

[Dunkirk, Chautauqua Co. NY]

New Society in Dunkirk, N.Y.

BR. AUSTIN:—I take great pleasure in informing you that our friends in Dunkirk feel much encouraged by the present aspect of our cause in their midst. A Universalist Society was organized in that rapidly growing village, on the 17th inst., which promises to become a vigorous and fruitful branch of our denominational vine. Most of our brethren in that place, are "new comers," comparatively, but are, I think, of the right stamp. They have brought their principles with them, and wish to see them flourish in their new location. In a business point of view, it is by some considered hazardous to openly avow and defend an unpopular doctrine; and in some instances it may be so, especially where the individual from his brief residence in a place has not had sufficient opportunity to establish a reputation in his profession or calling; but as a general rule, frankness and honesty of opinion will command and receive, as it deserves, the respect of all.

As the following named brethren of Dunkirk, are comparative strangers in this region, and as they have taken a bold and fearless stand in favor of our holy faith, I invite our friends in Chautauque county, and others who may have occasion to stop in that village, to make their acquaintance. J. M. Vandenburg, dealer in dry goods, groceries, etc. E. D. Crosby, do [ditto]. R.D.L. Montaing, forwarding and commission merchant. D. Lord, hardware merchant. Parish & Utley, wholesale and retail grocers. McNeil & Button, house and ornamental painters, and dealers in paints, oils, paper hangings [wallpaper], &c. James Hoaks, Baker and Confectioner. ___ Purdy, Lumber merchant, &c. Any of our ministering brethren wishing to stop in Dunkirk, will find a welcome in the homes of either of these friends, or others in the vicinity.

The Society have engaged the services of the writer, one half of the time for the coming year. The ladies of our congregation are also taking measures to perform their share of duty in this new field of labor; and I hope to be able hereafter to give a flattering account of their success. Arrangements are being made to organize a Sunday School in connection with the Society, on the 5th Sunday, inst. When we can add to these advantages, a church organization and a comfortable house of worship, we shall feel that the means of our spiritual growth, as a Society, are chiefly supplied. Looking to the great head of the church for the increase, we shall humbly labor, and wait in hope.

I. G. [Isaac George]

Sheridan, N.Y., May, 1852

Christian Ambassador, Auburn NY, Sat. 29 May 1852