

JOSEPH BUFFINGTON (1872); dedicated on Sunday morning, November 3, 1872

Incarnation, P.E., Church of the (Rev. Dr. Hubbard, Rector)
Twelfth and N Streets
Washington, D.C.

"Church of the Incarnation," (*Washington, D.C.*) *Daily National Republican* 10, no. 290 (Monday, November 4, 1872):
1.

Church of the Incarnation.

The new organ recently purchased by the congregation of the P. E. Church of the Incarnation, corner of Twelfth and N streets, was dedicated yesterday morning, Rev. Dr. Hubbard, rector of the church, Rev. Mr. Graves, assistant, officiating. The service consisted of the morning service of the church, conducted by Rev. Mr. Graves, and a sermon by Rev. Dr. Hubbard, who discoursed from 1st Thessalonians, v:23: "I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

He began his discourse by saying religion and religious acts may be regarded in two distinct lights, as referring to God or as affecting man. Religion is a tribute to the Creator, or a system of thought or action, by which the heart is purified and the life hallowed. These two aspects of religion often blend, but there must be a distinct recognition of each.

For instance, public worship is often worked as an institution of the worshiper, hence the prominence given the preacher. Hence from the sermon then is something acquired. The answer to prayer is not immediately certain or appreciable at the moment; the acquisition of knowledge is a palpable fact. It is said the personal advantage of the worshiper is not the highest motive with which he should go to the sanctuary. Public worship in its lofty aspect is the ablution of man to God, the act wherein heaven and earth as it were for brief space change places. The earth gives and heaven receives. If it is admitted only the idea on the creature improvement, it is hard to say why a man frequents the sanctuary any longer than he is learning something, but if his going there is attributed to another, the duty remains, though he is conscious of no benefit himself.

Public worship is the mustering of the army of Christ for review, to make a demonstration of His strength and the devotion to His cause. This is given as an example of the evil which results in not considering the religion in reference to God. By the text we are required, however, to speak of the practical aspect of religious power, of religious teaching to the world. Regulate the passion, guide the intellect is our topic. Consider first what is to be preserved, and secondly how the preservation may be effected. St. Paul prays for the believers, whose inheritance may be kept invaluable. The inheritance is threefold, the body, soul and spirit. The apostolic prayer is to the effect that every one of the parts may be kept without loss until the day of Christ's coming.

It must be preserved upon the high dignity assigned by the apostles to the human body. People speak of Christ's love for the souls of men. He died to redeem the entire man. The body is to live forever as the soul. He then continued speaking of the powers of the soul, and how it should be trained. The spirit is another of the three-fold inheritance; that is, the spirit of God dwelling in man, the distinguishing gift to Adam. The Lord breathed in his nostrils, and man became a living soul. The grand feature of resemblance between God Almighty and His creature (who was made in the image of God) is that the same spirit belonged to both. This spirit should not be grieved or driven away. In regard to the second division, the preservation of the inheritance, the speaker dwelt particularly upon the work of caring for the body of man in the efforts of Christianizing.

He concluded by saying it was almost like mockery to the poor man to tell him to fix his heart upon the glittering crown, and shining robes, and marriage feast in the city of God, and think little of his present condition and appearance while his children are crying for bread, and his own limbs shivering in the winter's cold. Upon the conclusion of the sermon, the remaining services were continued and communion administered, in which about 250 members participated. The organ was built by Mr. Joseph Buffington, No. 131 South Eleventh street, Philadelphia, and it has two banks of keys, comprising the great and swell organs, also pedal bass. The instrument has twenty registers or stops, and is inclosed in a case of the Byzantine order, with illuminated front. Mrs. Knox performed for the occasion, and the choir, which rendered some choice selections, was composed of volunteers from many congregations.

“Church Music,” *The (Washington, D.C.) Daily Patriot* 2, no. 286 (Monday, November 4, 1872): 4.

Church Music.

Yesterday morning the new organ recently placed in the Church of the Incarnation, corner of Twelfth and N streets, was formally dedicated. The dedicatory sermon was preached by Rev. Mr. Hubert, the pastor. The organ was built by Jos. Buffington, of Philadelphia, has two banks of keys, and cost about \$2,500.