

PILGRIM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, DULUTH, MINN.

THE BUILDING.

The new building of the Pilgrim church at Duluth, Minn., represents much sacrifice and perseverance. It was begun in June, 1887, and the exterior was completed in November of the same year. The very day after the last ornament had been placed on the roof, the church was almost totally destroyed by fire, the blackened and partly crumbled walls alone remaining. The fire caught from a stove placed in the audience room to keep the plaster from freezing. Three watchmen were supposed to be in the building and were certainly there half an hour before the fire, but as nearly as the truth can be ascertained, had left their trust a few moments to seek a saloon, for a glass of Sunday whiskey. The sudden cold of the day had frozen the nearest fire-plug, and the delay thus caused gave the fire such headway that it could not be controlled. The loss was some \$40,000 above the insurance, and this was divided between the church and the contractor.

As soon as the weather permitted the walls were thoroughly rebuilt, the tower being taken down clear to the ground, and the remaining walls in some cases as far as the water-table and the church was pushed to completion as rapidly as possible. The first services were held in November '88, and the main audience room was opened Feb. 10th, '89.

The material is Mantorville sandstone, gray, with Arcadian sandstone pink trimmings. The main floor has spacious lobbies, and an audience room with circular pews, which have 650 sittings. The floor is sloping, and every seat is well located for seeing and hearing. Another circle of seats can be

below it, were made in Paris, and represent the triumphant Christ, and Peter, Paul and John. Their arrangement reminds one of Longfellow's description in the Divine Comedy:

"I lift mine eyes and all the windows blaze,
With forms of saints and holy men who died,
Here martyred and hereafter glorified;
And the great Rose upon its leaves displays
Christ's triumph."

The tall window at the left has a beautiful life-size figure of a Pilgrim, made by Misch, of Chicago, who furnished the rest of the glass, to the great satisfaction of the committee. The wood-work is all of red oak, and the carpets and cushions are a soft brown. The organ is a fine instrument, made by Steere & Turner of Springfield, Mass. Its case is of gum-wood, and the coloring of the pipes is in perfect keeping with the fresco of the walls. The acoustic properties are perfect. The whole arrangement is somewhat similar to the church at Winona, built by the same architects, Willcox & Johnson, of St. Paul. But experience has suggested several important improvements.

The steep slope of the lots, one foot in twelve, gives a high, and light basement, where are the working rooms of the church. The central room is 62x33 feet and accommodates 300 easily, and can be seated for 375. Opening from this by rolling blinds are six pleasant rooms which are used for class-rooms by the Sunday school, and can all be thrown into the main room at a moment's notice. Two of these on the avenue side are also used as parlors by the ladies. The basement also contains a trustee's room, used also as a class-room, and which has a place for a safe set into the solid masonry, for the preservation of the church records. The kitchen has a sink, pantry, convenient cupboards and a

the main floor, and it has also two entrances on the grade of the avenue. On the basement floor are also two toilet rooms, completely equipped. The sub-basement contains the boilers and coal bins. The church is lighted with electricity, and the lower floors by gas. The central sunburner has fifty-four incandescents, arranged in five stars, making a beautiful light, and giving perfect illumination. The tower is 115 feet high and contains a study for the pastor.

The cost of the lots was \$10,000, of the building \$30,000, of the organ and furnishings, including windows and heating apparatus, \$12,000, and the loss by fire and consequent expenses about \$3000, making the total \$55,000. There is a mortgage for \$15,000, and the rest of the amount has been raised by the congregation. The church numbered but 120 members when it began to build, and now has 225. It is quite probable that the debt may be cancelled before the church is dedicated, though it may be deemed wiser to carry it for a year or two. In such a rapidly growing community we are compelled to build for the future, and can incur future liabilities which would be unwise under other circumstances. The church proves very satisfactory; the congregations are large, and the Sunday school is growing rapidly. After long waiting, the enjoyment of such complete equipment for service, is the more highly appreciated.

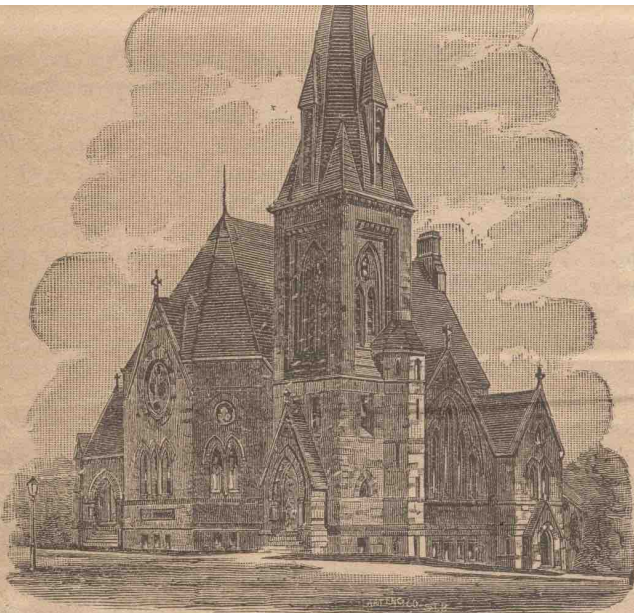
HISTORICAL SKETCH.

Pilgrim church was organized January 18, 1871, with sixteen members, one joining by profession of faith. The first pastor was Rev. C. C. Salter, previously pastor of Plymouth church, Minneapolis, and whose long and devoted service has made him beloved throughout the state. He was installed, formally, in March, 1872. Services were held for six months in the rooms of the Pendleton Block, generously loaned for the purpose, and then a chapel was built on the corner of Second St. and First Ave. East. Generous aid of eastern friends and the Congregational Union made the erection of the neat little chapel possible. In Dec. 1872, the church came to self support. Then came the panic of 1873, and the dark days of Duluth. Every one left the city who had money enough to get away, and the church was again compelled to seek aid from the Home Missionary Society. For several months it was yoked with Brainerd, Mr. Salter serving both churches, though they were 115 miles apart. His health failing, he was compelled to leave his work in 1876.

The question of abandoning the church was often raised, but by a formal vote, it was decided "That this church shall continue." Rev. C. A. Conant served the church, together with that at Brainerd, for two years, and was then followed by Rev. E. C. Ingalls, who remained but one year in the field, and returned to New England. Rev. M. M. Tracy served the church from Oct. 1879, to Oct. 1880, and during his pastorate the church survived a bitter church trial and lived to re-unite more strongly than ever, a good proof of its vitality. Mr. Salter, having regained his health, was

declined an invitation to do that capacity. During his term, parsonage was built. The present Rev. E. M. Noyes preached for in June and July, and was installed in Sept. '83. There are other pastorates of equal length in congregational churches of the state. Noyes is the oldest English-speaker at the head of the lake, in position, though one of the youngest. For the last two years the first of the church, Rev. C. C. Salter has home in the city, where he has the Bethel, and is also pastor of the newly formed Plymouth church. It has received in these eighteen years its membership, of whom 168 are profession of faith. The present number is 225. During the present pastorate have been received, of whom 100 have joined by profession. The Sunday school has an enrollment of 300, with an attendance for the last few months

entering the new rooms, of which the church is organized for all the forms of work and the Y. P. S. C. A. Aid, and Mission Societies, "The Council," an organization of the ladies of the congregation, and of which are valuable auxiliary work. It has always been not cordial welcome to strangers, and the united energy of its members had much to do with whatever has achieved. The former chapel sonage were sold when the new was erected, in 1887, and the plan of the present edifice contemplated parsonage adjoining, which will be some time in the future.



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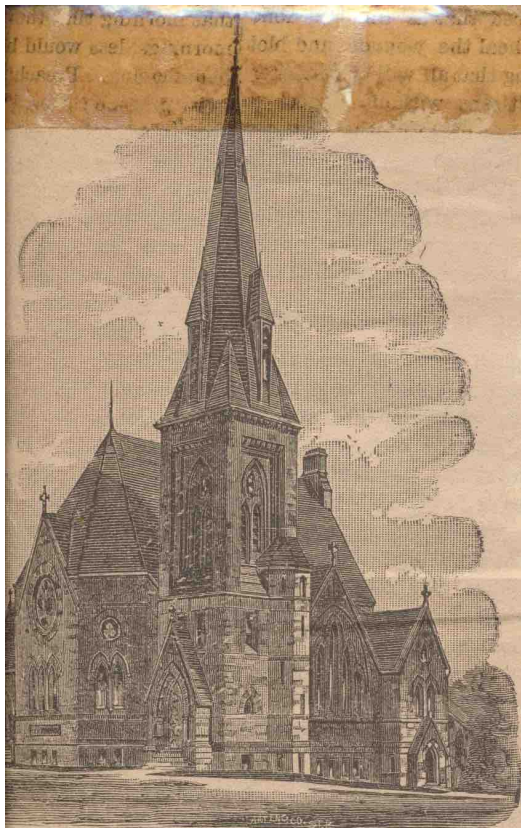
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the present membership has been received, of whom 82 have joined by profession. The Sunday School has an enrollment of 300, with an average attendance for the last few months, since entering the new rooms, of 250. The church is organized for all the various forms of work and the Y. P. S. C. E. Ladies' Aid, and Mission Societies, "Friedman's Council," an organization of the

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