

uninterruptedly served the congregation ever since; and during the eighteen years of his pastorate, he married one hundred and fifteen couples, christened eight hundred and sixty-one children, and attended the burial of two hundred and sixty-seven persons.

The second church belongs to the Evangelical Association; the members are few, and the manner of worship is identical with that of the Methodists. The first itinerant preachers came into the vicinity in 1847. They gained some converts in spite of the opposition, distrust and dislike with which the colonists regarded any religious innovation. In 1859, they built a large frame church, on a hill, about two miles from the village; not daring at that time to build in the village, so strong was the prejudice against them. In 1865, this feeling having considerably moderated, the church was removed into the village, and worship is held regularly without molestation or disturbance from others. They now seldom receive any accession to their numbers, which are few; but among them are some of the most worthy and substantial citizens of the colony.

The reason why the New Glarus people have so generally adhered to the faith of their fathers is, doubtless, because at an early day they organized a church with regular services after the customs of the fatherland, which, with people disposed, as these are, to venerate everything that their ancestors did, went far to strengthen their attachments to their ancient forms of worship.

Of the two churches, the Reformed church was first organized in 1849. It has a membership of one hundred and seventy heads of families, representing about six hundred persons. The men of families are alone called upon to contribute for its support; and this is done by levying a tax equally upon all, whether rich or poor, sufficient to pay expenses. The amount is determined by the annual meeting of the male members, at which all rules for the government of the congregation are made and altered; and all such meetings are almost always fully attended, great interest being taken in the proceedings. The congregation is independent of any other church or synod of the same denomination in America. Repeated efforts have been made by synods to bring