

[Oswego, Oswego Co.]

Letter from Rev. W. N. Barber

Oswego, April 20, 1857

BR AUSTIN:—You may be surprised to hear the we are about to enter our new church in Oswego.— Such, however, is the fact; that is, a church *new to us*. I had labored a good part of the winter in raising subscription for the building, and had been as successful as I anticipated. The Society had agreed upon its location, and contracted for the lot. But about the middle of last month, when we were laying our plans to proceed, the Episcopalians offered to sell us their stone church on the West Public Square, and lo! to make a long story short, we have bought it. It is a well-proportioned, good-sized, solid edifice, originally built at an expense of some \$12,000 or \$14,000. It needs, however, some repairs, which our friends will probably put upon it as soon as they feel able, perhaps before we enter it.

Thank God! I feel now as though this Society were on a permanent basis. Heretofore my flock has been pushed from place to place about the city, till they were tired of it. Now it has worshipped in a court-room, now in one Hall, and now in another. But, at last, it has a Sabbath-home. We can worship “under our own vine and fig-tree.” If this Society is henceforth blessed with a judicious pastor, and the friends take courage and press on, as I have no doubt they will, they will flourish like the tree planted by the waters, whose leaf is ever verdant.— There are many excellent families here of our faith. The Lord prosper them in every good word and work.

Yours Fraternally, W. N. BARBER

The *Christian Ambassador*, Auburn NY, 2 May 1857

Transcribed on 5 Sep 2006 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY