

[Sixth Universalist Society, New York City]

BURDENED WITH DEBT

The Building of the Church of Our Saviour for Sale

The building of the Church of Our Saviour, of the Universalist denomination, on Fifty-seventh-street, near Eighth-avenue, is advertised for sale to satisfy a debt of \$50,000. It is hoped, however, that the debt may be paid from among the wealthy Universalists of this city. The society is about 50 years old, and has always been noted for its philanthropic work, especially during the pastorates of the Rev. Drs. Brooks and Pullman. The Rev. Dr. Brooks became the Pastor of the church in 1858, and so continued until 1867, the place of worship of the society then being in Thirty-third-street. When he accepted a call to a church in Philadelphia he was succeeded by the Rev. Dr. James M. Pullman. By this time the greater number of the communicants had moved up to the neighborhood of Central Park, and the old church site was sold. The land in Fifty-seventh-street was purchased, and one of the finest churches in the city was built at a cost of about \$150,000. The whole of this amount was pledged by the members, but "Black Friday" came and the wealth of a great many of them was swept away, leaving the church \$80,000 short. Mr. Pullman struggled along bravely supported by his flock, and in 1885, when he accepted a call to the Universalist Church at Lynn, Mass., the debt had been reduced to \$50,000.

Last October the Rev. Joseph K. Mason, who had charge of the Universalist Church at Springfield, received a call as Mr. Pullman's successor. When he came here he found the big debt and set to work to extinguish it. The membership of the church is only about 100. The running expenses are heavy, as a large amount of money is expended each year for outside charities, the example set by Dr. Brooks having been followed by Dr. Pullman and Mr. Mason, without any thought of economy in this direction. In the Winter time the church has a large congregation at its evening services, drawn principally from the occupants of the big flats in the neighborhood. Dr. Mason labored earnestly throughout the Winter to raise the money necessary to pay the debt, and on the last two Sundays in May \$11,000 were pledged. The necessity of meeting the interest has compelled the Trustees to put the building on the market. The price asked is \$120,000, but it is not thought that it will bring more than \$100,000.

New York Times, New York NY, 7 Sep 1886