

[Orangetown, Rockland Co.]

ORANGEVILLE [ORANGETOWN] AND NYACK

I have recently visited the above name places, preaching on two Sabbaths to interested and respectable audiences. In the former place there is a Universalist meeting-house, where a Society of Universalists was formed many years ago, and has maintained public meetings most of the time to the present. There is a Sabbath School connected with the Society which has for a long time been chiefly under the leadership of our excellent and devoted Br. Geo. Van Houten, and is now on a renewed career of usefulness, promising much good to our cause in that locality. The Society has had lay-preaching when no regular minister could be obtained, and seems to appreciate, as indeed it ought, the inestimable importance of public worship—of meeting on the Christian Sabbath for mutual instruction and religious culture, and adorning the doctrine by a life of spiritual godliness. The Society has struggled on in the midst of strong opposition and sectarian prejudice—has suffered much by deaths and removals within the last few years. Still, undaunted and unflagging in zeal, they pursue the path which duty seems to point out to them.

In Nyack we have no organized Society, but we have a few faithful and worthy believers, some of whom belong to the Orangeville [Orangetown] Society. They have enjoyed preaching in private houses on Sabbaths when preaching was had at Orangeville [Orangetown]. Our friends here wish, and ought to have, a house of worship, but they have not, they think, the necessary means at command to build. If they had a house, a numerous and respectable audience might be collected on every Sabbath to hear the Gospel preached. And we hope the time is not too far distant when the desideratum shall be enjoyed. To this end cannot some aid be obtained from the Missionary Fund? It is an important point. The village is rapidly increasing in wealth and population, and it seems wrong to have this favorable opportunity slip of establishing our cause there on a permanent basis. Many are now waiting an opportunity to join us. Will not the New York Association look after the wants of this people and help them in their time of need?

O. ROBERTS

*The Ambassador*, New York NY, Sat. 2 May 1868