

them into connection; but all attempts in that direction have encountered an independent spirit of opposition on the part of this society, which would not brook even the semblance of control.

The church is nominally in connection with the synod of Eastern Switzerland, but the relation is practically of little benefit to either party. The hymn books and catechisms are the same as those used in Switzerland, and are imported as required, none of this kind being printed or used elsewhere in this country. The liturgy is also from the same source, containing prayers which are read for each Sunday, holiday, and other occasions of worship. Prayers are always read—never made extempore in church service.

As it may be interesting to others to know how the services are conducted, the following order on Sundays, will give a proper idea: At about nine o'clock the first bell is rung, not tolled, as in many other churches; and between the first ringing and ten o'clock, the worshipers begin to come in, taking seats where they please, except that the sexes sit separately on either side of the church. At ten o'clock both bells are rung, which is the signal that the minister has started from his house, about eighty rods away; the ringing continues until he enters the building, when the people rise as he enters, and remain standing until he reads prayers, and announces the text, and also during the singing, which is led by a good choir of male voices, accompanied by an organ. After the sermon is over, prayers are again read, followed by singing, and the benediction. Then follows the singular custom of the female part of the congregation leaving the church first, the bell ringing the while, and the men standing; and not until the last skirt has passed the door, does the male part follow, led by the pastor.

The origin of this custom, according to tradition, is as follows: Some five hundred years ago, the Austrians being at war with the Swiss, attempted to surprise the town of Nafels, in Glarus; or, as other traditions have it, a battle occurred between the combatants in the neighboring canton of Grisons or Graubünden. In either case, the circumstances were the same—the people were at church—whether Sunday or holiday is not recorded; but a