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MUSICAL MENTION

JOHN RANDOLPH

MRS. P. V. M. RAYMOND.

The choir of the First Congregational Church.

In the year 1886 what was then the new pipe organ of the Congregational church was opened with some ceremony in an organ recital given by W. T. Tabor of Boston and Omaha, and by its present organist Mrs. P. V. M. Raymond. Mrs. Raymond has since that time occupied the position of organist and choir director at this church with the exception of the year January 1, 1893 to January, 1894. At that time she filled the same position in St. Paul's M. E. church in this city, directing a chorus choir.

Previous to 1893 the choir of the Congregational church consisted of a quartet of soloists, except for a short time when chorus and soloists were employed. At the time of the opening of the new organ Mrs. Raymond was assisted, in addition to Prof. Tabor, by Mrs. A. W. Jansen, and Mrs. J. P. Dorr, and by Messrs. S. H. Burham and J. P. Williams, all singers well known to Lincoln; besides the regular quartet choir of the church, which at that time consisted of Misses Peck and DeWitt and Barnaby and Eddy.

During the years between March 1886 and July 1, 1892, the following soloists were employed in the quartet of the choir:

Sopranos—Miss Lillian Peck, Mrs. J. P. Dorr, Mrs. C. S. Lippincott, Mrs. Adolph Weber, Mrs. J. G. Wadsworth, Mrs. A. W. Jansen.

Contraltos—Miss Bertha DeWitt, Mrs. J. P. Dorr, Miss Carol Churchill, Mrs. A. S. Raymond, Mrs. Albert Watkins.

Tenors—E. H. Eddy, H. M. Leavitt, Oscar Easterday, Joseph Wurzburg.

Basses—J. B. Barnaby, M. Harmer.

The soloists from January 1, 1894, to the present time are as follows:

Sopranos—Miss Clara Anderson, Miss

Estelle Spanog'e, Miss Florence Worley, Mrs. R. A. Holyoke.

Alto—Miss Hattie Becker.

Tenors—Mr. Joseph Wurzburg, (frequently on special occasions.) Mr. Juer-gen Albers.

Basses—J. B. Barnaby, C. B. Smith. Mr. B. S. Langworthy and C. F. Tucker have assisted during past year.

It will be noted that Miss Hattie Becker has for some time filled the position of contralto soloist, her pleasing voice and unaffected manner giving satisfaction to the congregation of this church as well as to those who have heard occasional public performances of the choir. The chorus of this choir, organized upon Mrs. Raymond's return to the position of organist in 1894, deserves an especial word of mention. Without their loyalty and faithful attendance at arduous rehearsals no performance would have been possible of the numerous works of dignified character which have been given in a public or semi-public manner in the past few years. Among the works, choral and for solo voices, which have been given I may mention the following:

"The Last Judgment" of Louis Spohr, "The Crucifixion" of Stainer, "The Messiah" of Handel, "The Coming of the King" by Dudley Buck, besides numerous song services devoted to the work of great composers. The personnel of this choir at present is as follows.

CHOIR OF 1ST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

Mrs. O. A. Andrews,

" W. Q. Bell,

" Landy Clark,

" Dr. Cotter,

" A. Dobson,

" O. P. Erlenborn,

" T. J. Fiegentaum,

" J. W. Francis,

" W. J. Kaloz,

" E. S. King,

" A. J. Wise.