

## THE NEW CHURCH.

As the congregation had increased to such an extent that a larger church was needed, a new one was erected. The ground was opened and the foundation laid in 1841, work commencing in May of that year, and the building was completed by July of August 1842, and was dedicated to the service of God on the 2d of October, by Very Rev. Michael O'Connor, D. D., V. G. Doctor O'Connor preached in the afternoon; Rev. Thomas Heyden in the forenoon.

The contract was let to Christopher McCaffrey, of Blairsville, for the sum of \$5,800, the amount of his bid. Some trouble arising between the contractor and the church committee about extra work, it was referred to the courts for decision, and judgement was in Mr. McCaffrey's favor for \$1,204.67, which made the whole cost of the church \$7,004.67. The architect was Patrick Cunningham, of Pittsburgh. The church committee consisted of D. H. Barr, Esq., John McLaughlin, William Maher, John S. Waterson and George Miller. The church stands on grounds adjoining that of the old church; its general style is Gothic, is 90 feet long, 48 feet wide, and 25 feet high, and will accommodate about 600 persons. It took about eight or ten years to pay off the entire debt. The paintings, which are a marked feature of our church, were put up in the years 1858-9, and were painted in Munich, Germany.

The school building was erected about the year 1855. It was 50 by 30 feet in size. On the 19<sup>th</sup> day of September, 1873, Rev. J. H. Stillinger died, and was succeeded by Rev. E. M. McKeever on the 22d of September, same year.

The convent was erected in 1872. It is about forty feet square, and has fourteen rooms. It is occupied by the Sisters of Charity who teach the parochial schools. When Rev. E. M. McKeever took charge, the church committee was composed of Messrs. James S. Layton, James Crate, Thomas Geary and Frederick Hughes. There was also a special committee who took charge of the convent building, composed of Messrs. William Maher, Patrick Maher, Patrick McBride, John B. Bonner and John K. Henry. There was a debt of \$3,000 against the convent when Rev. McKeever took charge of affairs, which was principally due to the carpenters. The whole cost of the building was about \$9,000. In the year 1875 the church was frescoed and newly painted. During the summer of the same year an addition of about 20 feet was made to the schoolhouse, and over the whole length of the building a fine hall was erected. These improvements, together with a great many repairs that had to be made on the property, cost about \$9,000. The present debt of the church is between \$6,000 and \$7,000.

The number of communicants in 1874, the first year after Fr. McKeever's arrival, was about 500, representing about 900 souls. During the hard times of the panic, the congregation remained at about the same figures.

The graveyard, back of the church, consisting of about two and one-half acres, was purchased about 1860.