

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE NEW-YORK
STATE CONVENTION OF UNIVERSALISTS, FOR A.D. 1834

1. Met in Utica, according to adjournment, May 28, 1834, and were called to order by the Standing Clerk, Br. D. [Dolphus] Skinner.

2. United in prayer with Br. J. [Jacob] Chase.

3. Appointed Brs. O. [Oliver] ACKLEY, Moderator, *J. Chase*, Clerk, and *K. [Kneeland] Townsend*, Assistant Clerk.

4. Received and accepted the report of the committee of general correspondence, that no causes of complaint had been presented to them during the past year.

5. Appointed Brs. J. [Job] Potter, C. F. [Clement Fall] Le Fevre, and O. Ackley to act as said committee for the ensuing year.

6. Appointed Brs. [Pitt] Morse, [Stephen] Van Schaack, and [Isaac Dowd] Williamson a committee on fellowship and ordination.

7. Appointed Brs. [Aaron Bort] Grosh, Morse and Skinner a committee of arrangements on public services.

8. Heard and approved the Constitution reported by the committee appointed at our last session, to meet the delegates from other Conventions at Strafford, Vt., in September last, to deliberate on the subject of forming a United States Convention of Universalists.

9. *Resolved*, That the following persons be a delegation to represent this Convention in the United States Convention in Albany, in September next.

DELEGATES.—Ministers—Dolphus Skinner, T.J.[Thomas Jefferson] Sawyer, I. D. Williamson and Pitt Morse.

SUBSTITUTES.—S.R. [Stephen Rensselaer] Smith, C. F. Le Fevre, T. J. [Thomas Jefferson] Whitcomb, and G. W. [George Washington] Montgomery.

DELEGATES.—Laymen.—C. [Cornelius] Harsen, New-York city; E. [Ezra] S. Barnum, Utica; Levi Wood, Middlefield; Josiah Barber, Auburn; and Harlow Munson, East Bloomfield.

SUBSTITUTES.—James Hall, New-York city; E. Murdock, Albany; Joseph Stebbins, Clinton; S. [Seth] Doubleday, Jr., Cooperstown; Ira Curtis, Auburn; and Sanford Beach, East Bloomfield.

10. The committee on fellowship and ordination reported in favor of Lewis C. Brown [Browne], Edward M. Woolley, William E. Manley, Charles Woodhouse, and Jacob Whitney, for letters of fellowship; and Levi C. Martin, Jacob Whitney, and William Andrews for ordination.

11. Brs. Morse, Williamson and Van Schaack, a committee appointed on certain resolutions offered by a lay delegate, reported the same in form following:—

Whereas, It is deemed important that every society of our order in this State should be supplied with the preached word, and that the good tidings of a world's salvation should be carried, as far as practicable, to those waste places where no regular societies are formed—Therefore,

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE NEW-YORK
STATE CONVENTION OF UNIVERSALISTS, FOR A.D. 1834

Resolved, That this Convention suggest to the several Associations within its bounds, the propriety of recommending to the various societies within their limits, the adoption of some efficient measures for the spread of the Gospel by the collection of a fund by quarterly contributions, to be placed in the hands of a committee chosen in each society, and expended for the support of the preached word, as the society may direct.

12. Accepted said report.

13. Appointed Br. Dolphus Skinner to preach the occasional sermon at our next meeting; and Br. S. R. Smith, substitute.

14. *Voted*, That Br. Skinner prepare and publish the Minutes, and accompany them with a Circular Letter.

15. Adjourned at the conclusion of the Thursday afternoon services to meet again in Cooperstown, Otsego county, on the last Wednesday and following Thursday in May, 1835.

O. ACKLEY, *Moderator*

J. CHASE, Jr.,

}

K. TOWNSEND,

ORDER OF PUBLIC SERVICES.

Wednesday morning. Prayer, Br. I. D. Williamson. Occasional Sermon, Br. P. Morse, Matt. v:16. Prayer, Br. F. Langworthy.

Afternoon. Prayer, Br. Chase. Sermon, Br. Townsend, Isa. xxvi:3. Benediction, the same.

Evening. Prayer, Br. [Walter] Bullard. Sermon, Br. [Nelson] Doolittle, John v:28, 29. Benediction, the same.

Thursday morning. Prayer, Br. Marvin. Sermon, Br. Montgomery, Matt. vii:18. Prayer, Br. [Jesse] Bushnell.

Afternoon. *Ordaining Services*. Prayer, Br. R. O. Williams. Sermon, Br. Williamson, 2 Tim. ii:14. Ordaining prayer, Br. Chase. Delivery of the Scriptures and charge, Br. Morse. Right hand of fellowship, Br. Potter. Concluding prayer and benediction, by the Moderator, Br. O. Ackley.

CLERICAL DELEGATES PRESENT.

A. B. Grosh, Utica; Pitt Morse, Watertown; W. Bullard, Hartwick; J. Potter, Cooperstown; R. O. Williams, (late of) Amsterdam; I. D. Williamson, Albany; J. Chase, Mottville; G. W. Montgomery, Auburn; O. Ackley, Seneca; N. Doolittle, Lisle.

OTHER MINISTERING BRETHERN PRESENT.

F. Langworthy, Gouverneur; C. S. Brown, Oxford; J. Britton, Middleville; W. E. Manley, Fredonia; L. C. Brown [Browne], Bridgewater; W. Andrews, Perry; P. P. Fowler, Clinton; D R. Biddlecom, Springwater; T. C. Eaton, Wolcott; E. M. Woolley, Hamilton; W. Queal, Mottville; O. Roberts,

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE NEW-YORK
STATE CONVENTION OF UNIVERSALISTS, FOR A.D. 1834

Cedarville; J. Bushnell, Fort Plain; L. C. Marvin, Swan's Corners; K. Townsend, Gaines; G. Sanderson, Cortland; W. Underwood, D. Skinner, J. Whitney, Utica.

LAY DELEGATES PRESENT.

Elisha Swift, Sullivan; Col. C. [Cornelius] Harsen, New-York; S. Van Schaack, Albany; Hon. N. Merriam, Leyden; William Graves, Russia; Hon Rudolph Devendorf, Hastings; ___ Cook, Penfield.

CIRCULAR

To the several Associations of Universalists in this State—to the various Conventions, societies and individuals, professing faith in the great salvation, scattered abroad through this American Israel of God—and to every child of the vast family of Adam, to whom this epistle shall come, the Universalist Convention of the State of New York sendeth salutations of peace and love; wishing to all grace, mercy and peace from God the Father, through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Dearly beloved brethren, our Father has smiled, and the light of his glorious countenance has shone upon us during another annual meeting of our favored Convention. We met in unity and parted in peace. Our deliberations were characterized by mildness, harmony, friendship, and an ardent desire to be guided by that wisdom that cometh from above, which is pure, peaceable, and profitable to direct in the discharge of those duties and the adoption of those measures necessary for the spread of the truth, the edification of the church in love, and the prosperity of our Zion at large. Our meetings for public worship were well attended by devout and listening hearers, to whom, coming in the fullness of the blessing of the Gospel of Christ, in demonstration of the spirit and in power, and clothed with the panoply of Heaven, our ministering brethren dispensed the word of salvation, and dealt out the bread of life from the store-house of eternal truth, the rich treasures of immortal grace and love. The intercommunion of congenial hearts and views with brethren from different and distant parts of the vineyard of our common Lord, was consoling and happifying; while the intelligence conveyed to each other relative to the progress of truth, and the prosperity of our cause in different parts of the State, was generally of a cheering and gratifying nature.

We are also happy in being enabled to state that five young men of promising talents and apparent zeal and piety, applied for and received from this body, letters of fellowship and credentials for preaching the glorious Gospel of a world's salvation; and that three approved laborers in the same important work, were set apart by solemn ordination and laying on of the hands of the presbytery, to the responsible and arduous labors of the Gospel ministry. May God of his infinite mercy and grace make them all able

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE NEW-YORK
STATE CONVENTION OF UNIVERSALISTS, FOR A.D. 1834

ministers of the New Testament, successful soldiers of the Prince of Peace in wielding the sword of the spirit, which is the word of God, to the pulling down of the strong holds of error and delusion, and the salvation of souls from darkness, sin and wo[e]; enable them to be faithful unto death, and give them a crown of righteousness that fadeth not away.

But brethren, while we congratulate each other on the accessions we receive in the ministry of reconciliation, the rapid march of truth through our land, the increasing spirit of inquiry that almost everywhere prevails, waking to life the dormant energies of the human mind, and giving a new impetus to those enlarged and liberal views of Christianity which distinguish our denomination; it cannot and ought not be concealed that some parts of our Zion are pining for the bread of life, and languishing for want of that aid and encouragement which the professed friends and believers in Universalism have it in their power to render, if they were but awake to a sense of duty, and the means they possess were but called into requisition for that purpose. In other words, there are many who possess the means of sustaining a preached Gospel among themselves, or sending it to the destitute of other places, who are strangely remiss in the performance of this weighty and important duty. We are inclined to believe, however, that in many places, and with many individuals, this remissness is to be ascribed not so much to indifference, or the *intentional neglect of known duty*, as to a want of proper organization among our friends, and the adoption of systematic measures for accomplishing the desired object.

Viewing the subject in this light, the Convention adopted a resolution designed to bring it before the respective Associations represented in this body, with a view to their adoption of some measures for the effectual remedy of the evil complained of. And it is sincerely to be hoped that each Association will appoint its committees, and adopt such measures as shall prove effectual in everywhere arousing our friends and brethren from lethargy and inaction, to the most prompt and energetic exertion to plant the standard of Universalism upon every hill, and cause its sound to be echoed through every valley and to float along every river and streamlet into our land; to send the Gospel to every destitute neighborhood and town, and to sustain too with temporal bounties the hands and hearts of those heralds of truth who are willing to devote their time, talents, learning, and all their powers in dispensing the spiritual provisions and celestial bounties of the Gospel to their fellow-mortals. If the advocates of a *partial* salvation and of *endless death* can *cheerfully* give of their substance and their time to send to the *Heathen* their *cheerless views* of the character of God and the destiny of man, shall the believers in *impartial grace* and endless, universal and immortal *life*, *reluctantly* give to the same to send to *their own countrymen* their own cheering and *happifying views* of the character of God and the

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE NEW-YORK
STATE CONVENTION OF UNIVERSALISTS, FOR A.D. 1834

destiny of man? Most surely, our zeal instead of being less ardent, should be more fervent in proportion to the greater enlargement of our faith and the more attractive views of the Divine character which it presents. Our brethren scattered through our country certainly are not destitute of the means, and ought not to be of the disposition, to sustain better the preached word where it is, and to send it to thousands who are now destitute of it, and groping in all the darkness of error and all the cheerlessness of superstition. We will not talk about sending missionaries to the Heathen as long as so many thousands in our own land are spiritually perishing for lack of knowledge. Let then the appeal be made to every heart—let it also be felt—and may it not be in vain.

Though in reference to the above plan much depends on our lay brethren in furnishing the means of sending the Gospel to all who will hear, yet it is equally true that much also depends on our ministering brethren in seconding and encouraging the efforts of those who are willing to aid, and in showing to them and to all men that they are not unwilling to make sacrifices of time, talents and labor in the cause to which they have dedicated themselves, and all they have and are.

Let us then all unite, ministers and laymen, heart and hand, soul and body, in the great work of moral reform and mental emancipation—in devising the best plan and adopting and carrying fully into execution the best and most effectual measures for sending joy to every disconsolate heart, light to every benighted soul, and truth to every child of error. And, beloved brethren, may the Almighty bless you all abundantly, make you fruitful in every good word and work, faithful unto death, keep you in his fear and his love, safe in the hollow of his hand, causing your bow to abide in strength, and your hands to be made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob, till we all come at last in the unity of spirit and the bonds of peace, to the fullness of the measure of perfect ones in Christ, and with every creature of a ransomed world, at last unite in the song of Moses and the Lamb, saying, blessing, and honor, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and to the Lamb forever and ever. Per order,

D. SKINNER

Evangelical Magazine & Gospel Advocate, Utica NY, Sat. 14 Jun 1834

Transcribed with notes added on 26 Oct 2012 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY