

[Fifth Universalist Society, New York City]

We copy the following from the New York Christian Messenger, which goes to show the prosperity of the cause in the city of New York.

The New Church—Laying the Corner Stone

The Corner Stone of the new Universalist church now in progress of erection, by the Fifth Universalist society in this city, in Fourth street, between Avenue B and C, was laid on Monday afternoon last, with appropriate services. There was a good audience in attendance, but not as large, probably, as would have been present, but for the shower which came up about the time of assembling, and which delayed the exercises sometime.

The services were—Singing (Hymn 35 Streeter's Collection;) Prayer by the Pastor, Br. J. N. Parker; Laying of the Corner [Stone] by Mr. ___ Tobias, the oldest member of the society, assisted by Br. Parker, and an Address by Br. T. J. [Thomas Jefferson] Sawyer.

The occasion, we need not say, was an interesting one to all present, but more especially to those who have labored through the gloom and discouragements of past days, in this city. Br. Sawyer took occasion to allude briefly to the progress of the cause for the last 14 or 15 years; and particularly to the commencement of that society—the limited number of members at the outset. and its many discouragements; in the course of which he read a paragraph from that notable work—"Hatfield's Universalism as it Is"—as an evidence of the spirit with which the society had to contend, from *without*, as well as of the prophetic powers of our loving friend, the author.

Mr. Hatfield in considering what he was pleased to term "Fruits of Universalism," took occasion to remark on the condition of Universalism in this city, and came to the conclusion that there was in reality but one society (the Orchard street,) in this city—the remaining two (Bleecker street and the present Elizabeth street) were "sickly infants." But as some redeeming trait he appended the following note:

"Since the above was written, an individual, engaged in school teaching in Chambers street, and holding fellowship as a preacher among them, has opened a hall in the Dry-Dock section of the city, and has preached three or four weeks to a society, recently and in consequence organized, in that neighborhood. With two other societies in the city struggling for existence, it may well be regarded as a Quixotic adventure. There are, however, infidels enough in the neighborhood to furnish, for some time, a congregation, respectable at least for numbers. The hall in which they meet is quite contracted, and so easily filled."

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We beg Mr. Hatfield, the first pleasant day, to take a walk through Fourth street, between Avenues B and C, and look at the Church now going up there, adjoining No. 512, as the best comment that can be made on his sarcastic allusion to the first feeble efforts of the society.

The Church is to be completed *by* the first of August—probably before, as we understand. It is now in an advanced stage—the Basement up, and the side and rear walls in a good degree of forwardness.

May continued success crown the efforts of the society, and may it find hearty co-operation from the friends generally in the city; as they are to be waited upon, we understand, speedily, for a little aid.

Evangelical Magazine & Gospel Advocate, Utica NY, Fri. 6 Jun 1845

Transcribed on 17 Oct 2012 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY