

HORNELL AND DR. PIERCE

The Rev. Ellis Pierce, D.D., pastor of the Methodist Church in Enfield, has accepted the call to the pastorate of the Woodbury Memorial Universalist Church in Hornell and will begin his work on September 1. Dr. Pierce attended the sessions of the State Convention in Oneonta and for some time has been eager to enter the Universalist fellowship. He is the son of the Rev. Bruce Pierce, pastor of the Homer Avenue Methodist Church in Cortland. He is a graduate of Syracuse University and has held pastorates in Cazenovia and Truxton, doing a splendid work in all his pastorates. He found that his liberal ideas carried unhappy consequences in the Methodist Church and this led to his decision to withdraw. He candidated in the Hornell church in April and a unanimous call to the pastorate followed, which he officially accepted on May 26.

Dr. Fred C. Leining has been serving this church as interim minister for a period exceeding a year. The society was in a most discouraged condition at the beginning of his work. The opening congregation numbered seven. There was no parish list, no Ladies' Aid, no parish officers, no church school and only two children plus a young lady as the young folk of the church.

The edifice is one of the most beautiful in the State and is located on an attractive street. The memorial windows are remarkable, including the famous Tiffany window presented by citizens soon after the tragedy, when ten ladies of the church, riding from a Ladies' Aid meeting in a sleigh, were killed at a railroad crossing. The vestry has a kitchen and stage. A parsonage of the duplex type, not far from the location of the church, is owned by the society. Repairs have been made on the parsonage and church during the year, costing above six hundred dollars. New families have been attracted to the church. A Kouple Klub has been organized, which takes the place of the defunct Ladies' Aid. The parish officers are functioning. By special contributions and the Easter offering, a reserve fund has been created for the financing of the new pastorate. The residue of the estate of Miss Ida Higgins, amounting to approximately three hundred dollars, will also increase this reserve fund. Repairs will be made on the minister's side of the parsonage during the month of August, so that the apartment will be in an attractive condition on the arrival of Dr. and Mrs. Pierce and their two daughters.

...Dr. Pierce is not entering an easy situation but he has a group of people ready to work whole-heartedly and sacrificially with him to bring this church back to the power that it possessed some years ago. Hornell, theologically, is very conservative but this presents a real opportunity for the Universalist church. This Hornell church can come back and our prayers go with Dr. Pierce in his new work.

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