

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE UNIVERSALIST
CONVENTION OF THE STATE OF NEW-YORK, IN MAY, 1827

The Delegates from the several Associations composing the Universalist Convention of the state of New-York, met in Utica, according to adjournment, and after addressing the throne of grace by Br. [William] Underwood, proceeded

1. To organize the council by appointing Br. Underwood, President, and Br. W. [William] J. Reese, Secretary.

2. Br. King presented a communication from Mr. Richard Carrique, relating to the resolution passed by the "Hudson River Association," at its meeting in 1826, in which the said Carrique was cited to appear before this Convention—which, by a vote of the council, was disposed of as follows: Whereas the supposed charges against Mr. Carrique, have not, in his estimation, been regularly preferred according to his communication addressed to this Convention, the jurisdiction of which he does not acknowledge, therefore

Resolved, That we are willing the subject be dismissed from this body, and referred to one the jurisdiction of which he *does* acknowledge

3. Appointed a committee of discipline to act for this body for the ensuing year, consisting of Brs. T. F. King, D. [Dolphus] Skinner, and W. J. Reese.

4. A proposition was presented to the body by W. J. Reese, to be considered, and adopted or rejected at its next session, to have the time of its meeting fixed on the *last*, instead of the *second* Wednesday in May.

5. On motion of Br. Lisher,

Resolved, That this Convention deem it necessary to have under its direction and patronage a publication devoted to the cause of truth; and will therefore patronize the "UTICA MAGAZINE," and recommend this paper to all the lovers of truth.

6. *Resolved*, That a committee be appointed to superintend the above named paper.—Accordingly, Brs. T. F. King, D. Skinner, G. B. Lisher, W. J. Reese and W. Underwood, were regularly nominated and appointed for this purpose.

7. Appointed D. Skinner standing Clerk of this Convention.

8. Appointed Br. W. Underwood Treasurer.

ORDER OF THE PUBLIC SERVICES.

A.M. Br. N. [Nathaniel] Stacy, Introductory Prayer.

Br. J. [Job] Potter the sermon, from Isa. xxxiii:22. "For the Lord is our judge, the Lord is our law-giver, the Lord is our King; he will save us."

Br. Underwood, concluding prayer.

P.M. Br. Potter, introductory prayer.

Br. King, the sermon, from Rom. xi:7. "What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it and the rest were blinded."

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Br. Stacy, concluding prayer.

Evening Service

Br. Underwood, introductory prayer.

Br. Reese, the sermon, from Matt. xxv:46. "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into life eternal."

Br. O. A. Brownson, concluding prayer.

9. Appointed Br. King to prepare the minutes of this convention for the press, and accompany them with a Circular Letter.

10. Adjourned the convention to meet at Utica, by divine permission, on the second Wednesday of May, 1828.

W. UNDERWOOD, President

W. J. REESE, Secretary

[We regret here to state that Br. King's tarry in Utica, was so short he had no time to attend to the duty assigned to him by the Convention of accompanying the minutes with a Circular; and as it was desired that the minutes and circular should be published in this week's Magazine, which he could not forward in season from Hudson, his place of residence, he imposed his duty upon us, previous to his departure, which, with our feeble abilities, we shall attempt to discharge.]—*Utica Magazine*

☞ *Circular in our next.*

Evangelical Repository, Troy NY, Sat. 2 Jun 1827

CIRCULAR LETTER

*Of the Universalist Convention of the state of New-York,
the minutes of which were published in our last.*

To the ministers of the Gospel which God preached to Abraham, saying, "in thee shall all nations be blest"—to the believers in "the restitution of all things which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began"—to all the ransomed of the Lord—to every son and daughter of the vast family of man, whithersoever scattered abroad—the Universalist Convention of the State of New-York, sendeth Christian salutation and Greeting:—

Dearly Beloved Brethren,

By the "good will" of Him that dwelt "in the bush," and by the blessing of Salem's King, we have once more been permitted to meet in annual convention, to take sweet council [sic] together, reciprocate the social sentiments and kindred affections of our souls, and unite in the public exercises of devotion, in the expression of grateful praise to the kind Author

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of our being, and offering up the *prayer of faith* to him who is the "*Saviour of all men.*" Brethren, our hearts have been made glad, and our souls have been refreshed by *tasting and knowing that the Lord is gracious.* Although the day on which we met for public worship was rather stormy and unpleasant, yet a goodly number of believers in the Abrahamic faith assembled at the place of worship, and evinced by their solemn yet cheerfully serene countenances, and attention to the word, a heartfelt satisfaction in hearing the doctrine of God's impartial grace proclaimed. While the aged with hoary locks, bending under the weight of years, rejoiced in the light of God's countenance, the middle aged were strengthened and confirmed in the faith, and the hearts of the young felt it was good for them to be there. Mutual harmony and brotherly love pervaded our council, and we trust ruled in all our deliberations. No business of extraordinary moment came before the convention at this session. The delegates composing the council, deem it necessary to have under its patronage a periodical paper or journal devoted to its interests, and to the propagation of truth, for the benefit of the community at large. Numerous are the periodicals published by other denominations in this region, and powerful is the influence which they exert on community. Considering this circumstance, and the facility of conveying, through the medium of the press, instruction on religious subjects—and the inculcation and defence of what we consider to be the truth of God and the duty of man, and thereby conveying light and joy to thousands that now sit in the region of the shadow of death, we cannot but believe that our friends in this important region of the country will see and *feel* the importance of patronizing a work of this description and of manifesting at least, *as much zeal* in the cause of the Savior of the *whole world*, as our opposers do in that of a Saviour of a *part* of the world. We would also earnestly recommend to the different Associations in this state the propriety and importance of sending the number of Delegates to this convention which its constitution allows. The convention is yet in its infancy. It is organized on a plan somewhat different from that hitherto pursued by our order in this state, yet a plan, it is confidently believed, which will, if pursued and perfected, prove more efficient in promoting the growth, respectability and permanent establishment of our order than any hitherto adopted. Hence, the necessity of employing all the wisdom and talent which our order in this state possess, in order to render it (if it is not already) what it is ardently desired it should be. That something is defective in the plan hitherto pursued, we think cannot be denied. And what will be the best possible plan that can be adopted, were are now endeavoring to devise. As individuals, and as a body, we are decidedly opposed to every thing that bears the semblance of spiritual tyranny and despotism; and on the other hand we are equally opposed to every thing that tends to disorganization

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and dissoluteness. Our denomination is rapidly increasing in this country, and is in the possession of numbers, talent, wealth, and influence, which should be brought simultaneously and unitedly to bear upon the public mind. Our enemies are not inactive, but busily employed in every corner and avenue, endeavoring to storm our citadel and demolish our fair temple of religious freedom. And although the laws of our country do not allow them to imprison, suspend upon the gibbet [gibbet], nor burn at the stake, for our religious opinions, yet the tongue and the pen of slander are busily employed to bring us into disrepute and scandalize our cause. But, Brethren, if we are unitedly engaged, if we are of "one heart, one mind," no weapon formed against us can prosper. If we are determined to show ourselves workmen approved unto God, we need not be ashamed. If we commend ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God, if we deal justly, love mercy and walk humbly, do good to all men as we have opportunity, if we maintain good order, regular discipline, and godly conversation in our churches and societies, in our associations and conventions, together with *systematic* and *persevering* efforts to spread the knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus, our cause will "run and be glorified." The darts of malice and arrows of slander, will pass harmless by us; and God, even our God will be our helper. If the doctrine of God's impartial grace, and boundless love to a sinful and dying world is true, it is worthy of all acceptance. If it is worth any thing, it is worthy of the utmost exertion, zeal and perseverance being employed in propagating and supporting it. If it has carried joy and peace, hope and comfort to the trembling, afflicted and desponding souls of thousands that groped in nature's darkness, or shuddered in view of the ceaseless and immortal woe of millions of our race, taught by a corrupt and superstitious church, need we any better proof of its heavenly origin and benign influence? If we have felt ourselves the pangs of that fear, that *slavish fear* which originates in the belief in an angry and indignant God, and now how to prize the superior excellence of that faith which excites a *filial fear*, a veneration, united with our warmest *affection* towards God as our Father, in return for his great love wherewith he hath *first* loved us; can we feel indifferent about others, and not exert ourselves to impart to them the same "joy and peace in believing" that we ourselves are blessed with?

To the enemies of this glorious doctrine, we would affectionately say, take heed and beware how ye oppose a doctrine which ye yourselves and all mankind pray may be true, "lest ye be found to fight," not only against yourselves, but "against God," who has sworn by himself—that unto him, "every knee shall bow, and every tongue shall swear that in the Lord they have righteousness and strength." "Search ye the Scriptures," the faithful

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“record of the word of God,” and see if they do not represent him as the “Saviour of all men, especially those that believe.”

To the believers in the “grace of God that bringeth salvation to all men,” we would say, take diligent heed to your ways, walk uprightly before God and men, remembering that a well ordered life and godly conversation will do more towards silencing the reproaches of our enemies than all the logical reasoning, eloquent sermons, and systematic theories that can be produced, without them; give your opposers no occasion to reproach you; exercise charity towards all men; “do unto others as ye would that they should do unto you” in like circumstances; “keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace; and finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue and if there be any praise, think on these things.” And may you all meet at last with the whole ransomed family of man, in the grand convention of the universe above, where the immortal Jehovah presides in truth, love and mercy, and bask in the ineffable light of his countenance forevermore.

Per Order,
DOLPHUS SKINNER

Evangelical Repository, Troy NY, Sat. 23 Jun 1827

Transcribed with notes added on 20 Oct 2012 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY