

[Sixth Universalist Society, New York City]

Pullman and Talmage
Description of Rev. Dr. James M. Pullman's Church

The Church of Our Savior [Sixth Universalist Society] is on the north side of Fifty-seventh street, just west of Eighth avenue. It is built of brick, and its architecture was neglected in order to give it seating and light. It is built on three city lots, and has a capacity for seating 1,400 persons. Its cost was \$145,000. The congregation numbers 200 families. The Society was organized on July 28, 1851. Services were first held in a hall at Eighth avenue and Twenty-fourth street. In 1860 the church was removed to Twentieth street, between Sixth and Seventh avenues, and again, in 1866 to rooms at Broadway and Thirty-fourth street, and in the year following to the Episcopal church of the Resurrection in Thirty-fifth street, near Sixth avenue, which was purchased for \$34,000. The corner stone of the present church was laid in 1872. The Rev. Dr. James M. Pullman, the present pastor, assumed charge in 1868. He is a native of Chautauqua County, and was born in 1836. He was educated at the divinity school of St. Lawrence University, from which he graduated in 1861. He preached for six years in the First Universalist Church of Troy, before coming here. He is a brother of the Rev. R. H. Pullman and of the inventor of the Pullman sleeping car.

When Mr. Pullman was called to take charge of the Church of Our Saviour his congregation consisted of forty-two families, and his salary was \$3,500. His salary now is \$5,000. Mr. Pullman was extensively reported at the time of the great controversy concerning the existence of hell, and his advocacy of the opening of museums and libraries on Sunday attracted attention.

He once had an amusing tilt with Dr. Talmage in the religious papers. Dr. Talmage wrote: "Mr. Pullman, the Universalist minister, rivaling his brother of sleeping car celebrity, proposes to take us all to heaven sound asleep in a spiritual 'Pullman palace car.' We can take off our boots and hats, and lie down on our backs and wake up in glory. John Bunyan's pilgrim went tugging along on foot, and Paul had many an anxious day of hard walking, and all the old time righteous felt themselves 'scarcely saved,' but (three cheers for the modern invention) we can all go now in 'Pullman's spiritual sleeper,' the Universalist ministers acting as brakemen and conductors."

In reply Mr. Pullman wrote: "If Mr. Talmage would only adopt this idea in his earthly travels (that of making Jordan a hard road to travel) you would always know in what part of a railway train to find him. 'Is Talmage aboard?' you ask the conductor. 'Yes.' 'Where—in the Pullman car?' 'Oh, no.' 'In the smoking car!' 'No.' 'In the baggage car?' 'No—ask the fireman.' The fireman pulls open the furnace door, and there—in the fire-box—sits Brother Talmage, singed but serious, bound to get to his destination as 'scarcely' as possible; and composing meanwhile an article for the *Christian at Work* against 'spiritual sleepers' and in favor of salvation by squirming.

The New York Sun, quoted in the Ogdensburg Weekly Journal
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