

## RELIGION.

We may divide the German population of Baltimore into four distinct classes, i. e. Catholics, Protestants, Israelites and Independents. The exact numerical strength of any of these classes is impossible for us to establish, but may be nearly inferred from the relative multitude of houses of worship, benevolent institutions, schools etc., and their capacity.

## THE GERMAN CATHOLICS

Have in this city three churches completed, one of which, that of St. Michael in East Lombard street, exceeds in capacity all other churches of this city (the Cathedral not even excepted,) and is estimated to hold over three thousand persons. Another, that of St. James, on the corner of Aisquith and Eager streets, is now under reconstruction and will be, if completed, of not smaller compass. There is also a new church in process of erection near the west end of the city, dedicated to St. Martin, of nearly as huge dimensions, so that it safely may be stated that the average capacity of these church buildings exceeds that of two thousand persons. There is also a large convent attached to the St. James church, the nuns of which devote themselves principally to the superintendence and educational duties of the German Catholic Orphans' Asylum in Central Avenue.

Each Catholic congregation, moreover, supports a secular school with religious instruction, and all these institutions are large and in a flourishing condition. Benevolence is also well cultivated toward the poor and suffering, and manifests itself in several institutions of that kind. The precise number of priests, nuns, officers or teachers in the various establishments, we are not able to give, but we may state that it is adequate to the demands.

Under the term "*German Protestants*," we comprise all Evangelical Christian denominations, without entering upon sub-divisions according to their separate doctrines or creeds; however, we may say that the German Reformed, Lutheran and Methodist Episcopal predominate. Among them we have to record 14 houses of worship which average about a compass of about 800 members. Each of these churches also supports a school with large attendance, and benevolent institutions of various kinds, the most conspicuous of which is the German Protestant Orphan Asylum.

The *Israelites* of German birth, form in Baltimore more than nine-tenths of all the professors of the Mosaic creed in this city. They worship in 4 synagogues, one of which calling itself "reformed," stands in contradistinction from the others which are supported by "orthodox" Jews. All of them have schools connected with them and especially flourishing beneficial societies and institutions.