

organization of the parish and the building and furnishing of the Hollis Street Church. October 5, 1733, the Governor, who calls himself "chief patron" of the church, writes: "Upon laying out a considerable tract of land in this town about two years ago into streets and house lots, one of the main streets was named Hollis Street, since which a number of worthy men have erected and finish'd a handsome c<sup>hh</sup>, whereof the Rev<sup>d</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Mather Byles was ordain'd the pastor in Decemb<sup>r</sup> last. He is grandson to the late Rev<sup>d</sup> learned and excellent D<sup>r</sup> Increase Mather. Altho' this new congregation are a number of sober good Christians, yet they are not in the most plentiful circumstances, and I have promist to mention to you the procuring for them by yourself & friends a small bell for this new c<sup>hh</sup> in Hollis Street." The bell was given by Mr. Hollis in 1734, and was "generally thought the best in this country." The same year a handsome clock was placed in the interior. May 2, 1742, D<sup>r</sup> Byles formally presented to the church, from Hon. William Dummer, late lieutenant-governor, "a large and rich folio Bible, on condition that it should be read as a part of publick worship on the Lord's day among us." The congregation voted their thanks to M<sup>r</sup> Dummer for this "stately church Bible," and May 9, 1742, reading from the Scriptures was introduced in the church.

<sup>14</sup> "History of the Old South Church," by Hamilton Andrews Hill (1890), Vol. I, p. 461.

<sup>15</sup> D<sup>r</sup> Byles scrupulously mentions the place of his wedding in the family record which he kept. It is doubtful whether the Congregationalists at this time often celebrated marriages in their meeting-houses.