

AN IMPORTANT ORGAN CONCERT. — West Philadelphia, which has spread so rapidly in buildings and population, which is the possessor, too, of so many elegant and costly churches, has proceeded very leisurely in the accumulation of good church organs. When, therefore, a really worthy instrument is erected the occasion demands record. Such an event was celebrated last evening at Princeton Presbyterian Church, a new and handsome edifice situated on Powelton avenue, above Thirty-eighth street. The organ, which is the largest yet built in West Philadelphia, is the work of Mr. H. L. Roosevelt, who also erected the one now in use at the Permanent Exhibition.

The one opened last evening is the first of this builder in any church of this city. The case is finished in black walnut, and rises from the main floor of the church near the pulpit, instead of occupying an obscure position in an organ loft. It has two fronts, the pipes being very richly illuminated in harmony with the fresco work on the walls and arched ceiling of the interior. The scheme of this organ comprises three manuals and a pedal of the usual compass. The latest modern inventions have been freely introduced, and at least one very important novelty is found in the electric Echo organ.

The pipes of this are placed above the ceiling. It is played from the choir manual, and connected therewith by an electric cable of insulated wire, being operated by the famous Leclanche battery. It has three speaking registers, diapason, tremblante and vox humana. The effect of these stops invariably creates a sensation from its novelty and beauty, while the imitation of the human voice is more accurate than in any mechanical contrivance we have yet heard.

In voicing the pipes there has been unusual care exercised to produce a pure, clear and perfectly well balanced tone. No one portion of the organ overshadows the rest, and, what may serve as a valuable hint for the erection of future new organs, the pipes were voiced after the instrument was put up, with especial reference to the acoustic properties of the building.

The organists last evening and the vocal performers, as well as the selections chosen, combined to make the concert a very agreeable one. Messrs. D. D. Wood, F. T. S. Darley and Charles F. Read were the performers, while the singing was done by the noted first choir of St. Stephen's Church, composed of Miss Edith Lane, Miss Emily Young, and Messrs. W. A. Briscoe and George Roden. We have not space for the programme, which contained choice specimens of classic and popular music. The church was filled with a very attentive, and evidently an appreciative audience. The organ is one of the most entirely satisfactory instruments which has been put up in this city for a long time, and both the church, and the organist, Mr. H. B. Spenser, are to be congratulated on its acquisition.

Princeton Presbyterian H.L. Roosevelt Organ 1877

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