

[Genesee County, NY]

Letter from Rev. S. [Samuel] Goff

BR. AUSTIN:—I have had it in mind for some time to write you, and let “our” readers know what I am doing. But other matters have prevented thus far, and even now I must be brief....

You are aware that I am not laboring with the Society in this place. Nevertheless I am not idle. Last year, I preached in four places, each one-fourth of the time. This year I labor in the same places, with the exception of Darien. I will give you a little account of my doings.

Linden.—This is a small village in the town of Bethany, Genesee Co. Here I am preaching half the time. The congregations, though not large, are respectable as to numbers, and are composed mostly of permanent and substantial friends. Here I think there is no disposition to go back, or falter in the way. And I confidently look forward to the time when, should they not identify themselves with the Society at Alexander, as they have partially done in years past, a Society and Church will be organized, and a house of worship erected. We trust the friends will act wisely, and do that which is for the best.

Richville.—This is also a small village in Genesee Co. The congregation, which is not large, is composed of friends from Pembroke, Darien and Newstead [in Erie Co.]. Here the friends are the most liberal in money matters, of any place where I have ever preached. Here they are not wealthy, but according to their means, they give freely. And when there is a willingness to *give*, nothing is wanting but a disposition to *do*, to insure [ensure] success. This we hope our friends will possess more abundantly, and therefore move on prosperously. The subject of organizing a Society, and building a meeting house, has already been agitated, and we confidently hope that both objects will be effected within the next year.

Magadore.—This place is likewise in Genesee Co. and with Richville, is in the town of Pembroke. The congregation is drawn mostly from Pembroke and Alabama. In this immediate locality Universalist meetings have never been much held. We commenced preaching there about six months ago. The congregations have uniformly been large for a country place. From two to three hundred are in attendance at every meeting when the weather is pleasant, and a good degree of interest is manifested. Should this interest continue, it must result in great good to our cause. And we see no reason why it should not continue. There has been nothing to create excitement to any considerable extent. But the people seem to be really interested in the subject of the “great salvation.” And we can but hope that the “set time to favor Zion” here is come, and that ere long we shall see a large and flourishing Society and church of believers organized in this portion of the

[Genesee County, NY]

Master's heritage. At this place, our meetings are held in the Christian Meeting House. This house, though designated as above, is owned only in part by those who have the control of it. Many others contributed to the erection of it, with the understanding that it should be at their service, when not occupied by the Christians. Thus far it has been freely opened for our use, though there are probably a few who would be glad to close it against us. But if we rightly interpret the "signs of the times," the Christians would be working against their own interest by making any such attempt; and we sincerely hope that peace and harmony will prevail, and that all lovers of God, and pure religion will labor together for the advancement to the Redeemer's kingdom.

At Magadore resides our sister Mrs. (formerly Miss) Mary E. Tillotson. But, engaged in household duties, she does not use her pen as much as formerly. We trust she will ere long find time to communicate a few thoughts for the *Ambassador*, for we really think she can do good in this way.

But I must close. On the whole, I think the prospect is brightening in this region. The fields are white for the harvest. And may the reapers redouble their exertions to gather in the golden sheaves. At Alexander, the place of my residence, I believe the friends are making an effort to again secure the preached word. I hope they will be successful. The house of worship has stood idle long enough; and the people have not become so perfect as not to need the influences and blessings of Sabbath worship.

Yours truly.

S. [Samuel] GOFF

Christian Ambassador, Auburn NY, Sat. 5 Jul 1851

Transcribed on 7 May 2009 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY