

only lacking the towering snow-clad mountains, to complete the resemblance.

In sketching briefly the customs and institutions as they now exist here, it is proper that the church and religion of the colonists should be first in order. The first house of worship was built of hewn logs, in 1849, by voluntary contributions of labor and money, and was for the time a roomy and substantial structure. It was also used for school and town purposes. The village school district bought it when the present structure was erected; and when, in process of time, a new school-house was needed, it was sold to a farmer living three and a half miles east of the village, who removed it, and now occupies it as a dwelling. The present church was built of stone, in 1858, at a cost of nineteen hundred and fifty dollars in money, and five hundred and fifty days' work by the members of the congregation. It is a plain structure, with a square tower, surmounted by a dome, and provided with two bells. The first bell was bought by the Rev. Mr. Streissguth in Milwaukee, in 1852. It weighs three hundred and twenty-seven pounds, and cost one hundred and twelve dollars. The second was bought in 1859, weighing four hundred and sixty-eight pounds, and cost one hundred and seventy-two dollars and a half, of which one hundred and twenty dollars was raised by subscription.

Before the arrival of a clergyman, Mr. Tschudy conducted religious services. The first preacher was the Rev. Mr. Streissguth, now of St. Paul, Minn., who was sent to the colony in 1850, and was supported for two years at the expense of parties in Switzerland. He remained five years. He is spoken of as a man of good ability, a true Christian, and in every way worthy and charitable. He had some knowledge of medicine, which he exercised gratuitously for the relief of the sick, at a time when physicians resided at a distance, and the people were too poor to employ them. His successor was the Rev. Jno. Zimmerman, now of Burlington, Iowa, who was pastor from 1855 to 1859. He was engaged when Mr. Streissguth left, and on his recommendation. He resigned on account of disagreement with the trustees in matters of government, rules, etc. The present minister, Rev. J. T. Etter, came in 1860, and has