

## New-York State Convention of Universalists [1853]

The New-York State Convention of Universalists met pursuant to adjournment in Lockport, Niagara co., N.Y., on Tuesday, Aug. 23, 1853, and was called to order by Br. J. A. [Joseph Aikin] Aspinwall, Clerk of the last session.

United in prayer with Rev. B. [Benjamin] B. Hallock.

Made out the following list of delegates:—

<i>Associations</i>	<i>Clerical Delegates</i>	<i>Lay Delegates</i>
Allegany	J. Whitney	Dr. A. Barney Martha Howzer
Black River	Pitt Morse	R. D. Murray
Buffalo	T. J. Whitcomb G. S. Gowdy	A. C. Moore S. B. Gaylord
Cayuga	H. L. Hayward C. S. Brown	S. Chase
Central	H. C. Vose R. Eddy	A. White
Chautauque	I. George P. P. Fowler	L. Harrington J. Baldwin
Chenango	C. E. Hewes	
Genesee	S. Goff O. F. Brayton	B. N. Wiles L. Crofoot
Hudson River	A. A. Thayer	N. H. Benson D. M. Moore
Mohawk River	D. Skinner B. B. Hallock	C. Johnson
New-York	H. R. Nye N. Snell	C. D. Newman
Niagara	A. Kelsey W. B. Cook	E. P. Davis B. G. Pettingill
Ontario	G. W. Montgomery J. A. Bartlett	J. Robinson J. P. Bartle
Otsego	J. A. Aspinwall	Eri Deming
St. Lawrence	J. T. Goodrich J. W. Bailey	Ira Hawley
Steuben	O. B. Clark R. W. Cheney	J. H. Preston A. L. Shattuck

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The Convention was organized by the election of the following officers:—

Rev. D. SKINNER, Moderator

Rev. J. A. ASPINWALL, Clerk

Rev. R. EDDY, Ass't. Clerk

Read and approved the minutes of last session.

*Voted*, That the Occasional sermon be preached this morning.

The Moderator appointed the following Committees:—

*On Nominations.*—P. Morse, N. H. Benson, W. B. Cook.

*On the Relief Fund.*—A. Kelsey, A. C. Moore, J. P. Bartle

*On Publication of Minutes.*—G. E. Baker

*On Sunday Schools.*—J. T. Goodrich, G. H. Roberts, G. L. Demarest

*On State of the Church.*—W. S. Balch, B. B. Hallock, H. L. Hayward

*On Missionary and Tract Enterprises.*—W. R. G. Mellen, J. J. Austin, H. R. Nye.

*On Reforms.*—R. Eddy, J. A. Bartlett, J. A. Aspinwall.

*On Education.*—E. Francis, T. J. Sawyer, L. C. Browne.

Adjourned to hear the Occasional Sermon.

### AFTERNOON SESSION

Received and adopted the following report:—

To the New-York State Convention of Universalists, in Council Assembled, in Lockport, August, 1853.

The undersigned, Committee on Reforms, beg leave to make the following Report:—

Progress, reform, the decrease of evil and the increase of good, are strongly advocated by the spirit of our holy Faith. It is a grand system of progress and reform, for God has based its fulfillment only in the ultimate perfection of the race. And it is this noble feature which constitutes its main difference from all other forms of faith. For while they contend for the perpetuity of evil as well as good, and the impossibility of reform for its victims, our faith, on the contrary, looks forward to the period when humanity shall have grown into immortality and happiness, as the completion of that divine purpose which God has made known by his beloved son.

Therefore, while this is its great aim, and while it pre-eminently regards whatever is for the advancement of mankind, it strives to fill its believers with love, that they may be god-like, for "God is love," and Christ-like, for his mission is the sublimest unfolding of love, and like their faith, which embraces the salvation of the world as the most gracious result of love. And it shows that this christian love, once having possession of the soul, must of necessity bring its subjects to the observance of the law, "*Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself;*" love him as a child of God, as a brother, as one for whom Christ died, without regard to nation or color.

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It follows from this view of our faith, that active labor in removing the evils that now crush humanity, is peculiarly an impulse, a command, and the tendency of the religion we profess. For it is a practical faith, and by the energy of its love, guides its followers into the activities of that benevolence which never flags in its efforts so long as there is suffering to be relieved. Indeed, it is difficult to conceive that an individual who thoroughly understands the nature and bearings of christian truth, who has sounded the depths of its spirit, and whose soul has been touched by its divine influence, can fail to sympathize with and aid the cause of universal freedom, of peace, of temperance, of the reform of criminal law, and of every plan calculated to lessen evil and diffuse virtue and happiness. For these various steps in the progress of humanity, are but so many steps out of evils which have so long scourged the earth with agony, into a condition where right will prevail, where society will find its true interests, and man his real protection, and his moral, intellectual and physical well-being. Such a cause, embracing results of so absorbing a character, cannot fail to enlist the sympathy and aid of the christian, especially of the christian who recognizes God as the benignant Parent of all, who sees the loving Saviour dying on the cross for the entire race, and who looks forward to the era when all mankind shall dwell in one immortal home.

The peace question, therefore, will be near our hearts, because it aims to abolish war, and to usher in the period when strife and contention shall no longer agitate the family of nations. It is true that this object seems, to many minds, to be unattainable. And it is to be lamented that the present age affords so many apparent proofs of this conclusion. For the thunder of war is heard in Circassia,<sup>1</sup> in India, in China, in Algiers, in South America. Nor can we say that it is a true peace which hovers over Europe, where throned injustice and oppression, with huge standing armies, oppress millions of our race, fetter the press and the rights of whole peoples, and bind the Pole, the Hungarian, the Italian, the Frenchman, and the German in ignoble servitude. The observant eye cannot fail to see, that a conflict between political and religious despotisms on the one hand, and truth and liberality on the other, is yet to occur, and that it will shake Europe with volcanic force. This conflict is a necessity, as it always is, when wrong is determined to resist the progress of right. But while we deplore these things, we believe in God—believe that he will cause the rains, the air, and the light to change the lava that will flow from the volcano, into the fruitful soil, that shall bear the vine and olive of peace and liberty for those who have long been down-trodden and oppressed.

But notwithstanding the warlike aspects of the times, the peace question has made real progress.—The spirit of a common brotherhood is more

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<sup>1</sup> an ethnic area in today's Russia

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widely diffused than ever. There is a greater disposition among nations, to resort to arbitration. Above all, the number of persons who believe that all disputes between nations should be settled by the might of christian law, instead of the might of the sword, is increasing every where. And when that number shall have so increased, that their voices shall become as "the sound of many waters," in forming public opinion, then shall the nations "learn war no more," and say to each other, "Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between thee and me, for we be brethren."

The cause of Temperance has also made progress. It is a source of gratitude that such is the case. For that cause is of vast importance to the welfare of society, aiming, as it does, to uproot an evil which is destroying thousands of victims, bring[ing] extreme wretchedness upon hundreds of families, and producing a large share of pauperism and crime that prove so heavy a burden upon every community. Nor is it more important than it is cheering, since sobriety, virtue, industry, domestic happiness and social order follow in its train. Temperance has performed a noble work in this direction. Commencing with abstinence from distilled liquor, and then, as new wisdom was gained by experience, advancing to abstinence from both distilled and fermented liquors, and lifting its voice in the strength of moral power, it has produced glorious fruits.

But it has been, and still is unable to reach the evil in its full extent, with moral suasion alone. For painful experience shows, that moral suasion has not reached, nor can it reach, the grog shops that poison the land, especially as a majority of these grog shops are kept by foreigners. Nor is it less true, that in multitudes of cases the grog shop has a more potent influence in leading the victims of a depraved appetite to ruin, than the voice of entreaty and of right has, to win them from it. Hence came the idea of a prohibitory Law, that the axe might reach the root of the deadly tree. That idea has been unfolded into a living fact, by the States which have adopted and executed the Maine Law. Into that noble band the States of Michigan and Vermont have lately been admitted, by the votes of their people. Our own State almost adopted that law, at the last session of its Legislature. But although it has failed this year, it is certain to succeed, sustained as it is by an enlightened and growing public opinion, which will soon be irresistible.— Then may we hope for more social order; then may we hope that the great numbers that are now rapidly enlisting in the ranks of habitual intoxication, will be turned from ruin, and be led to sobriety and virtue.

The cause of Anti-Slavery has made a healthy progress, as we believe. This may, perhaps, seem a strange position to take, in the presence of the Fugitive Slave Bill and the infamous Black Law of Illinois. Nevertheless, we think it correct. Progress certainly has been made in the suppression of the Slave Trade, for we learn by the papers of the day, that Brazil is earnestly

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engaged in the suppression of this traffic by its citizens. So that all of the civilized governments, the Spanish Government alone, itself a disgrace to the nineteenth century and the curse of its people, is the only one which sustains this system of colossal wickedness. Nor is the fact less an evidence of progress in this direction, that the Republic of Liberia is still advancing in prosperity, and by its greater influence over benighted Africa, is erecting a barrier which will shut out the Slave Trade from increasingly large tracts of country, and is also sowing seeds broadcast, that shall ultimately spring up and produce the fruits of regeneration for the sons and daughters of bondage.

We believe also, that the cause of the abolition of slavery in the American States has not retrograde, but has gained in real power, in the fact that the numbers of the people who see the evils of slavery, and labor for its ultimate extinction, has greatly increased, and is still increasing. The causes which produce this result are various, and are growing in strength and activity. Among them we may refer to the cheering truth, that the ranks of those preachers who feel it a sacred duty to instruct their people in the principles of that christian liberty which embraces all men [sic] are receiving new accessions, especially from the more liberal sects. These ministers are exerting a powerful influence in community, which must eventually be felt in the moral and political conflict between Liberty and Slavery. We deem it our duty also to mention, as another of these causes, "Uncle Tom's Cabin," that remarkable work, which has found its way into thousands of homes in the Southern as well as Northern States, and is there, by its genius, its power, and by its appeals to the higher sentiment's of man's nature, unfolding new thoughts and feelings that will press with resistless force against African slavery, and shake it to its foundation. Nor do we dream the exertions which several of the Southern States have been making for the establishment of a system of popular education, the least significant promise for the diffusion of freedom. For it is an important step towards enlightening that large portion of the millions of white people who, though dwellers in Southern States, are not slave-holders, and do not appreciate the despotism that keeps them in ignorance. And when, by the means of popular education, they shall discover how slavery crushes them, and oppresses free labor, that great source of a nation's success and prosperity, they will exert the rights which belong to them as American freemen, and by the ballot-box, abolish the evil under which they now find poverty and degradation.

These, and other signs of the times, one of the most cheering of which is the increase of the representatives of liberty in the American Congress, show that progress is being made in the cause of freedom. And the time is coming, as we believe, when Southern slaveholders will gladly join in cutting the knot that now ties the vexed question of slavery, and will rejoice to

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make that truth practical, which is now a mere nullity in regard to the black race, that "all men are endowed by their Creator, with certain inalienable rights," and "that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

The cause of the abolition of Capital Punishment has also advanced during the past year. Not only has the public mind become more favorable to its abolition, but the large minorities that have voted for it in the Legislatures of several of the States that have agitated the question, show that this reform must at last triumph. In Wisconsin it has triumphed, and has substituted imprisonment for life for hanging. And the example of that State, and the good effects of the new law, observable in Michigan, will vastly aid in bringing about the change in other States of the Union. Nor will the multiplicity of murders under the very shadow of the gallows, especially in the city of New-York, fail to attract the attention of thinking persons to the inefficiency of the rule of demanding life for life, and to awaken them to the necessity of adopting a law that will better accord with the spirit of Christianity.

There is still another proof that these, as well as the other important questions of Reform, are making a gratifying progress. And that proof consists of the more decided action which has been manifested during the past year by the various ecclesiastical bodies belonging to our Zion. With scarcely an exception, the Universalist Conventions and Associations have passed resolutions with decided approval of these Reforms, and have strongly urged them upon the attention of our people. As signal instances, we may refer, without being invidious, to the action taken upon these questions by the Universalist Reform Association and by the Maine Convention, at their late sessions, through the reports of their able Committees. Nor can we fail to refer to the noble resolution lately passed by the Illinois Convention without a dissenting voice, condemning the infamous "black law" which disgraces the statutes of that State.

This cheering progress in our ranks will ripen, we trust, into increasingly efficient action—action which is peculiarly obligatory on us, because it is an outward unfolding of the spirit of Universalism. It therefore becomes every believer of that grand truth of God, to do a faithful duty in regard to the great and needed reforms of the age, and to act boldly by word and example; to act religiously, socially and politically. We say politically, as well as socially and religiously, because when a great evil has been established by law, it can be effectually removed only by the repeal of that law, and the law can be repealed only by the right action of those who create the law-makers.—Hence the individual who is actuated by Christianity, will be a christian at the ballot box as well as elsewhere, that his vote may ever be for the right and never for the wrong. A body of people, even though small

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in numbers, who shall thus persistently and constantly act, as the result of an honest faith, must be powerfully felt in the conflict between good and evil, between reform and its antagonists, and cannot fail to hasten the glorious victory which shall confer emancipation from outward slavery, and [from] the inner servitude of diseased passions, upon millions of our fellow beings.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

GEORGE W. MONTGOMERY  
EBEN FRANCIS

Received and adopted the following report:—

*To the New-York State Convention of Universalists.*

The undersigned, Agent of the Convention in the Board of Trustees of the New-York Book and Paper Establishment, begs leave to make the following Report. At the session of the Board of Trustees, held in the city of New-York, in December, 1852, the financial condition of the Establishment was stated by the Reports of the Business Agents to be as follows:—

The total assets of the Concern, embracing money, books, stereotype plates, debts, &c., were estimated at \$9983.24.

Liabilities of all kinds, including \$6,800 of stock, which must be paid to the individuals who advanced it, before the Concern can become the property of the Convention, were \$819.04.

Balance, \$178.20.

By which appears, that if the Convention had assumed the Concern last December, and had received all debts due to it, and sold the books and plates on hand at their estimated value, it could have paid off the stock, and have had \$1,784 for its own use, besides retaining possession of the subscription lists of the *Ambassador* and the *Young Christian*. Or, by still keeping the books and plates on hand, there would have been a sufficient sum remaining, less a few hundred dollars, to pay all liabilities, including the stock.

It must be stated, however, that more than one third of the assets consisted of debts due the establishment. It is these debts, although considered good by the Business Agents, which are the chief obstacle to the speedy realization of our plans.

But notwithstanding the large amount of debts due the establishment on December last, its financial condition shows that it has made gratifying progress towards placing the concern into the hands of the Convention. For if we take into consideration the facts, that the reports of the Agents, which we are now dwelling upon, were made up eight months since, and embrace the most unprofitable period of the Concern; that a portion of the debts due last December for subscriptions and books, has since been paid; that the

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number of subscribers has increased, and now amount to eight thousand; that some of the stockholders have expressed their intention of ultimately making a present of their stock to the Convention, and some others to give a part of their stock; there can be no doubt but that the Concern may be in the hands of the Convention early in the year 1854, and a revenue from \$2,000 to \$5,000 derived from it during that year, for the diffusion of our faith and the interests of our cause.

But that this expected conclusion may be perfectly sure, it is clear that subscribers to the *Ambassador* and the purchasers of books, who are in arrears, must immediately pay their indebtedness, and hereafter permit nothing to interfere with advance payment for the paper, and down-payment for books. Nothing short of this plan, rigidly adhered to, can insure the success of the Concern. And we may the more earnestly urge this point, especially to delinquents, since very individual who patronises [sic] the establishment, by taking its paper or purchasing its books, and paying therefor, becomes a co-operator in an important purpose for diffusing the faith we love to a far greater extent than ever, while each one receives, at the same time, a valuable equivalent for his money, in the shape of an admirable paper, or of books rich in divine truth.—Let all the patrons of the establishment pursue this course, and in January next the stock can all be paid off, and the Book and Paper Establishment will become the property of the Convention.

The undersigned need say but little in regard to the management of the "Ambassador," and "The Young Christian," since those who read them, have all the information they can have on this point. That the *Ambassador*, under the care, tact and ability of Br. J. M. Austin, is worthy of all praise and approbation, and that its literary character and its fearless advocacy of Universalism, render it an honor to the denomination and to its editor, is saying simply the truth. And that the *Young Christian*, under the generous and able management of Br. G. L. Demarest, has the praise of our Sabbath Schools, is loved by its readers, receives the cordial approval of parents, and should be in every Universalist family, is only to reiterate a known fact. Nor may it be out of place to add, that the business department of the Establishment is still conducted by Br. Lyon at New-York, and Br. Kenyon of Auburn, in whose integrity and honesty the Board of Trustees have perfect confidence.

At this stage of the Report, the undersigned, although he may exceed his duty as agent of the Convention, cannot refrain from offering a few remarks, which have been suggested by the prospect that new duties of deep moment are about to be imposed on the Convention. As it has become almost certain that the control of the Establishment must be assumed by this Convention, [line obliterated] importance excites thoughtful consideration.



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That the management of such an Establishment, in order to secure the object intended, viz: the obtainance of funds for the greater diffusion of our faith, will require mature wisdom and business talent, there can be no doubt. For such an establishment can succeed only by being conducted with prudence and economy, and by a thoroughly digested plan of action. Does it not then become the Convention to consider what course will be the best to pursue? Is it not a question of first importance, to decide in what manner the Convention will hold the Establishment?—whether by procuring an Act of Incorporation for the Convention, or for a Board of Trustees to be chosen from time to time by the Convention? Would it not be well for the Convention to choose a Committee of three or five individuals, to consider the whole subject, to carefully mature a plan of action, and to point out the mode by which that plan will command success? And if so, would it not be important to confer on that Committee the power to call an extra session of the Convention should it be necessary, through its Moderator, if that power can be constitutionally conferred? These suggestions are offered by the undersigned, because he believes that the time has come when the Convention should give them its earnest attention, in order that the increased responsibility which is about to be thrown upon it, may be met with a matured preparation that cannot fail of the most important results, under the blessing of God.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

GEORGE W. MONTGOMERY

Took a recess until 7 1-2 o'clock Thursday morning.

### MORNING SESSION

Prayer by Br. A. [Alanson] Kelsey.

*Voted*, That the thanks of this Convention be tendered to Rev. C. H. Fay for his excellent Occasional Sermon, and that he be requested to furnish a copy for publication.

A set of resolutions were submitted, in reference to defraying the expenses of Delegates to the State and the United States Conventions, and were referred to a Committee, consisting of Brs. Nye, Benson and George, with instructions to report thereon to-morrow.

Br. J. T. [John Temple] Goodrich offered the following Preamble and Resolutions, which, on a call for the ayes and nees [nays], were adopted by a vote of 44 to 2. The minority votes being cast by laymen:—

*Whereas*, It is universally acknowledged that Intemperance is one of the most afflictive and destructive scourges that man has ever brought upon himself by vicious indulgences—and whereas it is the duty of all lovers of their race, to make every possible effort to arrest the progress of such an evil—and whereas, all measures heretofore adopted for the purpose of

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abolishing intemperance have thus far proved abortive, intoxicating liquors still being manufactured and sold for a beverage, throughout the State, despite the force of public opinion, and not unfrequently in opposition to license laws heretofore enacted, therefore

*Resolved*, That in the opinion of this Convention, the time has fully come for the passage of a stringent law, forbidding the making or vending of intoxicating liquors to be used as a beverage.

*Resolved*, That this Convention fully approves of the principles of the law already enacted in several States, usually denominated the Maine Law.

*Resolved*, That this Convention most earnestly urges all sincere Universalists in its fellowship, to make use of every honorable effort and influence in their power to effect the passage of such a law, at the earliest possible hour, by the Legislature of this State.

Adjourned to meet immediately after morning services.

Met according to adjournment.

*Ninth Annual Report of the Trustees of the New York Universalist Relief Fund.*

To the Council of the New-York State Convention of Universalists to be convened at Lockport, Niagara county, on Tuesday, Aug. 23, 1853.

The Trustees of the New-York Universalist Relief Fund, since their last Annual Report to the Convention, have received five applications for aid.

The first is the personal application on the Rev. Samuel A. Skeeles [Skeele] of Cowlesville, N.Y., a member of the Buffalo Association. The Board recommend that the sum of one hundred dollars be paid to his order in two equal installments, in the months of October 1853, and March 1854.

The second is the application of the Rev. Charles S. Brown in behalf of the Rev. L. Hyatt, now residing in the village of Marathon, Cortland Co., N.Y., and made in compliance with a resolution passed at the session of the Cayuga Association, May 25, 1853. The application is informal, and defective in the essential statement that the applicant is now in fellowship with the New-York State Convention of Universalists. The Board, however, presuming that the form of application was unknown to the Clerk of the Association, recommend that the sum of fifty dollars be paid to the order of the Rev. L. Hyatt in the month of October, 1853, if his claim is admitted by the Convention.

The third is the application of Rev. G. S. Gowdy, in behalf of Mrs. Abigail Morton, widow of the Rev. Calvin Morton, late of the Allegany Association, and authorized by a resolution passed at their last session. The Board recommend that the sum of fifty dollars be paid to the order of Abigail Morton, in the month of October, 1853, if approved by the Convention.

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The fourth is the personal application of the Rev. Jason Lewis of Philip's creek, N.Y., a member of the Allegany Association, and represented to be "in indigent circumstances, and needing relief at the hand of charity."

The Board recommend that the sum of fifty dollars be paid to his order, in the month of October, 1853, if his claim is approved by the Convention.

The fifth is the application of the Rev. F. M. Alvord, in behalf of Julius Savillion Eaton, orphan child of the late Rev. Joseph Eaton. This child was formerly a participant of the Fund. He is represented to be now twelve years of age, in feeble health, and in a destitute condition. The Board recommend that fifty dollars be paid to the order of Walter Mumford, in the month of October, 1853, to be applied to the support of said orphan child.

The Treasurer's Report, herewith transmitted, shows an unexpected balance of seven hundred and twenty three dollars and sixty-one cents, including the sum of one hundred and sixty dollars due the permanent fund. The Board have authorized the Treasurer—subject to the approval [line obliterated] of one hundred and sixty dollars, with sufficient of the unappropriated balance in his hands, to make the sum of five hundred dollars, and add it to the permanent Fund.

The Treasurer's reports a *donation of one hundred dollars*, to the permanent fund, from Br. Dudley Smith, an aged and devoted Universalist of Galway, Saratoga co., N.Y. The Trustees receive this benefaction of our esteemed brother with most grateful acknowledgments, trusting that others will imitate his worthy example, and experience that two-fold attribute of christian charity, which blesses him that gives and him that receives.

Respectfully submitted,  
By Order of the Board,  
JACOB HARSEN,  
Acting Clerk

New-York, Aug. 20, 1853.

[The account of Abner Chichester, Treasurer of the New York Universalist Relief Fund, is omitted here.]

Appointed Brs. G. W. Montgomery, H. L. Hayward and J. A. Aspinwall, a Committee to revise the Constitution of this body, and report at the next session of the Convention.

The Report of the Committee on Nominations was accepted, and after alterations adopted in the following form:—

Delegates to the United States Convention, (with power to fill vacancies and to appoint substitutes):—Revs. A. G. Laurie, H. R. Nye, W. S. Balch, T. J. Whitcomb; Brs. James Darick, A. C. Moore, G. H. [George Henry] Roberts, G. E. Baker, J. [James] P. Bartle, and R. D. Murray.

Place of Adjournment, Auburn, N.Y.

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Preacher of the Occasional Sermon, Rev. J. W. Bailey, with power to appoint a substitute.

*Voted*, To continue the Committee appointed last year, consisting of Brs. T. J. Sawyer, P. Morse, and Geo. Baker, with instructions to examine into relations subsisting between Associations and the Convention.

Appointed Br. G. W. Montgomery agent, to act with the Trustees of the Universalist Book and Paper Establishment for the coming year.

Received the Report of the Committee to whom was referred the Report of the Agent of the Book and Paper Establishment, and appointed Brs. T. J. Sawyer, P. Morse and W. S. Balch, the Committee contemplated therein.

*Christian Ambassador*, Auburn NY, Sat. 17 Sep 1853

Received and adopted the following report of the Secretary, Treasurer, and Agent of the Educational Society.

*To the New-York State Convention of Universalists.*

The Board of Trustees of the New-York Universalist Education Society, herewith transmit to you their first Annual Report, in accordance with Article VIII, of the Constitution of said Society:—

At the State Convention held at Hudson in May, 1852, the friends of a higher state of education in our denomination, then present, assembled during the recess of the Council, and formed themselves into a Society, whose objects and mode of action appear in the following Constitution adopted by the Society:—

CONSTITUTION

ART. I. This Association shall be called "The New-York Universalist Education Society."

ART. II. The object of this Society shall be to promote the cause of Education in connection with the Universalist denomination, and to aid in the education of young men of good reputation and promise, who may be desirous of entering the ministry.

ART. III. Any person may become a member of this Society, who shall contribute annually to its funds the sum of one dollar; and fifteen dollars contributed at one time shall constitute a life-member.

ART. IV. The direction of its affairs and the control of its funds shall be vested in a Board of sixteen Trustees, who shall be elected by the members of the Society by ballot, at a meeting which shall be held annually, at the place of the session of the New-York State Convention of Universalists, on the evening of the first day thereof.

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ART. V. Each member of the Board shall serve four years, provided, however, that of the Trustees first chosen, four shall serve one year, and a like number two, three and four years each, so that four members shall retire annually and four be chosen.

ART. VI. The Officers of the Board and of the Society shall be a President, Secretary and Treasurer, to be chosen by the Trustees by ballot annually.

ART. VII. Special meetings of the Board may be held at such times and places as the President may designate, and seven members shall constitute a quorum.

ART. VIII. The Trustees shall, at the annual meeting of the State Convention, make a full and detailed report to said Convention of their doings and operations, and of the condition, means and prospects of the Society.

ART. IX. All moneys received for Life-Membership and donations (except when otherwise directed by the donors,) shall be invested by the Trustees, and the interest only used for the purposes of the Society.

ART. X. This Constitution may be amended by a vote of the majority present at any annual meeting of the Society.

The Society being now regularly organized under this Constitution, proceeded to the election by ballot of sixteen Trustees, viz:—

Thomas J. Sawyer, Martin Thatcher, Grove Penny, O. Hutchinson, C. C. Gordon, C. L. Stickney, Philo Price, R. F. Clark, Marinus Hubbard, Jacob Harsen, Eben Francis, Geo. W. Montgomery, Geo. E. Baker, Wm. S. Balch, J. J. Austin, Josiah Barber.

These Trustees subsequently organized as a permanent Board, and chose Rev. T. J. Sawyer President, Rev. Eben Francis Treasurer, and Geo. E. Baker Secretary.

Messrs. Sawyer, Francis, Penny, Hubbard and Clark were appointed a Committee to confer with the Trustees of the Clinton Liberal Institute.

The President, Treasurer and Jacob Harsen were appointed a Committee to receive and invest, for the benefit of the Society, the bequest of Mrs. Halstead.

Another meeting of the Board was held in New-York, Sept. 15, 1852. Present, Messrs. Sawyer, Harsen, Francis, Thatcher, Hubbard, Baker, Montgomery, Hutchinson, when the following resolutions were adopted, viz:

*Resolved*, That the Theological School, located at Clinton, be continued under the supervision of the Society, and that Rev. T. J. Sawyer, D.D., be employed as the Principal, at a salary of not less than \$500 per annum, commencing Sept. 1, 1852.

*Resolved*, That Rev. J. T. Goodrich be appointed as General Agent to collect funds for this Society, and that he be paid at the rate of per cent.,

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and that the President and Treasurer be authorized to fill any vacancy that may occur in said office of General Agent.

*Resolved*, That the Treasurer be authorized to pay to the Principal such sums of money as may be in his hands from time to time, not exceeding the sum of \$600 per annum, upon the said Principal giving his receipt therefor.

*Resolved*, That all amounts collected by this Society or its agents, exceeding the sum of six hundred dollars per annum, be added to the permanent fund, and that the President and Treasurer be authorized to invest any such sums in their discretion.

The terms of the Trustees expire as follows:—

Gordon, Stickney, Price and Barber in 1853.

Sawyer, Thatcher, Penny, and Hutchinson in 1854.

Clark, Hubbard, Harsen and Francis in 1855.

Montgomery, Baker, Balch and Austin in 1856.

The Legacy of \$1000 left by Mrs. Halsted has been received and invested in securities paying seven per cent interest.

It will be seen by the Treasurer's Report that he has received besides this legacy, from various sources, \$702.54, and paid out on account of the Theological School \$291.04—this is exclusive of the amount collected in New-York city, as stated in a subsequent portion of this report.

The Rev. J. T. Goodrich declined to engage in the work as an Agent of this Society, and in pursuance of the vote of the Trustees, the vacancy was filled by the appointment of Rev. Eben Francis of Utica, whose report is herewith submitted.

A meeting of the friends of Education was held in the city of New-York in June last, at which very able addresses were made by Revs. W. S. Balch, E. H. [Edwin Hubbell] Chapin and C. H. Fay, in connection with a report prepared by the President of the Society. At this meeting over two thousand dollars were subscribed by those present towards the objects of the Society. It is intended to hold other meetings in the city of a similar kind, as but a small portion of the wealth or numbers of the Universalists of New-York city were present at this meeting.

The Trustees feel that their work has but just commenced, and although they would have been pleased to have received a more general co-operation of their clerical and lay brethren, they nevertheless find encouragement to go on, relying on the intelligence and liberality of the denomination to sustain them.

By order of the Board of Trustees,  
GEO. E. BAKER, Secretary

The Treasurer of the N.Y.U.E. Society, begs leave to present his first annual report:—

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On assuming the duties of the office, the accounts remaining in the hands of the Treasurer of the Educational Funds of the "New-York State Convention," agreeably to the vote of that body at its session in Hudson in 1852, were transferred to his charge.

He has accordingly settled all outstanding obligations of the former Committee on the Theological School, and placed the balance of funds to the credit of the New-York Universalist Education Society, amounting to \$8.78.

Dr. Jacob Harsen, as Executor of the will of Mrs. Magdalen Ritter Halsted, paid to the President and Treasurer of the Education Society, in the month of September, 1852, taking their legal acknowledgment for the same, the sum of \$1000, being the amount of the legacy left by her, to be permanently invested for the benefit of a Theological School, under the control of the New-York State Convention of Universalists.

By the advice of the Executor, the sum of \$982.50 was expended in the purchase of a \$1000 bond of the Erie R. R. of '71, yielding 7 per cent interest, payable semi-annually. The balance of \$17.50 remains uninvested.

There has been paid into the Treasury, from various sources as per account rendered, up to August 1st, '53, the sum of \$702.54. Of this there has been paid in behalf of the Theological Class, \$291.04.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

EBEN FRANCIS, Treasurer

[The account of Eben Francis, Treasurer of the New-York Universalist Education Society, is omitted here.]

The Agent of the N.Y. Universalist Education Society begs leave to submit a report of his labors—in part:—

The duties incumbent upon him, were verbally made known, by the Committee having the matter specially in charge, to be the obtaining of annual and life members to the Society, and the soliciting of funds, by subscription or otherwise, in any part of the State of New-York, for the permanent establishment of a Theological School, for the preparation of young men for the Universalist ministry.

The work was something entirely new to the agent, and he soon found that to be successfully prosecuted it required experience. The time thus far spent has not been successful to so great an extent as he had anticipated. The friends in most of the places he has visited, have not been prepared to subscribe for the enterprise, from the fact that, notwithstanding the many articles which have appeared in our papers and denominational publications in relation to the subject, they had never made it a thing of deliberate consideration. They had never been before *personally* appealed to. When their attention became directed to the matter, they seemed to require time for thought, before they could determine to what extent their means would enable them to contribute. Again, in many instances, there have been

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friends who preferred to be waited on at another season of the year, saying that the summer was the time when they were least able to do any thing for such an object. Again, *local* matters have been a hindrance in other places.

The Agent has judged it best, therefore, to visit different sections of the State, so far as possible; and first of all, endeavor to prepare the people for the demands to be made upon them. This he has sought to do, by calling attention to his mission at Associations and Conferences, which have been held in the source of the season.

At the annual meetings of most if not all the Associations, resolutions in behalf of the movements of the Educational Society, for the establishment of the Theological School have been adopted.

The most of his Sabbaths, also, have been devoted to the same object. In some instances he has been fortunate enough to meet with two, and even three, congregations in different places on the same day.—He has preached and presented the demand of the denomination for means to endow liberally, a Theological Institution at the late sessions of Associations in Columbus, Kendall, Clifton, Watertown, Edmeston, Branchport in this State, and in Sheshequin, Pa., and Smithville, Canada West [Ontario]; and on the Sabbath at Clinton, Utica, Rome, Fulton, Oswego, Fort Plain, Hamilton, Rochester, Holland Patent, Oxford, North Norwich, South Bainbridge, Mohawk, Ilion, Frankfort, Homer, Cortland, McLean, Blood's Corners and Waverly, all in this State.

In some of these places no subscription has been circulated, as yet. In others, the work of canvassing has been but partially done. In all, the preparatory steps are taken, which will enable the Agent the more readily to complete his labor.

In certain localities the settled ministers have freely engaged to finish the work, at the right time; I forbear to particularly designate them, lest it might be thought invidious. The ministering brethren, without an exception, so far as the Agent has been in their Societies, have earnestly co-operated with him, and aided by their words of counsel and advice.

It is pleasant to state that the instances have been extremely rare where persons have absolutely refused to do anything for the enterprise. In almost all cases the warm sentiment of encouragement has been expressed by the brethren and sisters of the Abrahamic faith. In some instances not words merely, but substantial tokens of sympathy have been given, from those not numbered with us.

The prospects of the enterprise, on the whole, are as encouraging as could be expected, considering the condition in which we, as a denomination, have been placed, in relation to our educational interests.—The fact has been clearly demonstrated to the mind of the agent, that the



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desired sum may be easily obtained, so soon as an appeal shall be personally made upon the friends of the cause.

Respectfully submitted,  
E. FRANCIS, Agent

Received and adopted the following Report of Committee on the Relief Fund:—

Your Committee on Relief recommend the claim of Samuel A. Skeele, as reported by the Trustees, for \$100.

Also the claim of Abigail Morton of \$50.

“ “ Jason Lewis of \$50.

“ “ Julius C. [S.] Eaton of \$50.

Your Committee recommend the rejection of the claim of L. Hyatt, in consequence of his not complying with the regulations of the State Convention.

All of which is respectfully submitted by your committee.

A. C MOORE  
JAMES P. BARTLE

Br. J. A. Bartlett presented the following, which was unanimously adopted:—

*Resolved*, That this Convention heartily approve the course of the *Christian Ambassador*, in advocating the passage of a stringent law to prohibit the sale of strong drinks in this State, and urge the continuance of its efforts in the same direction, until the great work of banishing intemperance from the world be finally accomplished.

*Voted*, To refer the subject of the publication of the Minutes to a Committee, consisting of Brs. Snell, Goodrich and George, to report at this session.

*Voted*, That the Assistant Clerk prepare an abstract of the Minutes for publication in the denominational paper.

Adjourned to Thursday morning.

*Thursday morning*.—Met according to adjournment.

United in prayer with Br. W. W. King.

The Committee to whom was referred the subject of a provision for securing the attendance of delegates to the State and United States Conventions, presented a Report which was accepted, and it was

*Voted*, To re-commit to the same Committee, with instructions to report a more perfect plan at the next session of the Convention.

Received and accepted a Report from the Committee on the State of the Church.

On motion of Br. Bartlett,

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*Resolved*, That hereafter, Tuesday, the first day of the Convention, shall be spent in transacting the business of the Council, and that the Occasional Sermon be delivered on Wednesday morning.

Received and adopted the following Report of the Committee on Publication:—

Your Committee, to whom was referred the disposition of the publication of the Minutes of this Body, report that, having considered the subject, we recommend that the "Book and Paper Establishment" be requested to publish the Minutes of the Convention in pamphlet form, and that it be the duty of the Standing Clerk of the Convention of the Associations to apportion and distribute them among the Societies; and that the Pastor or Clerk of the various Societies forward the amount due for the same to the Standing Clerk of the Association, who shall transmit the same to the Agent of the Establishment.

For the adoption of this plan, we submit the following resolution:—

*Resolved*, That the rule adopted by the Convention at its session in 1851, providing for raising the publication money by collections at each session, be and is hereby rescinded.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

NELSON SNELL  
J. T. GOODRICH } Committee  
I. GEORGE

On motion of Br. Snell, adopted the following:—

*Whereas*, The "Harsen Fund" has already been an instrument of much good in the accomplishment of its designed object, therefore,

*Resolved*, That we recommend to all our Societies within the bounds of the State, to take up an annual collection on the first Sunday in January of each year, or as soon thereafter as convenient, which collection shall, from year to year, be added to the Principal Fund.

Received and adopted the following Report of the Committee on Missionary and Tract efforts:—

Your Committee on Missionary and Tract Efforts, report that they have given the subject that attention its great importance demands. They are aware of no systematic missionary and tract movements which have been made during the past year, except in the New-York Association. At the recent session of that body, each preacher in its fellowship was appointed to proclaim the unsearchable riches of Christ, in a destitute place assigned to him. And the Missionary, a monthly periodical, a specimen number of which has been issued by some worthy, able and zealous brethren within its bounds, was warmly commenced. If there has [sic] been other organized efforts, they have not come to our knowledge, and individual liberality and exertion without concentrated action, praiseworthy indeed though they may

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be, can accomplish comparatively little.—We recommend the passage of the resolutions hereto appended, pertaining to the paper above named, and the missionary duty of settled pastors, and the re-adoption of the resolutions concerning those great interests committed to our charge, and after full consideration, adopted at our last meeting, with a firm and unyielding determination that they be carried into effect. Were we to present another plan essentially different, we have no more reason to believe that it would be tested, than the one previously approved, under which, we regret, no movement has been made, and justice to the latter clearly demands that it shall not be discarded without, after a fair trial, it proves defective and inefficient.

*Resolved*, That we cordially approve of the plan upon which a new Universalist paper, called the *Missionary*, has recently been established in the city of New-York, and that we warmly recommend this paper to the confidence and support of our churches and friends throughout the State.

*Resolved*, That inasmuch as clergymen can do much in the missionary cause, by preaching in the regions about their homes, that they be advised to perform in this manner all the labor possible for its advancement, without injury to themselves, and injustice to, and dissatisfaction in, their Societies, though it be by the discontinuance therein, a portion of the Sabbaths, of one of the services.

J. T. GOODRICH  
J. J. AUSTIN  
Committee

The Moderator re-appointed the Committee of last year, on the subject embraced in the above report.

*Voted*, The thanks of the Convention to the friends at Lockport, for their kind attention and hospitality to the delegates and others in attendance at this session.

Appointed Br. J. A. Bartlett, to give notice at the proper time through the *Ambassador*, of the collection to be taken in October, for the *Missionary* and Tract effort.

On motion of Br. H. L. Hayward,

*Resolved*, That the sincere thanks of this Convention be tendered to Br. G. L. Demarest, for his gratuitous services during the past year, as Editor of the *Young Christian*, and that his management of the paper has our hearty approbation.

On motion of Br. Snell,

*Resolved*, That the Standing Clerk of this Convention be instructed to publish in the *Ambassador*, at least four weeks previous to the meeting of the Convention, the names and duties of the various Committees, so that there will be no excuse for a neglect of their respective duties.

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Adjourned to meet in Auburn, on the fourth Tuesday in August, 1854.

D. SKINNER, Moderator

J. A. Aspinwall, Clerk

R. Eddy, Ass't. Clerk

*Ministers present.*—J. A. [Joseph Aikin] Aspinwall, Cooperstown; J. J. Austin, Lockport; J. M. [John Mather] Austin, Auburn; O. [Oliver] Ackley, Geneva; J. W. [James Wilson] Bailey, Madrid; W. [William] S. Balch, New-York; J. A. Bartlett, Geneva; C. S. [Charles Starr] Brown, Harford; O. F. Brayton, Pavilion; J. J. Brayton, Clifton Springs; R. W. Cheney, Branchport; O. B. Clark, Cohocton; W. B. Cook, Gaines; J. D. Cargill, McLean; C. F. Dodge, Alexander; Re. [Richard] Eddy, Rome; C. [Cyrus] H. Fay, New-York; T. [Theophilus] Fisk, Utica; E. [Eben] Francis, Utica; I. [Isaac] George, Fredonia; S. [Samuel] Goff, Alexander; G. [Gideon] S. Gowdy, Otto; J. T. [John Temple] Goodrich, Canton; A. C. Gaines, Clinton; J. [Jacob] H. Harter, Scipio; C. E. Hewes, Oxford; B. [Benjamin] B. Hallock, Mohawk; H. [Henry] L. Hayward, Genoa; A. [Alanson] Kelsey, Newark; W. W. King, Poughkeepsie; A. G. Laurie, Buffalo; Pitt Morse, Henderson; H. R. Nye, Brooklyn; M. B. [Maxcey Barton] Newell, Perry; G. W. [George Washington] Montgomery, Rochester; J. [Job] Potter, Hamilton; J. M. Peebles, Oswego; F. Porter, Albion; R. [Royal] H. Pullman, Albion; J. K. Richardson, Yorkshire; Asa Sax [Saxe], Dexter; J. B. Sax, West Aurora; D. [Dolphus] Skinner, Utica; N. [Nelson] Snell, New-York; A. A. Thayer, Albany; Wm. Tompkins, Fairport; D. C. [DeWitt Clinton] Tomlinson, Perrinton [old spelling for Perinton]; H. C. Vose, Clinton; T. J. [Thomas Jefferson] Whitcomb, Springville; J. [Jacob] Whitney, Rushford.

*Christian Ambassador*, Auburn NY, Sat. 24 Sep 1853

Transcribed with notes added in Dec 2012 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY