

[Third Universalist Society, New York City]

from UNIVERSALIST CHURCHES  
The Four Societies of That Denomination in New York

The Third Universalist Church, at 206 Bleecker street, is a plain, commodious brick building. The society dates back to about 1810, when it was formed largely from members of the old Orchard Street Universalist Church. The first place of meeting was in Sixth avenue, near Waverly place. In 1836 the present church building was dedicated. Father [Clement] Lefevre was the first pastor. The present pastor is the Rev. S. A. Gardner. Among the leading men of the church are Mr. James Slater, proprietor of the Berkeley House; Mr. John Biddle, Mr. Samuel G. Hull, and Mr. David D. Stagg. The church has a membership roll of about 600, but the uptown movement of population has somewhat affected the size of its congregations. The pastor receives a salary of \$2,500 per annum. The sermon yesterday morning was on the text "My Kingdom is Not of this World," John xviii, 36. Mr. Gardner spoke of the great material progress of the world as a thing apart from spiritual greatness. Mere increase of wealth and of population and the multiplying of the conveniences of life, he said, were not of themselves gains to the spiritual welfare of humanity. A spirit of Chrislike devotion to the people was needed to promote God's kingdom upon earth. Upon this spirit Church and Government must rest, or they will surely fall.

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Transcribed on 7 Feb 2011 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY