

CHERRY TREE M. P. CHURCH.

The First M. P. Church of Cherry Tree was organized by Rev. S. F. Crowther, August 22, 1873. The persons forming the organization were Rev. S. F. Crowther, his wife C. M. Crowther, and daughter Amelia E. Crowther, now Mrs. R. S. Lovelace; John Mahaffey and wife, Ellen Mahaffey; Andrew Fraley and his wife, Mary Fraley; L. M. Clark and Almira his wife; John and Elma Kneedler; A. R. Lovelace, M. D.; Robert S. Lovelace, H. B. Grumling, William W. and Mary Langdon, Margaret Langdon, R. McKeage and his wife, Jane McKeage; William Shaw, J. D. Shaffer, Eliza and Emma Lovelace, Miss Maggie T. Keller and S. Conner were added soon after. They labored under great disadvantages on account of not having a church edifice. Part of the time they worshiped in the Presbyterian church, and part in the town hall, and the Sabbath school was in the schoolhouse sometimes, and sometimes in the hall. Each year added to the membership, but church building was deferred on account of the financial panic until 1875. During this year forty-six were added to the church, and preparations for building commenced. The Sunday school and all the services were now being held in the old hall; were well attended and full of interest. The work of the church building was pushed forward as rapidly as circumstances would allow, for "there were many adversaries." And it may safely be said, had it not been for the indomitable courage of the pastor and a very few others, it would have failed. On the last day of A. D. 1876, the first story of the handsomest church in this section of the country was dedicated to the worship of God. The church is 38 by 64 feet, two stories high, with a tower on the corner 116 feet high, Gothic Style. In order to be ready to furnish the church as soon as built, the pastor's wife, Mrs. Crowther, organized a "Ladies' Church Aid Society" in October, 1874, and kept it in vigorous operation. The result was, they paid for the central front window, which bears their *memorial* inscription, and furnished the church as far as finished, with pulpit, carpets, chairs, chandeliers, and, aided by the Sunday school, bought an organ, clock, &c. The pastor was assisted at the dedication by Rev. T. H. Colhouer, President of Pittsburgh Conference, and Rev. J. H. Hull, of Mt. Washington. They were now comfortable situated in their new church. All the regular services were established according to Methodist usages, and the good work went on well, but as all great revivals are followed by heavy reaction, so in this case, "the love of some waxed cold," and some "went back and walked no more with Christ;" but the faithful went forward, and maintained the church in all her interests, securing her permanency and hopefulness for the future. The present membership, September, 1879, is about 50, prominent among are the names of John Mahaffey, William T. Mahaffey, A. R. Lovelace, M. D., R. S. Lovelace, Andrew Fraley, K. Kinport, W. Reed, *et al.*

These five churches are associated, for the support of a pastor, under the name of Cherry Tree pastorate. Each church owns her own property, but, in case of extinction, it vests in the Quarterly Conference, which is composed of the official members of the several churches, with the pastor as President. The records kept by the pastor show receptions, baptisms, withdrawals, marriages, deaths, statistics, &c.

Pastor Crowther, having been elected President of Pittsburgh Annual Conference, and also pastor of the Methodist Protestant church of Allegheny City, Pa., removed to the city in September, 1879, and was succeeded by Rev. J. A. Gehrett. The M. P. Church is republican in government, and maintains an itinerant ministry, schools, colleges, &c.