

When a person dies, the relatives, friends and countrymen are notified by messengers of the time of death and burial; and the accompanying of the dead to their last resting place is a duty which is faithfully fulfilled, over one hundred and fifty teams being often seen at a funeral. The church bells are made to do duty on all of these occasions. A couple of bell-tolls give notice to the sponsors that the minister is at the altar, ready to proceed with the baptism. On account of the baptism being always performed at the close of the regular services, the god-mother and child remain in some convenient dwelling near the church, until summoned by the bell. This is so arranged that the congregation may not be disturbed by any fretfulness on the part of the infant, to whom no doubt the services would often become as tedious as they sometimes do to older children, not only in this, but in numerous other churches.

At weddings they ring a merry peal; and at funerals the bells are tolled until the coffin is lowered into the grave. They are also rung twice each day, as is the custom in Switzerland, at 11 A. M., and at dusk every evening, for five minutes each time; and at midnight of the 31st December they are rung a whole hour, to welcome in the New Year.

Kilbi, as it is termed here—a corruption of *Kirchweihe*, or church hallowing—is the holiday of all days. The Fourth of July is celebrated with American fervor; but Kilbi is a blending of all holidays into one. This day occurs on the last Sunday of September of each year; and, as its name denotes, is strictly a religious festival, being the anniversary of the dedication of the church. On that day the pastor, at the close of the services, dedicates the building anew; and this is as far as religious observances are kept. In the afternoon, target-shooting, and dancing, are moderately indulged in; but Monday is the great day. Strangers come from a distance, and neighbors and friends meet, and renew friendships, over loaded tables and foaming glasses. The youth, and, in fact, almost everybody, repair to the village; and music and dancing begin about noon, and are kept up until next morning, at three or more different halls, and all are crowded. In spite of the crowd, and the quantities of beer and wine drank—