

[Monroe Co. NY]

REFORMATION AND REVIVALS [Excerpts]

*Chili and Wheatland, Monroe County.* These towns have exhibited those consequences of religious abuse and oppression, which others in the light and courage of their example will yet manifest. As a direct fruit of the modern revival system, a powerful society or association has been formed in these towns, which from the persons who compose it must bid defiance to the illegitimate and assumed powers, by which they have hitherto been menaced and insulted, and in a degree, oppressed. The following are among the number of those with whom I had the pleasure of forming a acquaintance: Messrs. Isaac Lacey, Joseph Sibley, Wm. Pixley, M. Sperry, Samuel Lacy, Esquires, Messrs. Benjamin Sheldon, Daniel Bassett, Daniel Woodward, Henry Shears, Edwin S. Root, Allen I. Lacy, John McVein, David McVein, Benjamin Sheldon, Jr., Dr. Berkley Gillet, together with many others whose names I have forgotten. ...[T]hey wish to settle a preacher of liberal Christianity, and will give a suitable person a very liberal support.

...

*Mendon, Monroe County.* This town I have visited twice in the present month (March) and preached to large and attentive congregations. A revival, in the popular sense of the word, has been going on here, in the Calvinistic Baptist Church, for a term of about two years, though little has been done for sometime past, except to keep up their midnight orgies, and drill their recruits, and this has been done without cessation.... Our friends in Mendon are rationally zealous, and are anxious to have regular preaching, at least one-half the time. Our long-tryed and excellent Br. L. [Liscomb] Knapp preaches one Sunday in each month to the Union Universalist Society, and I believe, once in about eight weeks, holds meetings in this town,—which is all the preaching they can at present procure, except occasional lectures on some week day or evening. It is really desirable and important that we have more faithful laborers in this region, to counteract the blight and mildew of religious error and delusion.

*W. I. [Rev. William I.] Reese*

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