

proved and remodeled several times. Asbury church built the Centenary church, 1866-68 and the division of the church was effected at that time. The Centenary church, which has an excellent building, once enlarged, with a fine interior and a grand organ, seems to have absorbed some of the spirit of the celebrated Bishop Simpson who came here to help the church upon its feet. His eloquent tongue charmed about \$8,000 from his hearers one Sunday, for this purpose. The Centenary has always been a church of workers. Its Sunday School numbering about 500, its mission work, societies and social organizations, attest the energy and devotion of its members.

The Baptist church, which was organized in 1836, has passed through varying fortunes to occupy a large and important field. It owns a handsome and commodious property worth about \$40,000; the main building was built 1877-80 at a cost of about \$25,000 and the Chapel and Sunday School rooms were constructed of the materials from the first edifice which was destroyed by a tornado in 1860. The Baptist church shows vigorous life, has a great congregation, very large Sunday School and a prosperous mission work.

The Congregational church, which dates its organization to 1834, is the oldest church of its order in the state, and has been noted for the ability of its pastors, among whom were Dr. Lyman Abbott, the successor of Henry Ward Beecher at Plymouth church; Rev. E. Frank Howes and Rev. J. L. Corning, pulpit orators of high rank. The first pastor, Rev. M. A. Jewett, who served for twenty-six years, was widely known in the West for his zeal and ability. The present large building was built to replace one destroyed by a tornado in 1853.

St. Stephen's Episcopal church, whose first church was a small frame building on Fifth street, now possesses an edifice which is a fine example of ecclesiastical architecture. An excellent and commodious rectory adjoins it. Its history can claim a period of fifty years.

The German Lutheran Church on Poplar street with its elegant building, surmounted by a graceful spire, surrounded by well-kept grounds, is one of the most attractive in the city. Two bells, the beginning of a set of chimes, hang in the steeple.

The Catholic Church of Terre Haute presents, in its numerous substantial churches

and school buildings, evidences of its great prosperity. There are four churches, five schools, two of which are very large and fine buildings, an orphan asylum and a hospital. St. Patrick's, at 13th and Poplar, is the finest of the churches, architecturally.

The Christian Church, to those who remember its former frame building on Fourth street, has been a very successful religious organization, and while gaining in the wealth and social surroundings of its membership, retains its sympathy with an adaptation to all classes of the community. It occupies a good building, and supports a flourishing mission work. The Presbyterian Church, which claims the earliest establishment in the city, by the union of its two branches became a strong congregation. Its remodeled church, with its convenient sittings, shows more of the latest improvements in religious edifices than any other. It also has a fine organ.

Amusements are an important feature in the life of Terre Haute. Back in the "Sixties" the only room for entertainments was the large basement of the city school on Fourth street. Among the celebrities appearing there were Gottschalk and Artemus Ward. Later the frame building, now St. Stephen's Church, was fitted up for amusement purposes. The Black Swan was the greatest celebrity who appeared here. In 1864 Dowling Hall was built. It cost \$60,000 in that day of high prices. On its stage appeared John B. Gough, Wendell Phillips, Josh Billings, Bayard Taylor, Artemus Ward, Schuyler Colfax, Edwin Forrest, Parepa, and many other famous lecturers, actors and singers. Since the opening of the Opera House, Terre Haute has been visited by every amusement combination which travels, with very few exceptions, none of which were too expensive to draw large audiences, so that Terre Haute has the reputation of being one of the best show towns in the country.

The Hotels of Terre Haute have varied little in number since it was a village, though, of course, increasing in accommodations. In 1837 the Terre Haute House was begun, and the first bricks for it were dumped into the cornfield, which was its site. Although until after 1860 it was considered quite out of town, it was kept up to standard by various good landlords, from Barnum the first to T. C. Bantin, the last of the old time landlords, who closed his career as a boniface at the Bantin house on Third street. He was there before the war and furnished sumptuous fare at \$13 per month, but when a raise was made to \$15 the boarders struck.