

## Liberal Christianity in Albany

BR AUSTIN:—The note in the *Ambassador* of January 12th, signed by Brs. Murdock and Pettit as Trustees of the Universalist Society in Albany, does not fully represent the position of that portion of the Society which has united with the Unitarians to sustain public worship under the ministry of Rev. A. D. Mayo. Permit us to state the facts of the case through your columns. It has been the conviction of a large portion—indeed we may say almost all of the members of the Universalist Society in Albany, that Liberal Christianity would best be promoted by a union of all the free religious elements of the city in one strong and vigorous Society. Acting on this opinion the Universalist Society has voted to sell its church, and is now engaged in negotiations for this purpose.—The same conviction was found to prevail among the members of the Unitarian Society. After consultation last Autumn, an attempt was made to dissolve both organizations and form a *new Society*. Both Societies voted at legal meetings, with extraordinary unanimity, to do this; and under the full faith in the success of this plan, jointly invited Mr. Mayo to come to Albany with the view of becoming the minister of the new organization.

This plan did not finally succeed, owing to subsequent opposition from some of the members of the Universalist Society. Unwilling, however, to abandon the hope of a union of the Liberal Christians of Albany, a large number of our friends have agreed, while still retaining their membership of that Society, to unite with the Unitarians in the support of worship for a year, in the Unitarian Church, under the ministry of Mr. Mayo. We hope by thus being together, ultimately to consummate our original plan of a union of *all liberal christians* in the support of a strong and flourishing church. Mr. Mayo comes to us as a preacher of Liberal Christianity. We understand him, and he understands us, and our Unitarian friends understand the position of both. A portion of our Universalist friends still hold public worship in our church; but we believe the great difficulty of sustaining two separate organizations under the present circumstances, will convince them of the importance of concentrating our whole strength in the support of one *free church*, which shall represent Liberal Christianity in its length and breadth, in the Capital of our Empire State.

S. W. GIBBS  
SAMUEL G. PAYN  
JARED HOLT  
Trustees of Universalist Society

*Christian Ambassador*, Auburn NY, Sat. 2 Feb 1856