

Sympathy for Albany

The undersigned have resided in the vicinity of Albany during all the movements there which have formed the subject of discussion in our religious journals; and have enjoyed the personal acquaintance and friendship of many of both sections of Universalists.

With such facilities for information concerning those affairs, we have regretted to see several erroneous statements by editors and correspondents at a distance. Several have spoken of the matter as if the *great body* of the Universalist Society had seceded and joined the Unitarian congregation.—We have both preached in the Universalist pulpit in Albany before and since the division, and have found no perceptible diminution in the audience. The old Society has lost less in numbers than in means for the support of worship.

The brethren in New-York City, we understand, have desired that some impartial mediator might make an investigation of the affair, consulting amicably with both divisions, and attempt an adjustment of differences. We believe no such mediation has been exercised; and published statements, based upon *ex parte* testimony, copied and heralded abroad, do injustice to the subject.

We would cast no censure upon our Universalist friends who have left the Universalist meeting; nor upon the learned and gifted clergyman under whose ministry they have chosen to worship; nor upon the Unitarian brethren who have made so desirable an accession to their strength. We honor the spirit of denominational self-respect that has impelled them to adhere to their own organization, and retain their own place of worship, and their own hymn-book.

Yet we deeply sympathize, and so do our parishioners generally in Troy and Hudson, with the Universalist society of Albany, in their misfortunes, and commend them to the *active* sympathies of our denomination.

Our State Convention is to meet there in August. Provision will be made for its reception.—We hope that meeting will do them good. We also hope that, before that time, they will succeed in clearing their church property from debt, and eventually recover from their multiplied reverses, and be again united and prosperous.

L.[Lewis] C. Browne
J. N. Parker

May 15, 1856

Christian Ambassador, Auburn NY, Sat. 24 May 1856