SERVICES AT THE DEDICATION OF THE HARRIS CHIME, IN THE CHURCH OF THE FIRST PARISH, CHARLESTOWN, MASS.; WEDNESDAY EVENING, APRIL 15, 1868

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VARIOUS

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CHARLESTOWN, MASS.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, APRIL 15, 1868.

CHARLESTOWN:
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1868.

ORDER OF SERVICES

AT THE

DEDICATION

OF

THE HARRIS CHIME.

1. Bells Chimed by Mr. Jewell, of Boston.
2. Organ Voluntary, by W. H. GOODWIN.
3. Reading of the Scriptures, by Rev. J. Hurlbut, of New London.
4. Singing, "Gloria in Excelsis," from the "Twelfth Mass," Mozart.
5. Prayer, by Rev. Ezra Gannett, D. D., of Boston.
6. Singing, "Gloria Patria," Bellini.
7. Report, by A. S. Morss, Chairman Committee on Bells.
8. Singing, "Te Deum Laudamus," music by Goodwin.
9. Address, by Rev. James B. Miles.
10. Bells Chimed by Henry Munroe, of Cambridgeport.
11. Singing, Original Hymn, words by Miss M. D. Balfour, music by W. H. Goodwin.
12. Benediction, by Rev. Charles Cleaveland, of Boston.

Chiming of Bells during one hour.

DEDICATION.

DEDICATION OF THE HARRIS CHIME OF BELLS.

The services of dedication took place in Rev Mr Miles's Church, on Wednesday evening, commencing at half-past 7 o'clock. The Church was crowded with members of the society, strangers and citizens, who entered the Church between six and seven o'clock, while the bells were filling the air with their music. Select portions of scripture were read by Rev JOSEPH HURLBUT of New London, and the Report of the Committee for the purchase of the bells by A. S. MORSE, Esq., Chairman of the Committee. Appropriate music was performed by the choir.

The prayer of dedication was offered by Rev Dr EZRA S. GANNETT of Boston, and was followed by an address by the pastor, Rev J. B. MILES.

In the afternoon, between 3 and 5 o'clock, previous to the services in the Church, Rev Mr Miles held a reception at his house on Winthrop square, at which Miss Charlotte Harris was present, and where she was called upon by many members of the society of the First Parish and many of our prominent citizens. Among those present were many of the relatives of both the family names of Devens and Harris, and among others Gen. Devens was expected, but was unable to be here on account of holding Court at Springfield. Among others were the venerable Rev Charles Cleaveland of Boston; Rev Joseph Hurlbut of New London; Mayor Hull, Judge Warren, Ex-Mayor Frothingham, James Hunnewell, Esq., and other citizens, who paid their respects to Miss Harris. From hence, after partaking of an elegant entertainment, the company proceeded to the Church, where the exercises took place.

The following is the report of the committee, read by Mr Morse:

CHARLESTOWN, April 15, 1868.

The Special Committee to whom has been intrusted the purchase, and introduction into the tower of this Church, of the "Harris Chime" of bells, respectfully submit their report, prefacing the same by the following brief narrative:

Early in November, 1867, Hon. William Minot, Attorney of Miss Charlotte Harris, of Boston, requested, through a member of this Committee, an expression on the part of this Church and Parish, of their feelings in regard to a proposed donation to be made by Miss Harris, of a full Chime of bells, to be placed at her expense in the tower of this Church.

The pleasing intelligence having been communicated to a meeting of the Joint Committees of Church and Parish, resolutions were unanimously adopted, expressing the gratification with which so munificent a present would be received by our people, and a copy of the same transmitted to Hon. Wm. Minot, for the perusal of Miss Harris.

On the 21st of November, the following communication was received, by the hands of Judge Minot.

BOSTON, Nov. 20, 1867.

To the Church and Society of the First Parish, on Harvard street, Charlestown:

My ancestors Harris and Devens were for a great number of years inhabitants of Charlestown, and worshipped in the Church of the First Parish, in Harvard street, on which account, as well as for my respect for its Pastor, Rev. J. B. Miles, I am inclined to show my interest in the prosperity of the Society, by presenting to it the sum of eight thousand dollars, for the purchasing of a chime of bells to be placed in their Meeting-House. I will therefore present that sum on or before the 5th of January next, to such person as the society shall appoint to receive the same.

(Signed) CHARLOTTE HARRIS.

On reception of this communication, a Joint Committee of the Church and Parish was appointed to take immediate steps to carry the generous design of Miss Harris into effect, and, at a meeting of this Committee, the undersigned were appointed a special committee to prosecute to an early completion the enterprise; and having attended to their duty, would now

REPORT.

In pursuance of their commission, your Committee invited proposals from two of the leading bell founders of this country, viz: Henry N. Hooper & Co., of Boston, and Meneely, Sons & Co., of Troy, N. Y. Their respective offers having been examined, and that of Henry N. Hooper & Co. having been found to be more favorable, they were employed to furnish the Chime. The first of the bells composing the Chime was cast Jan. 11, 1868, in presence of a large number of this Society, and other friends of the enterprise in Boston and Charlestown, among whom all were pleased to observe as regarding the operations with especial watchfulness and zest, the donor of the bells, accompanied by members of her family and friends. Complete success attended the beginning of the work, and from the well constructed mould, soon issued the noble tenor bell marked D in the musical scale. This bell, so resonant and correct in tone, afforded a gratifying harbinger of the entire success of the undertaking. It is hung in the centre of the belfry, and prepared for round ringing as well as for chiming. Its weight is 3267 pounds, is 55 inches in diameter. The several bells bear the following inscriptions:

A. D. 1867.
No. 1, D.
HARRIS CHIME.

This Chime of Sixteen Bells was a gift from Miss Charlotte Harris to the First Parish Church, Charlestown, Mass., of which her ancestors Harris and Devens were members.

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

A. D. 1867.
No. 2, E.
HARRIS CHIME.

"Remember thy congregation which thou hast purchased of old; this Mount Zion wherein thou hast dwelt."

A. D. 1867.
No. 3, F sharp.
HARRIS CHIME.

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord; enter into his gates with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise."

A. D. 1867.
No. 4, G.
HARRIS CHIME.

"Exalt the Lord our God, and worship at His holy hill, for the Lord our God is holy."

A. D. 1867.
No. 5, G sharp.
HARRIS CHIME.

"Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem! Praise thy God, O Zion! Praise God in His sanctuary."

A. D. 1867.
No. 6, A.
HARRIS CHIME.

"O, worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; strength and beauty are in His sanctuary."

A. D. 1867.
No. 7, A sharp.
HARRIS CHIME.

"Behold! I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people."

A. D. 1867.
No. 8, B.
HARRIS CHIME.

"Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest."

A. D. 1867.
No. 9, C.
HARRIS CHIME.

"Being justified by faith, we have peace with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ."

A. D. 1867.
No. 10, C sharp.
HARRIS CHIME.

"Behold! what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God."

A. D. 1867.
No. 11, D.
HARRIS CHIME.

"Holy Father, keep through thine own name, those whom thou hast given me."

A. D. 1867.
No. 12, D sharp.
HARRIS CHIME.

"Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the Kingdom of God."

A. D. 1867.
No. 13, E.
HARRIS CHIME.

"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is God."

A. D. 1867.
No. 14, F sharp.
HARRIS CHIME.

"I am the Resurrection and the Life."

A. D. 1867.
No. 15, G.
HARRIS CHIME.

"There shall be no night there; in Thy presence is fullness of joy."

A. D. 1867.
No. 16, A.
HARRIS CHIME.

"Salvation and glory, and honor and power, unto the Lord our God."

The respective weight and size of each bell is as follows:

Number.	Pounds.	Inches in diameter.
1	3267	55
2	2252	49 1-4
3	1662	44 1-8
4	1356	41 1-4
5	1109	38 1-2
6	987	36 5-8
7	814	34 5-16
8	713	32 7-8
9	604	31 1-16
10	507	29 1-8
11	415	27 1-2
12	361	25 15-16
13	290	24 1-4
14	218	22 1-16
15	180	20 11-16
16	129	18 3-8

Twenty-five bells have been cast in all, to secure the sixteen required for the series, nine having been rejected as not capable of affording the required tone. Eight of the sixteen accepted bells have been brought to the required pitch by the laborious process of chipping or filing, without injury, however, to their symmetry or strength. Within sixty days from the casting of the first bell, the last one was taken from the mould, and on the 17th of March, the work of placing them into the tower commenced. Workmen had been engaged for several weeks previously in repairing the spacious belfry, 20 feet square by 20 feet in height, and supported on 12 and 18 inch timber, entering the wall, and seeming to have been constructed originally with a view of entertaining this great musical family, and in erecting upon this strong foundation, a truss frame, six feet in height of 8 by 12 inch timber, the ends of which, entering the wall and bolted strongly together, affording a second foundation for the heavy hard wood frame, from which the entire Chime, weighing 14,804 pounds, is suspended.

No accident marred the work from the commencement, and on the 28th of March all the bells were in place, the chiming apparatus complete and ready for trial. The trial of the Chime on the 28th of March was so far satisfactory that with the slight inaccuracy of a single bell, all were pronounced a success; and your committee indulge the hope that in this opinion the entire community interested in this public benefaction and filial tribute to an honored and patriotic ancestry, will coincide.

The total cost of the Chime, including the working apparatus and the framework supporting the same, also that upon which the Chime is suspended, together with a spacious room for operating the same, is eight thousand dollars, all of which has been provided for in the donation of Miss Harris.

In closing their report, and while your Committee feel they may safely congratulate this Church and Parish in possessing, through the thoughtful munificence of Miss Harris, the best Chime of bells, according to the opinions of able critics, yet constructed in this country, it is but just to say that to Mr Henry Munroe, of Cambridge, employed by Messrs Hooper during the manufacture of the bells, to gauge the tone, correct the pitch and harmonize the whole, we are indebted principally for its success.

For the Committee.

A. S. MORSS, JAS. F. HUNNEWELL,
BENJ. F. BROWN.