

of pews. The land was conveyed from A. Blount to John Barnes and others, and from them to the Rector, Wardens and Vestry of Christ Church by an Indenture, on parchment, now in our possession, which provides that the right of presentation to the Rectory shall be in the Wardens and Vestry; and a by-law, made in 1724, directs that no one shall have a vote at any of the church meetings unless he holds a just title to a pew, and that there shall be but one vote for a pew.

On the 15th of April, 1723, the Rev. Samuel Myles, Incumbent of King's Chapel, accompanied with the gentlemen of his congregation, laid the first stone, concluding the impressive ceremony with the words:

"May the gates of Hell never prevail against it."

The Church was opened for divine service on the 29th of December, 1723, the Sunday after Christmas Day. The Rev. Timothy Cutler, D.D., officiated, and preached from Isaiah, fifty-sixth chapter and seventh verse: "*For mine house shall be called a house of prayer for all people.*"

There are a few parishes and religious societies now in existence that were founded before 1723, but there is no other house of public worship in Boston as old as this, and, with the single exception of the old State House, which has been so much altered as almost to have lost its identity, Christ Church is our most ancient public building.

It is seventy feet long, fifty-feet wide, and thirty-five feet high. The walls are two and a half feet thick. The tower is twenty-four feet square, and its walls are three and a half feet thick. The spire rises to the height of one hundred and seventy-five feet, and is a well known guide for vessels entering the harbor. The resemblance of the architecture to that of churches built at the same period in England has given rise to the opinion that this church is modelled after one of the designs of Sir Christopher Wren. When the opening services were held the building was not completed. A portion of the plastering was done in 1725; the pillars were enclosed and the windows hung