

[Hudson, Columbia Co. NY]

## Universalist General Convention

The many dignified strangers on our streets to-day are brought here on account of the assembling of the Universalist General Convention in this city. The convention opened this morning and will continue three days, holding sessions morning, afternoon and evening.

This morning and afternoon was devoted to organization and receiving reports of the Board of Trustees and Treasurer.

The programme of this evening will be as follows: 7:30—Platform meeting; Hon. A.H. Prescott of New York, presiding. Subject: The Universalist Church. a. The Faith, Rev. Edwin C. Sweetser, of Penn; b. Its Utility, Rev. Chas. W. Biddle, of Mass.; c. Its Needs, Rev. J. [James] M. Pullman, D.D., of New York.

*Evening Register*, Hudson NY, Wed. 20 Oct 1880

## A RELIGIOUS-POLITICO HARANGUE

One Bernard Peters, of new York, who unfortunately presided at the platform meeting of the Universalist Convention last night, disgraced himself, desecrated the holy sanctuary, and insulted his audience, by making a rabid, bloody-shirt political harangue, displaying a degree of partisan venom that would hardly be tolerated by any decent party at a political gathering.

To the credit of the church and the congregation, it should be said that this diatribe was condemned, and in their indignation overlooking the place and the occasion and the sacred surroundings, the blatant speaker was frequently greeted with hisses and other demonstrations of disapprobation.

Clergymen, as well as laymen, have an unquestioned right to their political sentiments, and an equal right to express them on proper occasions. To claim or do less would be a sacrifice of manhood; but it is such rattle-brained fanatics as this Peters that retard the cause of religion and bring scandal on the church. The sanctuary should be purged of such unclean things.

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