

[Second Universalist Society, New York City]

A NEW UNIVERSALIST CHURCH:  
LAYING THE CORNESTONE OF THE NEW SAWYER MEMORIAL EDIFICE

The cornerstone of the new Universalist Church, in Harlem, to be known as the Sawyer Memorial Church, was laid yesterday afternoon, by the Rev. T.[Thomas] J. Sawyer, D.D., President of Tufts College, near Boston, Mass., formerly Pastor of the Second Universalist Church, in this city, when it was located in Orchard-street, and in honor of whom the new church is to be named. The ceremony of laying the corner-stone, which was witnessed by a large number of spectators, took place at 3:30 P.M., and addresses were made by Dr. Sawyer, the Rev. Dr. J.[James] M. Pullman, of New-York, and the Rev. Dr. H. R. Nye, of Brooklyn. After the conclusion of the ceremony, a collation, prepared by the ladies of the congregation, was served in Temperance Hall, One Hundred and Twenty-fourth street and Third-avenue, and in the evening a mess meeting was held in Association Hall, One Hundred and Twenty-ninth street and Fourth-avenue. The Rev. A. G. Rogers, Pastor of the church, presided, and the Rev. Dr. Sawyer was the first speaker. He gave an interesting history of the Universalist denomination during the past 50 years, which he said covered the period of time since he first became identified with it as the pastor of the old church in Oliver-street. It is now an organized body, with schools and colleges, and possessing an educated ministry, and a membership of reputable men and women. He felt greatly obliged to the members of the Second Universalist Society for the compliment they had paid him in naming their new church after him, but he hoped they would go further, and aid in the establishment of a fund for the endowment of the college of which he is President. They wanted \$50,000 to build a divinity hall, and an additional \$200,000 as an endowment fund to maintain it. Most of the young men who enter the ministry are sons of poor men, and it is necessary to supply them with the means of obtaining an education. The sons of rich men usually go into business or become lawyers or doctors, under the impression that such professions are more profitable than preaching. The educational institutions of the denomination have, he said, all been established within the last 30 years—most of them within 25, and they have done a noble work. The Church has progressed wonderfully within the last 50 years in the matter of organization, the education of its ministers, and the elevation of its membership. What it wants now is institutions of learning and money to maintain them, and he appealed to his hearers to aid in furnishing the means for that purpose. Addresses were also made by the Rev. Dr. Nye, the Rev. J. E. Forrester, of Newark, N.J., Past Grand Commander Knights Templar of that State, and the Rev. Abram Conklin, of Southold, Long Island, the youngest ordained minister in the denomination.

The Sawyer Memorial Church is located on the corner of One Hundred and Twenty-seventh-street and Lexington-avenue, to which place it was removed from Oliver-street about 10 years ago. The new edifice, when completed, will cost about \$6,500, and will seat 400 persons. The money is already nearly subscribed, and it is confidently anticipated that the church will be ready for occupancy in about four months, by which time the entire cost of its erection will have been provided. It is to be a Gothic structure, built of brick, with stone trimmings.

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