

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE UNIVERSALIST
CONVENTION Of the State of New York, for 1850

The Counsel [Council] met pursuant to adjournment, in the village of Victor, Ontario Co., on Wednesday morning, May 29, 1850, and was called to order by Br. Wm. S. Balch, Moderator at the last session.

United in prayer with Br. G. W. [George Washington] Montgomery, of Rochester, after which the roll of Delegates was called, when the following brethren appeared and took their seats in the Council, as representatives of their respective Associations.

ALLEGANY ASSOCIATION—Clerical, A. [Alanson] Kelsey, I. B. [Ichabod Blakeslee] Sharp.

BLACK RIVER ASSOCIATION—Clerical, J. H. [James Harvey] Tuttle, L. [Luther] Rice; Lay, D. Montague.

BUFFALO ASSOCIATION—Clerical, J. B. Sax.

CAYUGA ASSOCIATION—Clerical, H. [Harvey] Boughton, J. M. [John Mather] Austin.

CENTRAL ASSOCIATION—Clerical, T. J. [Thomas Jefferson] Sawyer, E. [Eben] Francis; Lay, A. Barnet.

CHAUTAUQUE ASSOCIATION—Clerical, W. W. King; Lay, J. Baldwin.

CHENANGO ASSOCIATION—Clerical, A. [Albert] W. Bruce, J. S. Palmer.

GENESEE ASSOCIATION—Clerical, J. [John] S Brown, U. M. Fisk; Lay, L. Crawfoot.

HUDSON RIVER ASSOCIATION—Clerical, G. Collins, W. [William] H. Waggoner; Lay, N. J. Herrick, E. Murdock.

MOHAWK RIVER ASSOCIATION—Clerical, D. [Dolphus] Skinner, J. [Jacob] H. Harter; Lay, C. Johnson.

NEW YORK ASSOCIATION—Clerical, W. S. Balch, H. [Henry] Lyon; Lay, G. L. Demarest, J. V. Moore.

NIAGARA ASSOCIATION—Clerical, W. B. Cook, H. Van Campen.

ONTARIO ASSOCIATION—Clerical, G. W. Montgomery, D. C. [DeWitt Clinton] Tomlinson; Lay, J. D. Ford, J. C. Eaton.

OTSEGO ASSOCIATION—Clerical, G. [George] W. Gage.

STEBEN ASSOCIATION—Not represented.

ST. LAWRENCE ASSOCIATION—Clerical, J. T. [John Temple] Goodrich, L. M. Hawes; Lay, M. Thatcher, L. Amsden.

The Convention then completed its organization by electing Br. Thomas J. Sawyer, Moderator, and Br. J. Vreeland Moore, Clerk.

The minutes of the last session were read and unanimously approved.

Br. G. L. Demarest submitted the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted.

Resolved, That immediately upon the organization of the Council at each session of the Convention, the Moderator shall proceed to appoint the following Committees, consisting each of three persons:

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1. A Committee of Nomination; who shall propose to the Convention a place of adjournment, and an occasional preacher for the next following session, together with the names of delegates to the succeeding meeting of the United States Convention.

2. A Committee on the State of the Church; to whom shall be referred all papers relating to the statistics of the denomination in the State, and who shall report to the Convention a narrative showing, so far as they may be able to by the papers referred to them, and by inquiry of Delegates, the state of the Churches, Societies and Sunday Schools in our fellowship.

3. A Committee on Missionary and Tract Efforts; who shall report as to such efforts during the year preceding, and suggest such action by the Convention as may seem practicable and useful.

4. A Committee on Reforms; who shall propose such resolutions for the consideration of the Council as may be deemed advisable, with a statement of the progress of such movements as are accordant to the spirit of Universalism.

5. A Committee on the Universalist Relief Fund; to whom shall be referred the report of the Trustees and Treasurer of the Fund, and who shall report the necessary action.

6. A Committee on Education, who shall report respecting the state of literary and theological education among us, and as to means which may be adopted by the Convention or recommended to our people for the more thorough advancement of its interests.

The Moderator in conformity with the requirements of the foregoing resolution hereupon successively appointed the following brethren as members of the several committees designated, to wit:

On Nominations—D. Skinner, L. Rice and A. Barnet.

On the State of the Church—J. M. Austin, A. W. Bruce, and J. Baldwin

On Missionary and Tract Efforts—W. S. Balch, U. M. Fisk, and L. Amsden.

On Reforms—G. L. Demarest, E. Francis, and W. B. Cook.

On Universalist Relief Fund—G. W. Montgomery, C. Johnson, and M. Thatcher.

On Education—J. T. Goodrich, G. Collins, and J. D. Ford.

Received the following reports from the Trustees and Treasurer of the Universalist Relief Fund:

SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE "NEW YORK UNIVERSALIST RELIEF FUND."

To the Council of the New York State Convention of Universalists, to be convened at Victor, Ontario County, on Wednesday, May 29th, 1850.

The Trustees of the New York Universalist Relief Fund, since their last annual report to the Convention, have received *five* applications for aid.

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The *first* is the personal application of Rev. Samuel A. Skeelee, of Cowlesville, N.Y. Br. Skeelee renews his application for the same reason as last year. From his advanced age (being seventy-eight years old), and increased mental and physical infirmity, the Board would recommend that the sum of one hundred dollars—same as last year—be paid to his order, in two equal installments, in June and November, 1850.

The *second* is the application of Rev. George W. Montgomery, in behalf of Rev. Oliver Ackley, of Geneva, N.Y. Br. Ackley is represented to be a member of the Ontario Association, and in fellowship with the Convention. In consequence of the severe chronic illness of his wife, and his advanced age he has been unable to preach with sufficient regularity to procure a maintenance. These facts, in connection with his Christian life and past usefulness in the ministry, entitle him to a favorable consideration. The Board would suggest that an appropriation of one hundred dollars be made for his relief, and payable to his order, in two equal installments in June and November, 1850.

The *third* is the personal application of Mrs. Abigail Morton, widow of the late Rev. Calvin Morton of Conewango, N.Y. Br. Morton was a member of the Allegany Association, and in good standing. Mrs. Morton received aid from the fund last year, and is represented to be infirm, and in indigent circumstances. The Board would recommend that the sum of one hundred dollars—same as last year—be paid to her order, in two equal installments, in June and November, 1850.

The *fourth* is the application of Mr. Walter Mumford, in behalf of Julius Savillion Eaton, son of the late Rev. Joseph Eaton, of Portland, N.Y. This orphan child has been a recipient of the fund since its establishment. The pecuniary disability of his guardian, and the feeble health of the boy, call for renewed assistance. The Board therefore recommend that the sum of fifty dollars—the same appropriation as heretofore made for his relief—be paid to the order of Walter Mumford.

The *fifth* application is made at the request of the widow of a deceased clergyman, she having formerly received aid from the fund. From information communicated to the Board, the situation of the applicant is changed. Participating, as she now does, in the prosperity of her children, and drawing from that source all that is essential to her comfort, her appeal did not receive the favorable consideration of the Board. In this connection the Board would state that though desirous of extending the beneficent operation of the trust to the fullest extent consistent with its special purpose, they are constrained from the limited means at their disposal, and the wants of the sick and infirm, and "him that had none to help him," to restrict their aid to those cases presenting the most imperative claims.

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The Treasurer's report herewith transmitted, shows an unexpended balance of two hundred and forty dollars and seventeen cents. This, with the interest to be collected in October next, will suffice to meet the payments recommended in this report; leaving a small balance together with the interest to accrue in April, 1851, to pay the first installments of the appropriations for the next year.

The Trustees have been influenced in their awards, with reference to a reservation of future income, that aid might be dispensed in a manner most conducive to the comfort and want of applicants. In previous Reports, the Board have enlarged on the value of this eleemosynary fund to the "widow and the fatherless, and him that was ready to perish," and they now report the increasing and gratifying assurances of the effect of a charity that seeks its purest and holiest manifestation in relieving the sick and distressed of our race.

Respectfully submitted, by order of the Board,
JACOB HARSEN, *President*

New York, May 27, 1850

[The account of Abner Chichester, Treasurer of the New York Universalist Relief Fund, is omitted here.]

AFTERNOON SESSION

The Council convened in accordance with adjournment.

A Report was received from the Standing Clerk, Rev. Henry L. Hayward, transmitting a part of the information required by the resolution passed at the last annual session of this Convention, instructing him to "communicate with the Standing Clerks of the several Associations in this State, to ascertain what rule or rules on fellowship have been adopted by their Associations, and the names of all the ministers in the fellowship thereof."

Voted, That said Report be referred to a special Committee, to take the same into consideration, with instructions to report, at the next annual session, whether further action in relation to this subject is necessary and proper for this Convention.

Voted, That Brs. D. Skinner, J. M. Austin, and W. S. Balch be said Committee.

Br. W. S. Balch introduced the following Preamble and Resolutions, which, on motion of Br. J. M. Austin, seconded by Br. Skinner, were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, In the providence of God, an eminent and much beloved father in our Israel, Rev. Stephen R. Smith, has been recently called from his labors on earth to his rest and his crown in the immortal state. leaving behind a memory rendered sacred to us by his labors and his sacrifices in the cause of Christ, therefore

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Resolved, That we tender to his bereaved widow and affectionate family the sincere condolences of our hearts, in the irreparable loss they have been called to experience in the departure of a devoted husband and dear father.

Resolved, That in the death of Br. Smith our denomination has been deprived of one of its earliest heralds in this State, and one of its most eminent, devoted, laborious and useful advocates.

Resolved, That in the life, character, and services of our deceased brother we have an eminent example of persevering toil, patient endurance, and unwearied zeal worthy the imitation of every messenger of the Cross; and that we would especially recommend it to the study and imitation of the younger portion of our ministry.

Voted, That Br. D. Skinner be a Committee to transmit to the widow of our deceased Brother a copy of the foregoing preamble and resolutions, and that he be instructed to accompany the same with a letter of condolence in the name of this Convention.

Br. J. S. Brown offered the following Preamble and Articles which were subsequently referred to a special committee, consisting of Brs. D. Skinner, W. S. Balch, and J. M. Austin, to take the subject into consideration and report thereon to the next Convention.

Whereas, it is desirable that the several Associations in fellowship with the New York State Convention, adopt some safe, proper and uniform system of fellowship which shall govern them in the future admission of members; and whereas in the opinion of this Convention the adoption of any written creed, form or declaration of faith to be formally subscribed for the purpose above named is highly dangerous, and has always been injurious to the Christian cause; and whereas, it is believed that the ministers in fellowship with these associations have, from the first organization of these bodies to the present time, been firm believers in the divine authenticity and authority of the Holy Scriptures, both of the Old and New Testaments; and whereas, their committees of fellowship and ordination have uniformly required candidates for fellowship to acknowledge and give proofs satisfactory of such belief; and whereas this requirement has grown out of the elements and character of our denominational views, rather than from any requisitions in their constitutions; and whereas, we deem it wise and politic to express in form what we have heretofore recognized as fundamental in fact, we now, by a vote of this council recommend to all the Associations in fellowship with the New York State Convention, to adopt the substance of the following articles in their constitutions:

Art. 1. No person shall receive or hold the fellowship of this Association who shall fail to give satisfactory evidence that he is a believer in Divine Revelation, and that he receives the Holy Scriptures as his sufficient rule of faith and practice.

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Art. 2. This Association disclaims the right or power of requiring any written declaration of faith, and therefore no form, creed or articles of faith, to be formally subscribed as a test of membership, shall be adopted by this Association.

Adjourned to meet at 7 1-2 o'clock to-morrow morning.

THURSDAY MORNING

The Council met in accordance with adjournment.

United in prayer with Br. A. Kelsey, of Nunda.

The Committee to whom was referred the reports of the Trustees and Treasurer of the New York Universalist Relief Fund reported the same to be correct; and submitted a series of resolutions, approving of and directing the appropriations recommended by said Board.

On motion the resolutions contained in said report were unanimously adopted.

Received the following report from the special Committee appointed by the last Convention to inquire into the sphere of duties of individuals preaching as Universalists, but who are neither ordained nor in formal fellowship.

REPORT

TO THE UNIVERSALIST CONVENTION OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, ON THE SPHERE OF MINISTERIAL DUTIES, &C.

Your Committee, to whom was referred, at the last session of this Convention, the subject of the proper sphere of the duties of young ministers who are neither ordained nor in fellowship, beg leave to report that they have taken the subject into consideration; and although it may be difficult to furnish or adopt any rule that will be unexceptional and of universal application, yet they believe some general rule or recommendation may and should be adopted on the subject, for the guidance of young preachers, and the satisfaction of the public mind.

From the inquiries and discussion which led to the appointment of your Committee, we believe the principal inquiry is, whether this class of preachers should be properly considered as authorized to administer the ordinances of marriage, the dedication of children, baptism and the eucharist; and that the class of preachers referred to was intended to embrace those young preachers who are with us in faith, and have recently commenced preaching with the intention, if they succeed, of ultimately obtaining fellowship and ordination. For as to others, who are not with us in faith, and never expect to be in fellowship, we have nothing to do with them, and can assume no responsibility for them or their acts.

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To some it may appear somewhat puritanical and possibly too conservative to say that no preachers are properly authorized to administer those ordinances unless they are regularly ordained, and fully set apart to the ministry of the gospel; and yet to us it appears that these solemn and interesting duties are most *appropriately* performed by this class. We believe that in most of the New England States, and several others of the Union, no ministers but those who are ordained, are legally authorized to administer the ordinance of marriage. In this State, however, the matter is left more indefinite upon that point. The law specifies besides magistrates and those whose civil office entitles them to solemnize marriages, that ministers of the gospel, of all denominations, shall be authorized to marry; and while it specifies no particular *form* for magistrates, it says ministers shall perform the ceremony according to the rules of their respective denominations; thus leaving it for each denomination to determine what shall constitute one a minister of the gospel among them, as well as the *form* of the marriage ceremony. Now it seems to your Committee that those who have simply preached a few times, without either fellowship or ordination, can hardly be considered ministers of the gospel, in the true and proper sense of the phrase, though they may ultimately become such. And though ordination seems to be requisite to constitute them such in the fullest sense, yet to deny the privilege of marrying to those who are in fellowship and engaged stately in preaching the gospel, though unordained, would often operate to their detriment, and to the great inconvenience of the societies and people among whom they labor. We also suppose that the other ordinances of the gospel above referred to come under the same rule as that of marriage, so far as the qualifications of the minister are concerned. Therefore your Committee recommend the adoption of the following resolutions.

Resolved, That this Convention disapprove of the performance of the marriage ceremony and other ordinances appropriately belonging to ministers of the gospel, by young preachers among us who are neither in fellowship nor ordained as ministers.

Resolved, That those preachers who are in full fellowship by letter from any Convention or Association, in good standing in our denomination, are authorized to perform the ceremony of marriage and other gospel ordinances in those localities and societies where they are stately employed as preachers of the gospel.

Resolved, That we recommend to those preachers who are in fellowship, and stately employed in the ministry of the Gospel, who intend to devote their lives to this holy calling, and are often called upon or liable to be called upon to administer these ordinances, to apply for and receive ordination as

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early as convenient, as their position and circumstances would seem to require.

Voted, That said Report be accepted, and that the Resolutions therein be adopted.

The following Resolution, proposed by Br. G. L. Demarest was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That Br. Thomas J. Sawyer be requested to prepare and present to this Convention, at its next session, a brief memorial of the life and services of our late Brother, Stephen R. Smith, to be placed upon the records of the Convention.

The Committee on Education submitted the following Report; which was accepted, and the Resolutions therein recommended unanimously adopted:

TO THE CONVENTION OF UNIVERSALISTS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK:

The Committee appointed at the present session of this Convention, to consider the subject of education, *REPORT*

That they have attended to the duty assigned them. The great advantages of education, and its power to promote the prosperity of our denomination, can not well be questioned. Hence the immense responsibilities that rest upon us, demanding our untiring exertions in its behalf. These were so ably and justly presented in the Occasional Sermon at the last session of this body, and the Report of the Committee to whom that portion of the same was referred that they deem it superfluous to repeat them here.

They rejoice that a permanent fund of ten thousand dollars we were then endeavoring to procure for Clinton Liberal Institute, has since been raised. The male department of that school is now firmly established. Various improvements have been made, and its advantages have much increased, and the most that appears necessary to place it in a highly prosperous condition, is for Universalists more generally to send their sons there to be educated.

Your Committee are also gratified that the effort to raise means to erect a convenient edifice for the female department of the school has not been wholly successful. About one thousand dollars have been received; and for a very considerable portion of it were are indebted to the liberality of a few of the ladies of our denomination. But it is thought nine thousand dollars more are necessary to complete the work that has been commenced, and make other improvements essential to place this school in such a successful position as its importance to our cause in the present and future generations imperiously demands. This sum can be easily and readily obtained if the professed friends of this institution throughout this State and elsewhere will

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faithfully and promptly discharge their duty by bestowing liberally of the abundance with which God has blessed them.

Your Committee offer the Resolutions hereto appended for your consideration:

Resolved, That parents of our faith should manifest a deeper interest in the prosperity of Clinton Liberal Institute, by greatly increasing the number of its students.

Resolved, That clergymen of our denomination should present the claims of this institution to their societies and congregations, and in all proper ways strive to arouse public attention to its wants.

Resolved, That this Convention earnestly desires that the effort to rear and obtain funds to pay for a suitable building for the female department of Clinton Liberal Institute and otherwise increase its advantages, shall prove successful; and recommends its female friends, by the holding of fairs and other suitable ways, to collect and appropriate means—and all, of both sexes, favorable to such an important and praiseworthy work, to contribute generously to its aid.

Your Committee further report that they have considered the subject of a Theological School. It is clearly evident that such a school would furnish far greater facilities for a theological education than can otherwise be enjoyed. That it is highly essential to the final complete success of our cause, they are fully satisfied. But while the claims of the College and the Institute for liberal subscriptions press so strongly upon us, they only hope for the establishment of the school upon such a basis as shall justly compensate its teacher, and, by the strictest economy, sustain itself from embarrassment.

Your Committee recommend the adoption of the following Resolutions:

Resolved, That this Convention request the Committees of Fellowship and Ordination of the various Associations in this State to examine all candidates who may appear before them more thoroughly than heretofore, particularly in a knowledge of those subjects which are necessary in a good theological education, and that they require of the candidates to submit at least one sermon in manuscript for examination.

Resolved, That in addition to the means heretofore employed for the support of a Theological School in Clinton, that all the societies in this State be requested to take up a collection for the aid of such School, previous to the first of November next, and annually thereafter, and the clergymen to urge the subject upon their attention, and that students be required to pay thirty dollars annually for their tuition.

Resolved, That a Committee of three, consisting of Brs. D. Skinner, E. Francis, and J. M. Austin, be appointed to make the necessary arrangements for the re-establishment of such School as soon as practicable.

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Resolved, That Br. T. J. Sawyer be requested to address a circular letter, on the subject of education, to the brethren and sisters of this State, previous to the first of November next.

J. T. GOODRICH,
G. COLLINS, } *Committee*
J. D. FORD,

Received the following report from the Committee on Reforms; which was accepted and the resolutions therein recommended unanimously adopted.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON REFORMS

TO THE COUNCIL OF THE NEW YORK STATE CONVENTION OF UNIVERSALISTS, NOW IN SESSION AT VICTOR, N.Y.

The spirit of Christianity is a spirit of Reform. When it was first proclaimed, it called upon all men every where to reform; to leave old evils, and regulate their lives according to the principles of the new and heavenly kingdom, which came down from God. It required the exercise of peace, forbearance, loving-kindness, mercy, temperance, godliness. And by the truths it proclaimed, it sought so to affect the minds of its followers, individually and universally, that ultimately all the race should practice its pure precepts, and enjoy its peaceful influences.

While numbers have submitted to its easy yoke, and assumed its light burden, society at large still retains many of the errors, and discloses many of the evils of former things, which, we trust, will finally pass away. The masses of the people of the world have not reached the lofty heights of Christian purity. Christian influences do not *directly* reach the whole community, nor even a majority of the people.

Yet we must not suppose that Christianity does not in some way affect the whole mass of society. Even the avowed unbeliever is to some degree under its restraints; is somewhat actuated by its beneficent spirit. And in this country, which has guaranteed religious as well as civil freedom, its reforming influences may be forcibly brought to bear upon the great body of the people, however much they may resist its true principles, however little they may suppose themselves to be governed by its precepts.

This is to be done by the consistent example of Christians, and their faithful testimony to the right and the true, before men.

Of all the denominations of American Christendom, the Universalists may be the most influential in reforming social errors. When it is considered that its members are comparatively few in number, this may seem an unauthorized declaration; but though in a human enumeration it may embrace but a small proportion of the inhabitants of the county, "They that be with us are more than they that be with them." Universalism has so

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much more of the life of Christianity than antagonistic dogmas, and its unseen influence is so powerful that, in spite of opposition and scorn, the religious world is imbibing its spirit, and acting in conformity with its divine lessons. It is true that this is not, nor has it been, the result of sudden excitement, but of a silent operation in the minds of men. It is not because Universalists have done all that they ought towards practical reforms; but that the spirit of love and good will which their faith announces is finding its way to other hearts.

There is probably no difference between Universalists as to the enormity of some of the evils which afflict society. They heartily unite in lamenting that war, and slavery, and intemperance, and legal vengeance, have yet so great sway over the human mind. Yet we must remember that these evils generally have been mitigated under the influence of Christianity; insomuch that we are justified in the hope that they will eventually be eradicated.

It is true that war still occasionally rears its horrid head: that the power wielded by the interests of human slavery has apparently for a time succeeded over the rights of freedom: that intemperance seems in many quarters to have assumed a wider reign than ever before: that the spirit of vengeance still lingers in our laws. But these things need not move us. The Divine purposes will succeed in their accomplishment, and all evils, social as well as individual, are doomed to destruction.

In this work, however, man had a duty to perform; and if we fail to do it, "the kingdom shall be taken from us and given to another." Every principle of our faith calls upon us loudly to aid in the work of well-doing: to discourage all strife, and aid in the promotion of peace, to make every practicable effort to check the progress of slavery, and extend that of human freedom; to exercise [excise?] the spirit of retaliation, and inspire men with Christian forbearance and forgiveness; to annihilate the horrors of intemperance, and induce such a subjection of the animal appetites as alone is consistent with Christian liberty.

This duty must be accomplished in the spirit of love and good will, and of faithfulness. Denunciation of persons is inconsistent with fraternal obligations; and we are incompetent to utter them, seeing that we are unable to read the heart, and scan the motives of our brethren, and can look only on the outward appearance. But we ought, upon these subjects, to be epistles known and read by all men; and epistles, too, parallel with the lessons of Christianity.

We submit to this Council, in the form of resolutions, our views of our duty in regard to the evils to which reference has been made.

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Very respectfully,

G. L. DEMAREST
EBEN FRANCIS
W. B. COOK

Resolved, That Universalists ought to cultivate the spirit of brotherly love for each other and the world, setting an example of meekness and good will toward men; that they should avoid all personal strife and injurious words; that they should encourage all judicious efforts for the abolishment of war, and the substitution therefor of peaceful arbitrations: that so far as their influence extends, they may hasten the time when "there shall be war no more."

Resolved, That Universalists ought to bear faithful testimony against the evil of slavery; that they should conscientiously aim to restrict the bounds of human bondage, and extend the blessings of liberty; that while a conciliatory spirit should be preserved, and compromises of feeling should be encouraged, they should resist all compromises of principle; and that in their relations both to slaveholders and their bondsmen, they should be governed by the principles of the gospel of Christ.

Resolved, That in the present reactionary state of the temperance movement in many parts of the country, the friends of temperance ought to inquire of themselves whether that state has been produced by injudicious measures on their part, or a lack of Christian faithfulness to their duty; that under the circumstances, Universalists ought to redouble their energies toward the eradication of intemperance; that they should carefully set an example of total abstinence from intoxicating drinks; that they should faithfully warn all who habitually use them, especially young men, of the consequences which may be reasonably expected from them; and that they should discourage the undue subjection of mankind to mere animal indulgences.

Resolved, That Universalists ought to carry out in the treatment of criminals the principles of their faith; that they should endeavor to procure an improvement of the condition of the prisoner; that they should encourage, both by labor and money, associations having for their object the improvement of prison discipline and the reform of the criminal; that, as citizens, they should endeavor to obtain a mitigation of all laws which inflict undue penalties; and that they should labor to establish in the public mind the fact that in the certainty rather than the severity of punishment lie their efficacy.

Resolved, That it is the special duty of Universalists to labor earnestly and perseveringly for the abolishment of the punishment of death; that thus the

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lesson of vengeance now taught by the State to the people, and especially to the children now rising up, may be removed.

Resolved, That, to this end, we call distinctly upon our brethren in this State, especially upon our clergymen, to circulate petitions, obtaining signatures, and forwarding them to their respective representatives in the State Legislature in the early part of its next session, asking them for the abolition of the death penalty.

The Committee of Nomination reported in favor of the next annual session of the Council being held at Canton, St. Lawrence Co., and also that Rev. A. G. Laurie, of Buffalo, be selected to preach the next Occasional Sermon. Report adopted.

The Committee of Nomination further reported the following brethren as Delegates to represent this body in the next session of the United States Convention of Universalists: *Clerical*—Brs. Pitt Morse, Henderson; J. T. Goodrich, Oxford; G. W. Montgomery, Rochester; E. H. [Edwin Hubbell] Chapin, New York. *Lay*—Dr. E. S. Lyman, Sherburne; Hon. Alanson Skinner, Brownsville; Geo. H. Roberts, Rochester; Martin Thatcher, Canton; John Kennedy, Farmersville; W. W. Chase, Hudson.

Report accepted, and the nominations adopted.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Convention be tendered to our friends in Victor and vicinity, for their kind reception, and for the generous hospitality they have extended to us during our sojourn with them.

Voted, That Brs. T. J. Sawyer, S. J. Hillyer, and G. W. Montgomery be the Committee of Correspondence for the ensuing year.

Resolved, That editors of our periodicals, who may receive from correspondents charges and complaints against ministers or Societies, be requested to refer such communications, without publication, to the Committees of Discipline of the several Associations which may have jurisdiction of the matters of complaint; and that editors be more guarded against publishing communications which bear against the reputation of our Societies, or brethren at large, in any part of our denomination.

Voted, That the Clerk prepare the Minutes for record; and, also, that he be instructed to prepare for publication in our denominational papers such portions of the same as he may deem most advantageous to the prosperity of our cause.

After uniting in prayer with the Moderator, the Council adjourned to meet in Canton, St. Lawrence Co., on the last Wednesday and following Thursday in May, 1851.

THOS. J. SAWER, *Moderator*.

J. VREELAND MOORE, *Clerk*.

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MINISTERS PRESENT NOT DELEGATES.—A. W. Bruce, Cooperstown; E. H. Chapin, New-York; E. H. Dutton, Springville; S. Goff, Alexander; S. [Seth] Remington, Geneva; O. [Orrin] Roberts, Lakeville; C. A. [Charles Augustus] Skinner, Dexter; T. J. [Thomas Jefferson] Smith, Ridgeway; M. [Moses] B. Smith, Churchville; N. [Nelson] Snell, Kelloggsville; J. [Jacob] Whitney, Rochester; T. J. Whitcomb, Newport; J. [John] H. Campbell, Erie, Pa.; O. A. Skinner, Boston, Mass.

NOTE.—The Committee on the State of the Church, and on Missionary and Tract Efforts, were not prepared to make reports at this session. It was understood that these, together with the Committees on Education and Reforms, should hold over to the next session of the Convention, to collect materials and prepare [a] Report to be then presented upon the subjects severally intrusted to them.

Evangelical Magazine & Gospel Advocate, New York NY, Fri. 14 Jun 1850

Transcribed with notes added in Nov 2012 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY