

JOSEPH BUFFINGTON (1861); dedicated Sunday morning, December 1, 1861

St. John's Church, Reformed
Lebanon, Pennsylvania

"The New Organ at St. John's Church," *Lebanon (Pa.) Advertiser* 13, no. 28 (Wednesday, December 4, 1861): 3.

THE NEW ORGAN OF ST. JOHN'S CHURCH.—Mr. Buffington of Philadelphia has built a new organ for St. John's Reformed Church in Lebanon, which was erected in its place last week, and solemnly dedicated to its intended use and purpose last Sunday morning.—The exterior of the organ is in the same style of architecture with the church to which the builder has admirably adapted it. The organ has 26 stops or registers, two banks of keys, pedal bass and swell organ, all of which gives it a very large compass and varied capacities. Mr. Buffington has finely developed, in this instrument, the beauties of all the modern improvements in organ building. The shrill, stumpy, stiff, and footing characteristics of the older organs are made to yield to a softened, pliable, flexible tone, which enables the performer to make easy and pleasant transitions through the various registers. While the festal trumpet tones are not wanting, there is also present the capacity of rendering notes of tenderness and subdued solemnity, such as one wishes to hear on Good Friday, on Communion occasions, and on days of humiliation and prayer. This old and eminent organ builder has well sustained his well-earned reputation in the production of this noble instrument. The Congregation, and all who were present, express themselves fully satisfied with the manner in which he has fulfilled his contract. The solemnities of the consecration were appropriate and impressive, and were participated in by a large number of the people of Lebanon.