

PROCEEDINGS OF STATE CONVENTION

Minutes of the New-York State Convention of Universalists, held at Utica, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, August 28th, 29th, and 30th, 1855.

The Convention was called to order by Rev. Wm. S. Balch, Moderator of the last session. The roll of the Convention was called, and the following delegates appeared and presented credentials:

<i>Associations</i>	<i>Clerical Delegates</i>	<i>Lay Delegates</i>
Allegany	F. M. Alvord I. B. Sharp	
Black River	Pitt Morse Wm. N. Barber	B. Thayer Isaac Mendall [Mendell]
Buffalo	E. W. Reynolds	A. C. Moore
Cayuga	J. D. Cargill J. M. Austin	John Boynton J. C. Losee
Central	T. Fisk C. E. Hewes	B. W. Williams C. S. Bartle
Chautauque	O. B. Clark	
Chenango	J. G. Bartholomew R. Queal	J. H. Fox E. S. Lyman
Genesee		J. H. Bolton
Hudson River	L. C. Brown [Browne] Sam'l. Jenkins	James Pettit N. H. Benson
Mohawk River	G. W. Skinner B. B. Hallock	E. Graves
New-York	P. Thomas T. J. Sawyer	Thos. Wallace F. C. Havemeyer
Niagara	W. B. Cooke [Cook] N. Snell	J. M. Chrysler D. M. Pettengill
Ontario	A. Kelsey J. H. Tuttle	Jas. P. Bartle
Otsego	C. W. Tomlinson A. B. Grosh	E. Corey
Steuben	J. M. Peebles	R. H. Davis
St. Lawrence	Asa Saxe	M. Thatcher Ira Hawley

Chose Hon. E. Graves, Moderator, Martin Thatcher, Clerk, and Rev. C. W. Tomlinson, Assistant Clerk.

United in prayer with Rev. L. c. Brown [Browne].

The minutes of the last session were read and approved.

PROCEEDINGS OF STATE CONVENTION

On motion of Rev. Pitt Morse, a committee of three was appointed to report to the Convention upon the propriety of taking the *Clinton Liberal Institute* under the charge of the State Convention.

The Moderator appointed Brs. Pitt Morse, Jas. P. Bartle, and L. C. Brown [Browne] such Committee.

Br. Q. McAdam, agent of the Convention to attend to its interests in the New-York Paper and Book Establishment, made out the following report, which was accepted, and ordered published with the proceedings of this body.

To the New-York State Convention of Universalists, assembled in Annual Session at Utica, Oneida County, N.Y.:—

The undersigned, Agent for the Convention, appointed at its last session, to represent its interest in the "Universalist Book and Paper Establishment," begs leave to report,

That from the Secretary's minutes of the last meeting of the Board of Directors of the Book and Paper Concern, held on 30th November, 1854, at which meeting I was not present, not being aware of its being held, the following appears to have been the financial condition of the concern at that time:—

Assets at Auburn,	\$8,229.60	
" " New-York,	<u>5,152.49</u>	\$13,382.09
Liabilities at Auburn,	\$1243.19	
" " New-York,	<u>765.55</u>	\$2008.74
Estimated value of the concern, being the amount of assets over liabilities,		\$11,373.35
Deduct the whole amount of capital originally invested, for which scrip was issued in shares of \$25 each,		\$7000.00
Nett ^[sic] gain in favor of the concern,		\$4373.35
Receipts for the year as per Secretary's minutes above referred to, viz:		
At Auburn,	\$8573.83	
At New-York,	<u>7504.14</u>	\$16,077.97
Expenditures as per same minutes		
At Auburn,	\$9599.53	
At New-York,	<u>6457.35</u>	\$16,056.88
Receipts over expenditures,		\$21.09

PROCEEDINGS OF STATE CONVENTION

In the expenditures above mentioned, there is included the sum of \$1153.43, paid in redemption of stock in the concern, in favor of the Convention, which, added to the balance of receipts above mentioned, would show the total nett receipts over expenditures to be \$1174.52.

At the last meeting of the Board of Directors as already adverted to, the President and Secretary were authorized to use the surplus funds of the concern from time to time in redeeming the outstanding stock, in favor of the Convention. I am informed that there has been no stock yet redeemed during the present year, but that the funds now on hand belonging to the concern will warrant an appropriation of at least twelve hundred dollars for that purpose.

Of the redeemed scrip, there has come into my hands, as your agent, certificates for twenty-two shares, equal to five hundred and fifty dollars: the balance I am told is in the office of the concern at Auburn.

The above figures may be put in this shape:

Original amount of capital Stock,	\$7000.00
Less amount redeemed prior to the last meeting of the Board of Directors,	\$1153.43
Funds on hand for the purpose of redeeming stock,	<u>1200.00</u>
	\$2353.43
Amount of stock yet to be redeemed by Convention,	\$4646.57

I am authorized by the agent of the concern in New-York to say, that it is in a vigorous condition, and the above figures show that its course is one of steady progress.

Respectfully submitted,

Q. M'ADAM, Agent

New-York, August 20th, 1855.

The Committee on the Revision of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Convention, submitted a draft, which was accepted. On motion, it was ordered to be taken up by sections, and after discussion and amendment, was adopted as follows:

CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE 1.

In order to more thoroughly perfect the unity of, and give greater efficiency to the Denomination of Universalists in the State of New-York, we adopt the following Constitution:—

ART. 1.—TITLE.

This body shall be known and distinguished by the name of the New-York State Convention of Universalists.

PROCEEDINGS OF STATE CONVENTION

ART. 2.—HOW CONSTITUTED

1. This Convention shall be composed of Delegates chosen annually by the Universalist Associations of the State of New York. Each Association shall be entitled to four delegates, two of whom shall be ministerial and two lay.

2. The Council thus formed, may judge of the elections, returns, and qualifications of its own members, and may reprove or expel a member for just cause.

3. Ten Delegates shall be necessary to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business; but a less number may adjourn from time to time.

ART. 3.—TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING

1. The sessions of the Convention shall be holden on the fourth Tuesday in August, and the following Wednesday and Thursday, annually, and in such place as may be designated at the previous session, or announced during the interim by the Standing Clerk. Special sessions may be called at the discretion of the Moderator and Standing Clerk, on the application of two or more members of the Council.

2. The Convention may adjourn from day to day, until its business shall be completed.

ART. 4—OFFICERS

1. The officers of this Convention shall consist of a Moderator, Sessional Clerk, and Standing Clerk, who shall be elected by ballot, and whose duties shall be as follows:—

2. The Moderator (who shall be elected immediately after the first roll of members is made,) shall preside over the meetings of the session, preserve order, and facilitate the accomplishment of the business of the Convention.

3. The Sessional Clerk (who shall be chosen immediately after the first roll of members is made,) shall keep a full and faithful record of the proceedings of the Convention, and prepare for the Standing Clerk a fair copy of the same for insertion in the Record Book. He shall prepare for publication whatever portion of the minutes the Convention shall order to be published, but shall *not* make the Standing Clerk dependent on any printed account for his copy of the Book of Records.

4. The Standing Clerk shall faithfully enter the minutes received from the Sessional Clerk into the Book of Records and certify the accuracy of his copy. It shall be his duty to notify the meetings of the Convention through the denominational papers, and shall transmit to the Standing Clerk of the United States Convention a certified copy of the list of delegates from this body to that. He may be chosen at any meeting of this body, and shall continue in office till a successor be appointed; and in case of his death or resignation, the last Sessional Clerk shall be empowered to obtain the Book of Records and to perform the duties of his office until the vacancy be supplied.

PROCEEDINGS OF STATE CONVENTION

ART. 5.—POWERS

1. The Convention shall have jurisdiction over the Associations in its Fellowship, and may, from time to time, enact such laws for regulating the relations of these Associations as the general good shall require.

2. It shall have power to decide all cases of dispute and difficulty which may occur between Associations, and to receive and try all cases of appeal made to it by Societies or Preachers who may be aggrieved by the action or inaction of the Association to which they may belong. The Convention, however, shall have no power to inflict any other penalty than the withdrawal of fellowship.

3. The Convention shall have no right to intermeddle with matters of Faith, beyond an expressed assent to the Confession adopted by the general Convention at its session in Winchester, N.H., in A.D. 1803, which reads as follows, to wit:—

ART. 1.—We believe that the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament[s] contain a revelation of the character of God, and of the duty, interest and final destination of mankind.

ART. 2.—We believe that there is one God, whose nature is love, revealed in one Lord Jesus Christ, by one Holy Spirit of Grace, who will finally restore the whole family of mankind to holiness and happiness.

ART. 3.—We believe that holiness and true happiness are inseparably connected; and that believers ought to be careful to maintain order, and practice good works; for these things are good and profitable unto men.

Provided, that these articles are construed according to their true spirit, as evidently intended by their authors, and as they have been uniformly understood by our denomination.

But it shall have the right to exercise a watch-care over the conduct of all in its fellowship, with a view to promote truth, righteousness, and peace among men.

4. The Convention shall have the right to demand reports, either written or oral, from the delegates, relative to the condition of the cause in the respective associations—to receive requests for ordinations, provided they do not infringe the rules and regulations of the Association to which the applicant may belong, and grant or refuse such application as may be deemed proper—and to adopt or recommend such measures as shall be deemed necessary for the spread of truth, the promotion of piety, and the prosperity of Zion at large.

ART. 6.--COMMITTEES

The Convention shall appoint annually, the following Standing Committees:—

1. A Committee on the Sunday School Interest.
2. A Committee on the condition of the Church.

PROCEEDINGS OF STATE CONVENTION

3. A Committee on Missionary Tract Enterprise.
4. A Committee on Reforms.
5. A Committee on Education.

To these, and all other Committees which may be deemed necessary from time to time, the Convention shall have authority to confer such power as shall be deemed proper to carry out the objects for which they are chosen. Each Committee shall make a faithful report of its doings, at the time it may have been instructed to do so.

ART. 7.--ASSOCIATIONS

1. Associations may receive the Fellowship of this Convention, by making application therefor, by its delegates, at any annual session.

2. It shall be the duty of each Association in fellowship with this Convention, to report through its delegation, or by epistle, at each session, the condition of our cause within its bounds, and to offer whatever suggestions may be deemed profitable to aid the Convention in accomplishing its objects.

3. No Association in connection with this Convention, shall grant its fellowship to any minister removing within its jurisdiction from another Association belonging to this or any other State, who, by suspension or expulsion, has lost the fellowship of the Association or Convention from which he removed, unless the full consent of such Association or Convention shall have first been obtained.

4. This Convention disclaims all authority over and interference with the regulations of any Association; and will exercise only advisory powers in recommending such measures as in the opinion of the Convention are best adapted to the general good, except when appealed to for final decision by any Association or any of its members—or in accordance with the powers expressly granted in this Constitution to the Convention.

5. Any Association belonging to this Convention, may have the privilege of withdrawing from its fellowship, by assigning satisfactory reasons therefor in writing, and giving due notice of their intention at a previous session of the Convention.

ART. 8.--AMENDMENT

All propositions to alter or amend this Constitution, shall be submitted in writing at an annual session of the Convention, and if, at the succeeding annual session two-thirds of the members present shall vote in favor of such alterations or amendments, they shall be adopted.

The following Committees were appointed by the Moderator,—

On Nominations.—P. Thomas, J. H. Fox, and J. M. Chrysler.

On Relief Fund.—P. Morse, J. D. Cargill and J. H. Bolton.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

On Sabbath Schools.—H. R. Nye, W. N. Barber, and J. M. Peebles

PROCEEDINGS OF STATE CONVENTION

On Reforms.—E. W. [Elhanan Winchester] Reynolds, J. N. Parker, and A. Sax. [Saxe].

State of the Church. J. H. [James Harvey] Tuttle, D. K. [Day Kellogg] Lee, and A. C. Moore.

Education.—J. A. Aspinwall, S. C. Loveland, and A. Kelsey.

Missionary Enterprise.—G. W. Montgomery, B. H. Davis, and O. B. Clark.

Adjourned until 2 P.M.

2 P.M.—Met pursuant to adjournment.

The Committee on Nominations made the following report, which was adopted:—

Place of holding next Session—Albany.

Preacher of Occasional Sermon—Rev. D. K. Lee.

Agent for the Paper and Book Establishment—Q. M'Adam.

Delegates to the United States Convention—*Clerical*—H. R. Nye, C. E. Hewes, Pitt Morse, and N. Snell. *Lay*—John Shattuck, George W. Platt, E. Graves, J. H. Bolton, Geo. A. Scudder, and M. Thatcher.

The Committee on Missionary and Tract Efforts, submitted the following Report, which was adopted, and ordered published with the minutes of this body.

REPORT.

To the N.Y. State Convention of Universalists:—

The Committee on Missionary and Tract effort, beg leave to submit the following REPORT.

After considerable correspondence among themselves, and an unsuccessful effort to secure the services of the ministering brother whom they had selected as a suitable agent, your Committee deemed it inexpedient to take any further action. They offer the following reasons for their decision, and a few suggestions which seem to them to be of great utility in establishing permanent Missionary labor.

1st. The great depression in business during the past year, cautioned them against assuming the pecuniary responsibility necessary for the prosecution of their plans. To have carried on the work with any good degree of success, required a large and promptly paid amount of money. It was anticipated, that for some time, a large proportion of the necessary funds must be raised outside of the Missionary field, and the hitherto unsuccessful efforts to raise money by appeals from the Press, or even by written application to the Pastors of our Churches, forbade their promising such support as a good Missionary must have.

2d. In the opinion of your Committee, a competent and acceptable man could hardly be found who would undertake a work of such magnitude, on such terms as were named by the Convention last year. Although it is possible that the field might support itself, it is also necessary, in case of

PROCEEDINGS OF STATE CONVENTION

failure, as would probably be the case at first, that we have a fund on hand, from which to make up any deficiency. The need of such a revenue leads your Committee to suggest,

3d. The necessity of a State Missionary Society. We can do nothing without organization. If a State Society were formed, a basis of operations would be obtained, and an agent, or a number of agents, could be sent out, who, by forming auxiliary societies in all the cities and towns, would be able to accomplish much good. Your Committee are of the opinion that a plan similar to that now in operation in Maine, can be made to succeed in New-York, and that it will work out the results that we desire. The Missionary Society in Maine, sustains the same relation to that State Convention, as the Educational Society does to the New-York State Convention, and it is only by bringing the Missionary effort under the supervision and patronage of your body, that your Committee expects to see an efficient Missionary Society.

Hoping that the present session of the Convention, not forgetting its philanthropic relations, will also so adjust the "Denominational machine," as to aid in the "lengthening of its cords, and the strengthening of its stakes," the above is

Respectfully Submitted,
RICHARD EDDY
H. R. NYE,
Committee

The Eleventh Annual Report of the Trustees and Treasurer of the Relief Fund was received, and ordered filed with the Standing Clerk, and published with the proceedings of this Convention.

REPORT.

Eleventh 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 Utica, Oneida County, on Tuesday, August 28, 1855.

The Trustees of the New-York Universalist Relief Fund, since their last Annual Report to the Convention, have received five applications for aid.

The first is the personal application of Rev. Samuel A. Skeeley [Skeelee], of Cowlesville, N.Y., and a member of the Buffalo Association. Br. Skeeley [Skeelee] has asked for the same appropriation as last year; the Board would therefore recommend that one hundred and twenty-five dollars be paid to his order in two installments—seventy-five dollars in the month of October, 1855, and fifty dollars in the month of March, 1856.

The second is the application of Rev. J. M. Austin, in behalf of Rev. George W. Montgomery, of Rochester, N.Y., a member of the Ontario Association, and in fellowship with the New-York State Convention of Universalists.

PROCEEDINGS OF STATE CONVENTION

The application in behalf of Br. Montgomery does not inform the Trustees of his condition, and enable them to judge whether he is on the class entitled to aid from the fund. The Trustees however, acting on the limited information furnished by Br. Austin, would recommend that fifty or one hundred dollars—as the Convention may decide, be paid to the order of Rev. George W. Montgomery, in October, 1855. The Trustees are frequently embarrassed in their action from an ignorance of the precise condition of the applicant. The object of this Fund, as set forth in the will of the Donor, is to benefit and relieve “the sick and infirm clergymen of the Universalist faith, and the widows and orphans of deceased clergymen of the Universalist Church, who, previous to their death were in fellowship with the Convention of the State of New-York.” To report in favor of granting any relief, the Trustees must be satisfied that the clergyman making application on the ground of sickness and infirmity, is in fellowship with the New-York State Convention, and is suffering under some chronic disease, producing infirmity and unfitting him for the duties of his profession, and also that he is in indigent circumstances, which render him a proper subject of this charity. If it be the widow, orphan, or orphans of a clergyman making the application, the Trustees must be satisfied that they are what they thus represent themselves to be: that their husband or father was at the time of his death a clergyman in fellowship with the New-York State Convention, and that they are in indigent circumstances, which call for relief.

If a clergyman makes application, it is necessary for him to show,

1. That he is a Universalist clergyman in fellowship with the Convention of the State of New-York.

2. That he is sick and infirm, or infirm from the effects of age, and therefore incapable of providing for his wants by his professional labors.

3. That he is in indigent circumstances, and requires the aid of charity.

In case the applicant be a widow, orphan, or orphans, it must be shown,

1. That she is the widow, or he, or she the child, or if more than one, that they are the children of a Universalist clergyman, who at the time of his death, was in fellowship with the Convention of the State of New-York.

2. That they are in circumstances of want, and require relief from the hand of charity.

Three other applications for aid were received, and after due consideration of the facts, as stated by the applicants and others in their behalf, the Trustees were constrained to decide adverse to their claims to be recipients of the fund.

The Treasurer’s Report herewith transmitted, shows an unexpended balance of five hundred and fifty-one dollars and five cents, in his hands.

Respectfully Submitted,
By order of the Board,

PROCEEDINGS OF STATE CONVENTION

JACOB HARSEN, President

New-York, August 24, 1855

The New-York Universalist Relief Fund, in Account with Abner Chichester, Treasurer.

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

On motion of Rev. O. B. Clark,

Resolved, That the Standing Clerk[s] of the several Associations, be earnestly requested to collect and collate the condition of their different Societies, and transmit a copy of the same to the chairman of the Committee on the State of the Church, at least four weeks previously to each annual session of the State Convention.

The Committee on Sabbath Schools submitted the following report, which was adopted, and ordered filed with the Standing Clerk, and published.

To the New-York State Convention of Universalists, in Council Assembled, in Utica, Aug., 1855.

Your Committee on Sabbath Schools beg leave to submit the following Report:

Some six weeks since we caused to be published in the *Christian Ambassador*, a Circular, addressed to Superintendents, Clergymen, and others having charge of the Sabbath Schools within the limits of our State, requesting early answers to certain questions involving whatever was thought to be important in relation to the Sunday School. But we regret to say, that a large majority of those addressed have treated the matter, if not with "silent contempt," certainly with profound negligence. Were it not for involving your Committee in a seeming neglect of duty, we should [would] forbear making any report, and thus avoid the painful necessity of exposing the want of interest of so many of our friends, in an enterprise with which is intimately connected the welfare of the Church of Christ.—But being anxious to discharge, in as faithful a manner as possible, the duty assigned us, we will forego all sensitive feeling on the point, hoping that the lance of truth may be successfully used, even to the free discharge of all fungus matter, so that before the next annual meeting of your body, symptoms of a more healthy state may appear.—

Reports have been received from the following Schools:—Buffalo, Clifton Springs, Colton, Clarendon, Fulton, Fort Plain, Mottville, Madrid, N.Y Orchard-street and Fourth Societies, Ogdensburgh, Perry, Speedsville, Watertown, making in all 14. In these there are Scholars 949, Teachers 146, average attendance 736, No. of volumes in Libraries, 3,352.

It is believed that there are at least 50 schools unreported. Estimating these in the proportion of those heard from, we have 63 Schools, 4260 Scholars, 625 Teachers, 14,045 in Libraries, showing an increase within the

PROCEEDINGS OF STATE CONVENTION

last four years of 10 Schools, 723 Scholars, 24 Teachers, 4,702 volumes in Libraries.

Since writing the above, we have been permitted to examine the table of Committee on the State of the Church, and from that learn that that Committee have received reports from 36 schools, embracing, in all, 2,491 scholars.

We can find no data by which to determine the number or condition of our Schools since 1851; and then but about one half furnished the Corresponding Secretary of the S.S. Association with statistical reports. His table was made up by estimates and previous reports.

We raise the important inquiry, How shall the neglect of repeated calls for information respecting our Sunday Schools, be remedied? What and where is the mighty power sufficient to the task?

When we consider the intimate connection of the Sunday School with the future prosperity of our Zion, it is a just cause for the deepest sorrow, that only about one fifth of those having charge of Schools in the State, have felt sufficient interest in the enterprise to heed our friendly call. If we take this indifference as a specimen of their general interest in the cause of truth, we should conclude that both Superintendents and Clergymen are only casting *shadows* on the walls of Zion.

We do not desire to be censorious; but while we make all due allowance for the weakness of human nature, for the multiplicity of cares and onerous duties of clergymen, Superintendents, and Teachers of Sunday Schools, we cannot avoid the conviction that they have palpably neglected one of the most important duties God has imposed upon them. Time and again they have been solicited to forward to the appointed persons, a simple statement of the condition of their Schools, that, whether prosperous or not, proper measures might be adopted for the upbuilding of Zion; but as often have they treated the matter with utter indifference. We are totally unable to divine the reason, unless it be a want of interest in *religious principles*. And we know of no power adequate to correct the wrong, save that which converted three thousand souls in one day. We can but express the desire that all whose hearts are uninfluenced by this moral power, may forthwith apply to the Master till they receive the Holy Ghost, understand that the inculcation of religious truth, and its practice in devotion and duty, are the all-important concernments of every person, and become interested in the development and religious education of the young. Aside from this we have but few suggestions to make.

Most of the reports received breathe words of hope and encouragement. The most prominent obstacles to greater success are, 1. Want of proper teachers; 2. Indifference of Parents; and 3. Meagreness of libraries. All of these obstacles will, we are confident, be speedily removed by a hearty

PROCEEDINGS OF STATE CONVENTION

possession of the divine principles of religious truth on the part of Parents, Teachers, Superintendents, and perhaps it will not be out of place to add, *Clergymen*. This would soon raise up a Sabbath School in every one of our 218 Societies, and keep it constantly in a healthy condition. It is the immediate stepping-stone to prosperity in any righteous cause. We therefore conceive it to be the greatest duty of the ministers of Christ, to labor to diffuse among the people of their charge, the spirit and principles of Christianity; for where these are wanting, the Sabbath School cannot flourish. To dwell on the relation of parent and child, and the duties arising therefrom; to set forth the importance of the Sunday School, and urge the reasons why a deep interest should be taken therein, to a people whose minds are absorbed in money-making, or whose hearts have never felt the sanctifying influence of the Gospel, is like the attempt to promote the growth of a tree by watering its branches, while its roots are parched and shriveled by the burning sun. If the roots are in a proper condition, the branches *will* thrive.—Keep the internal machinery of a clock in perfect order, and the hands will designate the true time on the dial. Let the human heart be imbued with the spirit of Christ, and it will cause all concerned to be deeply interested in the religious education of our young. Let the soul be baptised in the spirit of our holy religion, and they [it] will spontaneously labor for the promotion of every aid to that religion. Duty will become a pleasure, and the onward march of the Sunday School, the Church, and of all that can benefit the race, will be occasions of the greatest joy.

As a collateral means to the attainment of the desired end, we would recommend the "Young Christian," a monthly sheet, published in New-York, under the editorial charge of Rev. H. R. Nye, at 25 cents per annum. It is worthy of patronage, and should be read by every scholar in all our schools.

Finally, your committee pray that there may be a shaking among the dry bones which have not breathed at our call, and that prosperity may attend all your efforts to advance the cause of truth.

J. W. BAILEY,
} Com.
J. M. AUSTIN,

Rev. L. C. Brown[e], in behalf of the Committee on the *State of the Church*, reported as follows, which was on motion accepted:—

REPORT

Of the Committee on the State of the Church.

Early in the season your Committee caused to be printed, and mailed to the Universalist clergymen in this State, a Statistical Circular, asking for certain items of information. Of more than one hundred clergymen to whom this circular was sent, less [fewer] than fifty have responded. And of the two hundred and eighteen Societies nominally belonging to the order in this

PROCEEDINGS OF STATE CONVENTION

State, according to our denominational Register, we have gained information, in whole or in part, from only seventy-seven. From the statistics thus gathered, certain results have been derived which it may be interesting and profitable to consider. And on the *data* which these results have furnished, we would base a few general remarks concerning the present wants and interests of the denomination.

1. THE COMPENSATION OF CLERGYMEN.

On this subject there has been long and loud complaint, and its tone has greatly deepened during the last year of increased expensiveness in living. From the light afforded upon this subject from the seventy-seven Societies reported, including all the cities and many of the larger villages in the State, where Societies are established, we gather the following results:—

Average compensation of clergymen, including salaries and donations,	\$825.50
Average compensation of city ministers, excluding the country Societies,	\$1758.00
Average compensation of the country clergy, excluding the city Societies,	\$537.00

Counting seven days in the week, which the minister is required to labor, this average makes the *daily* wages of our country ministers, *one dollar and forty-seven cents*.

But in this estimate are included several of the larger villages, as Lockport, Elmira, Fort Plain and Watertown, where the salary is much above this average. Consequently many ministers in the "rural districts" receive a compensation correspondingly below this average. Indeed the figures show that several received only from two hundred and fifty to three hundred and fifty dollars, or from five and sixpence to seven and sixpence a day.

This average of one dollar and forty-seven cents a day is derived from the statistics of only sixty-four of the country Societies, and includes the larger villages. There are, therefore, about one hundred and forty country parishes unreported, including, probably, many of the very smallest salaries in the State. Could reports have been obtained from all the Societies in the State, the average of country salaries would doubtless be reduced to five hundred dollars, or about eleven shillings a day.

Is this an adequate compensation with the present prices of the necessaries of life, and with the expenses for company, travel, books, papers, and postage, to which ministers are subjected? By recent investigation your Committee have ascertained that the price of mechanical labor in manufacturing establishments, located in remote country neighborhoods, such as machine works, foundries, and forges, is often from fourteen shillings to two dollars a day. Certainly an intelligent and worthy pastor of a country parish ought to be as liberally compensated, according to

PROCEEDINGS OF STATE CONVENTION

the expenses incidental to his position, as an industrious and skillful machinist, pattern-maker, or engineer. But such is not the case; for though the clergyman may receive some prerequisites in the form of wedding fees, &c., yet these are not more than sufficient to balance the extra expenses of travel in attending Associations and Conventions, in making pulpit exchanges, for the necessary replenishment of his library, and in general reading and correspondence.

The country clergyman, usually, must keep a horse, sleigh and wheel-carriage, at an expense of from one hundred to a hundred and fifty dollars a year. Otherwise he must be at the expense of frequently hiring a conveyance. And in most country villages, the use of a horse and carriage for half a day, will cost the clergyman the income of a day, the wear of horse-flesh being usually considered twice as valuable as that of ministerial brain.

Every clergyman should be enabled, over and above the plain and comfortable support of his family, to read the current literature of the day, and to add to his library the cream of the theological works that are annually published. He also needs the improvement and mental renovation derived from travel and religious convocations. He should, at least each year, attend his own Association, State Convention and the General Convention.

There are many Universalist churches in the country, unoccupied, because the wealthy Universalists around them cannot be interested with a preacher of ordinary talent, and are not willing to pay a fair support to one who can command it elsewhere. In many instances Societies in the country are wealthier than others in the smaller cities. There are several Societies within a half day's ride of the place where we are now assembled, with an amount of accumulated wealth superior to that of the Universalist Society in this city. Some of these Societies own good meeting-houses which are now unoccupied, and in which *constant* [full-time] preaching has never been sustained. "Brethren, these things ought not to be." There is an impression gaining ground that our wealthy farmers are not so liberal, in proportion to their means, for the support of worship, as persons in other, and often less lucrative and more uncertain avocations.—Doubtless one cause of this, if true, is the fact that our farmers, living mostly within themselves, have not so clear ideas of the actual cost of living to clergymen who must supply every item for the table and wardrobe of their families, (besides rent and fuel, and conveyance) by actual purchase, and generally at the current retail prices. If Societies in the country would pay as liberally for the support of worship, in proportion to their means, as the city Societies, our ministry would soon be filled with adequate talent, and our denominational strength would soon be doubled. But while a city merchant with a capital of twenty thousand dollars, will cheerfully pay fifty dollars annual pew-rent, a farmer

PROCEEDINGS OF STATE CONVENTION

of the same ability will seldom subscribe for preaching, more than one half that sum. To this general conclusion there are, of course, some honorable exceptions.

As one means of remedying this evil, your Committee would suggest that our more influential clergymen, most of whom, of course, are located in the larger cities, should give to this subject the influence of their pens. Most of the complaining as heretofore proceeded from the sufferers, who are viewed as personally interested. The city clergy, being, in general, well provided for, have been too indifferent to the subject. Br. Miner, of Boston, in his late report of the Boston Association, speaks very sympathetically and appropriately of the disparity in compensation between clergymen in the country and the city. In this State, according to the statistics in our possession, the disparity in compensation between the city and the country clergy, is as three and three elevenths, to one.

2. UNPERMANENCY OF PASTORAL SETTLEMENTS.

Next to the smallness of compensation, the great cause of clerical poverty is found in the frequency of removals. Two of the items sought in our Statistical Circular were, the date of each Society's organization, and the number of pastors since organization. These would fail to give the exact length of ministerial settlements, for the reason that many Societies have been destitute of pastors, sometimes for years. Making no allowance for this fact, the result obtained from the past history of the Societies reported, gives the average length of pastoral settlements as three and a half years. Making allowance for the years of destitution, and leaving out the cities, where the pastoral relation is most permanent, would probably reduce the time of such settlements in the country to three years.

Dr. Franklin says, "three removals are as bad as a fire." To labor for five and sixpence a day, and be burnt out once in nine years, would be likely to keep any man poor, especially if he had a large family; and such has been the fortune of many of our clergymen.

The causes of this instability of the pastoral relation, lie conjointly with Societies and pastors.—Many young clergymen make their first settlements with small and feeble Societies, preaching different portions of the time in different places, till they gain experience and intellectual capital for a more lucrative and permanent position. In cases of this kind, the change is at the option of the minister. Our country Societies have been thus used as initiatory pastoral schools for our most eminent clergymen. And this usage has fastened upon some of them, a habit of giving but a small compensation.

In other cases, ministers have chosen to make frequent removals for the sake of using over [re-using] the former products of their minds, and saving intellectual labor. It is to be feared that this tendency has been sometimes

PROCEEDINGS OF STATE CONVENTION

indulged injuriously to the intellectual progress of the ministry. With many of our self-educated clergymen, of feeble health, however, this course has doubtless arisen from necessity. In other cases, these frequent changes have grown out of sheer instability of character, sometimes in the minister, sometimes in the people, and not infrequently in both.

That characteristic of the Athenians who "spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing," like the many other heathen errors, has descended to our own time. There are Athenians in our Christian Churches, whose mania for novelty and excitement, gives a fickleness of character to many of our congregations, and adds to the frequency of pastoral changes.

But the most fruitful source of this evil in later years, has been the disaffection on the part of laymen, from the zeal of ministers in the various subjects of reform. The temperance question, the slavery question, and more recently, the Catholic question, have been bones of contention between pastor and people. These questions have recently been assuming more and more a political bearing, and from this fact, many seem to think that they should be regarded as forbidden subjects in our pulpits, and ecclesiastical councils. Your Committee cannot recognize the doctrine that whenever any question of morals, or philanthropy, is made to assume a political aspect, the subject itself, aside from its political relations, should henceforth be barred out from the pulpit, and the religious convention. The subject of polygamy which is now a moral and social question, will perhaps be up before the country as a political issue, whenever Utah shall seek admission as a State. And if so, what minister having at heart the purity of social morals, and the continued elevation of woman, would consent to silence on the subject, lest he might interfere with the interests of a temporary party making capital of a diabolical measure. We will not enlarge in this report, upon reforms, as you have committed that general subject to other and abler hands.

There can be no doubt, however, that the instability in the pastoral relation, next to meagerness of remuneration, has a leading influence in repelling many thoughtful and judicious men from entering the ministry.

3. CHURCH ORGANIZATION AND MEMBERSHIP.

Connected with the seventy-seven Societies reported, there are twenty-five churches, being a little less than one third as many churches as Societies, and showing a neglect of church organization by more than two thirds of our congregations.—These churches give an aggregate of thirteen hundred and twenty-two members, or a little less than fifty-three members, on the average. The number of members added to these twenty-five churches, within the last year, or since the first of July, 1854, is one hundred

PROCEEDINGS OF STATE CONVENTION

and fifty-six—an average of six and a quarter members to each church, and a gain of a little less than twelve per cent, per annum.

Another item obtained by the statistical circular, was the usual attendance on public worship in favorable weather. This is an item which there is a general tendency to exaggerate by overestimation. Notwithstanding this tendency, the number of church-members given, compared with the attendance on public worship in the same Societies, is nearly *one-fifth* as many of the former as of the latter, or twenty communicants to every hundred worshippers.

These items, except the first, which shows a neglect of church *organization*, aside from *membership*, where churches have been established, seem to your Committee considerably encouraging. The proportion of worshippers communing, and the ratio of gain in members for the last year, are probably more than most of us would have supposed, without investigation.

An eminent clergyman of our order, who has never been favorable to the ordinances, has recently expressed the opinion that their establishment in our denomination has proved a failure. We see no indication of this from the facts in our possession, but on the contrary are encouraged to believe that the interest in our church organization and communion is increasing.

Your Committee would commend an increased attention to this subject in our denomination, not only for the moral influence arising from a proper observance of the christian ordinances, but from the fact that the observance is habitually identified with the idea of making a public *profession* of christian faith, and assuming the moral responsibilities of such profession. This step, therefore, commits us to the cause, and has the moral influence of a *pledge*, and adds an efficient motive to consistency of life and christian perseverance.

4. CHURCH PROPERTY, AND INTEREST IN WORSHIP.

In the seventy Societies included in our estimate, we are enabled to report as follows:—

No. of church edifices owned exclusively by Universalists,	58
No. of church edifices owned in part by Universalists,	3
No. of church edifices being erected by Universalists,	3
No. of Societies destitute of Meeting-houses	13
No. of Societies having constant [full time] preaching	37
No. of Societies holding service three quarters of the time	1
No. of Societies holding service one half of the time	21
No. of Societies holding service one fourth of the time	4
No. of Societies at present destitute of preaching	14
Average amount of preaching employed, leaving out the destitute Societies, a little over three quarters of the time.	

PROCEEDINGS OF STATE CONVENTION

Average No. of families in a Society	44
Average usual attendance on public worship in favorable weather, a fraction over	166
Average attendance from a family	3½

The subject of a liturgy for the use of our Societies, has been agitated at different times, and by various sections of our denomination. This subject is now revived in a new and extended form, including, along with a form of worship, a system of lay reading for the use of weak and destitute Societies. As this matter is now being canvassed in our papers, we will only recommend the subject to the consideration of the Universalist public.

Notwithstanding the various isms that are abroad, and the proneness of many minds to instability and vacillation, we see no reason for despondency in regard to the triumph and permanency of that system of religious faith which embraces all that is good and true in any system, and which is expressed by the liberal and comprehensive name of Universalism.

All which is respectfully submitted,
For the Committee,
L. C. BROWNE

On motion of Rev. O. B. Clark, it was

Resolved, That so much of the report of the Committee on the State of the Church, as relates to Br. A. C. Thomas' "Suggestions," be submitted to a Committee of three.

Brs. J. M. Austin, F. M. Alvord, and O. B. Clark were appointed that Committee.

Rev. O. B. Clark submitted a preamble and resolutions for the consideration of the Convention, which, on motion of Rev. L. C. Brown[e], were laid upon the table, until after the report of the Committee on Reforms.

Adjourned until 8 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Wednesday Morning, Aug. 29.—Convention assembled pursuant to adjournment. United in prayer with Rev. S. C. Brown. After roll-call the minutes of yesterday were read and approved.

The Committee on Education made the following report, which was read and accepted, and ordered placed on file and published.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

To the New-York State Universalist Convention.

The subject of Education is confessedly one of the most important subjects that can engage the attention of any christian or civilized people. It is education in fact that in a great measure determines the character of a people. A people whose education is properly cared for and rightly directed can hardly fail to be a happy and prosperous people, and on the other hand, if their education be wholly neglected, or perverse and sinister, they are as certain to be a degraded and unhappy people. And, as a general rule these

PROCEEDINGS OF STATE CONVENTION

remarks will apply with great force and pertinency to denominations. Almost universal observation and experience prove that the prosperity and influence of denominations were advanced nearly in the ratio to their interest in and fidelity to the cause of education.

Nearly if not quite all religious sects and denominations in our country, both Catholic and Protestant, now see, confess and act upon this truth. Some of them it is true, have apparently but recently discovered it. They could not or would not see it before. But necessity at last compelled them to open their eyes, and roused them to see and feel its importance.

In the early history of our own denomination, we were so busily and earnestly engaged in doing battle for truth against the hosts marshalled [sic] under the banner of what we believed to be error and falsehood, of the most pernicious kind, that we found little time or opportunity to think of, and less to do anything effectually for the cause of education. True, both our fathers and we often felt the need of a better education, of a more thorough discipline of the mind, and of schools, academies and colleges for our children and the rising generation; and often and ever, when we thought of the humiliating fact that all the high schools and colleges of our land were in the hands and under the control of the votaries of religious error, and were constantly wielded to vindicate and build up error, and make truth more unpopular, and give all the high places of our land to those who have been educated within their walls, we have mourned over such a destiny, and hoped, and prayed, and looked forward to the time when we should [would] be able to do something effectual towards establishing institutions of learning for ourselves and our children, and exercising our proportional share of influence in directing the education of the youth of our land, and securing to our denomination and the votaries of truth their due share in all the important and influential places of trust in our country.

These things have often been thought of and talked of among us for the last half century, but nothing effectual was done in relation thereto until about the years 1831 and '32, when by the zealous efforts and self-sacrificing labors of the sainted and lamented Stephen R. Smith, the liberality of one prominent individual in Clinton, and the contributions of some hundreds of our friends scattered abroad over our land, but mostly of this State, the *Clinton Liberal Institute* was built and opened for the reception of pupils. Though this was not all that it was desired that it should be, yet it was a beginning, and a good beginning, of a good and necessary work; it was a step, a great step, forward. It formed, as it were, an era in our history. This forward step in the cause of education in our State, was followed by similar movements in other States. Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Ohio and Illinois have all established similar institutions of learning for the education of youth, to be under the patronage and control of

PROCEEDINGS OF STATE CONVENTION

Universalists. And they have all been attended with more or less of success and prosperity, according to the interest taken in them and the patronage bestowed upon them by their respective States and founders.

But it has long been felt that we needed not only high schools and academies under our control, but colleges also, and Theological Seminaries, that we might give to our youth a finished literary and scientific education, enabling them to compete successfully with those educated at other colleges, for the honors and advantages and influence of high places, and give to those also about entering the sacred pulpit, and dedicating themselves to the promulgation of the Gospel, equal opportunities with those of other denominations for obtaining a thorough acquaintance with Ecclesiastical History, Biblical Criticism, Theological Science, and all that appertains to the study and pursuits of the true and enlightened christian minister. For a number of years efforts have been making to raise funds and endow at least one college to be under the control of our denomination; and at length success has crowned those labors. Tufts College, lately built at Somerville, Mass., is about going into operation, and we trust will receive that patronage which it so richly deserves, and be crowned with all the success which its most devoted friends have ever hoped for or anticipated.

In the meantime, efforts have been made for the establishment of a Universalist Theological Seminary in this State, and the sum of \$30,000 has been raised by subscription for that purpose, a sum which, with the additions it must inevitably receive from time to time by donations, bequest, &c., it is believed will build and respectably endow such a school, and make it a most efficient instrumentality in the encouragement of devout men to enter our ministry, and in preparing them for the responsible station they are to fill. The exact location of the institution is not yet definitely fixed by the Committee having that subject in charge. But we have so much confidence in the soundness of their judgment, that we have no fears but what the right place will be selected, and the school soon go into operation.

We cannot discharge our duty to the Universalist public in this report, without calling the special attention of this Convention, to the present condition of the *Clinton Liberal Institute*. This being the first institution of the kind established in this country, by our denomination, and the only one yet existing in our State, it is quite important its true condition should be known, and if it is not what it should be, that the denomination should take it in hand and make it such.

It is pretty generally and well known that this school has from its beginning needed a more liberal endowment of funds to give it its proper position and influence among the literary institutions of our land, that though it has done much good, it might with such endowment have done much more. It is also well known that some eight or ten years since an

PROCEEDINGS OF STATE CONVENTION

earnest effort was made to raise a fund of \$10,000, to be invested, the annual income of which, leaving the principal untouched, should be applied to the interests of the school, and thus secure it against further pecuniary embarrassment. That sum was subscribed but never all collected. Somewhere between \$7000 and \$8000 was collected and invested by the Trustees, and it was hoped at the time that it would suffice to prevent any further embarrassment.

But now a new want made itself known, or rather a want which had long been felt, but hardly allowed to be breathed openly, was uttered aloud, and became clamorous for immediate attention and satisfaction; we mean the want of a larger and better building for the Female Department of the Institute, the want of such a building and such an establishment as might deservedly bear the name of Female Seminary, or Young Ladies' Boarding School. But where were the funds with which to build it? Would it do to call again so soon on the Universalist public for \$10,000 or \$15,000, when it has taken *years* of unremitting labor to raise, and that but partially, the permanent fund before named? What were the Trustees to do? They were urged to build, but had no means at their command wherewith to build. The lady at the head of the Female Department was very urgent for the new building, and assured the Trustees that with such a building and establishment as was proposed, the income would be so large that it would not only suffice to meet all current expenses of the school, but would soon pay for itself, and extinguish the debt incurred for its erection.

Thus urged, the Trustees, with a very small amount of funds in their hands subscribed or donated for that purpose, commenced the building. A beautiful site had been in part donated in the south part of , and overlooking, the entire village; and here they erected a spacious and commodious edifice, fitted it up and furnished it with every necessary appendage for a boarding school. But its cost ran up to more than had been expected; the Trustees involved themselves and the Institute in debt and embarrassment; creditors became clamorous for their pay; and the Trustees must either pay them out of their own pockets, or sacrifice the whole establishment, or make use of the permanent fund for the purpose of meeting these pressing demands. They chose the latter alternative. But even the permanent fund was insufficient to meet the entire expense of the new building—which with its furnishing, had cost about \$15,000—and hence a considerable debt for the new establishment remained unpaid, besides some old debts previously due, for the first erected buildings of the Institute.

In the mean time the new Seminary was opened for the reception and instruction of young ladies, and was for a season as prosperous and successful as had been anticipated. It somewhat more than paid current expenses, and began to yield some aid toward liquidating the old debts. But

PROCEEDINGS OF STATE CONVENTION

some new and yet unanticipated difficulties arose. The Principal¹ of the Female Department assumed authority not conceded to her by the Trustees, in dismissing some of the best Assistant Teachers, and in other affairs pertaining to the School, till much dissatisfaction existed, which resulted in her sudden resignation, and the establishment of a rival school directly by the side of the seminary, which was opened for the reception of pupils in September last.

Saying nothing of the motives which prompted the establishment of said School, it has undoubtedly tended to draw away, and somewhat diminish, for a time at least, both the local patronage of our school, and that from a distance, which legitimately belongs and would otherwise naturally come to the latter. But for this cause the School, which for the last year has barely paid expenses, would have yielded a handsome surplus towards liquidating debts. Its condition and prospects, however, are now improving, and under its present most excellent Board of Teachers, it bids fair to be well filled for the coming term, and we confidently believe with such teachers, and the prompt aid and liberal patronage of the Universalist public, the Female department of the Clinton Liberal Institute will become not only eminently successful and extensively useful in, but justly the pride and glory of, our denomination.

A few words here respecting the Male Department. The large stone edifice in which this is kept was erected 23 years ago; and some of the materials were not sufficiently seasoned when they were put together. The consequence of this and of the long usage to which the building has been put, is, that parts of the building have become much dilapidated, especially the stairs, doors, partitions, and floors of the students' rooms, many of which are quite unfit for occupancy.

During the past year the work of repairs and renovation of the building was well began [sic]. A spacious and beautiful dining room, kitchen and store room in the basement have been finished off, convenient for boarding the students, and a parlor and suitable rooms on the first floor for the occupancy of the Principal and his family—a most excellent arrangement for keeping the students under the constant care and control of the Principal, which has been much needed from the first establishment of the School. The great desideratum now is to procure funds to repair and put in first rate order the

¹ This was Louisa Maria Barker, daughter of Col. Lester Barker of Clinton and a third-generation Universalist. She founded the Home Cottage Seminary in 1854, next door to the Clinton Liberal Institute [CLI], and remained there until 1861, when she sold the building and it was renamed Houghton Seminary. Ironically her father was elected to the Board of Trustees of the CLI in 1855, as noted in these Proceedings. Louisa Barker died in September of 1861. The *Clinton Courier* of Jan. 8, 1913 says of her, "Miss Barker was a member of the Universalist Church so far as a person of her original and forceful type of mind can subscribe to any church creed."

PROCEEDINGS OF STATE CONVENTION

stairs, students' rooms and balance of the building—which will require from \$1,500 to \$2,000—and when this is done, as we hope it will be soon, the school now having at its head a competent Principal, and one of the best of men, (Rev. J. A. [Joseph Aikin] Aspinwall,) and a corps of well qualified Assistant Professors, we see no reason why the School may not be filled up at once, and become not only one of the first and largest schools of the kind, but one of the best in the whole State—one of which our denomination may well be proud, and which Universalist parents will delight to patronize. It will thus be seen that more funds are indispensably necessary for the prosperity of the *Clinton Liberal Institute*. Both the subject and method of raising those funds we leave to the better judgment and discretion of the Convention, to whose patronage and care the Institute is committed.

Since writing the above we learn that the work of repair and renovation of the students' rooms has been began [sic], and is being vigorously pushed forward to completion, so that they will be in readiness for the accommodation of students at the opening of the next term in September proximo. But still the funds are wanting with which to meet the expense, and must be raised by the denomination.

With regard to the location of the proposed Theological School, your Committee have no desire to forestal [sic] public opinion, or influence in the slightest degree the decision of the Committee having that subject in charge. At the same time we deem it proper to state that we understand the Trustees of the Clinton Liberal Institute are willing, for the sake of having the Theological School located in that pleasant village, to give over to the Educational Society the stone edifice erected and occupied by the Male Department of the Institute, together with the grounds belonging thereto, both of which would be quite valuable to said Society should Clinton be fixed on as the proper location.

We would further state, what will appear obvious to all—that wherever the Theological School shall be located, a high school or academy will be, if not absolutely indispensable, at least a very important desideratum, that the Theological Students may have the privilege when necessary, of acquiring or completing their scientific and literary studies, a knowledge of the languages, &c., &c., and moreover, in the location of the Theological School and Institute in the same place, there might be much economy and a saving of expense, by the employment of some of the Professors and Teachers in both Departments, where the duties of the two were compatible with each other.—Should the Committee and the Convention both come to the conclusion that the offer of the Trustees of the Institute is an eligible one, either with or without any pecuniary consideration, and that it would be mutually advantageous to have both Institutions together at this place, a small portion of the funds raised for the Theological School would suffice to

PROCEEDINGS OF STATE CONVENTION

put the building in excellent repair, and the latter School, with small additional expense, could soon be put in successful operation. Should this course not be adopted, some method should at once be take to raise funds for paying off the debt incurred in the erection of the Female Seminary, and the necessary repairs of the Male Department of the Institute. All of which is respectfully submitted,

D. SKINNER

The Committee to which was referred so much of the report of the Committee on the State of the Church, as relates to the "Suggestions" of Br. Thomas, submitted the following resolution, which was adopted:—

Resolved, That this Convention highly approve of the "Suggestions" of Br. A. C. Thomas, in regard to the establishment of a system of Lay meetings for our denomination, and that our delegates to the U.S. Convention, be hereby instructed to favor the adoption, by that body, of any proper measures to carry the same into practical effect.

On motion of J. P. Bartle, the adoption of the report of the Committee on Nominations, was re-considered, and the report was re-committed to the Committee.

The Council took a recess until after the public religious services in the afternoon.

4 P.M. The Convention assembled pursuant to adjournment.

The Committee to which was submitted the consideration of the propriety of taking the Clinton Liberal Institute under the control of the State Convention, presented the subjoined report and resolutions, which were adopted:—

The committee to whom was referred the subject of the patronage and control of the Clinton Liberal Institute, beg leave to report—That the Trustees of the School, with a view of advancing its interests and promoting its permanent prosperity, wish to place the Institute under the control of this Convention, which it is believed may be accomplished in conformity with the conditions of their charter, by the appointment of such men as their successors in office, as may be recommended or approved by this Convention. Your committee are inclined to the opinion that the desired object of more fully identifying the interests of the School with our denomination, may also be attained without a change of Trustees, if the present Trustees will continue to hold their office[s], with the direct approbation of this Convention.

According to the best information your committee have been able to obtain, the property of the Institute, including both its departments, at a low estimate, is now worth \$20,000, and its present indebtedness is about \$5000.

PROCEEDINGS OF STATE CONVENTION

No argument is required at this day to show the great value of education with reference to the prosperity of a religious denomination; and no change of offices in the Institute need be of any avail unless our denomination will give this School their patronage, and their material aid.

Your Committee believe that with the existing arrangements and present Faculty of the School, it deserves, and should receive, the earnest patronage of our denomination. Your committee submit the following resolutions:—

Resolved, That we second the wishes and approve the designs of the Trustees of the Clinton Liberal Institute, and will appoint a committee of three to accomplish the wishes and carry out the designs of said Trustees, by uniting the interests of said School with our denomination, and placing it under the direction of the Convention, consistently with the charter of the Institute.

Resolved, That we recommend the general patronage of the Clinton Liberal Institute, by furnishing as many scholars as possible.

Resolved, That the Clinton Liberal Institute should be furnished with funds sufficient to liquidate all debts.

All of which is respectfully submitted for committee.

P. MORSE

On motion of Rev. L. C. Browne,

Voted, That a Committee of three be appointed by the Chair, to report suitable names to be appointed Trustees of the "Clinton Liberal Institute," and to take into consideration the subject of the first resolution, mentioned in the Report of the Committee relative to said Institute, and report to this Convention.

S. P. [Stephen Presson] Landers, J. H. Tuttle, and A. C. Moore, were appointed such Committee.

The Committee to whom the Report of the Trustees of the Relief Fund was submitted, made the following report, which was adopted:—

The Committee to whom the Eleventh Annual Report of the Trustees of the New-York Universalist Relief Fund has been referred, beg leave to respectfully report the following Resolutions:—

1. *Resolved*, That the sum of one hundred dollars be paid to the order of Rev. Samuel A. Skeele, of Cowlesville, N.Y., in two instalments—fifty dollars in the month of October, 1855 and fifty dollars in the month of March, 1856.

2. *Resolved*, That the sum of one hundred dollars be paid to the order of Rev. G. W. Montgomery, of Rochester, in October, 1855.

Your Committee having examined the Treasurer's Report, pronounce it correct and true.

PROCEEDINGS OF STATE CONVENTION

Respectfully Submitted,
P. MORSE
J. D. CARGILL
JAMES H. BOLTON

On motion, the Convention adjourned until 8 o'clock to-morrow morning.
Thursday morning, Aug. 30th.—The Convention met pursuant to adjournment, and in the absence of the Moderator, Rev. L. C. Browne was called to the Chair.

United in prayer with Rev. P. Thomas.

The Committee on Nominations again submitted a report, which, after amendment, was adopted as follows:—

Place of Adjournment—Albany.

Preacher of the next Occasional Sermon—Rev. D. K. Lee, of Ogdensburgh, with power to appoint a substitute.

Agent for the Book and Paper Establishment—Q. M'Adam.

Delegates to the U.S. Convention—Clerical—T. J. Sawyer, H. R. Nye, G. W. Montgomery, and Pitt Morse. *Lay*—John Shattuck, Geo. W. Platt, E. Graves, Geo. A. Scudder, A. C. Moore, and M. Thatcher—with power to appoint substitutes.

On motion, the resolutions introduced by Rev. O. B. Clark were taken from the table, and withdrawn in favor of other resolutions, which, after amendment, were adopted as follows:—

Resolved, That this Convention, deploring the evils of Intemperance, and believing that the recent law entitled "An act for the suppression of temperance, Pauperism and Crime," is highly calculated to protect [the] community from their ravages, hereby call upon Universalists of this State to co-operate in carrying into effect all measures for the removal of those great evils.

Adopted by a vote of *ayes 31-nays 5*.

Resolved, That this Convention would again renew its testimony against American Slavery, and protest against all measures whatsoever, that may be taken to extend it in any direction.

Adopted by a vote of *ayes 32-nays 1*.

The Convention then took a recess until after the morning service.

12½ o'clock P.M.—The Convention assembled pursuant to adjournment.

The Committee on the nomination of Trustees for the Clinton Liberal Institute, submitted the following report and resolutions, which were adopted:—

The Committee to whom was submitted the business of nominating Trustees for the Clinton Liberal Institute, beg leave to Report—

That they name for your approval the following persons, to wit:—T. J. Sawyer and Wm. S. Balch, of New-York, J. M. Austin, of Auburn, D. Skinner,

PROCEEDINGS OF STATE CONVENTION

of Deerfield, E. [Ezra] S. Barnum, of Utica, Daniel P. Buckingham, of Oriskany Falls, Marinus Hubbard, of Waterville, Martin Thatcher, of Canton; Lester Barker, Peter Fake, Wm. Hutchins, E. B. Hinckley, and J. A. Aspinwall, of Clinton.

Resolved, That this Convention recommend to the Trustees of the Clinton Liberal Institute, to alter their Constitution and By-Laws, so as to make it the duty of the Convention to nominate persons to fill all vacancies that may occur in the board of Trustees, and also to make it the duty of the Trustees to elect the persons there nominated to be members of the board.

Resolved, That this Convention will from time to time, nominate such persons to fill vacancies that may occur in the Board, and that it will take the Institution under its more immediate charge and control.

Resolved, That this Convention in adopting this report, does assume all the debts of the Institution, and will provide some way for their immediate disbursement.

Resolved, That we recommend that J. A. Aspinwall be appointed the acting Agent or Executive Committee, under the Trustees.

Resolved, That it shall be the duty of the Trustees to meet annually, at the time and place of this Convention.

Resolved, That it shall be the duty of the Trustees to make a full report to this Convention at their annual meeting, of the financial condition and prospects of the Institution.

On motion it was

Resolved, That the thanks of this Convention be, and hereby [are] presented to the Universalist Society, and other friends in Utica, for the hospitality with which they have received and entertained this body, and the many friends from abroad; and also to the choir for the excellent services they have rendered in their department.

The Moderator then declared a recess until the close of the afternoon service.

Thursday afternoon.—The council met pursuant to adjournment, and Adjourned to meet in Albany one year from this time.

E. GRAVES, Moderator

MARTIN THATCHER, Clerk

C. W. TOMLINSON, Assis't. Clerk