

PLYMOUTH CHURCH ORGAN.

COMPLETION OF THE INSTRUMENT

The Largest One ever built in the Country.

Description of the Organ—The Result of the Labor of One Year and a Half—\$25,000 Worth of Music—3,442 Pipes in the Instrument—Ridgewood Water vs. Organ Boys.

The great organ for Plymouth Church is completed, and in a few days the public will have an opportunity of hearing the largest instrument of the kind ever built in this country, and one of which the citizens of Brooklyn may feel proud of, as being in one of their many churches. Such being the case, a few remarks concerning the organ may be found interesting.

BUILDING THE ORGAN.

It having been determined by the Trustees of Mr Beecher's Church to purchase a new organ, a Committee was appointed for that purpose, and on the first of January, 1865, an agreement was entered into with the Messrs. E. & G. G. Hook, of Boston, Mass., to build an organ in one year, the price being about \$10,000. It was afterwards determined to have a larger and more expensive instrument, and the sum was increased to \$25,000, the time of completion being extended. Work was carried on as fast as possible, and in April last the organ was shipped for Brooklyn. About the first of May, the boxes containing the instrument were deposited in the lecture room and unpacked. After the old organ had been removed, it became necessary to lower the floor of the organ gallery, and also to cut out the ceiling above somewhat, to accommodate the new comer. This done, from four to eight workmen have been constantly employed in putting up and tuning the instrument, until now it may be said to be completed.

THE OUTWARD APPEARANCE OF THE ORGAN

is very striking. Although of immense size, it presents a neat and imposing exterior, altogether different from any other in the city. The woodwork is of black

walnut, and the pipes are of heavy English block tin, which has the appearance of silver, and thus a beautiful contrast is attained. The architecture of the case is of that style of Romanesque known as Palladium, but the builder has deviated where good taste indicated any improvement might be made. From the floor of the gallery to the highest part of the case is 31 feet 7 inches; the breadth is 23 feet 5 inches, and the depth 22 feet 4 3/4 inches. In front are four beautifully carved columns, and between them are the immense pipes ordinarily seen in front of an organ; in this organ the pipes consist of three rows of nine each, and the woodwork is arched above them. Surmounting the extreme ends are carved urns, and in the centre is a broken pediment, in which is seated the carved image of a musical looking cherub. Between the urns and the cherub, and directly above the side rows of pipes, on each side are trumpet-shaped pipes, elevated at about an angle of 45 degrees. These are some of the pipes of the Tuba Mirabilis, something altogether new in this country. Beside all this, there is a good deal of carved woodwork, which is worth seeing. The case is indeed unsurpassed for neatness combined with beauty.

THE COMPASS OF THE INSTRUMENT.

There are four manuals of fifty-eight keys each, and they can be played either separately or together. The compass is from C to A; in the pedal there are thirty-eight keys, from C to F. This embraces in fact the entire range of the musical scale. Both the tone of the lower and upper notes are clear and distinct, the ear readily distinguishing the slightest change.

THE NUMBER AND NATURE OF PIPES, ETC.

The following table will give an idea of the power and capacity of the instrument, particularly to those understanding the organ:

GREAT MANUALE.		CHOIR MANUALE.	
Feet.	Pipes.	Feet.	Pipes
16	Open Diapason.... 58	16	Still Gedackt..... 58
8	Open Diapason.... 58	8	Open Diapason.... 58
8	Clarabella..... 58	8	Dulciana..... 58
8	Viola da Gamba... 58	8	Melodia..... 58
8	Doppel Flote..... 58	8	Stopped Diapason. 58
4	Flute Harmonique 58	4	Octave..... 58
4	Octave 58	4	Flauto Traverso... 58
2 1/2	Twelfth 58	2	Piccolo..... 58
2	Fifteenth..... 58	8	Clarinet 58
8	Cornet, 5 ranks.. 216		---
2	Mixture, 3 ranks.. 174		522
1 1/2	Scharff, 3 ranks.. 174		
16	Trumpet..... 58		SOLO MANUALE.
8	Trumpet..... 58	8	Tuba Mirabilis.... 58
4	Clarion..... 58	4	Tuba Octave..... 58
	1,260	8	Keraulophon 58
		8	Philomela 58
		8	Vox Angelica..... 58
		4	Hohl Pfeife..... 58

			348
			PEDALE.
16	Bourdon..... 58	32	Open Diapason.... 30
8	Open Diapason.... 58	16	Open Diapason.... 30
8	Salicional..... 58	16	Violone..... 30
8	Stopped Diapason. 58	16	Bourdon..... 30
4	Octave 58	8	Violoncello..... 30
4	Flute Harmonique 58	8	Octave..... 30
4	Viol d'Amour.... 58	16	Trombone..... 30
2 1/2	Twelfth..... 58		---
2	Fifteenth..... 58		210
1 1/2	Mixture, 5 ranks.. 260		
16	Euphone 58		
8	Cornopean..... 58		
8	Oboe 58		
8	Vox Humana.... 58		
4	Clarion..... 58		
			Grand total..... 3,442

1,102

MECHANICAL REGISTERS.

Swell to Great Coupler,	Choir to Pedale Coupler
Choir to Great	Solo to Pedale
Solo to Great	Tremulant Swell.
Swell to Choir	Tremulant Choir.
Great to Pedale	Engine.
Swell to Pedale	Tuba Engine.

COMBINATION PEDALS, ETC.

1. To operate Great to Pedale Coupler.
2. " Full Organ.
3. " Unison Flue Stops of Great Manuale.
4. " No. 1 to 9 included of Great Manuale.
5. " Full Great Manuale.
6. " Full Swell Manuale.
7. " Tubas of Solo Manuale.
8. Forte and Piano Pedale double acting.
9. Grand Crescendo Pedal.
10. Balanced Swell Pedal.

As will be seen there are 1,260 pipes in the great manual; 1,102 in the swell; 522 in the choir; 348 in the solo, and 210 in the pedal; and they range from 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ to 32 feet in length. A tour of the interior presents a sight not to be correctly described, there are so many different and wonderful arrangements. The total number of pipes is 3,442.

APPLIANCES.

By the arrangement of pneumatic levers the resistance that would otherwise be great on the keys, is overcome, and they are operated with the same ease as on a piano. Numerous small bellows are used for this purpose. This arrangement has been very expensive, but professional musicians will appreciate it.

For supplying air there are four pair of bellows, which are situated in the room immediately under the organ and back of the desk. The bellows have a capacity of about 500 cubic feet, and are worked by four engines placed in the basement below. These engines have upright cylinders, six inches in diameter, with a twelve inches stroke, and are worked by the force of the Ridgewood water, which has a pressure of from 15 to 45 lbs to the square inch. The action of the engine is governed by the quantity of air in the bellows; for instance, if the air from one be used rapidly, its engine will work fast, because the supply of water for the engine is regulated by a rod from the bellows. The organist has by his side a water gauge, showing the pressure to the square inch, and he also has a crank to turn on, cut off or regulate the supply of water at will. Before him, also, are four bellows indicators. Every arrangement is so perfect that failure in the supply of air hardly seems possible, but if anything should happen, the bellows can be operated by hand. The idea of working organ bellows by water appears to be a good one, especially as the rather unreliable services of a playful boy or thoughtless man are dispensed with.

NOTICEABLE MUSICAL FEATURES.

The Tuba Mirabilis, the trumpet-shaped pipes of which appear projecting over the top of the organ, is something altogether new in this country, and said to be of fine effect.

The Vox Angelica, Vox Humana and Euphone are all beautiful auxiliaries to this powerful instrument.

The crescendo movement, as arranged, is altogether new here, and is operated by the feet of the organist, who can thereby bring into play the full power of all the stops without taking his hands from the key-board, and decrease the sound in the same manner. Commencing with a single stop, and increasing the volume of sound until all are brought into play without stopping to pull out each one separately, the effect is perfectly grand.

There are also other arrangements by which a combination of stops can be operated on by a single pedal, and also all at once by one pedal.

In a word, the mammoth organ of Plymouth Church is the most complete organ ever made in this country, and for which the makers deserve all due credit.

Mr. F. E. Muller is to "run" the new organ, as he did its predecessor.

PERSONAL. — Our Brooklyn orators are spreading themselves abroad. Wm. E. Robinson made a speech before the Alumni of Yale College yesterday, which seemed to have been greatly relished by the grave dons of that institution.

Mr. Demas Barnes is announced as the orator selected to speak before one of the State Agricultural Societies in September.

Mr. Alden J. Spooner's recent address on the occasion of the National celebration receives its meed of praise from the L. I. journals, and is "earnestly solicited for publication" by some of them, for the enlightenment of the bucolic mind.

INQUEST. — Coroner Smith held an inquest yesterday afternoon, on the body of James Buckley, who died without medical attendance at his mother's residence, in Washington street, Greenpoint, on Tuesday. The jury found that death resulted from dropsy.

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