402 Wisconsin Historical Collections [vol. iii

was moved south of this original site, about twenty rods, and fronts on the park.

On the 4th of February, 1840, a Bible Society was first organized at Kenosha.

In 1843, the Congregational Society built a respectable sized church on lot four, block eighty-four, in the second ward, which ten years after they moved into the first ward, and located on lot four, block thirty-four. Lot four, block eighty-four, however, seemed destined to be the foundation of a church, and accordingly, we now find a neat but unpretending German Protestant church occupying the ground left vacant by the removal of the Congregational edifice. The Baptist Society also erected a handsome church in the same year that the Congregational church was built. A few years later, the Episcopal Society also erected a small but neat church, in the first ward. In 1845, the Irish Catholics built a brick church, of good size and proportions, in the third ward.

In 1848, a new religious denomination was inaugurated at Kenosha, by Messrs. C. L. Sholes, H. C. Train, Sheldon Fish, and others. It was called the "Excelsior Church," and it was claimed to be founded upon purely democratic principles. Whatever a man's religious opinions were, it was no bar to his admission into this church. Indeed, it invited together the most discordant elements; and each one regularly attending, had the right to advocate with perfect freedom, whatever doctrine he may have chanced to hold. All classes, the high and the low, the believer and the unbeliever, here met upon one common platform. Such discordant materials could not long mingle in harmony together, and this church, after two years duration, added another proof to the many that had gone before it, that "a house divided against itself cannot stand."

It may be proper to add, that the Rev. William Alanson, Episcopal, resigned his charge of the "Mission at Southport and parts adjacent," on the 27th of March, 1843.