

Dedication at Ellisburg

The meeting of the Black River Association of Universalists and the dedication of the new church at Ellisburg on July 19 and 20 were a decided success. The weather was propitious, the speakers enthusiastic, and the audiences both numerous and appreciative. During the session of Saturday various departments of the church work were presented and the business of the association transacted. The officers chosen for the coming year were Mr. J. A. Montague, Henderson, president; Rev. Harry Westbrook Reed of Watertown, vice president; Mrs. W. G. Terry, Henderson, secretary-treasurer. An invitation was accepted to meet at Dexter next year.

Saturday evening was devoted to an exposition of the faith and work of the Universalist church. Dr. L. B. Fisher of Chicago, a former pastor, presented clearly the traditional and modern doctrines of Universalism, showing their Biblical basis. Rev. G. D. Walker, state superintendent, dwelt on the power of the idea and need of teaching belief, for as a man believes so he will be. Mr. Walker then stated that although \$4400 had already been received toward the building fund, \$900 was still needed and that an opportunity to make pledges would be offered. A blackboard with 900 squares was used to indicate the total, which finally grew to \$720.

A service of worship in which the congregation of the Methodist church united, was held Sunday morning. Rev. Harry Westbrook Reed preached the sermon, and Rev. W. [William] H. Goodell, a former pastor, administered the communion.

The capacity of the new church was severely taxed on Sunday afternoon by the throng which came to the dedicatory services. An excellent choir and soloists furnished music. Mr. Walker offered another opportunity for pledges to be made with the happy result that the total quickly jumped to over \$1000, thus more than covering the indebtedness. Dr. Fisher then preached the dedicatory sermon on the theme "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" expressing the thought that salvation does not mean escaping a future hell or avoiding just punishment for sin, but rather overcoming the conditions that prevent this life from being heavenly. The act of dedication was read by minister and people, Mr. Goodell pronouncing the dedicatory prayer, and Rev. B. A. Walton, pastor of the Methodist church, presented the fraternal greetings. The people of the village as well as the visitors were delighted and inspired by the day. At least two ladies, Mrs. Russell and Mrs. Miner, were present at the dedication of the old church in August, 1843.

After the service the trustees met with trustees of the Henderson church and Mr. Walker to make plans for another year. A unanimous invitation was extended to Rev. Elmo Robinson to remain another year, but he felt obliged to decline. Immediate steps will be taken to secure his successor. The outlook for the Ellisburg church is very promising.

The new building contains an auditorium 22 [34] x 42 feet and a small Sunday school room at one side, plastered and stenciled. The windows are memorials and the furniture is of an attractive pattern.

The following Universalist organizations have contributed to the building fund: the churches of Rochester, Buffalo (Grace), Newport, Middleville, [and] Potsdam, N.Y.; the Y.P.C.U. of Binghamton; the Ladies' Aid of Henderson; the church, Y.P.C.U. and Mission Circle of Columbus Avenue, Boston; and the N.Y. State Convention.

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