

Proceedings of the New York State  
Convention of Universalists, 1858

Met at Branchport, Aug. 24th, and was called to order by Rev. P. Morse. The roll being called, the following delegates answered and took their seats, viz:—

*Allegany*—S. E. Darrow, I. B. [Ichabod Blakeslee] Sharp, T. Culver, W. Wilson.f

*Buffalo*—G. [Gideon] S. Gowdy.

*Black River*—P. [Pitt] Morse, G. Wood.

*Cayuga*—J. M. [John Mather] Austin, D. K. [Day Kellogg] Lee, H. L. Green, J. A. Keyes.

*Chautauque*—I. [Isaac] George, J. Kinney, S. E. Palmer,

*Chenango*—W. [Wm.] M. DeLong.

*Central*—D. [Dolphus] Skinner.

*Genesee*—C. [Charles] Cravens, J. A. [Joseph Aikin] Aspinwall, P. Mills.

*Hudson River*—J. N. Parker.

*Mohawk River*—G. [George] W. Skinner, C. Johnson, E. [Ely] T. Marsh.

*Niagara*—W. [Wm.] B. Cook, N. [Nelson] Snell, T.E.G. Pettingill [Pettengill].

*New-York*—H. [Henry] Lyon, T. J. [Thomas Jefferson] Sawyer.

*Otsego*—L. C. [Lewis Cresaba] Browne, J. R. Sage, H. Cory.

*Ontario*—S. L. Roripaugh, A. [Asa] Saxe, D. [Daniel] Kenyon, A. L. Van Dusen.

*St. Lawrence*—E. [Ebenezer] Fisher, J. T. [John Temple] Goodrich.

*Steuben*—A. G. Clark, L. Paine, J. H. Stevens, J. B. Phelps.

Rev. L. C. Brown[e] was elected Moderator, and Br. I. George Clerk.

United in prayer with Rev. G. W. [George Washington] Montgomery.

Read minutes of previous session.

The annual report of Trustees of [the] Relief Fund was received, and referred to a Committee, consisting of T. J. Sawyer, J. A. Aspinwall and J. t. Goodrich.

Reports were received from the following Committees, and ordered printed, viz: On the State of the Church; Missionary and Tract Enterprise; Education.

Reports in regard to the condition of our case, and the number of preachers and Societies, were received from the following Associations, viz: Allegany, Black River, Central, Steuben, Chautauque, Ontario, Mohawk River, Otsego, New-York, Hudson River.

The Chair appointed the following Committee on Nominations:—C. Johnson, J. R. Sage, H. Lyon.

The following Preamble and Resolution was received from the Genesee Association, viz:—

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*Whereas*, We understand that the Board of Directors of the Universalist Paper and Book Establishment, has voted to remove said Establishment to the city of New-York, and abolish the Auburn office, therefore,

*Resolved*, That this Association protest against such removal, and hereby instruct our delegates to the next State Convention to use their influence against it.

In reference to this Preamble and Resolution, J. A. Aspinwall offered the following:—

*Resolved*, That this Convention hereby expresses its desire that the present arrangement of publishing the *Ambassador* in New-York and Auburn be allowed to remain undisturbed.

*Resolved*, That the Agent appointed by this Convention to represent its interests in the Universalist Paper and Book Establishment, be instructed to request the Board of Directors of said Establishment to carry out the wishes of this Convention as stated in the above resolution.

These resolutions were referred to a Committee consisting of J. A. Aspinwall, E. T. Marsh and T. J. Sawyer.

In the absence of Rev. R. [Richard] Eddy, who was appointed to preach the Occasional Sermon, the Council appointed Rev. E. Fisher to perform that duty at the present session.

The Moderator announced the following Committees, to report at the next annual meeting, viz:—

On Sunday Schools—C. C. Gordon, T. Borden, J. H. [James Harvey] Tuttle.

State of the Church—C. [Charles] W. Tomlinson, J. N. Parker, R. Eddy.

Missionary and Tract Enterprise—A. [Albert] G. Clark, C. E. Hewes, H. H. Baker.

Reforms—D. K. Lee, J. T. Goodrich, Mrs. L. A. Jenkins.

Education—E. Fisher, Miss H. M. Parkhurst, H. Blanchard.

Adjourned to 2 o'clock P.M.

*Tuesday, 2 o'clock P.M.*—Council met according to adjournment.

Minutes of morning's session read.

The Committee to whom was referred the Report of the Trustees of the Relief Fund, beg leave respectfully to report—

That they have examined the Report of the Trustees submitted to their hands, and desire to express their entire satisfaction at the manner in which the Board of Trustees have, from the first establishment of the Fund, managed its affairs. They think the denomination within the State fortunate in the original appointment of this Board, and feel that we are all under obligations for thankfulness to our heavenly Father for having preserved their useful lives through so many years.

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The Committee find in the Report before them recommendations for conferring the benefits of the Fund upon three persons, and upon consideration of the claims referred to, the cordially approve all the recommendations, and would respectfully suggest their adoption under the following resolutions:—

*Resolved*, That a donation of fifty dollars be paid to the order of Mrs. Ellen Skeele, widow of the late Samuel Skeele of Cowlesville, in October, 1858.

*Resolved*, That a donation of seventy-five dollars be paid to the order of Rev. I. B. Sharp of Cuba, in October, 1858.

*Resolved*, That a donation of seventy-five dollars be paid to the order of Rev. G. W. Montgomery, on demand, for the benefit of Rev. B. S. Hobbs of Webster.

Further, your Committee recommend the passage of the following resolutions:—

*Resolved*, That the Trustees be authorized to invest the sum of one thousand dollars (\$1000) in such manner as they may deem most conducive to the interests of the Fund.

*Resolved*, That in view of the amount of the Permanent Fund already accumulated, and of the handsome income annually accruing from it, this Convention would suggest that the Board of Trustees should hereafter make more liberal donations in cases where in their judgment the condition of the recipients demands it.

*Voted*, That the Standing Clerk be required to notify the Chairman of all Standing Committees of their appointment.

The majority of the Committee to whom was referred the resolutions relating to the Paper and Book Establishment, reported in favor of their adoption.

After some discussion, a motion prevailed to adjourn to 8 o'clock to-morrow morning.

*Wednesday morning, 8 o'clock.*—Met pursuant to adjournment, and united in prayer with Br. Roripaugh.

The report on the Paper and Book Establishment was taken up, and after lengthy debate, on the call of yeas and nays, was adopted by the following vote:—

*Yeas*—Sharp, Darrow, Gowdy, Morse, Austin, Lee, Aspinwall, Cook, Sage, Saxe, Roripaugh, Clark, Culver, Wilson, Wood, Green, Keyes, Palmer, Mills, Johnson, Marsh, Pettingill [Pettengill], Cory, Kenyon, Van Dusen, Stephens, Phelps—27.

*Nays*—DeLong, Parker, Kinney, Lyon, Sawyer—5.

*Excused*—D. Skinner, Cravens, G. W. Skinner, Fisher, Goodrich.

Adjourned to 1 o'clock P.M.

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Met pursuant to adjournment.

Received the report of the Committee on Nominations which, after some alterations, was adopted as follows:—

Delegates to the U.S. Convention—C. W. Tomlinson, R. Eddy, W. B. Cook, J. M. Austin, E. H. [Edwin Hubbell] Chapin, *clerical*; P. H. Bitley, Branchport; A. C. Moore, Buffalo; D. Kenyon, Newark; G. Wood, Fulton; E. T. Marsh, Frankfort; G. W. Barnes, New-York; J. B. Colgrove, Troy; W. H. Wilder, Brooklyn; T. D. Cooper, Orangeville; W. H. Tew, Jamestown—*lay*.

*Voted*, That the delegates have power to appoint substitutes and fill vacancies.

Rev. G. W. Montgomery, Agent of the Convention, to represent its interests in the Paper and Book Establishment.

Preacher of the Occasional Sermon—Rev. I. George, with power to appoint substitute.

Place of adjournment—Mohawk.

The following resolution, presented by E. T. Marsh, was adopted:—

*Resolved*, That the present stockholders and Directors of the Paper and Book Establishment be requested to allow the Agent appointed by this Convention, to represent and vote on the stock held by this Convention, at all the meetings and elections of stockholders, and as a Director, in the meetings of the Board of Directors.

H. Lyon offered the following resolution, which passed:—

*Resolved*, That a Committee of five be appointed at this session to take charge of the whole business of publishing the *Christian Ambassador*, in the expectation that it will, at the end of the present volume, come into the hands of the Convention.

The Committee contemplated in the above resolution was appointed, as follows: Norman Van Nostrand, C. G. Briggs, Ezra Graves, G. W. Montgomery and D. Skinner.

Adjourned to 8 o'clock Thursday morning.

*Thursday morning, Aug. 26.*—Met pursuant to adjournment.

Prayer by Br. J. N Parker.

Adopted the following resolution, and the chair appointed J. A. Aspinwall, I. George and E. Fisher, the Committee contemplated therein.

*Resolved*, That a Committee of three be appointed to prepare a set of By-Laws, if none exist, for the guidance of our Councils, and present them at the next session of this Convention; and if such By-Laws already exist, the Standing Clerk shall cause them, with the Constitution of this body, to be published in a pamphlet.

*Voted*, Thanks to Br. Fisher for his Occasional Sermon, and requested a copy for publication.

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*Voted*, That the Standing Clerk prepare the minutes for publication.

A proposition was received to amend that clause of the Constitution which requires the Standing Clerk to "transmit to the Standing Clerk of the U.S. Convention a certified copy of the list of delegates from this body to that," so as to make that duty devolve upon the *Sessional* Clerk.

The following Preamble and Resolutions were adopted:—

*Whereas*, The Committee appointed at the last session of this body to meet with the Trustees of Clinton Liberal Institute, attended to their duty in that matter, and ascertained that the debts of that Institution amounted on the 9th day of September last, to the sum of \$11,318,73, and recommended that the said sum should be raised by subscription to liquidate the entire debt; and whereas, the Agents appointed to raise the sum, have begun that work and raised two thirds of the required sum, therefore,

*Resolved*, That the said Agents be directed to continue their efforts to that end, and that all ministers and Societies in fellowship with this Convention be earnestly requested to co-operate with them, and raise the sum requisite at the earliest possible day.

*Whereas*, The Agent for soliciting funds for the Clinton Liberal Institute in the Chenango Association, is about removing from the State, therefore,

*Resolved*, That Br. Wm. Delong be requested and authorized to act in his stead; and that the Chenango brethren be entreated to co-operate with other sections of the State in relieving the Institute from its indebtedness, and saving the property from sacrifice.

*Whereas*, Debts, when contracted by literary institutions, are always perplexing and often ruinous; and whereas, in our own and other States, a large number of academies and colleges, which had raised but a part of the amount needed to establish and sustain them, have been sold for trifling sums by the officers of law, within a year or two past; and in most instances, for scientific purposes, they have been abandoned forever; and whereas, others are in imminent danger of the same fate; therefore,

*Resolved*, That, with these beacon lights standing before us to warn us of the rock upon which they were shipwrecked or utterly destroyed, we will not, after the liquidation of the present debt of Clinton Liberal Institute, either directly or indirectly, become responsible, or use our influence in favor of the payment of any debt that may hereafter be incurred by any institution claiming our patronage; because we deny the expediency or propriety of any institution permitting its expenses to exceed its income,

*Resolved*, That in view of the present pressing want of ministers of the Reconciliation in this State, and the denomination at large, this Convention urgently invites the aid of every minister and Society in fellowship with this body, in encouraging worthy and promising young men to devote

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themselves to the Gospel ministry, and in aiding them to qualify themselves in our theological school for that work.

*Resolved*, That this Convention cordially recommend the Theological School at Canton, and the preparatory collegiate school to be opened there, to the confidence and patronage of the denomination.

*Resolved*, That this Convention request the Directors of the Paper and Book Establishment to pay the ensuing year money, not exceeding the sum of \$500, to contributors whose labors may be obtained, for the preparation of critical and able articles for the weekly issues of the *Christian Ambassador*.

*Whereas*, By the dispensation of God, our venerable father in the ministry, Rev. Oliver Ackley, has been called from the labors and cares of earth to this immortal home;

*Resolved*, That this Convention is impressed with the conviction that, in the departure of Father Ackley, the denomination has experienced the loss of a faithful laborer in the Master's vineyard, and an exemplary and worthy member of our ministry.

*Resolved*, that this Convention tender its sincere sympathies to the family of the deceased, in the bereavement to which they have been subjected, and commend them to the blessing of God, and the sustaining hopes of Christ and his Gospel.

Adjourned to meet in Mohawk,

L. C. BROWNE, Moderator

I. GEORGE, Clerk

*Christian Ambassador*, Auburn NY, Sat. 11 Sep 1858

Transcribed with notes added on 15 Mar 2013 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY