

ecutive ability, which made his pastoral work a success.

Previous to the coming of Mr. Van Horn, indeed, as early as 1761, what was called a *vestry* was organized, consisting of seven men, who seem to have had especial control of the temporal affairs of the church. Mr. Van Horn formulated a plan for connecting the church and congregation, for the support of the Gospel and the care of the temporal interests of the Society. Whatever the plan was (for the minutes do not record it) it was adopted and continued in operation until February, 1788, when, in accordance with a law passed by the Legislature in 1786, for incorporating religious societies, seven Trustees were chosen and a certificate of incorporation was filed in the Clerk's office in Newark. In 1869, this incorporation was confirmed as an especial charter by Act of the Legislature; the trustees being clothed with power to sell lands.

During Mr. Van Horn's administration two churches were constituted directly from the membership of this.

In the spring of 1788, three brothers, Abraham Drake, Cornelius Drake and Isaac Drake, and two brothers-in-law John Shotwell and David Morris, were induced by the glowing descriptions of Rev. William Wood, pastor of the Baptist church at Washington, Kentucky, to leave their homes here and seek their fortunes in the wilds of the West. These brethren with their wives, children and effects were accompanied by Rev. John Gano, who was then moving his all from the City of New York. They sailed down the Ohio River to Limestone, where they landed and proceeded at once to