

MONUMENT TO PROTESTANTISM.

Memorial Church to be Built at Speyer-on-the-Rhine, in Germany.

An appeal is made to American Protestants to contribute money to defray the expenses for the completion of a handsome memorial church at Speyer-on-the-Rhine to commemorate the first princely support given in Germany to the reformation begun by Martin Luther. This support was the famous protestation of the minority at the session of the Imperial Diet at Speyer-on-the-Rhine against the edict of the majority for the suppression of the reformatory movement.

The Diet was called by Emperor Charles V. for this express and avowed purpose. It yielded to the promptings of the Emperor, and by a large majority condemned the new religious movement and placed all its followers under the ban of the empire. But a minority of six Princes and fourteen representatives of free cities made a solemn protest and proclaimed it to all the world, and it is from this fearless protest that the name "Protestants" is derived.

It was resolved by prominent Protestants some time ago to commemorate the historical event in the birthplace of Protestantism by building a church, and to ask all Protestants to contribute toward it. The nucleus of the fund was raised in Germany, and the building has been going on for five years. The church, which is being built of a hard, yellow-gray sandstone from Alsace, represents the pure Gothic style. It will seat 1,400 people, and will be surmounted by a hexagonal tower 300 feet high. The ground floor of the tower will be used as a memorial hall 35 feet in diameter and 60 feet high. The portals will be beautifully carved, and in the centre of the hall will be a bronze statue of Luther 9 feet high above the base. With his left hand he clasps the Bible to his breast and with his outstretched right he is supposed to sweep away religious prejudice.

Above the statue will be figures of the six Princes who signed the protestation, and the corners over the portals will be decorated with the coats-of-arms of the fourteen protesting cities. Over the entrance to the main part of the church there will be a large al fresco painting by Prof. Gussman of Dresden, representing the delivery of the document of protestation by Prince John, Elector of Saxony, to Ferdinand, King of Bohemia, who presided over the Diet as the Emperor's substitute. Five of the painted windows have been presented by the Emperor and Empress of Germany, and other windows will be donated by the Protestant Princes of Europe.

The entire cost of the church will be \$370,000, two-thirds of which has been raised in Europe, and the Protestants of the United States are asked to contribute the remaining third. For this purpose the General Executive Committee of the Association of Leading Protestants in Germany has delegated the Rev. Dr. Beyschlag, who has recently arrived here. His mission has received the hearty indorsement of leading clergymen, and the following committee of prominent citizens has been formed to aid the effort to raise subscriptions: Whitelaw Reid, Chairman; Spencer Trask, Treasurer; Maurice L. Muhleman, Secretary; J. P. Morgan, Seth Low, W. E. Dodge, Gustav H. Schwab, K. Buentz, F. W. Holls, Morris K. Jesup, George H. Moller, A. Pagenstecher, Herman Schaefer, Charles A. Schieren, Samuel Sloan, Oswald Ottendorfer, and Henry Villard.

Among the clergymen who have indorsed the movement are the Rev. Dr. Charles Cutbert Hall, Director of the Presbyterian Seminary; the Rev. Dr. W. S. Rainsford, the Rev. Dr. C. C. Tiffany, the Rev. Dr. C. H. Parkhurst, the Rev. Dr. W. R. Huntington, Bishop Edward G. Andrews of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Rev. Dr. David H. Greer, the Rev. Dr. Charles E. Jefferson of the Broadway Congregational Tabernacle, the Rev. Dr. Edward F. Mohldenke of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, the Rev. Dr. Willard L. Richardson of the Fifth Avenue Baptist Church, and the Rev. Dr. D. Sage Mackay of the Collegiate Reformed Church.