

[Mount Vernon, Westchester Co. NY]

Mount Vernon, N.Y.

BR. SAWYER: I believe that during the past year, no statement of the condition of our society has appeared in the columns of the AMBASSADOR. And since Br. Aldrich prefers that such an article should be written by a member of the society, permit me to give you a synopsis of our progress for the past year, and prospects for the one upon which we are soon to enter.

Since its organization, the society has been compelled to meet persistent [sic] and bitter opposition from the older and more *popular* churches in the village, and, as might be expected, has passed through the period of a societies' childhood with about the same amount of sandwiched experience as is common to such bodies. During its early struggle to maintain itself, and keep its financial head above water, the society was not *wholly* forgotten by Universalists when spending the summer in our vicinity. Prominent among the number was A. Havemeyer, Esq., of New York city, who, in consideration of the interest he felt in sustaining our glorious denominational faith, generously ordered the church edifice painted, and paid the bill.

Up to last spring I believe the society had never raised more than five hundred dollars for the support of preaching; but as a compensation for the smallness of the salary, they accepted one service each Sabbath, and quietly made up a purse of one hundred and fifty dollars, and presented it to our pastor as a free will offering.

Br. Aldrich's engagement with us closes on the first of April. He has done a noble, manly Christian work for our cause since he has been with us; and the society never gave better promise of success than now. We have just concluded an arrangement by which we retain Br. Aldrich for at least another year.

Quite an interesting and pleasant event took place on last Friday evening at my house, interesting to us, and no doubt, to our pastor. The society thought that it ought, in some substantial way, to express its appreciation of the services of its pastor. It was done. The sum of two hundred dollars was raised, and presented to him in a neat little speech by one of its members. I thought that he preached his best sermon on the following Sunday.

I will conclude by saying to any of our Universalists, or friends of our cause, who contemplate moving out of this city, that I know of no place offering greater inducements for settlement, than Mt. Vernon. The high and rolling ground upon which the town is built; the salubrity of the atmosphere, together with the celerity with which we reach the city of N.Y., by rail, are advantages not to be had in any other village. Our trains reach Forty-second street in about half an hour from this place.

And last, but not least, we have a church; and a quality of preaching, too, of which no Universalist need be ashamed. This last item, it seems to me, should be of no small consideration to a Universalist. Yours respectfully,

G. W. B.

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