

Weedsport, N. Y., Feb. 26th, 1908.

Mr. Andrew Carnegie,

New York City, N. Y.

Dear Sir:-

We have in this village a Presbyterian Church, organized in 1827 our membership is about 275. composed mostly of people of ordinary circumstances. In fact, we have no members of wealth.

Weedsport is a village of about eighteen-hundred inhabitants, situated twenty-two miles west of Syracuse, on the New York Central Railroad. We have very little manufacturing, in fact nothing of importance, our only manufacturing being skirts, factories employing mostly young ladies.

Our Society has an old pipe organ, made by a builder by the name of Simons, of Boston, about sixty years ago. About thirty years ago this organ was taken from one of the Syracuse churches and sold to our Society for about \$900.00. It has been used from that time but is now practically worn out. We now find it about worthless, as action, wind-chest, in fact all of the mechanical parts of the instrument are in very bad condition and past usefulness.

It has been our desire for some time to have this organ rebuilt, using the old organ pipes as far as they will go, also the old case.

-2- Mr. A. C.

The instrument has a short key-board, fifty-six notes in all, most of the different sets of pipes running to tenor C only, forty-four notes, one set of twelve base notes being used for all the pipes and swell organ with it, also one octave of twelve notes used for most of the pipes in great organ. The instrument is also the old high pitch, which makes singing very difficult.

It has been our desire to have this instrument made over into a modern small organ, having each set of pipes made complete, also having the pitch changed to international.

The instrument has in the swell six sets of pipes, great organ, seven sets, pedal organ, one octave of base.

Mr. Emmons Howard of Westfield, J. W. Steere & Co. of Springfield, Viner & Son of Buffalo, also the Hope-Jones Co. of Elmira have all had their representatives here to examine the instrument and see what could be done. They all agree that the organ is practically worn out and the only thing practical is to have it rebuilt. Their prices for doing this work vary from \$2000.00 to \$2500.00.

We have a nice little church, recently redecorated, new furnace, carpets, etc. and can not raise the necessary funds to do the work on the organ and we thought best to lay the facts before you.

We trust that you will consider the matter carefully and if you think favorably of giving us a helping hand and will let us know to what extent and upon what terms, we will see what we can do ^{at} here.

-3- Mr. A. C.

The enclosed letter will give you an idea of the condition of the instrument, or a letter to any of the organ builders whom I have mentioned will no doubt give you any desired information.

Trusting that I shall have the pleasure of hearing from you, I am

Very truly yours,

Erving W. Kitchum *Pastor* *William G. Adams*

P. S. Enclosed I also hand you souvenir card showing picture of the church.

Weedsport, N. Y., May 26th, 1908.

Mr. R. A. Franks,
Hoboken, N. J.

Dear Sir:-

I wish to advise you that the First Presbyterian Church of Weedsport, N. Y. has raised the necessary funds for a pipe organ in addition to the gift of \$1000.00 from Mr. Carnegie. The order for the organ has been placed with the J. W. Steere & Son Organ Co. of Springfield, Mass. I notify you in accordance with the instructions from Mr. Carnegie.

Very truly yours,

Erving W. Ketchum.
Pastor

P.S.
Organ is to be installed about Sept 1st