

## The Meeting at Farmerville [abridged]

BR. AUSTIN:—I have seen no account in the *Ambassador* of the two days' meeting held at Farmerville, Seneca County, N.Y. on the 16th and 17th of February last, and the happy results thereof.— I had expected that Br. Boughton, the resident pastor of the Society in that place, would ere this, have furnished you with an account thereof, and of the state of our cause in that beautiful village.—But he is altogether too modest a man to speak of his own workmanship, or to let the world know, however anxious they may be to learn, what he has been about and what have been the fruits of his labors for a few years past. He is one of those patient, quiet, still workers who, with his faithful coadjutors, goes right along about his business and accomplishes far more good, with much less noise, than many others we wot of.

Let me premise, then, that Farmerville is a beautiful, quiet and healthy country village, situated in the town of Covert, about three miles west of Cayuga Lake, and about six or seven east of Seneca Lake, and hence lies between those two beautiful sheets of water, and in one of the finest agricultural regions in the world. The lands through this region were originally laid out as "Military Lands" into lots of one mile square; and consequently tee roads bounding these lots are just a mile apart, and run parallel to, and at right angles with, each other. The inhabitants are nearly all thriving farmers, contented with their lot—happier by far than that of kings or emperors—and I think I can safely say, I was never in a region where there seemed to prevail so general a prosperity and, at the same time, so great an equality in the lot and circumstances of the people. There seem to be none excessively rich—though a goodly number are comparatively so—and none really poor. Apparently all are thriving and well to do in the world. The village is made up and sustained by the farming community around, and hence its name. And here, let me remark, is the only Universalist Society in the county of Seneca, which, considering the equality of its inhabitants, ought to be nearly *all* Universalist.

About four years ago, Rev. H.[Harvey] Boughton, then of Scipio, N.Y., visited and preached a lecture at Farmerville, which was listened to with deep attention, and so stirred up the minds of a few liberal hearted men in the place, that they immediately made arrangements for another visit, and finally for his removal thither. They engaged a convenient hall for their meetings, organized a Society, respectable in numbers and character, and as they continued to prosper and grow for two years, they determined on making an effort to build them a church. A subscription was raised nearly sufficient for this purpose, a lot purchased, and a beautiful and commodious house of worship was erected, completed, furnished, and dedicated a year ago last February. (See *Ambassador*, last No. in Feb. 1853.) At that time a two days' Conference meeting was held, a large assembly of people attended, (notwithstanding the Dutch Reformed and Baptist churches both got up opposition meetings to prevent people from attending), and it is believed much good was done for the cause of truth. They have still gone on, united and prosperous, to the present time.... Long may they dwell together in union, brotherly love and prosperity.

D. S. [Rev. Dolphus Skinner]

*Christian Ambassador*, Auburn NY, Sat. 15 Apr 1854