

cured the kind regard of Gov. Belcher, and without doubt, his interest in the welfare of Christ Church was founded upon his respect for its Rector.

The bells were procured by subscription. They are eight in number. The lightest weighs 620 lbs. and the heaviest 1545 lbs. They cost £560 in England. The freight was given by Mr. John Rowe, and the charges for wheels and putting them in place amounted to £93. The inscriptions on them tell their story so fully that we let them speak for themselves. The tenor, first, says, "This peal of eight bells is the gift of a number of generous persons to Christ Church in Boston, New England, Anno 1744, A.R." The second, "This Church was founded in the year 1723, Timothy Cutler, Doctor in Divinity, the first rector, A.R., 1744." The third says, "We are the first ring of bells cast for the British Empire, in North America, A.R., 1744." The fourth exclaims, "God preserve the Church of England, 1744." The fifth commemorates, "William Shirley, Esq., Governour of the Massachusetts Bay in N. E., Anno 1744." The sixth tells us, "The subscription for these bells was begun by John Hammock and Robt. Temple, Church Wardens, Anno 1743, compleated by Robert Ienkins and Ino. Gould, Church Wardens, 1744." The seventh adds, "Since generosity has opened our mouths, our tongues shall ring aloud its praise, 1744;" and the eighth concludes, "Abel Rudhall of Gloucester cast us all, Anno 1744."

These bells are provided with wheels for round ringing, but they are now struck by means of cords attached to the tongues instead of being rung as they were formerly. They are remarkable for purity of tone, sweetness and harmony. They may still be heard, as in the olden-time, during the week preceding and the week following Christmas, filling the night air with the glad tidings that angels brought in the night to the shepherds in the field. They mourn with those who bear away their dead, peal merrily at marriages, and help us to compose our thoughts as we ascend the hill to this House of Prayer.