

State Convention—1860

The Convention met according to adjournment, in the village of Perry, on Tuesday morning, Aug. 28 and was called to order by J. A. Aspinwall, Standing Clerk.

The roll of delegates having been called, and it appearing that a quorum was present, the Council was organized by the election of Rev. J. M. Austin, Moderator, and Rev. J. A. Aspinwall, clerk.

Prayer was offered by Rev. G. W. Montgomery.

Read and approved the Minutes of the last session.

A Committee on Nominations was appointed by the Chair, consisting of the following members—G. S. Gowdy, A. G. Clark and J. R. Sage.

The Standing Clerk presented a report, with a list of clergymen and Societies in fellowship, as furnished by the Standing Clerks of the several Associations in the State, which was adopted and ordered published. (See document marked A.)

2 o'clock P.M. The Committee on By-Laws and Rules of Order, through its chairman, Rev. I. George, reported a series of rules, which were considered and discussed *seriatim*, and after some amendments, were adopted as follows, with a resolution, that they take effect immediately. (See document marked B.)

The Committee on the State of the Church furnished no report.

The Committee on Sunday Schools, through its Chairman, Rev. N. [Nelson] Snell, offered the following report: (See document marked C.)

Rev. D. Skinner, in behalf of the Committee on the Missionary and Tract Enterprise, made a verbal report, which he was requested by a vote of the Council, to reduce to writing and furnish for publication.

No report was furnished by the Committee on Reforms.

Rev. Dr. [Thomas Jefferson] Sawyer, in behalf of the Committee on Education, furnished the following report, which was accepted and ordered placed on file. (See document marked D.)

Publication Committee was called on for their Report; but asked for further time. Granted.

The following resolution, offered by Rev. J. R. Sage, was adopted, and the Committee appointed, consisting of Brs. J. R. Sage, E. Fisher and L. C. [Lewis Cresaba] Browne.

Resolved, That a Committee of three be appointed to take into consideration the subject of Fellowship and Representation, and recommend for adoption at the next session of this Convention, some system or general rule by which this body may be governed in future.

The following Resolution was adopted:—

Resolved, That all our Societies and congregations in the State be earnestly requested to take up collections previous to the first of Feb., of the present, and each succeeding year, for the benefit of worthy, indigent young

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men attending our Theological school at Canton, and that the sums collected be forwarded to Prof. Fisher of said Institution, for the purpose of judicious distribution.

Voted, that the Occasional Sermon be delivered at 10½ o'clock Wednesday morning.

8 o'clock Wednesday morning. Met according to adjournment.

Prayer by Br. J. B. Saxe.

Read and approved the minutes of yesterday.

A resolution of instruction by the Ontario Association to its delegates, was presented by Br. G. W. Montgomery, as follows: It was referred to a Committee composed of the following brethren, viz: J. R. Sage, E. Fisher, and L. C. Browne.

The resolution is as follows:—

Resolved, That the delegates to the State Convention be instructed to use their influence in said body to induce it to take action, making the conditions of Fellowship and Ordination uniform in all Associations within its jurisdiction.

The Annual Report of the Trustees of the Relief Fund, together with the Treasurer's Report, was read and referred to a special Committee, consisting of Brs. D. Skinner, A. C. Moore, and A. Bickford. (See document E.)

Br. Montgomery, in behalf of the Publication Committee, presented the following Report, which was referred to a Committee of three, consisting of Brs. C. Cravens, E. T. Marsh, and I. George. (See document F.)

A communication from a Committee appointed by the Council of the last session of the U.S. Convention, in relation to a thorough reorganization of the denomination, was received, read and referred to a Committee having charge cognate matters, consisting of Brs. J. R. Fisher, E. Fisher, and L. C. Browne. (See document G.)

The Committee on the Report of the Trustees of the Relief Fund, presented the following resolutions and recommendations, which were adopted.

1. *Resolved*, That fifty dollars from said Relief Fund be granted to Mrs. Ellen Skeelee, payable to her order in October, 1860.

2. That one hundred dollars be granted to Rev. Justus Todd, payable to his order, on half in Oct., 1860, and the other half in April, 1861.

3. That one hundred dollars be granted to Rev. B. [Benjamin] B. Hallock, payable to the order of Mrs. Alice C. Hallock, one half in Oct., 1860, and one half in April, 1861.

4. That fifty dollars be granted to Mrs. Jerusha Smith, payable to the order of Rev. J. W. [James Wilson] Bailey, in Oct., 1860.

Also, That, from the accumulated surplus of the said Fund, the Trustees be recommended to add one thousand dollars to the permanent fund, and invest the same in some safe loan on Bond and Mortgage, or other

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undoubtedly safe fund or stock, as in their judgment and discretion they deem best.

D. SKINNER
A. C. MOORE
A. BICKFORD

The Committee on Nominations presented a Report which, after some amendments and alterations, was adopted as follows:—

Committee on the State of the Church—D. K. [Day Kellogg] Lee, I. George, T. J. [Thomas Jefferson] Whitcomb.

Sunday Schools—J. H. Hartzell, G. H. [George Henry] Roberts, L. O. Gay.

Reforms—Moses Ballou, T. D. [Theodore Dwight] Cook, J. M. Austin.

Missionary and Tract Enterprise—R. O. Williams, J. H. Harter, H. H. Baker.

Education—E. Fisher, J. S. Lee, D. Skinner.

Complaints and Appeals—T. J. Sawyer, L. C. Browne, J. T. [John Temple] Goodrich.

Paper Establishment—G. W. Montgomery, D. Skinner, A. C. Moore, N. Van Nostrand, C. G. Briggs.

Delegates to the U.S. Convention—E. G. Brooks, E. Fisher, E. W. [Elhanan Winchester] Reynolds, J. W. Bailey, A. [Asa] Saxe, *clerical*—L. Babcock, A. J. Decker, Buffalo; G. Wood, Fulton; E. F. Marsh, Frankfort; H. C. Case, Rome; A. Oatley, Towlesville; N. Van Nostrand, Brooklyn; N. Crary, Potsdam; E. S. Preston, Rochester; W. Harriott, New York, *lay*.

Place of Adjournment, Fulton.

Preacher of Annual Sermon, C. [Charles] W. Tomlinson.

Thursday morning 8 o'clock. Met according to adjournment.

Prayer by Rev. J. J. Austin.

Appointed a Committee on incorporation, consisting of E. T. Marsh, D. Skinner, and E. Graves, whose duty it is to carry into effect the following resolution, passed at the last session of the Convention:—

Resolved, That a Committee of three be appointed by this body, to inquire whether, by any statute now existing in this State, the Convention can form itself into a corporate body to promote its own specific objects; and if so, to take such measures as may enable it thus to become legally incorporated at its next annual session; if not, to make application to the Legislature for a Charter for such purposes.

The following resolution was adopted:—

Resolved, that the Publication Committee cause 250 copies of the Constitution, By Laws, and Rules of Order of this body to be published in pamphlet form and forwarded to the Standing Clerk, at the expense of the Paper Establishment.

Resolved, That the rule now in force, requiring Standing Committees to report the first day of the Session, be incorporated into the By-Laws.

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The following Preamble and Resolutions in regard to the death of Rev. Pitt Morse, presented by Br. D. Skinner, were unanimously adopted, by rising:—

Whereas, In the wise and inscrutable providence of God, our [obliterated] brother and laborer in Christ, the Rev. Pitt Morse, has been called from his earthly labors, to his heavenly home, and the eternal rest that remaineth for the people of God; be it therefore,

Resolved, That though great is our loss and bereavement in his removal from our Society, and from the efficient labors he long rendered in the great and good cause in which we are engaged, yet we humbly and cheerfully acquiesce in this afflictive dispensation, feeling assured that our loss is his unspeakable gain; that though his labors were needful to us and our cause here, yet to depart and be with Christ is far better for him.

Resolved, That in his death our ministry sustains the loss of one of its oldest and most efficient and faithful laborers, our cause and denomination one of the brightest ornaments and helpers, and his family and most intimate friends a dear and trustworthy companion, who never abused nor betrayed the trust they reposed in him.

Resolved, That we deeply and sincerely sympathize with his bereaved family and friends in the loss they sustain, and trustfully commend them to the God of all grace, and the consolations of his glorious Gospel.

The Moderator vacating his seat, called Rev. H. Lyon temporarily to the chair.

Voted, that the thanks of the Council be and hereby are tendered to our friends in Perry, to members of other denominations, and to the citizens generally, for the hospitality and kindness extended to the members of the Convention and friends generally on this occasion.

Voted, That thanks be tendered to Br. Saxe for his able and instructive Occasional Sermon, and that he be requested to furnish a copy for publication in the *Ambassador*.

Resolved, That an order of business shall be called at the close of each session, in these words—Has any one any thing to offer for the good of the Cause and Denomination.

Voted, That the Clerk be requested to prepare the minutes for publication.

Adjourned to meet in Fulton, Oswego co., the 4th Tuesday in August, 1861.

J. M. AUSTIN, Moderator

J. A. ASPINWALL, Clerk

DELEGATES PRESENT

Allegany—I. B. [Ichabod Blakeslee] Sharp, S. E. Darrow, S. Wilson, E. Nicholson.

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Buffalo—G. [Gideon] S. Gowdy, J. B. Saxe, A. C. Moore, W. B. Stacy.
Black River—H. Bowen, G. Wood, R. D. Murray.
Cayuga—J. M. [John Mather] Austin, J. [Jacob] H. Harter.
Central—E. S. [Edmund Samuel] Jenkins, D. [Dolphus] Skinner.
Chenango—R. [Rufus] O. Williams.
Chautauqua—I. [Isaac] George, S. Crosby, L. Harrington, H. N. Wheelock.
Genesee—C. [Charles] Cravens, J. A. [Joseph Aikin] Aspinwall, H. O. Brown, H. E. Olmstead.
Hudson River—Not represented.
Mohawk River—E. T. Marsh, J. J. Wheeler.
Niagara—A. [Alanson] Kelsey, J. J. Austin, L. Babcock, D. Meeker.
New York—C. W. Biddle, H. [Henry] Lyon, N. [Norman] Van Nostrand.
Ontario—G. W. [George Washington] Montgomery, H. [Harvey] Boughton, A. [Azariah] Bickford, A. L. Van Dusen.
Otsego—J. R. Sage.
St. Lawrence—E. [Ebenezer] Fisher, J. M. [James Minton] Pullman.
Steuben—A. [Albert] G. Clark, A. Otley, D. W. Wilcox.

Reports of Committees

(A)

REPORT ON STATISTICS

To the Council of the New York State Convention of Universalists for 1860.

At the session of the State Convention in 1857, the following Resolution was adopted:—

“Resolved, that the Standing Clerks of the several Associations in this State, be requested to furnish to the Standing Clerk of this body, a list of all clergymen and Societies in Fellowship with their respective Associations; and that, when the list is completed, the same be published in the *Ambassador*.”

Previous to the session next following the one at which this resolution was passed, I called upon the Standing Clerks, through the *Ambassador*, to send me the lists thus required of them. And although every one must have been aware that it was impossible for the S. C. of this body, to complete the list, until the Standing Clerk of each Association should first have done his duty in the premises, yet this call was responded to by the Standing Clerks of only *four* out of the sixteen Associations in this State! I hope it will not be deemed invidious if I name those Associations whose Clerks were thus prompt, as examples well worthy of imitation by all others. Niagara, Steuben, Hudson River, and Black River, whose faithful officer has resigned his post in the earthly Association [e.g. by death] and will henceforth respond only to the calls of the great Angelic Convention.

Similar calls were subsequently made from time to time, with not much better success, until the present season, when, with *one* exception, I have

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received reports from every Association in the State. That these reports, however, will be found entirely correct, is not to be expected under the circumstances. Many of the Clerks do not seem to have noticed particularly, the terms of the resolution requesting the information, and have consequently, in some instances, furnished information not called for, and in others, have omitted information that *was* called for. As instances of the latter, some have enumerated the organized Societies, without saying whether they were in *fellowship*, and others have named ministers as residing or preaching within their bounds, without specifying whether they were, or were not, in fellowship with their own or any other Association. This leaves much to be guessed at; but as I am not skilled in that art, I have taken it for granted that the reports sent me *mean* what the resolution requires. There are, however, some items furnished me, of such a character, that I am at a loss to determine how to dispose of them. For example, there are names of clergymen furnished, of whom it is stated that they are not in fellowship with the Association, within the bounds of which they reside and are not settled as pastors of Universalist Societies; and who are not reported as from any other Association; and yet who, I feel confident, are in fellowship with some Association, and in good standing in the denomination. Some Societies also are reported as having lost formal fellowship, by having failed to be represented according to the requirement of their Association; but who are, notwithstanding, considered by their reporters, as proper subjects to go into the list. Their *peculiar* situation is noted in the accompanying catalogue. One Society is also given, perhaps more, that is located in another Representation from *this* State, to the United States Convention, I leave for the decision of others.

I congratulate the Convention and the denomination that, although the list is not entirely perfect, yet we are approximating the truth, and by following up the course begun, we shall soon have a list that we can depend upon, and which will determine definitely, who are, and who are not, in fellowship. The publication of the list will of itself, probably, serve a disciplinary purpose, as it will call out *corrections* where there is need. It is hoped that such will be the result.

Respectfully submitted,
J. A. Aspinwall, Standing Clerk

ASSOCIATIONS

Allegany.

MINISTERS

I. B. Sharp,
I. K. Richardson,
S. E. Darrow,
A. B. Harvey.*

SOCIETIES

Granger.
Independence.
Hume.
Wellsville.
Phillips Creek.

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<i>Black River.</i>	E. W. Reynolds, L. [Luther] Rice, J. [John] H. Stewart, R. H. Pullman, H. Bowen, S. [Seth] Jones	Rushford. Belfast. Sharon Centre. Oswayo. Watertown. Henderson. Ellisburgh. Dexter. Turin. Fulton. Theresa. Brownville. Pamelia. Oswego. Mexico.*
<i>Buffalo.</i>	J. H. [Hazard] Hartzell, G. S. Gowdy, J. B. Saxe, A. Bowen.	Buffalo. Aurora. Boston. Springville. Cowlesville. Yorkshire. Freedom. Mansfield.
<i>Cayuga.</i>	J. M. Austin, D. K. Lee, J. H. Harter, S. [Stephen] Crane, A. [Aaron] A. Thayer.	Auburn. Cicero. Cortlandville. Fabius. Genoa. Howlett Hill. Kelloggsville. McLean. Scipio. Syracuse. Speedsville.
<i>Chenango.</i>	W. [Wm.] M. Delong, R. O. Williams, B. L. Bennett.	Oxford. Binghamton. Afton. North Norwich. Sherburne. Columbus. Smithville. Upper Lisle.

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<i>Chautauqua.</i>	J. [Justus] Todd, C. C. Richardson, S. Crosby, E. Smiley, I. George.	Busti. Chautauqua. Charlotte. Ellery. Jamestown. Poland. Portland. Stockton. Sheridan. Sherman. Sinclearville.
<i>Central.</i>	S. P. Landers, C. E. Hewes, S. R. Ward, D. Skinner, E. S. Jenkins, L. A. [Lydia Ann] Jenkins, A. H. Marshall, T. D. Cook.	Madison. Erieville. Marshall. Lebanon. Clinton. Utica. Lee Center. Rome. Cazenovia. Litchfield. Bridgewater. Stockbridge. Hamilton. North Brookfield.
<i>Genesee.</i>	T. J. Whitcomb, D. [DeWitt Clinton] Tomlinson, C. Cravens, A. B. Raymond, J. A. Aspinwall W. M. Pattee.*	Alexander. Perry. Pavilion. Leroy. Gainesville. Portageville. Nunda.
<i>Hudson River.</i>	J. N. Parker, J. E. Pomfret, E. Sprague, S. [Samuel] Jenkins, B. [Benjamin] S. Hobbs.	Troy. Albany. Schenectady. Greenfield. Saratoga. Mechanicsville. Hartford. Duanesburgh.
<i>Mohawk River.</i>	J. [John] D. Hicks, G. [George] W. Skinner,	Salisbury. Eatonville.

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	W. [Wm.] G. Anderson.	Alder Creek. Leyden. Newport. Russia. Frankfort & German Flatts. Middleville. Mindenville. Stratford. Oppenheim. Little Falls.
<i>Niagara.</i>	N. Snell, B. N. Wiles, J. Hemphill, A. Kelsey, E. [Edmund] R. Ottoway, J. J. Austin, J. W. Hiscock, L. L. Spaulding, W. [Wm.] B. Cook.*	Lockport, Olcott. Ridgeway. Gaines. Churchville. Kendall. Cambria. Clarendon. Middleport.
<i>New York.</i>	T. J. Sawyer, E. H. [Edmund Hubbell] Chapin, M. [Moses] Ballou, E. G. Brooks, S. [Shaler] J. Hillyer, H. Blanchard, B. [Bernard] Peters, C. W. Biddle, J. H. Shepherd, B. B. Hallock, H. Lyon.	2d Society N.Y. City. 3d Society N.Y. City. 4th Society N.Y. City. 6th Society N.Y. City. 1st Society Brooklyn. 3d Society Brooklyn. 4th Society Brooklyn. Williamsburgh. Hudson. Newburgh. Poughkeepsie. Orangeville. 2d Society Newark. North Salem. Mount Vernon. Huntington. Southold.
<i>Ontario.</i>	M. [Moses] B. Smith, R. [Richmond] Fisk, Jr. G. W. Montgomery, J. W. Bailey, G. [George] W. Gage, W. W. Dean,	Arcadia. Bristol. Clifton Springs. Farmerville. Geneva. Livonia.

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	I. [Isaac] M. Atwood, H. Boughton, L. F. Porter, C. H. [Charles Heman] Dutton.	North Bloomfield [Lima]. Rochester. Webster. Wolcott. Victor. Canandaigua.
<i>Otsego.</i>	L. C. Browne, F. C. [Francis Benson] Peck, J. R. Sage, C. W. Tomlinson.	Richfield. Cedarville. Fort Plain. Fords Bush. Cooperstown. Fly Creek. Springfield. Morris. Edmeston. Burlington Flats. Argusville.
<i>St. Lawrence.</i>	E. Fisher, J. T. Goodrich, J. S. Lee, S. W. [Seth Williston] Remington, R. Eddy, M. R. Leonard, J. M. Pullman, D. Ballou, D. F. Porter, W. L. Gilman, L. L. Briggs, C. D. Haynes, W. S. Ralph, R. Lansing, H. Tedford, Jr., E. Morris, F. E. Healy, A. Tibbets, A. [Andrew] J. Canfield, B. W. Atwell, J. Wallace, G. S. Abbot, H. H. Baker, J. S. Cantwell, W. W. Worden.	Canton. Potsdam. Madrid. Malone. Massena. Heuvelton. Nicholville. Lawrence. Brier Hill. Morristown. Macomb. Louisville. Bombay. Westville. Hammond.† Halesborough [Hailesboro].† Ogdensburgh.† Hermon.† Colton.†

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<i>Steuben.</i>	W. [Walter] Bullard, A. G. Clark, E. Fuller, A. [Asa] Upson, E. M. Whitney.	Beaver Dams. Branchport. Howard. Greenwood. South Dansville. Swail [Swale].
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* Probably.

† Lost formal fellowship by non-representation.

(B.)

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RULES OF ORDER.

BY REV. I. GEORGE

RULE 1.—ORGANIZATION.

1. When the delegates shall have convened at the time and place appointed, (at the hour of 9 o'clock A.M.,) the Moderator, or Clerk of the preceding Council, or the Standing Clerk, or any one of the delegates, (taking precedent in the order here named) shall call the Council to order and cause the session to be opened by prayer.

2. The person so presiding shall then cause the roll of delegates as furnished by the Standing Clerk to be called, when a quorum being present, and the Chair having appointed two members as tellers to receive and canvass the votes, the Council shall proceed to elect by ballot a Moderator and Clerk; and the members receiving respectively a majority of all the votes cast shall be declared duly elected to the offices for which they were nominated.

RULE 2.—PRESIDING OFFICER.

1. The Moderator shall preserve order and decorum in the Council, shall call each sitting to order precisely at the hour previously appointed, cause the minutes of the preceding session to be read and corrected, and designate the business to be attended to in due order.

2. He shall put all questions, rising and stating them distinctly to the Council; he may speak to points of order in preference to other members, decide thereon, subject to an appeal by any two members, on which appeal no member shall speak more than once except by consent of the Council.*

*The question thereon must be: "Shall the decision of the Chair stand as the judgment of the Council?"

3. He may name any delegate to occupy the chair in his absence; but no such substitution shall extend beyond the next adjournment. He shall appoint all committees except standing committees, unless otherwise directed in the motion for their appointment; announce at the close of each

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sitting the hour and place of re-assembling, and at the close of the session he shall also announce the time and place of the next Convention.

RULE 3.—ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. The first business of the Council shall be the reading of the constitution and rules of order, and the minutes of the previous session, unless dispensed with by a vote of a majority of the Council.

2. The appointment of Committees for the session, viz: 1. On unfinished business, who shall examine, prepare and report upon the business continued from the previous session. 2. On Nominations: who shall report the names of persons for the standing committees, the preacher of the next occasional sermon, and the place for holding the next Convention.

3. The next business shall be hearing of reports from standing committees in the following order: 1. On State of the Church. 2. On Sunday Schools. 3. On Missionary and Tract enterprise. 4. On Reforms. 5. On Education. 6. On Paper Establishment. 7. On Harsen Relief Fund. 8. On Complaints and Appeals. 9. On Special Questions and Interests. 10. Miscellaneous Business of the Session. 11. After passing through this order of business, the Chair shall inquire—Has any one anything to offer for the General Good of our Denomination?

All Reports, unless accompanied by resolution, or asking specific legislation, shall, like the Occasional Sermon, be deemed part of the regular proceedings of the session; but the Convention as a body shall not be responsible for the peculiar views advanced in such communications.†

†At request of any two members the resolution may be considered and disposed of independent of the report in detail.

RULE 4.—MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS.

1. Every motion or resolution shall be reduced to writing, if required by the Moderator, or any member of the Council, and all motions must be seconded before they can be entertained by the Chair.

2. When a question has become the subject of debate it cannot be withdrawn except by unanimous consent, and at such time no motion shall be received but to adjourn, to lay on the table the previous question, to postpone to a particular time, to postpone indefinitely, to commit, or amend; which several motions shall have precedence in the order here stated, and be decided without debate.

3. When a motion has been made and carried, or resolution adopted, any member voting with the majority may move for a reconsideration thereof, on the same or succeeding day of the session, and such motion shall take precedence of all questions [obliterated].

RULE 5.—OF DEBATE.

1. When any motion or resolution shall be made or presented to the chair, the Moderator shall after distinctly stating the question, deliberately

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inquire: Is the Council ready for the question?" and no debate shall be in order until the question is thus stated by the Chair.

2. Every member wishing to speak shall rise and respectfully address the Chair, and shall not proceed until recognized by the Chair; and when so recognized, if in order, he shall speak to the subject under discussion, avoiding all personalities, indecorous or sarcastic language; nor shall any member speak more than twice in any one debate, nor more than once until all who wish to speak have spoken, nor for more than twenty minutes without permission from the Council.

3. No member shall hinder or interrupt the business of the Council, or any religious service connected therewith, by conversation, walking about, or irrelevant debate; nor shall any member leave his seat in the Council without permission from the Moderator, or pass between a member speaking and the Chair.

4. If any member in speaking or in any other manner transgress the privileges of the Council, the Moderator shall, or any other member may, call him to order; in which case the member so called to order shall immediately take his seat, unless permitted to explain, until the question of order is decided. The Council if appealed to, shall decide the case without debate; but where no appeal is taken the decision of the Chair shall be final.

5. When two or more members shall happen to rise at once, or nearly so as to render the question of priority doubtful, the Moderator shall without debate or appeal name the member entitled to the floor.

RULE 6.—MANNER OF VOTING.

1. When a question has been duly stated by the Moderator, and no member wishes to speak thereon, or when it has been indefinitely discussed, and a sufficient pause for further debate is not improved by any member entitled to the floor, the Moderator shall rise, and after again distinctly stating the question, shall put it to vote in the following manner, "As many as are in favor (of the motion or resolution) say *aye*," and after the affirmative voice is expressed, "As many as are opposed, say *no*." And no debate shall be in order after the Moderator has risen to take the question.

2. If no doubt exists, he shall announce the decision; if he should doubt, or a division be called for by two members rising for that purpose, he shall again distinctly state the question, and request those in the affirmative to rise from their seats, and after being counted by the Clerk, he shall direct them to be seated, and request those in the negative to rise in like manner; and after the result shall be declared by the Clerk, the Moderator shall rise and announce the decision of the Council.

3. The Yeas and Nays shall be taken on any question when demanded by two members, by causing the Clerk to call the roll in a distinct voice, and

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noting the vote of each member, all the members being required to vote unless excused by the Council.

4. No member shall be permitted to vote on any question in the event of which he is immediately and personally interested; nor in case of his absence when the question was put, except by consent of the Council.

RULE 7.—PREVIOUS QUESTION—DIVISION AND AMENDMENTS.

1. The previous question, which, together with all incidental questions arising after motion, must be taken without debate, may be called by three members rising from their seats, if sustained by a majority of the members present, and shall be put in the following form: "Shall the main question be now put?" and its effect shall be to put an end to all debate and bring the Council to a direct vote upon amendments reported by a Committee, if any, upon pending amendments, and then upon the main question.

2. Any member may call for a division of the question, when it shall be divided, if it comprehend propositions so distinct that one being taken away, a substantive proposition shall remain for the decision of the Council.

3. A motion to strike out being lost, shall preclude neither an amendment nor a motion to strike out and insert, and no motion or proposition on a subject different from or not germane [germane] to that under consideration shall be admitted under color of amendment; but an amendment inconsistent with one already adopted shall not be excluded for that reason.

RULE 8.—UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

1. The business in which the Council was engaged at the time of its adjournment shall have preference as being first in order at the next subsequent sitting; but no business neglected in its regular order shall receive attention until the regular calendar has been disposed of, except by unanimous consent of the Council.

RULE 9.—PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS.

1. All petitions, memorials and other communications addressed to the Council of the Convention shall be presented by the Moderator, or by a member in his place, a brief statement of their contents entered on the minutes, and the (communication) same shall be disposed of according to the direction of the Council.

2. When the reading of a paper by any officer or member is objected to, it shall be decided by the Council without debate.

RULE 10.—COMMITTEES.

1. There shall be appointed at each annual session the following Standing Committee:—1. On the State of the Church: to take into consideration the wants and condition of the denomination in the State. 2. On Sunday Schools: to present in an appropriate manner their claims to denominational care. 3. On Missionary and Tract Enterprise: to report the value of these

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agencies and the extent to which they are employed in the State. 4. On Reforms: to exhibit their relations to christian effort and claims upon our denominational patronage. 5. On Education: to report the conditions of our literary institutions, and urge upon the denomination a more generous patronage of these institutions, and a higher literary culture. 6. On Universalist Paper Establishment: to furnish the public with such information in regard to this State enterprise as shall lead to a more general appreciation of its importance in the cause of Universalism.—7. On Universalist Relief Fund: to report the condition of this great beneficence, and recommend such [obliterated] tically realized. 8. On Complaints and Appeals: to examine and report upon all matters which may properly come up from subordinate bodies. 9. And such other Committees may be appointed on special business and interests as the Convention may from time to time require.

2. The member first named on a Committee shall act as Chairman, unless otherwise determined by a majority of the Committee; and the mover of a resolution, or other matter, shall be first named unless he expresses a desire not to be placed upon it.

3. These Committees, together with the preacher of the annual sermon and place of adjournment, shall be nominated, by the proper Committee, and may be elected by ballot, or otherwise, as ordered by the Council at that time.

RULE 11.—ON SUSPENSION OF RULES.

No standing rule or order of this Convention shall be rescinded, suspended, or changed, except by a vote of two-thirds of the members of the Council then present.

(G)

ORGANIZATION OF CONVENTIONS.

NEW-YORK, July 13, 1860

Rev. J. A. Aspinwall, Standing Clerk of the New-York Convention of Universalists.

DEAR BROTHER:—At the last session of "the General Convention of Universalists in the United State of America," held in Rochester, N.Y., the undersigned were appointed a Committee to correspond with the several State Conventions concerning a more efficient organization of said Convention, and of the General Convention.

In discharge of this duty, we desire, through you, to call the attention of the New-York Convention to the subject with which we are thus charged, and would respectfully but earnestly solicit its consideration, at its approaching session, of the whole subject of organization as presented in

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the report of the last Committee on the State of the Church, under the recommendations of which we were appointed.

We have no special plea to urge. The report referred to says simply, "We only advise that the Convention put itself into immediate correspondence with the several State Conventions, urging such a re-organization as will make them organizations in fact, *with provisions for the collection and use of funds*, and for whatever else may be necessary to transform them from names and shadows into working powers." It is for each Convention to choose its own method. Our duty is done in presenting the subject. We send herewith a copy of the "Charter, By-Laws and Rules of Order of the Massachusetts Universalist Convention—not, however, to hold up or urge the precise form of action in Massachusetts as a pattern—only to show what there has been done, and to indicate the general plan which it is desirable to see adopted.—We are glad to understand that the New-York Convention, at its last session, initiated steps towards incorporation. We have no knowledge beyond this of what was proposed, and should [would] be glad to know that such a thorough re-organization was and is intended as to make any suggestion from the undersigned unnecessary.

We think our own experience thus far, as well as the experience of the older sects, sufficiently shows that, if denominational work is to be done, there must be means to secure funds, and power to use them. The New York Convention has one means of securing funds, in the ownership of the "*Ambassador*." Is it yet organized after the method most favorable for efficient work in the use of funds thus furnished, or for securing and using funds, as it might, from other sources? Without enlarging, we content ourselves with referring the Convention to that portion of the late Report on the State of the Church which relates to the subject of organization, asking that it may be read and formally considered by the Convention, and hoping that New York will take decided action toward that improved organization which alone can make our denomination the power for good which it might and ought to become.

The report on the State of the Church to which we have referred, recommended that the General Convention "apply itself through some Committee to such a consideration of its own case, as shall result in widening its powers, supplying it with means, and setting it to some work that shall make it of some practical use, and this give it a "right to be." We were made the Committee they recommended. We have as yet had no time for consultation on so important a subject; and in the absence of any definite plan, we would ask the attention of the New York Convention, at its approaching session, to what is said of the General Convention in the Report named, and solicit such action or suggestions on the subject as the Convention may be prepared to adopt.

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Commending the whole subject to the serious consideration of the New York Convention, and requesting official information as to the action it may take, to enable us to make our Report, we are, in behalf of the General Convention,

Fraternally Yours,
E. G. BROOKS
MASSENA GOODRICH
J. WASHBURN, jr.
Committee on Re-organization

(The remainder of the reports will appear next week.)

Christian Ambassador, Auburn NY, Sat. 15 Sep 1860

Reports of Committees

The following are the remainder of the Reports submitted to the State Convention, at its late session in Perry—omitted last week for want of room.

(C)
REPORT ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

The Committee on Sunday Schools report:—

That there *is* evidently an *increased interest* in our denomination in this State in Sunday Schools.—We regret that we have not been able to give the statistics in proof of this opinion. But from such information as we have obtained from personal observation, and our public religious journals, we are confident that our people generally are beginning to appreciate and realize the importance of the Sunday School enterprise. We cannot but regard them of vast importance to our future prosperity as a christian denomination. The stability and success of our Societies and churches depends very essentially on the Sunday School. This is to them truly the fountain-head of prosperity. From this source must come those who willingly and joyfully do the work of upbuilding and carrying forward the cause of truth and righteousness in the earth. “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.”—“Suffer little children, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of heaven.”—“Feed

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my lambs." "Bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." This is our *Scripture authority* for the christian education of children. It has the force of a positive command. If children are trained up in the right way, the christian way, the way they should go, we believe they will not depart from it. In old age they will still walk in it, for it is the way of virtue, of wisdom, of peace, joy and rest to the soul. Children should not be forbidden to come to Christ—should be brought to him, for of such is the kingdom of heaven. The lambs of the flock must be fed, as well as the flock itself. They should be brought up, instructed, educated, in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

We do not think it necessary to repeat what has been so often and so well said, on like occasions, on the great *value* of Sunday School instruction. Probably no one present will deny their claims as most *imperative* on all christians. We propose, therefore, simply to offer several suggestions which we believe will very much promote their efficiency and usefulness. In doing this we shall perhaps but reiterate what has been said on previous occasions. The frequent repetition of a duty may prove a *stimulant* to greater fidelity. This, then, is our justification.

1. Our Sunday Schools need a better class of Text Books. It were best, perhaps, if we could dispense with them altogether. But in the absence of the requisite qualified teachers to impart oral instructions, we must have recourse to text books. There should be a series of text books, graduated and adapted to the various ages and capacities of children. They should be so arranged as to carry the mind of the child gradually forward, step by step, in the path of christian knowledge. We are not unmindful of the labor, the difficulty, of accomplishing such a work.—But as this want becomes known and felt, we trust there will be found those who are capable for the task, and will assume its responsibility. We are confident the usefulness of our Sunday Schools would thus be very much increased.

2. Our Schools need more efficient teachers. They require those who are qualified, well qualified, to impart religious instruction—those who will labor and rejoice to labor in this work, because of the consciousness of doing good. Without such teachers the School can make but indifferent progress. They should not simply *hear* the *recitation*, but should impart instruction on moral and religious subjects. By familiar conversation they can impress more deeply on the young mind and heart the truths contained in the lesson. They must have a love for the work, a deep interest in the moral and religious welfare of children. Above all, they should be christians—have a deep conviction of the value of Christianity, as a doctrine, a spirit, and a life. Then they are capable of exerting a proper christian influence over those they would instruct.—We know the responsibility is great—the labor is great; but the *reward* is also great. The consciousness of doing good, of training

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up children in the right way, the way they should go, is a *pleasant*, a *sure* reward. "Be not weary in well doing. In due time we shall reap if we faint not."

3. The Sunday School should have *more time* devoted to its service. We would call particular attention to this point. The Sunday School should have, *must* have more time than is usually devoted to it, if we would realize its greatest food—reap its best fruits. The hour before or after the morning service is usually appropriated to it. The consequence is that the exercises are hurried and often shortened because of other duties demanding attention. We give it as our deliberate conviction that either the A.M. or P.M. hours of service should be devoted exclusively to the Sunday School—that the whole congregation, parents and children, should be members, and join in the exercises; and that the exercises should be so varied as to interest and be instructive to all. Then it would be a Sunday School indeed—not for children only, but for parents and children, old and young—all who stand in need of christian knowledge. How beautiful would be the sight to have a whole congregation, pastor and people, teachers and scholars, unite in the exercises of the Sunday school! We rejoice in saying that the experiment is being tried, and thus far with most gratifying results. we trust it will be successful, and that a large measure of usefulness will thus accrue to our Sunday Schools.

4. Scholars and teachers should be *punctual* in their attendance. We need not speak particularly of this requirement. It must be apparent to all. Without it the School, however well managed, can make but indifferent progress. All should strive to be in their respective places at the appointed hour. Only unusual circumstances should suffer their seats to be vacant. Thus the progress of the School will be more uniform and rapid, and all the exercises more interesting, harmonious and profitable to all.

5. The Sunday School needs the co-operation of the parents and friends. This is the last, though by no means the least, point worthy of our serious attention. Parents should watch with deep interest the efforts made to improve their children in moral and christian knowledge. They should look upon the School not as a *relief* of their parental obligation, but as a *help* to the better discharge of the duty they owe their children. They should at least be occasional visitors of the School. They should cheerfully contribute to its support; for supported it must be, and means it must have, that it may be well supported. And where should we look for the requisite means but among those who, by their children, are reaping the rich reward? Let these parents, all parents, come up manfully to the requirements of the Sunday School. Let them show, by their devotion to this work, how much they love their children, how much they prize moral and religious knowledge, how deep is their anxiety to have their children trained up in the way they should

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go—brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord—come to Christ—for of such is the kingdom of heaven. O that christian parents, all parents, could be made to realize their duty in this respect—would *do it* in the spirit of the Master! Then would the kingdom of heaven be established in our hearts, and the truth of God would run and be glorified in all the earth.

In order to bring this subject before this body for its action, your Committee present, in conclusion, the following resolutions:—

Resolved, That the interests of our Sunday Schools require a *series* of text books adapted to the various ages and capacities of children.

Resolved, That officers and teachers should become better qualified for their respective duties.

Resolved, That *more time* should be devoted to the exercises of the Sunday School.

Resolved, That punctuality in the attendance of teachers and scholars is indispensable to success.

Resolved, That the co-operation of the parents and friends is necessary to the true prosperity of the School.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

NELSON SNELL, Com.

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(D)

REPORT ON EDUCATION.

To the New York State Convention of Universalists to be holden at Perry, Wyoming co., August, 1860.

Your Committee on Education, beg leave respectfully to Report:

That although our history, as a denomination in the State of New York, dates back only at the beginning of the present century, we have reason to be proud of the part we have taken, and the influence we have excited in reference to the cause of education among Universalists. To this State belongs the honor, we believe, of establishing the first denominational school. The Clinton Liberal Institute was founded in 1831, less than thirty years after our existence as a people began here, and but sixteen years after the erection of the first house of public worship by us in the State. With the fortunes of this School you are all familiar. It was undertaken at a day when our denomination was young, scattered, unpopular and feeble. It has had to struggle against much opposition, under discouragements and difficulties, growing in part of our poverty and in part of our indifference, aggravated at times by our ignorance, both of what we wanted to do, and how we were to accomplish it. In a word, the Institute has gone through the process, and has been the pioneer in the work, which every new enterprise is subject to, and which in so many cases ends in disaster and ruin. But though often in danger, this School has always found friends in time of need,

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and it must be gratifying to every Universalist in the State, to reflect that while so many institutions of the same class have failed, this has stood, and now occupies a far higher position and enjoys better prospects than ever before, through the zealous and untiring efforts of Rev. D. Skinner, its debts have been chiefly cancelled, its buildings improved, and its future prosperity and increased usefulness secured. To him the denomination is under obligations, which your Committee desire here to acknowledge.

The first school of the denomination, the Institute has taken the lead, in times past, in the cause of education. From it have gone out nearly fifty of our clergymen, better fitted by its aid for the work of the Christian ministry than they otherwise would have been. In connection with this school was our first imperfect effort for a theological education. In it originated the movement which resulted in the founding of Tufts College and ultimately the St. Lawrence University with its Theological Department. Indeed the influence of the Institute, the interest it has awakened in the cause of education among us, and the good it has already accomplished, would more than ten times repay all it has ever cost, were it now to become extinct forever. But instead of such a fate, it never stood so strong, never had so many friends, never possessed such means of usefulness and honor as it enjoys at the present hour. We ought perhaps to mention that by the decease of two or three individuals, who had generously remembered this School in their wills, it is expected that it will soon come in possession of four or five thousand dollars, which will be the commencement of a fund to give it greater strength and increased facilities. We will only add our earnest recommendation of this School to the friendly regard and patronage of the denomination, and our earnest desire that our friends, in the final disposal of their worldly effects, will not forget its claims.

The more recent, but yet more important enterprise of the denomination, that of the St. Lawrence University, can not fail to claim our serious attention. Commenced originally with the simple view of founding a Theological School, unforeseen circumstances gradually led to the grave project of establishing a University, of which the Theological School should be an important department, with its separate funds and faculty. You are already aware what progress has been made toward the realization of this large and beneficent plan. Located in a part of the State entirely destitute of a College, and yet a part of the State already rich and populous, but rapidly increasing in people and wealth, it receives the encouragement of all classes of the community, and is regarded with peculiar favor by such as are able to promote its interests. The Theological Department is of course a purely denominational institution, founded by our means, and carried on by our efforts, and for our advantage. While the School is open and free to all young men intending to consecrate themselves to the work of the Christian

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ministry, we expect that it will be filled chiefly by such as embrace the Universalist faith and are preparing themselves for our ministry. This School was opened, it will be remembered, in April, 1858. It commenced with four or five students, and at the end of the second year contained twenty-two. The beginning of the next year it is expected will add twelve or fifteen to this number, and our hearts will be gladdened by seeing between thirty and forty young men of talent and christian character qualifying themselves, under the best advantages we can offer them, for the great work to which they feel themselves called.

Hitherto the labor of instructing and training the young men now in the Theological School has been performed almost exclusively by Prof. Fisher. But the addition of a new class to enter next month will make it necessary for this Convention, in connection with the Education Society and the Trustees of the University, to provide the means necessary for its support. An Agent is now in the field endeavoring to provide a permanent fund adequate to this end, and some success attends his efforts, but we can hardly promise ourselves that means can in this manner be provided to meet the necessary expenses of the present year, or perhaps for a year or two to come. Your Committee feel that this matter is of too vital an interest to be neglected, and will not doubt that this body will devise the best means of meeting this not unexpected but pressing emergency.

The Classical and Scientific department of the University also claim the attention of the denomination. It must not be forgotten that the University is not yet endowed. More money has been subscribed than has been paid in and invested, but not enough has been subscribed to justify the opening of the University. We must not feel that our work is done. We have only begun, though we have begun nobly. We have yet much work to do, and should look at it calmly but resolutely, and with the full assurance that we are able to do all that can justly be expected of us, or indeed is necessary. In these Departments Prof. Lee will henceforth be assisted by Prof. Clapp and students will be received and carried along in their College course, during the present and perhaps the coming year, though as yet the faculty is not full and the University not properly opened.

Altogether we have much reason to rejoice in the prosperity now attending our educational interests, and in the cheering prospects that are opening before us. With becoming devotion to the great cause, the blessing of God may confidently be expected upon our efforts, and success will crown our endeavors.

In the death of our late friend and brother, Rev. Pitt Morse, the cause of education as well as of Universalism has suffered a great loss. While we lament the vacancy which his removal has occasioned in our ranks, we would gratefully remember his long and useful life, and in his fidelity and

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zeal we would find new incitements to our own. May the great Head of the Church raise up some one to fill his post, and carry forward the work from which his hand has been taken away. All which is respectfully submitted,

THOMAS J. SAWYER
J. A. ASPINWALL

(E.)

REPORT OF THE RELIEF COMMITTEE.

Sixteenth 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 in the village of Perry, Wyoming Co., N.Y., on Tuesday, August 28, 1860.

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

The first is the personal application of Mrs. Ellen Skeelee, widow of Rev. Samuel A. Skeelee, late of Cowlesville, N.Y., and a member of the Buffalo Association. The Trustees recommend an appropriation of fifty dollars to be paid to her order, in October 1860.

The second is the application of Rev. I. George of Sinclearville, N.Y., in behalf of Rev. Justus Todd, of Ellington, Chautauqua Co. N.Y. Br. Todd is a member of the Chautauqua Association, and in fellowship with the New York State Convention of Universalists. His physical infirmity and destitute condition are most satisfactorily avouched—the Board recommend an appropriation of one hundred dollars for his relief—fifty dollars to be paid to his order in October, 1860, and fifty dollars in April, 1861.

The third is the application of Rev. Dr. Thomas J. Sawyer in behalf of Rev. B. B. Hallock of New York. The Trustees recommend that the sum of one hundred dollars be paid to the order of Mrs. Alice C. Hallock, for his relief—fifty dollars in October, 1860, and fifty dollars in April, 1861.

The fourth is the application of Rev. James W. Bailey, of Lima, N.Y., in behalf of Mrs. Jerusha Smith, widow of Rev. Elijah Smith, late of North Bloomfield, Ontario Co., N.Y. The Trustees are not fully informed whether the situation of the applicant gives her a claim on this charity fund. Mrs. Smith made a personal application to the Trustees of the fund in 1846, but no specific recommendation was reported at that time, they submitting the justice of her claim to the Convention, and suggesting an appropriation of fifty dollars if they should approve. The Convention did not approve. In the absence of all positive information, at the present time, of her being "in circumstances of want, and requiring relief from the hand of charity," the Trustees would again refer the case to the Convention, suggesting, if approved, a donation not exceeding fifty dollars.

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The Treasurer's Report hereto appended, shows a balance in his hands of seven hundred and eighty dollars and five cents. The Trustees ask authority of the Convention to invest from the balance on hand, and interest that will accrue on the funds invested, during the ensuing year, one thousand dollars to be added to the permanent fund.

Respectfully submitted,
By order of the Board,
JACOB HARSEN, President

New York, August 25, 1860

The New-York Universalist Relief Fund in account with Abner Chichester, Treasurer.

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

(F.)

REPORT OF THE PUBLICATION COMMITTEE.

The Committee having charge of the publication of the *Christian Ambassador*, beg leave to make the following
REPORT.

The financial condition of the Establishment, dating from January 1, 1859, to Jan. 1, 1860, is shown in the following account, drawn from the Reports of the Agents, Brs. Harter of Auburn, and Lyon of New York:—

RECEIPTS AT AUBURN.

From Subscribers,	Vol. 9	\$6898	06
"	Vol. 10	1,069	36
"	Vol. 11	2	19
For Advertising,	Vol. 9	177	85
"	Vol. 10	6	50
From Incidentals,		61	97
" Loan		212	00
" Agents		45	00
" Subscribers, N.Y. Office		2529	83
For Advertising,		238	71
		\$11,241	47

DISBURSEMENTS AT AUBURN.

For Printing,		\$3,020	92
" Paper,		2,793	00
" Traveling Agents,		1,075	48
" Premiums and Commissions,		475	05
" Salary, J. H. Harter,		950	00
" Salary, J. M. Austin,		832	30

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" Incidentals,	281	98
" Loan,	112	00
" Rent,	75	00
Cash on Hand,	67	97
For Postage, N.Y. Office	20	00
" Express,	78	00
" Commissions,	74	86
" Incidentals,	96	32
" Carriers,	271	35
" Contributors,	149	00
" Salary, H. Lyon	800	00
Cash on Hand,	<u>67</u>	<u>27</u>
	\$11,241	47
LIABILITIES.		
To J. M. Austin, (Salary),	367	70
For Paper,	461	00
" Loan,	100	00
To Agents	113	15
" Subscribers,	1,071	55
" Contributors,	<u>119</u>	<u>33</u>
	\$3,680	82
ASSETS.		
Due from Subscribers,	\$2,908	78
" " Agents,	197	30
" for Advertising,	217	50
Printing and Wrapping Paper on Hand,	122	00
Furniture,	100	00
Cash on Hand,	<u>135</u>	<u>24</u>
	\$3,680	82
	<u>2,232</u>	<u>73</u>
Excess,	\$1,448	09

From this statement it appears, that if all the subscribers had acted in good faith, the Convention would have had at command, at the close of 1859, the sum of \$1,448.09. But instead of this desired result, the large sum of \$3,323.58 remained outstanding at the end of the year 1859, leaving the Establishment in debt. Much of this indebtedness on the part of subscribers has been paid during the current year, however—but to what extent cannot be shown until the next annual report.

At the commencement of the year 1859, there were issued weekly, 6,908 copies of the *Ambassador*. At the end of the year, the number had increased to 7,300—a gain of 392. On the first of July last, there was a

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further gain of over 600, bringing the number up to 8,000. The increase is still progressing, and by persistent effort, the subscription list may reach ten thousand at no distant date.

In the mean time, the prospects of the present year are more encouraging than those of last year. The fact that the debts remaining unpaid at the end of 1859, have been discharged by receipts from delinquent subscribers and from current income, so that the credit of the Establishment is untouched—the fact that the number of subscribers is slowly yet constantly increasing—and the fact that the late reverses in commercial and agricultural affairs, have been measurably arrested by more prosperous events—give reason for hoping that the Convention will yet receive a positive income from the Establishment.—The experience of the old Board of Trustees shows, that with the credit-system, the business of one year must inevitably lap over into another year, so that it requires the lapse of two or three years before the receipts have a real income above the debts due from delinquents. Yet, under that Board, the Establishment sustained itself, and out of its earnings paid seven per cent on \$7000 in stock, and ultimately discharged that stock, while a heavy debt was due from delinquents, and from which more or less was derived by those to whom the assets of the old concern were sold. Surely, with a subscription list nearly as large as ever—with expenses no greater, save for contributors and better paper—the Establishment must, at no distant date, receive a regular annual income.—In the meantime the Convention is doing a good work by keeping an Ambassador in the field, whose efficiency and constant visitation is of great value in the advancement of our cause.

At the annual meeting of the Committee, held in Auburn, Dec. 16, 1859, Br. J. M. Austin was engaged as Editor of the *Ambassador*, for the year 1860, at a salary of \$1100—a reduction of \$100 from the salary of the previous year. Br. Harter was retained as Business Agent at Auburn, at a salary of \$950. Br. Van Nostrand, in whose hands the Committee placed the regulation of the New-York Agency, retained Br. Lyon as Business Agent, at a salary of \$600—a reduction of \$200. In this action on the part of Br. Van Nostrand, your Committee unanimously concur.

At the last session of the Convention, held in Mohawk, in August, 1859, the following action was had:—

“*Resolved*, That this Convention instruct the Committee having in charge the publication of the *Ambassador*, to take into serious consideration the propriety of doing away with one of the publication offices, and making such other changes as the interests of the Convention may require, with powers, and report their action to the next session of this body.”

In compliance with this resolution, your Committee took the subject into careful consideration. They unanimously concurred in the conclusion, that it

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would neither be for the interests of the Convention nor the *Ambassador*, to abolish the Auburn office.—And from the information they had before them, they reached the same conclusion in regard to the New-York office. They then appointed Br. Van Nostrand as their Committee, to make all due arrangements for conducting the affairs of the *Ambassador* in the city of New-York, having in view a reduction of expenses.—His action and its results have already been reported.

Your Committee do not deem it necessary to say anything in reference to the *Ambassador*, as the result of their management. The quality of its paper—its appearance as a printed sheet—the character of its contents, expressive of the ability of its Editor, Contributors and Correspondents—are all before you.—From them you can judge whether your Committee have met your expectations or otherwise.

All of which is respectfully submitted,
GEO. W. MONTGOMERY,
D. SKINNER,
NORMAN VAN NOSTRAND.

Christian Ambassador, Auburn NY, Sat. 22 Sep 1860

Report of Relief Committee

Several errors occur in the Report of the Board in regard to the fourth application, in the case of the widow of the late Rev. Elijah Smith, and simple justice to Mrs. Smith, the party making that application, requires that these errors be corrected.

It is *not true* that "Mrs. Smith made a personal application to the Trustees of the Fund in 1846," and it is not true that "the Convention did not approve."

The facts are simply these. Application was made in 1846 for Mrs. Smith—not by herself, but by persons unknown to her and without her knowledge or consent. Further, the Convention *did approve*, and at the time *did vote* her the sum of fifty dollars, subject to her order.

This sum lay in the hands of the Committee so long, that they republished the vote, marked and mailed special copies of the same to Mrs. Smith, calling on her to draw the money. Then she refused that money. Having received a small paternal legacy about this time, she wrote and forwarded her refusal of the fifty dollars to Rev. S. R. [Stephen Rensselaer]

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Smith [no relation], then conducting a small paper in Buffalo. He published her letter with some very warm remarks highly commending the generosity of the course she had taken. At the next session of the Convention Rev. T. J. Sawyer read her letter publicly, and was equally emphatic in his approval.

One thing more. The "absence of all positive information" about Mrs. Smith's necessities is mentioned in the Report. It is sufficient to say that the application this time was drawn by the minister, and signed by him and the Trustees of the North Bloomfield Society. It is supposable, that their petition covered the facts of the case sufficiently. It is not understood that an *inventory* of a widow's effects is demanded by the Board, but simply whether she needs assistance.

The publication of these corrections is desired in all good feeling by the applicant.

G. W.S.

Christian Ambassador, Auburn NY, Sat. 6 Oct 1860

REPORT.*

Of Rev. D. Skinner on the Missionary and Tract Enterprise, delivered at the late session of the State Convention.

To the Universalist Convention of the State of New-York.

Brethren of the Council:—I am the only member present on the Missionary and Tract Enterprise, appointed at your last session, and I must confess that in the midst of the duties and labors of the year in which I have been engaged, I had forgotten, till my name was called, that I was on said Committee. I have not seen or consulted with either of the other members of the Committee, and presume they have not with each other, and that neither of them has any report to make. I have none prepared—none whatever to make, unless for the nonce I turn egotist and speak only, or mainly, for myself. For really I know of no associated Missionary or Tract enterprise going forward by our denomination in this State at the present time.

* This Report was unwritten, unprepared, unpremeditated, and entirely extemporaneous at the time of its delivery, and my absence from home and numerous pressing duties and cares, have prevented my compliance with the request of the Council to commit it to writing till now. And while I cannot vouch for its verbal accuracy, its general sentiment and spirit are preserved.

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There was a time a few years ago, when a Tract Society existed, or when tracts were published by an associated body, (I think it was by the New-York Association,) and somewhat extensively circulated; but I know of no such work going forward at the present time. And there was a time when several Missionary Societies existed in the State, and were sustained by the respective Associations within the boundaries of which they were established, especially the New-York, the Chenango, Mohawk River, and several others. They sustained with more or less efficiency and success, from one to two missionaries each in the field for a considerable length of time, and these missionaries done [sic] no small amount of good in promulgating a knowledge of the great salvation in regions and neighborhoods where little or nothing had been known of it before, and in opening the eyes of many that were born blind, and causing them to see the glorious light of God's everlasting truth and love. But I know not now of any Association or Missionary Society of Universalists in this great State, that sustains or has employed a single missionary in the field. And this state of things exists, not because there are no tracts or missionaries needed or desired by the people in our State, but for want of organized, systematic and persevering efforts in this direction, or for want of the devoted and earnest men qualified and willing to engage in the work.

There are large numbers of people all over this great State willing and even anxious to receive and circulate such tracts and books as are calculated to present the truth with clearness and force, and bring it home to the understandings and consciences of men. And there are multitudes, too, who are quite willing to hear and profit by the labors of the missionary, and who will, if thus favored, ere long, not only receive the word with joy and readiness of mind from the faithful missionary, but help to support him in his labors, and aid in sending him along to wider and richer fields of toil and harvest. If I shall not be thought too garrulous and egotistical, I will relate some facts in proof of these statements.

A few weeks since I published a tract or pamphlet of 36 pages of closely printed matter, entitled, "The Final Salvation of all mankind clearly demonstrated by the united voice of Reason and Revelation." It was the strongest and most condensed argument I could furnish in the same space upon this subject, and was designed to meet a widely felt want of something in small space that should [would] furnish unanswerable arguments and proof directly from the word of God, with book, chapter and verse, to satisfy and arm our friends with spiritual weapons, and furnish inquirers and opposers also with proofs strong as Holy Writ, of the great truths we teach. This was a republication of a work, of which I had published and circulated some nine thousand copies 20 years ago, now enlarged by the addition of seven or eight pages of new matter, embracing answers to some of the most

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common and popular objections to our faith. Of the present edition I published 2000. Nearly the whole edition is already disposed of, and a new one will soon be required. It is eagerly sought for and read by both the advocates and opposers of our faith. And while not a few of the latter have been convinced of the truth of the great salvation, none of them, so far as I can learn, have ever attempted to answer it. This, and a little tract entitled "Prejudice is strong, but the love of God is stronger," a narrative of the conversion of Mrs. [Sally, wife of Beekman] Huling of Saratoga, require now new editions. So does the Letter of the late Rev. John Foster, and many other excellent tracts now out of print. They not only require new editions, but vocal lips to announce them, and active hands to circulate them through the length and breadth of the land. I believe Brs. Harter and Lyon, of the *Ambassador* offices, keep and circulate a few tracts yet, and hope ere long they will circulate a few hundred where they now do one.

As to missionary labors, though mine are not so called, nor generally regarded, yet in one sense they are altogether such. For the last three and a half years, or since my partially restored health enabled me to resume my professional labors, I have not had a single leisure Sabbath, nor spent one at home. I have been engaged from ten to fifty or more miles distant from home, in preaching the word to most attentive and interested audiences. My labors have been, for most of the time, bestowed in localities in Herkimer, Lewis, Oneida and Madison counties. I am now engaged in preaching once in four weeks in four different localities, seldom to thin audiences, generally to full and much larger ones than those of any other denomination in those places. No unfrequently do devoted and zealous hearers come with their own conveyance, ten, fifteen, and even twenty miles, to hear the word of truth proclaimed. Nor do they sleep through the service, or grow uneasy if the sermon happens to be over thirty minutes long. Nay, they frequently say, "Don't bite it off too short; give us a good long sermon, for we have come a good ways to hear you." Moreover the attendants at these meetings are generally among the most enterprising, intelligent, influential and worthy citizens of these localities. And one thing I remark, which is highly encouraging, a great many *young people* of both sexes attend, showing that the rising generation is becoming interested in and embracing our larger and better faith.

And here let me add, Br. Moderator, and members of this Council, that never, in my opinion, was a wider field open, or more encouraging prospects held out for successful missionary labors, than at the present time. The fields are while already with the harvest; and all we lack is the men for the work, and the missionary spirit to call them into it. There is scarcely a town, hamlet or neighborhood in this great State, where a zealous, faithful and true minister of Christ might not go successfully to work, and soon find or

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make believers, gather the sheep and lambs into folds, organize churches, Sunday Schools, cause houses of worship to be built, and by an exemplary and upright life and persevering labors, do great good, multiply converts to the truth, and bring many into the visible fold of the Great Shepherd and Bishop of souls. But is it not true, alas! too true, that many of our young men, instead of going out into such fields as these, which everywhere surround them, and clearing away the forest and breaking up the fallow ground, seek to build on other men's foundations, or to enter into their labors? They want to hang about large towns and cities, to find a settlement with some old and rich Society, that has a splendid church, and can pay a large salary—where they can live genteelly and at their ease, and preach sermons, literary, poetical and fanciful, of twenty-five minutes long, and be considered so exquisite by the fashionables. We want laborers, not drones; faithful and true ministers, not fops, dandies and exquisites.

We want the true missionary spirit among us. We want Pauls and Apolloses—those that can plant and those who can water—those who count all things but loss and dross for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus. We want Luthers and Melancthons, Robinsons and Oberlins, Taylors and Elliotts, Winchesters and Murrays, Ballous and Streeters. We want men who will not only proclaim the Gospel through good report, but also through evil; not only to friends, but to foes; not only all over the State and the Union, but in barbarous countries and all climes. Like the Moravians, we want them to unfurl the banner of the cross wherever a hearing ear shall listen, or a responsive heart shall beat. We would imitate the good in all denominations; and though we may think the Romish church corrupt and far astray in many of her doctrines, yet in zeal and persevering efforts to promulgate the Gospel amongst all men and nations, we would emulate her example. Her ministers have taught the name of Jesus and the worship of God to the inhabitants of every quarter of the globe—to the sable sons of Africa, to the Malay and the Caucasian, the Scandinavian, the Celt and the Indian—under the tropical sun and among the bleak snows and ice of the polar regions—in the newly discovered regions of America, while yet the savages held almost undisputed sway, all along the great lakes and rivers of the West, on the borders of the Father of Waters and along the banks of the far-off Columbia, to its debouchure into the wide Pacific, the Indian wigwam has been made vocal with prayer and songs of praise to God and the Lamb. O! how Christ-like is the spirit of the true missionary! Would that we all had more of it; and would that we had more missionaries in the field.

Brethren, let us work on and be faithful. Let us learn to imitate and emulate the good we see in all; and let us have both faith and courage for the future. We have a school of young prophets preparing for the work of the ministry. Let us hope they will not only be ministers, and good ones, but

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many of them missionaries also, and those of the right stamp to go into the vineyards of the Master, cultivate and subdue the field, and ultimately reap the rich harvest awaiting the sickle of the faithful.

Christian Ambassador, Auburn NY, Sat. 27 Oct 1860

Transcribed with notes added in Apr 2013 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY