

The Methodist Organ

Arrival of the Grand Instrument

Full Description

Some time ago Prof. Fred Grambs, the accomplished organist of the Methodist Episcopal church south, of this city, was sent by the congregation of that church to Louisville to place an order for a large organ. Prof. G. visited several cities and examined different instruments. He was pleased with the one he saw in Lexington, ordered a duplicate of it from the Messrs. Pilcher. This firm manufactured one for this church under the direction of Prof. G. at a cost of \$3,000.

This organ has arrived in the city, and is now being placed in position. It is probably the largest organ in the south outside of New Orleans, and the following description will be read with interest:

The organ, built by Messrs. Pilcher of Louisville, has been constructed specially for this church. Its size and capacity having been considerably enlarged beyond its first design [sic]. The instrument will now fill the entire recess originally intended to accommodate the organ and choir, and the platform has been extended proportionally.

As this is the first pipe organ in the city a description of it may be of interest to our readers. It is what is technically styled a two manual and pedals organ. That is, it has two sets of keys for the hands besides 27 pedals to be played on with the feet. Each manuals [sic] or set of keys can be played separately as on two distinct organs or both manuals and pedals can be coupled together so as to bring the entire power of the instrument under control of the organist at one and the same time.

The upper manual operates upon the swell organ, which contains the softer stops and being enclosed in the swell box is capable of fine crescendo effects at the will of the performer by the movement of a balanced pedal. The registers or stops of the swell are eight in number as follows:

Open Diapason, Dulciana, Unison Bass, Stopped Diapason, Traverse Flute, Fugara, Oboe, Bassoon. Containing in all 342 pipes.

The great organ or lower manual has also eight registers as follows:

Open Diapason, Melodia, Stopped Diapason Bass, Gamba, Octave, Quint, Super Octave, Flute d' Armour, with 403 pipes. Operating on the register of the great organ are two composition pedals, by means of which the organist can make rapid changes of stops without removing his hands from the key boards.

The pedal organ contains two registers of twenty-seven notes each towit: Double Open Diapason, Violoncello, with fifty-four pipes. There are also six mechanical registers. Total number of stops, 24; total number of pipes, 799; pedal movements, 3.

The largest pipe in the organ is 16 feet in length by 14 inches in diameter and the smallest speaking length is half an inch by an eighth inch in diameter. The lower section of the front is of oiled finished black walnut, while the upper division is composed of displayed and handsomely decorated metal pipes, forty-three in number and which fill out the entire width of the alcove. The wind will be supplied from a bellows 4½ x 7 feet, surface measurement, which will be operated by a piston movement water motor placed in the basement.

Of the tone of the instrument we will reserve comment until it may be able to "speak for itself," but from reputation of the builders we have no fear of disappointment.

Within a few days the same firm is to set up a fine organ in Col. Cole's new music hall in Nashville.