

Visit to Newark, Wayne County, N.Y.

On Tuesday the 9th, I visited Newark for the purpose of attending the session of the Ontario Association [of Universalists], and the dedication of the Universalist church in that place. And truly, my expectations in reference to the prosperity of the cause there were far more than realized.

Notwithstanding the derangement of business matters for the past two years [the Panic of 1837], our friends in Newark have erected a beautiful brick church, 56 by 44 feet in size, with an excellent basement story, and a marble slab in front, designating the time of erection, and bearing the sublime declaration, "God is Love." There are three aisles in the church, one in the centre, and one at each side wall.—There is a gallery, over the entry, for the singers.—Neither the desk nor slips [pews] are painted. They are made of butternut wood, varnished, which has a very beautiful appearance, being as handsome as walnut. There is a small organ in the church.

On the morning of the 10th, the church was solemnly dedicated to the only living and true God. Of the excellent sermon, which was delivered by Br. K[neeland] Townsend, it becomes me not to speak, as the readers of [this paper] will soon have the pleasure of perusing it. Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, the house was crowded in every part by an attentive congregation. Indeed, throughout the session, we had excellent congregations, whose tears of joy showed their pleasure in hearing the word of salvation and in meeting so many friends of the Restitution. It was a refreshing season, and it was good that we were there.

The success of the cause in Newark is no longer problematical, either as it regards moral influence or pecuniary matters. The church is owned among themselves. Their slips, of which there are 58, are rented for the support of the preached word. All the slips were rented the first week, with the exception of six, and there were yet twelve friends to supply. They will raise by pew-rent about \$900 per year.

And when I consider how nobly our very excellent friends have done their duty, and in spite of every obstacle, have built them a temple of worship—when I consider the state of the cause a few years since in Newark, feeble as it was, and now see there a society of virtuous believers—when I consider that they are blest with the labors of an efficient and energetic preacher, Br. K. Townsend, I see yet greater things coming for Zion in the beautiful village of Newark... that in future our friends will go onward, until the light of their example will incite other villages to go and do likewise.

G. W. M. [Rev. George Washington Montgomery]

Auburn, October 18, 1838

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