

# STATELY FANES SUBSTITUTE THE PIONEERS' LOG CHAPELS

## GROWTH OF CHURCH IN PACE WITH CITY

Thirty-Seven Years Ago There Was Not a Church Edifice in Duluth—Now There Are Seventy-Five.

Missionaries Came With Earliest Explorers and Head of Lakes Was Base of Christian Work for Centuries.

It is set down in the roll of history that the first church organization in the city of Duluth was formed in June, 1858, as the First Presbyterian church. But long prior to that the way of the cross had been traced up the lakes and through the wilderness. The pioneers of Christianity went along, side by side with the pioneers of exploration—where they did not lead the latter—in the opening up of this, as well as other sections of the new world. Unlike the settlement of the Atlantic coast, the peopling of the Northwest by whites was not due to religious persecution, but to the exuberant enthusiasm of the missionary, in his zeal for the saving of souls, and the righteousness of his cause into the wilderness, proclaiming peace and goodwill, and making easy the way of those who came after him. While these evangelists made a profound impression upon the simple, savage peoples among whom they labored, their earliest work was not marked by permanent establishments. They drove on in their zeal, each seeking to plant the standard of

the cross at a more remote outpost. The maintenance of the bases they left to the traders who followed in their wake. Here at the head of the lakes the Catholic religion flourished during the greater portion of the eighteenth century. Other denominations were unknown, and the influence of the missionary fathers was felt long after these good men had been removed to higher fields. The French traders and their red allies kept alive the brand of faith for decades, while their spiritual needs were satisfied more by the memory of the offices of the church than by any active ministrations by the missionaries, who still strove to maintain the footing they had obtained among the remoter bands of the Indians. Fond du Lac was the base upon which the missionaries to the northwestern tribes built and the domination of the northwest field by the Catholic fathers was undisputed until French ascendancy was substituted by that of the Americans long after the war of the revolution. It was in the early part of the second century of the last century that the Protestant

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Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Duluth.

churches came into the field at the head of the lakes with a view to missionary work on a fixed basis. Prior to that time an occasional missionary of the Protestant denominations attained to the trading post at Fond du Lac, but it would appear to have been the general policy of John Jacob Astor to leave the people whom he was dealing with and through to their own religious devices, and there was not much encouragement given to any Protestant missionary work until the latter days of the fur trading. In the 30's Protestant missionaries reached the head of the lakes and attempted to establish themselves. As is shown in the general historical review, the Rev. Mr. Ely did indeed manage to maintain a foothold, and from the time of his coming there was always a church establishment at the head of the lakes,

at Fond du Lac, at Superior later and still later at Duluth.

### ITINERANT MINISTERS AT OLD DULUTH

The spiritual wants of the few people at Duluth proper up to the time of the organization of a church were ministered to by the clergymen at Superior, who have left some records of the difficulties they had to contend with in crossing the bay to preach to and give the comforts of religion to the people who remained true to their earlier hopes of a town at Duluth. But it was not until 1859 that the people of Duluth were ministered to by a strong enough numerically to attempt church building. Once the spirit of religion was aroused and prompted the people to the building of churches, there was no end to their zeal and a plentiful sprinkling of the spires that pointed to higher things.

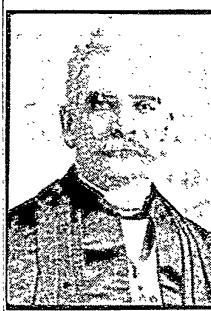
In 1858 churches were established by the Presbyterians, Methodists, Episcopalians, Baptists, in the order named, and Father Chebut, a missionary priest, whose charge included Duluth, Superior, Bayfield and other places at the west end of Lake Superior, continued to increase his visits to Duluth. All the denominations had churches a year later, there was a ministerial association, and, whatever temporary reverses Duluth has been subjected to since then, nothing has interfered with the growth of the churches, at least since the late seventies.

Duluth is essentially a church-going community, as is proper in a rich community its church edifices are assuming an elegance of architecture that is fast pressing the city to the state where it will be famous for its beautiful churches. But there are still many structures which testify to the simple wants and humble pretensions of the people whom they served as houses of worship in less prosperous times.

### GROWTH OF THE VARIOUS CHURCHES

The mission station which was supplied by Father Chebut thirty-six years ago has expanded into a Catholic diocese which includes many thousands of families. In Duluth alone there are nine Catholic churches, including a cathedral. The church property in churches, schools, hospitals and other institutions constitutes a rich religious, educational and charitable endowment. The Episcopal church has risen to

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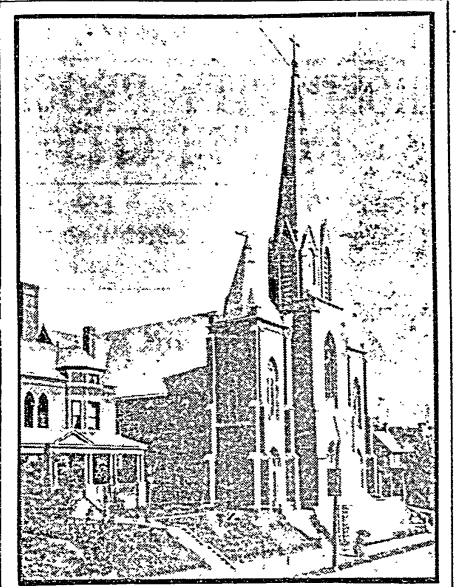


Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Duluth.

the dignity of a diocese, though it is but thirty-six years since the people of that denomination rejoiced over the fact that their little church had attained to that metropolitan state indicated in the possession of a bell in the church steeple—the first church bell in Duluth. The Episcopal churches number seven. The Presbyterians, pioneers in church organization, have expanded in numbers and possessions and have nine churches, among them some of the finest edifices devoted to religious purposes in Duluth.

The Methodists, who were among those to organize during that first year of the city's development, have a rich and modern church establishment, with houses of worship to the number of twelve and a very large membership.

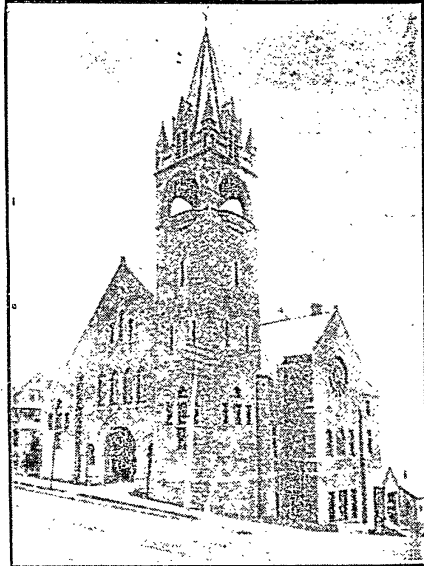
The Baptists were also here at the beginning of the formal work of the churches and they have prospered and multiplied to such an extent that there are eight church edifices belonging to that denomination. The Lutherans came into the field later than the other numerically strong churches, but they have gone beyond the others in the proportion of their growth, having no less than eighteen churches in the city. The Congregationalists have two



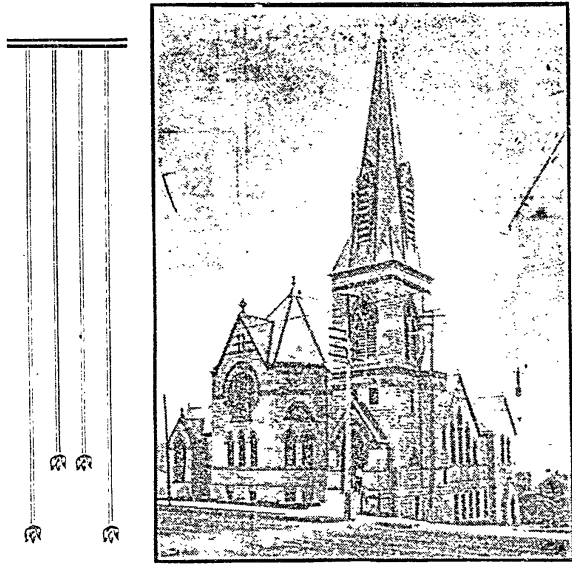
Sacred Heart Cathedral.

churches, one a notably handsome structure. Of the other denominational churches there are two of the Government, one Christian, one Christian Science, three Evangelical, one Unitarian. The Salvation Army is represented in its religious and charitable work by two corps. There are three Jewish congregations with places of worship. It would not be easy to estimate

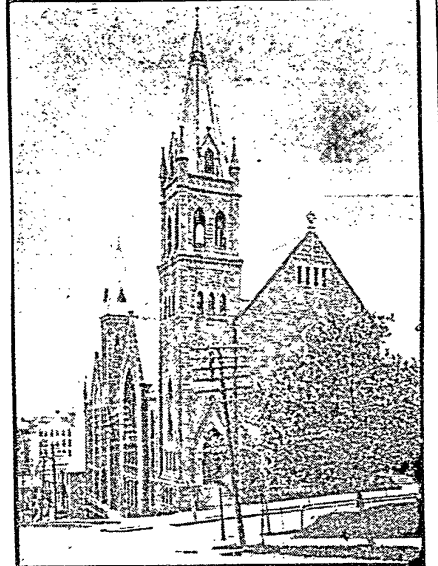
the wealth invested in this church property, but there is evidence on every hand that it is large and that the religious endowment is increasing now very much more rapidly than in the past. There is plenty of tangible evidence of the fact that Duluth is quite as rich in its aspirations to the spiritual life as it is ambitious in striving for the material things.



First Presbyterian Church.



Pilgrim Congregational Church.



First Methodist Episcopal Church.

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\$25 a week. There are skilled nurses on duty night and day. There is much done in the way of charity and all the marine work from the beginning of the port has been done in this hospital. The building is remarked upon in Baedeker as one of the seven sights of the city.

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**NEW PARK ALONG FISCHER'S CREEK.**

First Steps Taken to Acquire New Beauty Spot for the City.

From The News Tribune, March 10, 1906.

Preliminary steps were taken by the

board of public works yesterday under previous instruction of the council to give the city a new park in the East End. Condemnation proceedings were begun on a strip of land on each side of Fischer's Creek a mile in length from the intersection of the creek with the Colbyville road to Greyalon road. The strip follows the creek ravine, and is about 600 feet across at its widest part and 300 feet at the narrow point.

President Mendenhall, of the park

board, recommended the acquisition of this strip by the city to the conference committee last fall, and asked that means be provided for its purchase, pointing out that the land might increase in value at any time. While it was not stated that the board expects to invest any money in improving it this year, it was desired that legal steps be taken to secure its ownership as quickly as possible.

It is the plan of the board to make a natural park of the new strip and

Good Dolder. The oldest Adirondack guide is 103, but he is not certain whether it was his own luck or had whooping on the part of his clients that enabled him to attain so patriarchal an age.

Its observation. "What is your idea of reform?" "My observation," said Senator Sorghum, "has been that in a majority of cases reform is a mysterious consequence of a combination of good politics and bad business."