

[Henrietta, Monroe Co. NY]

One new society—the First Universalist Society in Henrietta, was received into fellowship, at this [1819] session of the [Genesee] Branch Association. The number and strength of this young family of believers, were not reported; but it is probable, that they were quite equal to most of the recent organizations of the time. And from several circumstances, there is reason to infer that like the society in Pittsford, though suffering occasional reverses, and for years in succession making no visible progress, it never absolutely lost its identity. It has at least, generally claimed a name to live, though it has not always, nor regularly sustained preaching. Whatever it has done to advance the knowledge and influence of the Gospel, has been done incidentally, and from its own intrinsic vitality. For like many other of the earlier societies of the order, it has received very little positive aid from the influence of the ministry. And if there is anything remarkable in the case, it is in this—that a religious society can sustain itself during a period of nearly thirty years, without a Meeting house, and generally without a preacher, or a regular meeting.... And there is reason to believe, that the Universalist society in Henrietta, is at this day, suffering the legitimate consequences of helping to take care of the religious interests of other sects, to the palpable neglect of their own.

Rev. Stephen R. [Rensselaer] Smith, *Historical Sketches and Incidents Illustrative of the Establishment and Progress of Universalism in the State of New York* (Buffalo, NY: 1848), pp. 69-71

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