

National and State Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving day, with its thousands of family gatherings, and union-church services, has come and gone and the people are all the better for its having been here. The day was pleasant, there was sufficient snow on the ground for those who wished to sleigh-ride to indulge in that luxury, and there were fair audiences in attendance in the two churches where services were held. The only criticism we have to bestow is on the dealers who kept open shop and went right along with their trade just the same as they do on any other day.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES.

At the Congregational church a union service of Evangelical Christians was held, and a large audience present. The opening prayer was made by Rev. H. M. Joy of the First M. E. church, the closing prayer by Rev. T. P. Prudden, and the benediction was pronounced by Rev. Mr. Joy. A full choir executed appropriate music, and among the pieces was the national air, "America." At the close of the service a collection for the poor was taken up. The sermon was preached by Rev. George Duffield of the First Presbyterian church, from Isaiah xxxv: 1, 2:

"The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose."

"It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the Lord and the excellency of our God."

The sermon was a review of our national, state, and city history, showing how in each case the wilderness had been made glad, and the event had disappointed alike the prophecies of enemies and even the most sanguine expectations of friends. The great characteristic of Michigan was the varieties of its forms of government. A dependency of France and of England, a portion of the Northwestern territory and the Indiana territory, a territory of its own but never a *state* until admitted into the union. The question as to what constitutes a state was thoroughly discussed and defined. It is the product of history. It is founded on justice, planted by wisdom, adorned by taste, cheered by love, and made permanent by religion. It is in fact a moral person, capable of rights and obligations, able to exercise mercy and benevolence, and to found

What Rome ne'er boasted in her proudest day,

Asylums sacred to humanity
For all who need.

But there is one question in the history of this noble commonwealth in which

thankful that they are still on probation, and in the thought that their misery will not be eternal. Both pleasure and profit come from discharge of this duty. It is to the soul what exercise in the open air and sunlight is to the body. Christian thankfulness is shown by efforts to become more worthy of divine benefits. If the kindness of our fellow beings merits our thanks, in deed as well as word, so does Almighty beneficence.

The great lesson of this day for special thanksgiving, is that expression of gratitude should compare with each day's blessings, and the annual thanksgiving be a summing up of the whole. In our present retrospect, in spite of the financial distress, because of which disruption of the national government has been predicted, the ship of state breasts the waves uninjured. If our freedom from the southern pestilence be cause of gratitude, the christian patriot rejoices that it has served to heal past differences and allay the rancor of partisan animosity. More good than evil has befallen us as a community in this legislative center of the state. As a christian parish a deepening interest appears in the increased attendance on the services, in that addition to its membership which more than makes up for losses, in the steadfastness of the band of Christian women, who have discharged pecuniary liabilities for which no provision had been made, and in the godliness of some willing beyond their power. And if giving thanks, is at all times our reasonable duty, it is so especially on this Thanksgiving day, and above all for us in this parish is praise to God pleasant and comely.

A thanksgiving sermon was preached at the Lutheran church, and there was a concert at Leiderkranz hall in the evening.

THE PROMENADE CONCERT

Given at Mead's hall by the Lancing library and literary association on Thursday evening was a grand success, there being between 300 and 400 guests present, and it was a pleasant ending of the Thanksgiving festivities. Every part of the programme was well rendered and highly applauded by the audience. Messrs. Sanborn & Thayer furnished the piano for the occasion, which was presided at during the evening by Prof. A. M. Green. A sumptuous repast was spread by the ladies in the rooms adjoining the hall. At 10 o'clock P. M. the hall was made ready and all who delighted in tripping the light fantastic toe remained until a late hour. The receipts of the evening were about \$85.