

[Auburn, Cayuga Co. NY]

From "Auburn and Vicinity"

....

After having preached at Skaneateles, Elbridge, Jordan and Cato, I was invited to visit our friends and preach at Auburn. It was with reluctance I consented to make an appointment at that place; I say with reluctance because I knew, as Br. S. R. Smith well observes in his "Visit to Genoa," that "there was once a society called Universalists in that place: but alas! like the children of the patriarch Jacob—it is not"... I preached at the Courthouse on Friday evening, February 17. Our meeting was well attended by a respectable, candid audience, who listened with profound attention, while I delivered my message from Matt. xxv:41. After service, I became acquainted with Mr. George B. Chase, who respectfully invited me to his house, about one mile from the village of Auburn, where I shared the kind and affectionate hospitality of himself and family.

The next morning, Mr. Chase solicited me to speak once more in that place, from the same words from which I had spoken on the evening of the 17th. I consented, and Mr. Chase requested the several Editors in Auburn to notify the public through the medium of their papers, that a sermon would be delivered at the Courthouse on Friday evening, February 24. The request was cheerfully granted by all, without a murmur. This act of kindness and liberality is certainly worthy of all praise.

In the evening, the Courthouse was filled to overflowing. It was judged there were 600 persons present. And the congregation gave demonstrative evidence of the liberality of their sentiments and hearts. I preached again at the same house on Friday evening, March 9. The congregation was about as numerous as at the previous meeting; and I am happily disappointed in knowing that our brethren and friends in Auburn who "were dead, are alive again." The time has come for them to arise from their slumber, and put on the garments of praise, instead of the spirit of heaviness. I was credibly informed this week that our friends in Auburn are about to erect a stone Meetinghouse in that village. May the Lord bless and prosper them in such an undertaking....

S. [Rev. Stephen] Miles

Skaneateles, April 6, 1832

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[a weekly Universalist newspaper]