



SECOND CONGREGATIONAL (UNITARIAN) CHURCH.

THE SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH (Unitarian) was organized in March, 1785, and ordained and installed Rev. Aaron Bancroft as their pastor. Their place of worship for seven years was in the Court House. Their first house of worship was built in 1791 and dedicated Jan. 1, 1792. It was a wooden structure, situated south of the old Antiquarian Hall on Summer Street and was occupied by the society thirty-seven years, when a new church was built on the site of the present one. The Summer Street building has been used most of the time since as a school house, and presents the same general appearance as in 1792, with the exception of the tower, which was removed a few years after the society occupied their new church. The second church was burned in August, 1849. The third and present church was finished and dedicated March 26, 1851. The structure is of the Corinthian style of architecture, quite imposing in appearance, built of brick and covered with mastic drawn in squares. Its cost was a little over \$25,000. It is about ninety-five feet front and one hundred deep, with a commodious vestry in the rear.

Dr. Bancroft was pastor for nearly fifty-four years, with Rev. Alonzo Hill assistant, after his ordination in 1827. After Dr. Bancroft's death, Rev. Mr. Hill was sole pastor for forty-two years, and senior pastor with his colleague and successor, Rev. E. H. Hall, until his death, two years afterwards. Rev. Mr. Hall was installed Feb. 10, 1869, and has been sole pastor since Dr. Hill's death.

The music at this church has generally maintained a high degree of excellence. The organ was made by Hook & Hastings in 1836, and very much improved in 1880. Emory Perry, was the first conductor serving eighteen years; S. R. Leland, twelve years; Alexander Stocking was conductor fifteen years. Among the organists may be mentioned Eugene Thayer, C. C. Stearns, S. R. Leland, and C. P. Morrison. Present Choir—Miss Anna Brierly, soprano; Mrs. Agnes Stone-Pyne, contralto; Frank H. Mason, tenor; C. V. Mason, bass and conductor; Walter H. Ingalls, organist.

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