

Report of the Lockport Society

From the Minutes of the Niagara Association of Universalists,
Lockport, Wednesday, June 7, 1865

In regard to the questions required to be answered, I will state that we have a house of worship, and that Rev. Richmond Fisk, Jun., is our pastor, who labors with us [full] time, and when in health preaches two sermons every Sabbath. We have a church organization numbering about fifty members, and a Sabbath School, the attendance of which for the past year has averaged about fifty-five. The average attendance at the public services during the past year has been about 125.

To the question, "What is the real state of our cause in your society and community?" I reply that our cause is in a healthy state of growth. There are eighty families directly connected with our society, and who are now almost constantly represented at our public services. This number does not include some seven or eight families who have withdrawn their support and attendance on account of their dislike of our pastor's views on the relations between religion and politics, and his freedom of expressing them in the pulpit. We see no great discouragements in the way of our continued growth and prosperity.

Our young city is constantly developing its business, and calling to it capital and labor, and our cause thus receives new supporters here from accessions of new families moving into the city.

We regret to state that the health of our pastor is such that he feels himself obliged to abandon labor for a season, and has signified his intention of resigning and going from us the first of July next. This will leave us without a head, though we hope soon to secure someone in his place, to go on with the good cause which inspires and comforts all our hearts.¹

The Lockport society will take immediate action to secure the services of some able minister of the Gospel of Christ. This is an important field, for the society contemplate[s] at no distant day the erection of a new church.

Rev. J. J. Austin, Moderator

Christian Ambassador, New York, NY, June 24, 1865

Transcribed on 24 Jul 2007 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY

¹ The name of the writer is not given but it was probably one of the lay delegates to the Association meeting, either Elliot Lewis or Job W. Vail.