbers a little over two hundred. The Sunday school, of which the pastor is superintendent, has an attendance of two hundred and twenty-five.

Church of Christ.—The Church of Christ in Buffalo, the latest organized of the nine congregations which represent the Disciples in the western district of New York, was established at a meeting held in the French chapel on the corner of Ellicott and Tupper streets on February 20, 1870. There were thirty original members. For about two years the society, though without a regular pastor, held services once a week in the chapel. On April 13, 1872, A. J. Briggs, J. H. Grove and Brightman Taber were elected trustees. The lot on the corner of Cottage and Maryland streets was immediately bought and a chapel costing, with the lot, about 6,000 erected. The dedication took place November 28, 1872. The first pastor, F. M. Kibby of Kentucky, began his ministry in February, 1872, and remained about three years. He was followed by O. G. Hertzog. His pastorate lasted but a year. In June, 1876, G. L. Wharton was called to the pastorate; resigning July 15, 1882, he was succeeded September 1, 1882, by the present pastor, J. M. Tribe. The membership of the church is one hundred and seventy-five.

The First Unitarian Congregational Society.—This society was organized in 1831. Religious services were first held in the old court house on Washington street. The First Unitarian Church stood at the corner of Franklin and Eagle streets. Its corner stone was laid August 13, 1833. The Rev. William S. Brown, from Bridgewater, England, was the first pastor of the society from 1832 to 1834. He was succeeded by Rev. A. C. Patterson, who served from 1834 to 1836. The Rev. G. W. Hosmer, D. D., was installed October 16, 1836, and in 1866, resigned his pastorate. Rev. Frederick Frothingham was the next pastor from June, 1867 to 1874, and was succeeded by the Rev. M. K. Schermerhorn, from 1874 to 1876. The present minister, Rev. George W. Cutter, was installed February 4, 1877. In 1845 the first church was enlarged and remodeled. In 1859 it was damaged by fire but was at once refitted and refurnished. The corner-stone of the present handsome house of worship, the Church of Our Father, on Delaware avenue near Huron street, was laid October, 16, 1879. It was dedicated, free of debt, October 13, 1880. The Sunday school was organized in 1838. The society includes about one hundred and fifty families.

The Friends.—The first meeting of “Friends” in Buffalo was held in 1865, in the house of Mrs. Martha Ferris, whose hospitality they con-
continued to accept until 1868. In that year the present meeting house on Allen street was built. The first trustees of the society were:—Elisha Freeman and Andrew Varney. The property is held now by the East Hamburg Friends. The society numbers between thirty and forty members.

First Reformed Church of Buffalo, (Holland).—The origin of this church, as nearly as can be ascertained, dates back to the year 1850. The first meetings were held in what is now called the Wood-market, on Genesee street. The first pastor was the Rev. C. C. Wutz, who stayed two years and then removed to Rochester. In 1856 the place of worship was removed to a place in Boston alley. Then came the Rev. A. R. Kassen, under whose administration in 1863 the congregation moved again, this time to Milnor street. Some time about May, 1869, they bought a lot on Eagle street, near Cedar street, and built a church thereon. The Rev. H. K. Boer came in 1874 and remained about three years. Between the resignation or dismissal of one pastor and the installment of his successor, there was often a considerable period in which no pastor officiated and the weekly services consisted of the reading of sermons by a layman, the singing of hymns, etc. The incorporation of the Dutch Reformed Church was not consummated until 1869 or 1870. In 1882 the Swedenborgians bought the church property of the Dutch Reformed congregation, since which time the latter has become practically extinct and there is now no church of that sect in the city.

Cold Spring Union Chapel.—In 1856 a small Sunday school was opened in the old district school house on the ground now occupied by police station No. 6. The room was furnished by William Tuton the superintendent, William A. Coots and D. R. Morse. Two years later C. B. Hunn became superintendent and was succeeded in 1860 by Robert Johnson. In 1866 a society was organized and incorporated under the name of Cold Spring Sunday School Association. The first trustees and incorporators were:—Robert Johnson, Frederick Scott, P. A. Balcom, J. L. Alberger, J. E. Robinson and A. J. Holt. A lot on the corner of Ferry and Michigan streets was deeded to the Association by Charles and Malvina E. Barr, on which Cold Spring Union Chapel was erected in the following year. The chapel was formally dedicated in October, 1867, the Revs. Dr. John C. Lord and Dr. Hotchkiss officiating. Mr. Johnson was succeeded in 1869, by J. L. Alberger, with J. E. Robinson as assistant, who remained in office until 1878, when Mr. Robinson became superintendent with Mr. E. B. Eggert as assistant. This society is the pioneer in religious work in this part of the city. The average attendance is one hundred and fifty.

Catholic Churches.—The diocese of Buffalo, established in 1847, comprises the following counties, all in the State of New York:—Erie, Niagara, Genesee, Orleans, Chautauqua, Wyoming, Cattaraugus, Steuben,
Chemung, Tioga, Allegany and Schuyler. Following are the officers of the diocese:—Bishops Right Reverend Stephen B. Ryan, D. D., C. M., consecrated November 6, 1868; Vicar General, the Very Reverend William Gleason; Chancellor and Secretary, Rev. P. Hoelscher, D. D.; Bishop’s Counsel, the Very Reverend William Gleason, V. G., the Very Reverend H. Behrens, S. J., Rev. F. N. Sester, Rev. Edward Kelly, Rev. George Sniet, C. S. S. R., Rev. P. Kavanagh, C. M. There are in this diocese ninety-nine secular priests; seventy-four priests of religious orders; thirty priests engaged in educational institutions; one hundred and thirty-five churches and chapels; twenty-seven clerical students; eleven male religious houses; thirty-nine female religious houses; four colleges for boys; eight academies for girls; eleven charitable institutions and one hundred thousand catholic population.

St Joseph’s Catholic Church.—After Buffalo was erected into an Episcopal See in 1847, for three years there was but one English-speaking Catholic church in the city. At the end of three years, or on February 6, 1851, the corner stone of the St. Joseph’s Cathedral was laid, the ceremonies being conducted by the Right Rev. John Timon, first Bishop of Buffalo. Through the exertions of Bishop Timon, the cathedral was dedicated to the worship of God, and its altars consecrated on the 6th day of July, 1855. St. Joseph’s Cathedral is one of the finest ecclesiastical structures in the United States. It is located on the western side of Franklin street, near Swan. The south tower terminating in a graceful spire, contains the finest chime of bells on the continent. It consists of forty-three bells, from the foundry of M. Ernst Bollee, in Mains, France, which took the prize at the Paris Exposition of 1867, and cost, including duty, freight and expense of putting in place, more than $20,000. In order to relieve the Catholics of Buffalo of the heavy debt brought upon them by the erection of this cathedral Bishop Timon put forth great efforts to obtain the aid of the brethren throughout this country, Mexico, Cuba and all Europe. He succeeded and on the 30th of August, 1863, he once more gathered in his brother prelates around him for the renewed consecration of the Cathedral. On November 8, 1868, the Right Reverend Stephen Vincent Ryan, C. M., was consecrated and installed as the successor of Bishop Timon. The vicinity of the cathedral has been much altered of late. A large stone Episcopal residence has been built on the site of the old Webster house, adjoining the cathedral on the south. A winter chapel has also been erected in the rear of the cathedral, connected with it and with the Bishop’s house, by a covered cloister. These buildings harmonize in material and style with the cathedral, around which cluster St. Joseph’s college and parochial school for boys, Miss Nardin’s academy and parochial school for girls, the Young Men’s Catholic Association building and St. Stephen’s hall. The Rector of St. Joseph’s is the Rev. Edward Kelly.
St. Peter’s French Catholic Church.—Efforts were made as far back as 1820 to establish a French church in Buffalo, several clergymen being sent at various times by Bishop Dubois and Bishop Hughes. M. Louis LeCouteulx de Caumont was one of the most zealous of the citizens in this work. The French and Germans united in forming the St. Louis church on the corner of Main and Edward streets, but after 1840 the German membership had attained such a majority that their French brethren determined upon secession and the establishment of a church of their own. To this plan the pastor of St. Louis, Father Guth, lent willing aid and encouragement, and in 1850 he was sent to Europe by Bishop Timon to collect for the diocese. After his departure until 1857, Father Chevalier and Father Morris officiated as pastors. Father Guth, however, never returned and Father Morris was appointed his successor. The act of incorporation of St. Peter’s Church is dated January 8, 1857. The first regular pastor of this church after its separate organization was Father Klein, who, moreover, had succeeded Father Morris two years before. He was succeeded in 1850 by Father Sester. In February, 1867, in obedience to the command of Bishop Timon, Father Sester resigned and went to Lancaster, N. Y. His successor, the Rev. Joseph Sorg, remained about a year, and the next pastor, Father LeBreton remained two years. Father Zoegle came immediately after Father LeBreton and stayed until 1871. Father Beckard, who followed, was pastor for six years. In 1877, Father Uhrick came, but being too old to continue his labors, was followed in 1880 by the Rev. John Caumer. The present pastor, the Rev. R. Faure, D. D., succeeded Father Caumer in November, 1882. Since his arrival the new parsonage next to the church has been finished at a cost of $6,000. The parochial school is under the direction of the ladies of the Immaculate Heart and one secular teacher.

St. Patrick’s (Franciscan Friars.)—St. Patrick’s Church, Seymour street, near Emslie, was organized in January, 1854, with an estimated membership of four hundred families. The following are the names of the successive pastors, with the dates of their arrivals:—Rev. Daniel Moore, December, 1854; Rev. D. D. Deane, December, 1855; Rev. J. A. Early, August 27, 1857; Rev. A. McConnell, December 26, 1857. In 1858 the Franciscan Fathers took charge of the church and have been there ever since. They keep three priests in attendance. The church was built in 1858 at an expense of $15,000. The present pastors are Father Angelus O’Connor, O. S. F., Father Lewis, O. S. F., Father Jerome, O. S. F. The parish now numbers about six hundred families. A parochial school building and convent were erected in 1862 at a cost of $20,000. There not being sufficient room in this school house, a new one is now building, which is intended to accommodate eight hundred pupils.
Church of the Holy Angels.—This church was organized in October, 1852, in the old house on what is now Porter avenue, near Fargo avenue, formerly used as an asylum for the insane. The church bought of the estate for $13,000, eighteen acres of land comprising two blocks. On this lot stood then the old poor house and the insane asylum. A day school was held in 1852 in the poor house and the asylum was fitted up for a chapel. This school had been started two years before in the old St. Joseph's cathedral. The first projectors of the church were Fathers Chevalier, Sulliran, Corbett and Maloney. The old college and seminary buildings were torn down in 1856. The present church was begun in the fall of that year, and completed late in 1857. The transept was added six or seven years ago. The adjacent parsonage was built in about 1873. The parochial school was completed in November 1881. It is conducted by the gray nuns. The total cost of these several buildings was about $81,000. The membership of the congregation has increased from fifty families to four hundred. In about 1868 Father Sulliran returned to France and was followed in 1871 by Father Chevalier. Father Corbett left in 1857. Father Maloney is the only survivor of the pastors originally with the church, although he was absent from 1860 to the fall of 1879. After Father Chevalier, Father Garrin had charge, and he was succeeded by Father Salfas. Father Guillard, the present pastor, has had charge for about ten years.

St. Stephen's Church.—The date of the organization of this parish is December, 1875, at which time there were one hundred and fifteen in attendance. The Rev. Father McDermott, the present pastor was the first. The church edifice now used was built at once upon organization, at a cost of $6,000. At present there are two hundred families in the parish and two hundred and twenty-five children in the parochial school.

St. John the Baptist.—The church of St. John the Baptist was organized in the fall of the year 1867, the Rev. William McNab being the first pastor. He was succeeded five or six months after by the Rev. P. Glenman, followed by Rev. P. Mazuret. After a pastorate of a little more than three years, he was succeeded in December, 1871, by the Rev. John O'Donoghue. June 12, 1875, the Right Rev. Bishop Ryan appointed the present pastor, the Rev. Peter Francis Donohue. After much effort the new pastor succeeded in lifting a heavy mortgage which was resting on the place, and in 1883 he erected a school house capable of providing for the needs of two hundred and fifty children. The church is now free from debt.

St. Bridget's Church.—This church which is located on Louisiana street, corner of Fulton, was organized late in the year 1852, under Father Mac Mullen, pastor. There were about one hundred families then in the parish. The present church structure was built in 1859, at a cost of not less than $15,000, by Father O'Connor, who took charge in February,
1858, and died in December, 1870. The present pastor, the Rev. William Gleason, came in January, 1871. There are now about six hundred families in the parish, and a parochial school of nine hundred children.

Church of Our Lady of Mercy.—This organization was established near the foot of Michigan street in the year 1874. The following pastors have since officiated:—Revs. Daniel Welch, Dr. Holscher, who was there seven years and William Morrison, the present pastor. The church structure cost $2,000, and was dedicated by Right Rev. Bishop Ryan in 1875. There are now about one hundred and fifty families connected with the church. The parochial school has nearly one hundred children in attendance, who are taught by the ladies of the Sacred Heart, or Sisters of Miss Nardin's academy.

Church of the Immaculate Conception.—The organization of this church was effected in about 1849, under the name of St. Mary's of the Lake. The first pastors were the Revs. Peter Brown and John Fitzpatrick. In about 1856 the present church building was erected by Rev. James M. Early, at a cost of about $30,000. Rev. M. Purcell followed Father Early and was succeeded by the following:—Revs. Thomas Gleason, Edward Quigley, John O'Meara and the Rev. James Rogers, whose pastorate dates from April, 1877. The school in connection with this church was built and opened September 1, 1882, with about two hundred pupils and three teachers, under the charge of the Sisters of St. Joseph's. The Sunday school in connection has about three hundred and fifty pupils.

St. Stanislaus, (Polish.)—The congregation of this church first assembled as a corporate body in June, 1873, with the present pastor, the Rev. John Pitass in office and Joseph I. Kaujwski and John Hordich as the leading lay members. The Rev. Peter Chownic was ordained vicar in the fall of 1882. Their first house of worship was erected immediately upon organization, on the corner of Townsend and Peckham streets, at a cost of about $11,000. The membership of the church has increased from fifty to between three hundred and four hundred families or one thousand five hundred members. A new church building of Lockport limestone is now being built, the value of which, it is estimated, will be not less than $100,000. The cornerstone was laid with appropriate ceremonies on May 27, 1883. The parochial school in connection with the church has an attendance of about seven hundred pupils. On the completion of the new church building, the old one will be used as a school house.

The Israelites and their Religious Societies.—The Israelites of Buffalo have exerted an important influence upon the business interests of the city and are a peaceful and law-abiding class. The first Israelite who lived in Buffalo was a Mr. Flersheim, an instructor of German from Frankfort-on-the-Main. He was here as early as 1835. Barnard Lichtenstein, the second known Israelite resident here, was in the city from 1838 to 1870, when he left for Waupun, Wisconsin.
The religious organizations of the Israelites, of course, stand alone, unique and peculiar. According to their law and traditions, ten male Israelites above the age of thirteen years, are alone competent to form a congregation which may hold divine liturgical services.

The first public worship by Israelites, known to have been held in Buffalo, took place in Concert Hall, subsequently called Townsend Hall, on the southwest corner of Main and Swan streets, in the spring of 1847, for the celebration of the passover feast. The early Israelites, feeling the need of an incorporated body for the administration of rites in harmony with their religious education and belief, organized on October 3, 1847, into the Jacobsohn Society. There were eleven charter members as follows:—Louis Dahlman, president; Hirsch Sinzheimer, Moritz Weil, Emanuel Strauss, Joseph Mayer, Samuel Held, Jacob Loewenthal, Louis Rindskopf, Samuel Desbecker, Abraham Strass and Joseph Strass. They immediately bought and consecrated for burial purposes, a lot fronting on what is now Fillmore avenue, near Broadway. This, however, was abandoned July 19, 1861, for the present one on Pine Hill. The Jacobsohn Society was in existence about five years.

The old congregation, Beth Zion, was organized by the German Israelites, (in contradistinction to the Polish Israelites of Beth El,) November 27, 1850. There were eleven original members. The first board of officers were:—E. J. Bernheimer, president; Albert Strauss, vice-president and treasurer; Moritz Weil, secretary; Israel Drinker, David Kurtz and Jacob Strauss, trustees.

The Rev. J. M. Slatky, who had been the first Rabbi of the congregation of Beth El, but who had dissociated himself from them, was engaged as minister for Beth Zion, at a salary, from December 1, 1850, of $5 a month, and from May 1, 1851, of $100 a year. He was not required to preach or teach, but simply to read the "Thora," or roll of the law, and to attend to the procurement of meat according to the scriptural and dietary laws. The congregation first worshiped in the dwelling house of Mr. Sinzheimer, No. 55 Oak street. On the 18th of November, 1857, long after the dissolution of the Jacobsohn Society, the surviving members of that body deeded their burying ground on Pine Hill, to Beth Zion.

The next minister was Mr. Daniel Shire, who began his labors January 6, 1851. The congregation worshiped in various rented places, the last one before the "Reform" being the house on the northeast corner of South Division and Elm streets.

In September, 1863, in obedience to a desire on the part of many Israelites to conform their mode of worship more with the spirit of modern times and new associations, a number of the leading members of Beth Zion requested the Rev. Dr. Wise, of Cincinnati, to send them a minister to preach before them and others on the high feasts of New Year's day and the day of Atonement. Kremlin Hall was rented for
the ceremonies; this was the beginning of the reform movement—the reform being not a change in creed, but in the mode of worship by the introduction of modern service, choir singing, preaching in a known language, etc. A meeting preliminary to reorganization was held in Kremlin Hall on October 9, 1864. After some discussion and deliberation, a fusion with the old Beth Zion was effected. The new society was named Temple Beth Zion. The first officers were:—Siegmund Levyn, president; Siegmund Hofeller, vice-president; Jacob Altman, treasurer; David Rosenau, secretary; Solomon Biesenthal, Leopold Keiser, Joseph E. Strass and Leopold Strass, trustees. The first minister was the Rev. I. N. Cohen, who was succeeded November 1, 1866, by the present minister, the Rev. S. Falk.

The old Methodist Episcopal Church on Niagara street, just below Eagle, where this congregation now worships, was bought at once from William G. Fargo for $13,000, of which $7,000 was raised by immediate subscription. The building was adapted to the religious worship of the Jews and dedicated by the Rev. Dr. Wise on Friday, May 25, 1865. In the fall of 1876, a new organ was procured at a cost of $2,000, and dedicated by two sacred concerts at the temple. The present officers of the temple are as follows:—S. Bergman, president; Leopold Warner, vice-president; Solomon Rosenau, secretary; Louis Weil, treasurer; Leopold Keiser, Leopold Marcus, Marcus Spiegel, Louis Jellinek, trustees.

On December 23, 1877, an orphan asylum society was started here, comprising Israelis of this and other synagogues. This society, together with similar organizations in Rochester and Syracuse, have formed the Jewish Orphan Asylum Association of Western New York, and have an Orphan’s Home in Rochester. They now have an accumulated capital of $45,000.

The Hebrew Benevolent Society was originated in 1862. In March, 1880, a Young Men’s Hebrew Association was organized for literary and social purposes. They hold regular meetings at McArthur’s Hall, and are in possession of a valuable library.

In June, 1882, a heavy task devolved upon the Israelis of Buffalo, caused by the arrival here of hundreds of Russian refugees. Funds were at once collected, a suitable habitation was hired and shelter and food were given to the sufferers until employment could be found for them.

Bethel Synagogue.—Bethel Synagogue was incorporated on the 13th of June, 1848. The first meetings were held in the Kremlin Block. Subsequently the society worshiped in a building on Pearl street, between Eagle and Court streets. The present synagogue on Elm street, between Eagle and North Division, was dedicated in August, 1874. The several ministers who have officiated at this synagogue are as follows:—The Rev. J. M. Slatky, H. Rosenberg, J. Loewenthal (who came about 1860), I. Werinsky, Philip Bernstein, B. Cohen (who came some time in 1875 and remained until November, 1882), A. Bauer, and the present minister,
the Rev. W. Berger. The present officers are I. N. Cohen, president; N. Hyman, vice-president; Henry Brown, treasurer; Emil Bernstein, secretary; A. F. Cohen, S. Dismon and J. Weisberg. A. F. Cohen was president of the board for the eight years ending in April, 1883. There are at present about thirty-five voting members of the synagogue, though the general attendance is considerably larger.

**Brith Sholem.**—Brith Sholem, or Berith Shalom, (Covenant of Peace) on Elm street, between Broadway and Clinton streets, was organized about 1865. It is composed of Prussian Israelites. They lost their original charter and were re-incorporated in December, 1882, having in the meantime built and dedicated (August 24, 1873) a frame synagogue costing about $4,000; their entire property is valued at about $7,000. A parochial school of twenty-six children is connected with the synagogue. The first minister was the Rev. Mr. Sullfort, who was followed by Rev. Mr. Worenski, and he, in 1869, by the Rev. D. W. Jacobson, who remained seven years. Mr. Jacobson returned in May, 1883. During his absence, the Revs. S. Poltoravitz and J. Broody officiated.

**Beth Jacob.**—The congregation Beth Jacob, an offshoot from Brith Sholem, was organized on the first Sunday in October, 1881. The first minister was the Rev. Jacob Meyerberg. A lot was bought on the corner of Clinton and Walnut streets and a synagogue erected thereon at a total cost of $4,500. The second minister was the Rev. Jacob Saperston, and the next, the Rev. Raphael Josephson, who came in April, 1882. Their burying ground, comprising two acres, is situated on Doat street, About thirty-five families now belong to the congregation.

A complete history of the German Churches of Buffalo will be found in the chapter devoted to the Germans of the city.

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**CHAPTER XII.**

**EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS OF BUFFALO.**


The wise policy of the American people in the early establishment of ample educational facilities as fast as the country has been settled and children have needed instruction, is acknowledged as one of the strongest elements of her growth and prosperity, as well as the promoter