

The Dedication and Conference in Friendship

A Conference of the Allegany Association was held in Friendship, N. Y., on Wednesday and Thursday, Dec. 12th and 13th. On Wednesday morning, the new and beautiful church edifice, just erected by the Universalist Society of Friendship, was dedicated to the worship of Almighty God, by the following order of service:—

1. Voluntary by the choir
2. Introductory prayer, by Rev. O[rrin] Roberts
3. Reading select Scriptures, by Rev. E. W[inchester] Reynolds
4. Hymn
5. Dedicatory Prayer, by Rev. L. Paine
6. Hymn
7. Sermon, by the pastor, Rev. F[rancis] M. Alvord
8. Anthem
9. Benediction

Sermons were also preached during the Conference by Revs. L. Paine, O. Roberts, E. W. Reynolds, S. E. Darrow, B. N. Wiles, I[saac] George, and L. F. Porter. Propitious weather and large congregations lent unusual pleasure and interest to the occasion, and the discourses were calculated to produce conviction and promote good. The Society in Friendship is enjoying an excellent state of prosperity, and holds a leading position in the community. The Church they have recently completed is a worthy monument of their persistent zeal, their generous liberality, and unity of purpose. The Universalists of Friendship are *living*, earnest men and women, who have persevered in the defense and promulgation of their faith, against many obstacles and discouragements, and who now enjoy the satisfaction—not only of having secured to themselves a permanent Sabbath home—but also of having won the respect of a community originally by no means friendly to their doctrine. A very large share of their present prosperity and promise is due to the untiring exertions of their pastor, Br. F. M. Alvord, whose ministry, both here and elsewhere, has been fruitful in good to that cause which is mutually dear to us. May the divine blessing, with years of merited prosperity, attend both pastor and people in this endeared and familiar village.

In addition to the ministers above named, Revs. I[chabod] B. Sharp, A. Bowen, S. Ward, and J[acob] Whitney were present, all of whom, except the last, participated in the services.

E. W. [Rev. Elhanan Winchester] Reynolds

Christian Ambassador, Auburn NY, 22 Dec 1855