

[Third Universalist Society, New York City]

THE UNIVERSALIST REVIVAL

The second Universalist revival meeting of the series, which will be held nightly during the present week by the adherents of that denomination, was held last night in the Universalist church in Bleecker street. Quite a number of ministers were present. Seated on the platform were Rev. Dr. Nye of Brooklyn, Rev. Dr. Brooks of Philadelphia, Rev. J.M. Pullman and Rev. C.P. McCarty, who is acting in the place of Rev. Mr. [Edwin C.] Sweetser, pastor of the church, who is now absent on a European tour. The exercises consisted of prayers, Bible readings and a sermon by Mr. Pullman. After the sermon the meeting was declared open for conference, and remarks were made by Rev. W.W. Hayward, of Massachusetts, and Rev. Dr. Nye, of Brooklyn. As the latter gentleman finished speaking and sat down, a florid-faced, auburn-haired, meek-looking young man arose in the rear of the congregation and gave utterance to some remarks in a voice so gentle as to be almost plaintive. The congregation listened attentively and with interest at first, but soon a look of blank consternation overspread their faces, for the substance of the young man's address was a relation of his religious experience, which was of the good old Methodist kind, and he warned his hearers not to deceive themselves, for unless they had, each one, the same experience, they could not be saved. "Remember," said he, "that Esau sought a place for repentance with tears and found none." While he was delivering these remarks exclamations of "Oh, my!" and "That's awful!" were heard from different members of the congregation, but no one interrupted him. When he sat down Mr. McCarthy rose in great agitation and delivered a lecture of some fifteen minutes' duration to the daring young man. He begged of the latter to come and see him at his house, when he would be glad to show the youth the error of his belief. Taking the hymn "Ninety and Nine" for an illustration, he said:—"You are lost to Christ now and you don't know the full power of the work of the mighty Saviour, but He will never stop until He brings you back."

The sermon delivered by Mr. Pullman was on "The Gospel Message." He chose for his text John, iii, 17—"For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved." He said:—Given this broad earth, peopled as it is with ignorant, simple, perverse, suffering and needy souls, and given a God in heaven above, a message from one to the other is certain. Given, in the second place, that God is a pure spirit and a man spirit implicated with and environed in flesh, and it is evident that the message bearer must be in the form of man, or man cannot comprehend him. He must have the divine spirit in him also, or he cannot be God's interpreter, and in that character you have Jesus Christ the Lord. The message of God is not a theology, although there are innumerable theologies founded on it.

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The reverend gentleman proceeded to show how the gospel meets every want of man's spiritual nature. The punishments the Christ inflicts upon us in the shape of sorrows were all, he said, dictated by love and were intended to bring us to Christ. "This message," said he, comes to you, "Ye are Christ's and Christ is God."

New York Herald, New York NY, Tue. 2 Nov 1875

Transcribed on 13 Aug 2011 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY