

[Riga (Churchville), Monroe Co. NY]

Rev. E. R. Ottoway

Churchville, N.Y., May 26, 1860

Br. Austin:—

Rev. E[dmund] R. Ottoway of Rochester, N.Y. has received and accepted an invitation to the pastoral charge of the Universalist Society in Churchville, N.Y. Br. O. has preached to this Society since the 22d of April, the next Sunday after Br. Atwood closed his engagement. The Society in Churchville is one among those that has taken the advance step, at least in one important particular—they have become convinced of the impolicy of the standstill half-of-the-time system, which we have tried for about twenty two years. During this period we have climbed up to the second or third round of the ladder of our spiritual Zion, and there, like many other Societies, we stood or rather hung, with the sad prospect of taking the next step downward instead of upward. But we think we have now climbed past the centre, in the upward course, and have made arrangements to have preaching every Sunday, with the pleasing prospect of prosperity and success. We have thus set an example, which we think worthy of imitation. I would suggest to some other of our Societies within the Niagara Association to go and do likewise.

Yours fraternally,  
L. B.

*Christian Ambassador*, Auburn NY, Sat. 2 Jun 1860

Transcribed on 21 Aug 2006 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY