

From the *Belfast News-Letter*, 5 November 1862

It gives us much pleasure to transfer to our columns the following very complimentary reference to Dr. Edmund Chipp, who, as previously announced in the News-Letter, has received the appointment of organist to the Ulster Hall, as well as that of conductor of the Anacreontic and Classical Harmonist Societies. Dr. Chipp, we may state, has also been appointed organist to St. George's Church. The *Musical World* [25 October 1862] says: –

“There are few organists who have achieved a higher reputation than Dr. Edmund Chipp; and the recent presentation, on the occasion of his retirement from Trinity Church, which has, for some time, had the advantage of his services, is a well-merited tribute to his worth. The testimonial was accompanied by a tea and coffee service, with a salver, on which is the following inscription; – ‘*Presented to Edmund T. Chipp, Esquire, Mus. Doc., with a Silver Tea and Coffee Service, by the Choir, Incumbent, Curates, and a few friends of the congregation of Trinity Church, Paddington, 1st October, 1862.*’

“Visitors to the International Exhibition will not be likely to forget the performances on Messrs. Forster & Andrews' large organ, originally placed in the nave, and subsequently removed to the North-Eastern transept – on Wednesdays and Saturdays – when Dr. Chipp attracted crowds by his masterly playing, and delighted musicians by his selections, which invariably included pieces suited to the instrument, and never condescended to the trivial exhibitions of which we have had many examples in the same building. The fugues of Bach, Handel, and Mendelssohn, grand choruses from the best oratorios, and other works of the kind, have formed the staple of Dr. Chipp's programmes – an agreeable contrast to the operatic selections, overtures, and worse, which sound so ridiculously small, and are so entirely at variance with the scope and character of a great organ.

“The fine instrument now on duty at St. Paul's Cathedral was, as our readers are aware, originally built for the Panopticon, where Dr. Chipp proved himself a thoroughly efficient successor to Mr. T. W. Best, after the latter had transferred his services to St. George's Hall, Liverpool. But it is not merely as an organist that Dr. Chipp is favourably known; his name as violinist having been for years honourably associated with the orchestras of the Philharmonic, the Opera, the Sacred Harmonic Society, and all the ‘festivals,’ metropolitan or provincial; while his Organ Sketches, and other published works, show him to be as accomplished a musician as he is a practised executant.

“The fact of Dr. Chipp's abandoning London as the sphere of his professional exertions, in favour of a country town, even though that country town is Belfast itself, the most musical in musical Ireland, must therefore be seriously regretted. We have not so many earnest labourers among us that we can afford to lose one of the most earnest and gifted of them all.”