

of Faith. The Synod appoints annually an Executive Committee with a General Secretary, to whom is entrusted the oversight of the work of the Church.

THE BELGIAN "UNION OF EVANGELICAL CONGREGATIONS" consists of a number of congregations, Walloons, Germans and French, and receiving, in part, support from the State.

THE WALLOON CHURCHES.—There are in Holland a number of Walloon Congregations founded by Protestants driven from the Walloon Provinces of Belgium in the time of Charles V. These congregations were assisted for a time by the Huguenots that fled from France on the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes. The greater part of these, however, ultimately became merged in the Holland population, and have aided in building up the Dutch Reformed Church, so that only about seventeen Walloon congregations exist at the present.

THE REFORMED CHURCH OF FRANCE has twenty-one Provincial Synods, consisting of the ministers and elders of each five Consistories or Presbyteries. According to the Decree of 1st December, 1871, re-establishing the Synods of the Reformed Church, each Consistory (Presbytery) was to be represented by one minister and one elder in the Synod of its group. By this Delegated Synod, delegates were to be chosen who should form the National Synod, in the proportion of one delegate to each six pastors. These delegates to be ministers and elders in equal numbers. This National Synod met in 1872 (the last previous Synod had met in 1660, under the presidency of the illustrious Daillé, adjourning to meet within three years), when the doctrinal differences existing in the Church at once led to the formation of two well defined parties—the Liberals and the Evangelicals. As the Liberal party does not recognize either the authority or the necessity for the existence of a General Synod (*Synod Officielle*) such a meeting cannot at present be held. The Evangelical section has therefore organized a system of *Synodes Officieuses*, through which the work and oversight of their congregations are carried on. These Synods have no legal authority, while connection with them or submission to their enactments is entirely voluntary. In the meantime they are rendering invaluable services to the Church, and increasing rapidly in influence and number of members. There are in France 520 Civil parishes, of which it is computed that 380 unite in these *Synodes Officieuses*, while there are some 120 other congregations, all of which also adhere. The larger number of these latter congregations are aided by the *Société Centrale d'Evangelization*. Of the 690 ministers in actual service, about 500 adhere to the *Synodes Officieuses*.

THE FREE EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF GERMANY consists of a single Presbytery. This is composed of one minister and one elder from each congregation and one elder from the *Diaspora*. It meets twice each year, possessing two congregations in Silesia and one in Bohemia. This Church is a secession from the State Church of Prussia, that took place in 1860. The Bohemian congregation consists chiefly of converted Romanists.

THE REFORMED SYNODAL UNION OF THE EAST RHINE consists of one Presbytery, called a Synod. This Bavarian Reformed Synod uses