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LUTHER AND THE REFORMATION.

Luther and the Reformation! What a subject to be taken under consideration!—a subject that demands the attention of the whole Protestant Church every time the 31st of October approaches, and a subject that is now diligently being studied by the whole Christian Church on earth with ever increasing interest as the four hundredth anniversary of that event is drawing nearer. Luther has been, and is to-day, such a potent factor that the pen and press of friends and foes, of Protestants and Catholics, even at this late day, continually tell about this wonderful man and his work. Stacks of literature that have accumulated for centuries would have to be searched and digested and weighed, the products in every sphere of human activity would have to be taken into view, the history of nations would have to be carefully studied, if we intended to exhaust our subject. Were we educators, we would attempt to point out what wonderful, yea, revolutionary, factors Luther and the Reformation were, are, and will continue to be, on the field of education. Were we students of the sciences, *belles-lettres*, and the arts, we would find it necessary to demonstrate the great impetus Luther and the Reformation gave to these achievements. Were we statesmen, the concomitant political upheaval of the sixteenth century would necessarily demand our attention and prove to be a veritable mine of information. The historian, having noted how the lowly birth of the Child in Bethlehem's manger at the time of Caesar Augustus was the one great turning-point in the history of the world, finds

STATUS OF THE ENGLISH WORK IN THE MISSOURI SYNOD.

Since the union with the English Synod of Missouri and other States, which was consummated at the Delegate Convention of the German Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and other States, on May 15, 1911, the English work which we have reported in this place for the last three years has leaped upward with a great bound. Our *Statistical Year-Book for 1911*¹⁾ credits the new English District with 73 organized congregations and 38 missions. Among these are congregations of considerable size, as, *e. g.*, Redeemer, St. Louis, reporting 1,250 souls and 824 communicant members; Mount Olive, Milwaukee, with 986 and 659 respectively; First English, New Orleans, with 2,350 and 1,950; Grace, Cleveland, with 1,053 and 612; Grace, St. Louis, with 1,700 and 1,363; Redeemer, Buffalo, with 800 and 450. The 64 pastors reporting to the *Year-Book* together have under their pastoral care 25,223 souls, 16,311 communicant and 2,814 voting members. The English District conducts 16 parochial schools, which were taught last year by 9 pastors and 3 male and 3 female teachers. The number of pupils was 544. The Sunday-schools in the English District were attended by 10,135 pupils. There were 1,129 baptisms, 1,083 catechumens were confirmed, 26,853 communed, and there were 419 marriages and 321 burials.

However, outside of the purely English charges numbered with the English District, the English work of the German body has had a year of remarkable growth since our last report. (See THEOL. QUART. 15, 164.) The insufficiencies of the reports noted in our previous survey still exist, and any state-

1) *Statistisches Jahrbuch* der Deutschen Evangelisch-Lutherischen Synode von Missouri, Ohio und andern Staaten fuer das Jahr 1911. St. Louis, Mo. Concordia Publishing House. 1912. 225 pages. Price, 50 cents.

ment here made as regards the English work within the German Synod must be understood as being based on the figures actually reported. In reality, the English work within the German districts is somewhat larger than the present figures show.

At the close of 1911, English preaching was reported within the bounds of the German districts from 569 places, as follows:—

Western District	79 (+ 20)
Central District	61 (+ 3)
Kansas District	44 (+ 6)
Michigan District	44 (+ 6)
Eastern District	41 (+ 4)
Nebraska District	33 (+ 8)
Northern Illinois District	31 (+ 10)
Wisconsin District	31 (+ 9)
Atlantic District	27 (+ 5)
Iowa District	27 (+ 3)
Central Illinois District	25 (+ 8)
Minnesota and Dakota District	22 (— 13)
Texas District	21 (+ 6)
North Dakota and Montana District	16 (+ 7)
Oregon and Washington District	15 (+ 1)
South Dakota District	14 (no change)
Southern Illinois District	12 (+ 1)
Southern District	10 (+ 5)
California and Nevada District	8 (— 1)
Canada District	8 (no change)
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	569 (+ 88)

Jointly, then, with the English District, the Missouri Synod pastors, at the beginning of the present year, were preaching the Word in the English language at 680 different places.

The volume of English work performed within the German districts may be seen from the following table, which follows the device adopted in former years, with the exception that Subdivision 6 in Group C (“regular English services”) has been combined with Subdivision 5 in Group B (“English preaching every Sunday”).

GROUP A.

1. Entirely English congregations and missions.....	81 (+ 24)
2. Almost entirely English congregations.....	6 (+ 2)
3. Congregations in which English predominates.....	11 (+ 2)
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	98 (+ 28)

GROUP B.

4. German-English or English-German congregations....	68 (+ 3)
5. Congregations with regular service in English every Sunday	120 (+ 9)
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	188 (+ 12)

GROUP C.

6. Congregations with English services	32 (+ 1)
7. Congregations with three English services a month...	1 (no change)
8. Congregations with English services every other week.	23 (no change)
9. Congregations with English services twice a month...	54 (+ 17)
10. Congregations with English services every three weeks	5 (— 5)
11. Congregations with English services every four weeks.	1 (— 2)
12. Congregations with English services once a month....	147 (+ 35)
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	263 (+ 46)

GROUP D.

13. Congregations with English services once in six weeks	5 (no change)
14. Congregations with English services three times a month during summer	1 (no change)
15. Congregations with English services occasionally.....	14 (+ 2)
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	20 (+ 2)

The growth in Groups A and B is very marked. We have not the space to name the 98 charges which are entirely English, or nearly so, and content ourselves with registering the membership in this group, as follows: number of souls, 10,232 (88 charges reporting); number of communicant members, 5,586 (62 charges reporting); number of voting members, 1,074 (40 charges reporting).

How all this work is distributed among the various districts, can be seen from the following table:—

GROUPS:	A			B		C						D			TOTAL FOR DISTRICT:	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14		15
Atlantic District.....	2	—	1	4	10	—	—	1	7	—	—	2	—	—	—	27
California and Nevada District....	2	—	—	2	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	8
Canada District.....	2	—	—	1	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	8
Central District.....	4	3	2	5	17	1	1	3	7	—	—	16	1	—	1	61
Central Illinois District.....	2	—	—	2	9	2	—	1	4	1	—	4	—	—	—	25
Eastern District.....	2	—	1	9	10	—	—	7	6	—	—	6	—	—	—	41
Iowa District.....	3	—	—	3	5	—	—	3	1	1	—	10	—	—	1	27
Kansas District.....	6	—	—	7	5	2	—	—	7	—	1	12	2	—	2	44
Michigan District.....	2	—	—	5	7	6	—	1	2	—	—	18	—	1	2	44
Minnesota and Dakota District....	2	—	—	4	5	3	—	—	1	1	—	5	—	—	1	22
Nebraska District.....	11	—	1	3	8	4	—	1	—	—	—	3	1	—	1	33
North Dakota and Montana Distr.	7	—	2	—	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	16
Northern Illinois District.....	2	—	—	2	6	2	—	—	3	—	—	16	—	—	—	31
Oregon and Washington District..	4	—	—	1	2	4	—	—	1	—	—	3	—	—	—	15
South Dakota District.....	7	—	—	1	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	14
Southern District.....	4	2	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	10
Southern Illinois District.....	—	—	—	1	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	12
Texas District.....	7	—	1	6	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	21
Western District.....	10	1	3	10	14	—	—	1	9	—	—	28	—	—	3	79
Wisconsin District.....	2	—	—	—	6	2	—	1	5	2	—	11	1	—	1	31
TOTAL FOR DIVISION:	81	6	11	68	120	32	1	23	54	5	1	147	5	1	14	
TOTAL FOR GROUP:		98		188					263				20			
GRAND TOTAL:																569

It has been generally observed that the Sunday-school is a factor indicating English work. In many cases the *Year-Book* mentions English Sunday-schools without crediting the particular congregation with English preaching. As regards the Sunday-schools of the Missouri Synod, official figures are now available in a separate column of the parish reports. They are reported, with other statistics, by the various districts as follows:—

	Pupils.		Pupils.
Atlantic District	15,568	North Dakota and Montana	
Brazil District	221	District	793
California and Nevada Distr..	1,896	Northern Illinois District....	4,277
Canada District	1,217	Oregon and Washington Distr.	520
Central District	2,896	South Dakota District	550
Central Illinois District.....	1,827	Southern District	1,168
Eastern District	6,851	Southern Illinois District....	813
English District	10,135	Texas District	1,004
Iowa District	1,345	Western District	5,668
Kansas District	1,395	Wisconsin District	3,083
Michigan District	1,385	Indian and Negro Missions...	1,375
Minnesota and Dakota Distr..	1,598		
Nebraska District	1,153	<i>Total</i>	66,738

In these figures are included entirely German schools as, *e. g.*, those of the Brazil District, and entirely English schools, as, *e. g.*, those of the English District and of the Mission to the Indians and the Freedmen in the South. It is safe to say, however, that in the remaining schools English work is being done in every instance, and in many instances the English work predominates.

Everything considered, the past year has been an exceptionally prosperous year in our English work. Herein lies the promise of enlarged usefulness. God grant us everywhere able workmen employing our native language in their ministry, to the end that genuine Lutheranism may prove a leaven of righteousness and truth throughout the land.