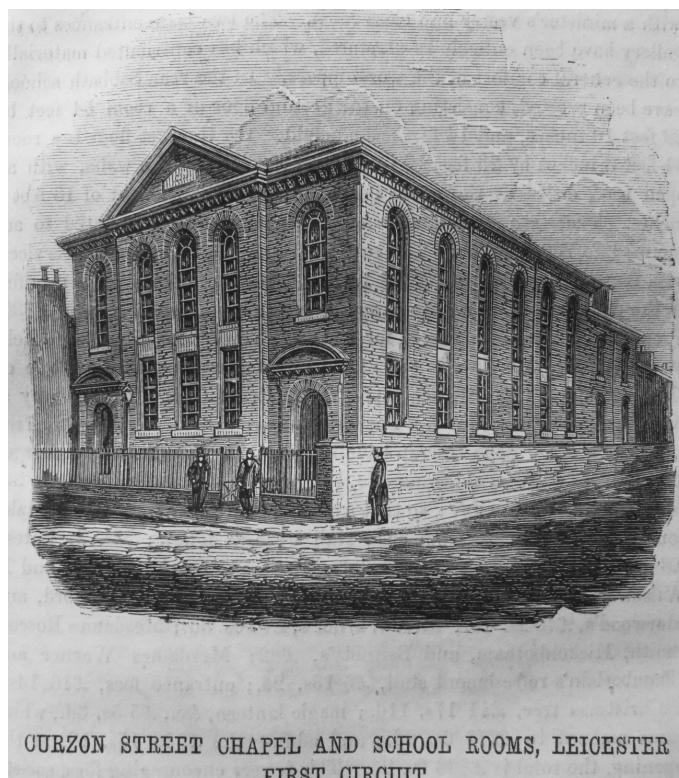


## **CURZON STREET CHAPEL AND SCHOOL ROOMS, LEICESTER FIRST CIRCUIT.**

### **Transcription of Article published in the Christian Messenger**

THIS chapel was erected in 1851, during the superintendency of the Rev. John Brownson, at an outlay of £1737. Further improvements were deemed necessary for a large and increasing Sabbath School. It was resolved to erect School Rooms, and at the same time enlarge the chapel. 24 feet have been added to its length. On the floor radiating pews of stained deal, with mahogany cappings, have been introduced; the old pulpit and singers' seat have been removed; a new platform with stairs on either side has been erected, surrounded by an elliptic communion rail, the panels of which are of open iron-work; those of the platform are backed with crimson cloth, the whole of the wood and iron-work being tastefully painted white and grey. The gallery has been continued entirely round the chapel, the portion in the rear of the platform being appropriated as an orchestra, in which an organ has been placed. The portion of the chapel beneath the orchestra is occupied with a minister's vestry and classroom. The two main entrances to the gallery have been entirely re-arranged, which has contributed materially to the general comfort of the worshippers.



In the rear Sabbath schools have been erected, consisting on the ground floor of a room 54 feet by 28 feet 10 inches, and 14 feet clear height. On the first floor is a room 34 feet 3 inches by 28 feet 10 inches, 13 feet high in the walls, with an open roof, ceiled at the collar beams, giving a total height of 18 feet 6 inches. There are four class rooms, the whole being calculated to accommodate 700 scholars. The cost is £1655. At the opening services, with donations we realised £586 15s. 1d. Further efforts were needful, as the debt remaining on the property before any alterations was £830.

Preparations were commenced for a bazaar; sewing meetings were held every alternate Monday, in the afternoon; tea was provided by one of the friends, and the proceeds given to the trust fund. In this way a handsome sum was raised. The bazaar was held September 6th, 7th, and 8th, in Mr. Joseph Harrap's auction mart, kindly lent without charge. The weather was very unfavourable, but we were glad to find that our income increased every day; so that we had reason to thank God and take courage. The receipts from each stall were as follow: Mr. J. Bates', £8; Mr. J.T. Cooper's, £8 12s. 8d.; Mesdames Clark, Grundy, and T. Wilson's, £28 0s. 6d.; Mesdames Roberts, J. Wilson, Berrisford, and Marwood's, £40 2s. 4d.; Mrs. Warner's, £70 0s. 3d.; Mesdames Roscoe, Smith, Hickenbotham,

and Bennett's. £82; Mesdames Warner and Chamberlain's refreshment stall, £5 13s. 2d.; entrance fees, £16 14s.; a Christmas tree, £11 17s. 11d.; magic lantern, &c., £5 5s. 3d., which sums amount to £276 6s. 2d.; and adding the £586 15s. 1d. at the opening, the total is £863 6s. 2d. This is very encouraging for a society of 109 members; it shows what can be done by united effort. We found it a great undertaking, but we are now pleased with the improvement. Our friends have done well; it is only right to say that Mr. T. Berrisford and others rendered considerable aid in the bazaar. The greatest harmony has prevailed during these alterations. Our prayer now is, "Arise, O Lord, into thy rest, thou and the ark of thy strength; let thy priests be clothed with righteousness, and let thy saints shout for joy."

THOMAS ROBERTS

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#### References

*Christian Messenger* 1867/129