

THE CHURCHES OF PORTLAND.

OF late years the utter inadequacy of the church facilities of Portland, in number of edifices as well as in size and the necessary interior arrangements for the growing needs of church work, has been plainly apparent. Every church in the city has been unable to provide for the increased attendance at both the regular services and the Sunday schools. The forty church edifices now in use are, for the most part, those erected many years ago, when the population of the city was scarcely one-fourth its present numbers, and when the more recently adopted methods of church work had not been introduced. With but few exceptions they are plain wooden structures, of rather contracted dimensions, and are neither a great ornament to the city nor capable of fully serving the purpose for which they were erected. These exceptions are the Trinity Episcopal, a handsome wooden structure on the corner of Sixth and Oak streets, the Catholic cathedral, a large and ornamental brick edifice, standing on the corner of Third and Stark streets, Calvary Presbyterian, a fine wooden edifice erected a few years ago on the corner of Ninth and Clay streets, the First Unitarian, a wooden edifice on the corner of Yamhill and Seventh streets, and the Taylor Street Methodist, a brick edifice on the corner of Third and Taylor streets. The two last named are both of inadequate size, and the Taylor street society will probably build a much larger and handsomer one before long. The members of the First Congregational, whose building on the corner of Second and Jefferson streets is wholly inadequate to the needs of the society, are making preparations for the erection of a large and handsome stone church of modern architecture, to be situated on one of the Park streets, and Grace M. E. church is already excavating for the foundation of an edifice on the corner of Tenth and Taylor.

The first effort to erect a church containing all the modern conveniences and requisites for all the branches of church work, a building of solid stone, to stand for years, an inheritance to coming generations and a monument to the zeal and devotion of its founders, is that of the First Presbyterian society. This large, substantial and ornate edifice is now in process of erection on the corner of Tenth and Alder streets, and when completed will have no superior in beauty of architecture and finish, nor in massive solidity, on the Pacific coast. In view of this most important era in the church's history, a brief synopsis of its career will not be out of place. In the fall of 1859 several families of Presbyterians, including a few Congregationalists, subscribed \$800.00 for the support of a mission, and upon application to the Board of Do-

mestic Missions of the Presbyterian denomination, that body sent Rev. P. S. McCaffrey to Portland, who arrived with his wife and two children on the fourth of June, 1860, and preached his first sermon in the court house on the fifteenth of the same month. On the third of August a church society was organized by Rev. Mr. Thompson, of Clatsop Plains, with James McKewan, S. M. Hensell and Israel Mitchell as elders, and A. H. Bell, deacon. The organizing members were S. M. Hensill, James McKewan, Israel Mitchell, A. H. Bell, Mrs. Mary Robertson, Mrs. Jerusha Hedges, Mrs. Margaret Smith, Mrs. Caroline Couch, Mrs. Eliza Ainsworth, Mrs. C. A. Ladd, Mrs. M. Jane Hensill, Miss Polono Clark, Mrs. Frances Sophia Law, Mrs. E. L. Blossom, Mrs. Sarah J. Mead, Mrs. Agnes Groom and Miss Leonora Blossom. The business of the society was entrusted to J. M. Blossom, B. F. Smith, W. S. Ladd, J. C. Ainsworth and H. A. Hogue, trustees, Thomas Robinson, treasurer, and Henry Law, secretary. Church was held the first few years in one of the wooden buildings on Third street near Morrison. Work was begun on the church building on the corner of Third and Washington streets early in 1863, and the edifice was dedicated on Sunday, May 22, 1864. The original contract was for \$9,250.00, but was subsequently increased, the building costing, when ready for occupancy, about \$13,000.00. It was evidently considered a very fine building for that day, as amongst the other proceedings of the board of trustees is found the appointment of a committee, to wait upon A. Holbrook, editor of the *Oregonian*, for the purpose of inviting him to inspect "our new church." In 1868 the church was fortunate in securing Dr. A. L. Lindsley as pastor, and for eighteen years it thrived under his ministrations, making its influence felt, throwing out branches and contributing liberally to the support of mission chapels, and domestic and foreign missions. Two years ago it was decided that the time had arrived when the society should build the larger edifice it had long needed, and plans were drawn by W. F. McCaw, for a commodious and elegant stone structure, which were accepted. The half block on the south side of Alder street, between Tenth and Eleventh, was bought for \$23,000.00, a large, modern residence standing on the corner of Eleventh being included in the purchase, and which has since been the manse. The church itself will cost \$120,000.00, to pay which a subscription of \$46,896.00 has been raised to supplement the fund of \$68,000.00 obtained by sale of the old property on Third street, which originally cost \$2,500.00, but is now valuable for business purposes.

On another page is given an engraving of this imposing structure, the lofty spire of which stands on