

OUR GERMAN-AMERICAN NEIGHBORS,
BY ALFRED R. CALHOUN.

SO FAR I have said nothing about the German Roman Catholic organization in Brooklyn. From this, it seems, it would be a mistake to infer that I had any intention of ignoring a very important element of our great German-American community. I have been unable to ascertain, even approximately, the number of German Roman Catholics in Brooklyn, and I doubt very much if even the statistics of that church and they are usually very careful and competent—could give any exact information on that subject. In this borough there are 100 Roman Catholic churches and they are, because of their number, even more widely spread than those of any other denomination.

As I have said before, we can no longer, in the United States, tell the land of a man's birth by his name; the best we can do is to make a good guess at the descent of one's ancestors. Of the five-score Roman Catholic churches in Brooklyn, one-fifth, or to be exact, 19 are presided over by pastors with distinctly German names, and no doubt many of them are German born, but their congregations must be largely American or Irish. It will be interesting to give a few of their names: The Rev. George Kaupert, All Saints, Throop avenue and Thornton street; Peter Heon, Annunciation, North Fifth street and Havemeyer; Bernard Kurz, Fourteen Holy Martyrs, Central avenue and Covert street; Francis X. Betzger, Holy Family, Thirtieth street, near Fourth avenue; F. M. Schneider, Most Holy Trinity, Montrose avenue; the latter church may be classed as distinctly German, as sermons are preached in that language; Hermann Mertens, Our Lady of Sorrows, West Seventeenth street; John W. Dugan and Hicks streets; John W. Hauptmann, St. Aloysius, Onderdonk avenue and Stanhope street; W. G. G. Alphonse, Kent street; J. F. Hannelmann, St. Barbara, Bleecker street and Central avenue; Joseph Frankel, St. Benedict, Fulton street, near Ralph avenue; John M. Scheffel, St. Bernard, Hicks and Rapelye streets; M. Lang, St. Boniface, Duane street, near Williamsburg; F. X. Ludeke, St. Francis Assisi, Carroll street and Sixth avenue; George W. Munde, St. John's Chapel, Clermont avenue, near Greene; Nicholas M. Wagner, St. Matthias, Elm avenue, near Onderdonk; P. G. Messmer, St. Michael, 223 Jerome street (this church may be classed as distinctly not exclusively German); J. P. Hoffmann, St. Nicholas, Devoe and Oliver streets; Thomas Taaffe, St. Patrick, Kent and Williamsburg avenues; C. H. Donahut, St. Stanislaus, Fourteenth street, near Sixth avenue.

The Capuchin Monastery in East New York.

Scattered throughout the country, and notably in Pennsylvania, where the monastery of the Trappist Fathers, near Pittsburgh, has been long famous, there are a number of distinctly German Roman Catholic orders or communities; but the most interesting to us at this time is the Capuchin Monastery in East New York, which was established August 8, 1897.

Away back in 1869, when the region about what is now Ralph avenue and Fulton street, was known as "New Brooklyn," and East New York was more thoroughly German than it is at present, the German Roman Catholics, who had been worshipping at St. Benedict, far to the west of their homes, determined to have a church of their own, and like their Protestant countrymen under like conditions acted at once followed resolve. And so in the year named St. Michael's was built. At that time the parish consisted of fifty families, with the Rev. Philip Albrecht, who was also rector of St. Benedict, as pastor. Four lots were bought for \$500. The cornerstone was laid on April 8, 1869, and on July 8 following Bishop Longhite dedicated the building, which, without the lots, cost \$2,576. This was not a pretentious structure, but it was paid for, and it was admirable when we consider that every dollar was contributed by people who had to work with their hands for every cent of it.

In February, 1881, the Rev. Frank Poole succeeded Father Albrecht, and had charge of the parish till July, 1894. Then

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came Father Zelinski and Decker, who did much to arouse the German Roman Catholics in that neighborhood. Their workers were relieved by the Rev. Casper Muller, who served until 1889. Then came Father Obermayer, who had charge of the parish till 1871. Following him were the Revs. M. J. Michaels and August M. Nieman. The latter greatly enlarged the building, he paid up all debts and added to the church property twelve adjoining lots and greatly improved the old school, which had become a feature of the neighborhood.

Father Nieman remained in charge until Bishop McDonnell, in March, 1897, transferred the property to the Capuchin Fathers, and Father Aloysius Blomberg became the first pastor of that order stationed in St. Michael's; but he was called away by his superiors the same year and was succeeded by the Rev. P. Bonaventura Prey, who became the first superior of the Capuchin Monastery in East New York. He bore the same extension to the priests' house and bought three more lots, on which the new school house was built, on the corner of Liberty avenue and Warwick street. This structure cost about \$30,000, but it was not the only improvement made by the energetic Father Bonaventura, for he also

MRS. M. A. MILLER FIRST MARRIAGE HOME FOR THE AGED

from the time Pastor Steinlecker took charge, the congregation secured title to a lot 100x100 feet at Fourth avenue and school had outgrown their quarters and added more room. Additions were made to the existing structure, but when the membership had grown to over 100 and the Sunday school had 150 attendants, the cramped conditions grew more severe. Then, good friend of the work came in, and proposed that a church to cost \$5,000 be erected, promising that if the congregation raised among themselves \$3,775, he would make up the balance. This offer was accepted, and the members went to work, but their efforts were sorely hampered by the panic of three years ago.

It was not till the spring of 1908 that ground was broken for the new building. This building was consecrated and occupied on November 29 of the same year. The church property has grown greatly in value, but the success cannot be measured by the dollar standard. To-day there are over 200 communicants in the congregation and the Sunday school has a regular attendance of 375.

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

On September 8, 1867, a little band of earnest men met at Union Hall, Manhattan avenue and India street, Williamsburg, at the call of the Rev. H. Henrichs, then pastor of St. Paul's, in the same section. These men organized St. John's German Evangelical Lutheran Church, thus becoming the tenth of what has since grown to be sixty-one churches. For some months services were held in Union Hall by pastors of the New York or Steubenville synod, to which the congregation belonged.

So severe in those early days was the struggle for existence, both as individuals and as a congregation, that the importance of keeping a record was not seriously considered, or it was, no one acted on it. Within two months of the first meeting, the congregation—still meeting in Union Hall—called the Rev. Oscar Kaszilius to be their pastor. His salary was to be \$300, of which the congregation agreed to pay \$500, and the rest, it was expected, could be made up from the fees of the proposed parochial school. How he made it out is not known. The second place of meeting was in the Christian Mission Church, Leonard street, which was rented for the purpose. At this time there were sixty communicants in contrast to the present membership of 1200, and a Sunday school attendance of 600 scholars.

The cornerstone of a church edifice was laid on September 20, 1869, on Leonard street, near Greenpoint avenue, and the building was completed and dedicated on November 29 of the same year. It required courage to erect a building on a capital that consisted principally of the assets of faith and hope, but after years of hard work these were conquered.

The available and tangible records of St. John's may be said to begin in 1883, when the present incumbent, the Rev. F. W. Oswald, assumed charge. Pastor Oswald, who is from Syracuse, N. Y., was graduated from the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, June 7, 1881, and before coming to Brooklyn he was serving with his first charge at Boonville, N. Y. When he entered on his duties at St. John's, 27 years ago, the pastor who was very young, did not find a prosperous church, nor a harmonious congregation. But the youth had faith in the work and confidence in him-

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Baron Kikuchi to Speak.
Will Address Woman's Municipal League at Its Entertainment on Thursday.

The entertainment for the benefit of the Woman's Municipal League, which is to be given on the afternoon of February 21 in the ballroom of the Hotel Plaza, promises to be a most interesting and novel affair. Baron Kikuchi, who delivered an address on "The Position of Woman in Japan," and the Japanese orchestra under the leadership of Professor Takatori will play. Tea will be served, after the addresses, by the reception committee in the small room adjoining.

A committee of honor will receive the baron. Included in this committee are President Butler of Columbia, Dean Russell, Dr. Elgin, R. L. Gould, the Japanese acting consul general, K. Yamashita, Robert Erskine Ely, William Jay Schieffelin, Mrs. Vladimir G. Simkhavich, Lawrence Greener, president of the Borough of Queens, Miss Julia Richmond, Frederic B. Pratt, the Rev. Hugh Birchhead, Professor Charles Sprague Smith, Dr. William H. Maxwell, Miss Ruth-Keess, Miss Carter and others, while the Mayor and several of the city officials have also given their names.

Young Orators in Contest.
Pupils of High School Department of Manhattan College Get Medals and Mention.

The annual elocution contest of the high school department of Manhattan College took place last evening in the La Salle Hall. There were twelve speakers—F. F. Faraci, R. G. Furey, W. E. Brophy, J. A. Shields, J. J. O'Connell, G. J. Connolly, T. J. Gray, I. A. Crawford, W. H. Loughran, J. J. Dugan, T. J. Coughlan and H. J. McVey. The prize donated by the Rev. Mr. McMahon, moderator of the contest, was won by the Rev. Thomas J. Keenan, John J. McVey, Philip J. Sinnott, John J. Martin, Edward A. McMahon and John F. Brennan. The Rev. Brother Jerome, the