

[Lockport, Niagara Co. NY]

Conference and Dedication

On Wednesday, the 22d ult., the newly arranged church in Lockport was re-dedicated to the service of God, with the appropriate title of "The Church of the Redeemer." The reading of the Scriptures was by Rev. N.[Nelson] Snell, and the prayer of dedication was offered by Rev. R. [Richmond] Fisk, both ex-pastors of the Society. The present pastor, Rev. W.[Wm.] N. Van De Mark, preached the sermon, taking for his text, Isa. 1x.18. It was an appropriate and interesting discourse, and gave complete satisfaction to the crowded audience that listened to it. It was given in a truly beautiful church. The friends in Lockport deserve great praise for their liberality and good taste in a work which, when completed, will have cost \$5,000. The church has a new front of Lockport stone, and evinces architectural skill and taste. The former vestibule has been added to the audience-room, and has contributed largely to its capacity. The walls and ceiling are admirably frescoed. The evening-light comes from a ring of gas-jets in the centre of the ceiling above, and from eighteen jets forming the branches of two trees near the pulpit—the effect of which is very beautiful. The seats are handsomely cushioned, and the floor well carpeted. The church, in all its decorations and adornments, is a monument of praise to the Society and an honor to the denomination.

The services were continued through Wednesday and Thursday, and sermons were preached by Brs. [George W.] Montgomery, [J. Hazard] Hartzell, [Nelson] Snell and [Asa] Saxe, in the order named. On Thursday morning, a call was made for aid in paying for the remodelling [sic] of the church, and \$820 of the \$2500 needed were raised, \$500 of which were given by a member of the Society, who is both able and willing out of a generous heart, to help out on the good work. On Thursday evening, after the sermon, the Lord's Supper was celebrated, Brs. Saxe and [Phineas] Hathaway presiding at the table.

As a whole, the Conference was one of great enjoyment. The dedicatory services of the beautiful temple, the excellency of the singing throughout, the tone and character of the preaching, the large audiences, and the evident interest and attention of the people, made it a season of happiness, and we hope of spiritual power.

G. W. M. [Rev. George Washington Montgomery]

The Ambassador, New York NY, Sat. Feb. 8, 1868