

[Rochester, Monroe Co.]

### Dedication and Conference in Rochester

This interesting meeting took place, agreeably to previous notice, on Wednesday and Thursday, 15th and 16th ult. The Dedication of the new and beautiful church recently erected by the first Universalist society in Rochester took place on Wednesday morning. The services of the occasion were as follows:—

1. Anthem by the Choir.
2. Prayer by Br. J.M. [Rev. John Mather] Austin.
3. Hymn.
4. Reading Scriptures by Br. S. R. [Rev. Stephen Rensselaer] Smith.
5. Hymn.
6. Sermon by Br. G. W. [Rev. George Washington] Montgomery. Text, Psalm C:4, "Enter into his gates with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise; be thankful unto him, and bless his name."
7. Dedicatory Prayer by Br. D. [Rev. Dolphus] Skinner.
8. Benediction by Br. Montgomery.

The Church stands on the easterly side of the Genesee River, on a pleasant site, near the [Asbury] Methodist Church; it is built of brick, 86½ feet in length by 50 feet in width, of the Grecian style of architecture, with an excellent basement, (which though enclosed and plastered is not yet finished,) the Church proper being finished in a neat and plain, though rich and beautiful style throughout. The interior of the walls is handsomely marbelised, and overhead beautifully painted in fresco. There is a snug orchestra in the centre of the front a little elevated above the floor, for the choir and organ, on either side of which is a door of entrance to the body of the church. The pulpit and pews are finished in very good taste, the latter (86 in number we believe) being all uniformly cushioned with drab moreen, and the church furnished with a good organ, carpet, handsome chandeliers &c. The whole cost of the church, when finished, is estimated at \$6,500. The lot cost \$2300, so that the whole will not exceed \$9,000. The greater part of the debt is already paid. The society for the last two years has worshipped in Minerva Hall, and has raised during that time for the church property, sustaining meetings, and contingent expenses, over \$8,000.

A little more than two years since, the Universalist society in Rochester was all but (perhaps we should say quite) dead, having lost their old church and been for years without preaching. The only outward signs of life were seen in a little band of faithful teachers and children in the form of a Sabbath School, headed and led on by our zealous Br. Geo. H. Roberts. Fortunately and providentially, Br. G. W. [Rev. George Washington] Montgomery at that time (two years ago) visited and preached in

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Rochester—a number of individuals were thereby aroused to see and feel the necessity of action—an effort was made to procure a suitable place for meeting and to retain Br. M. as their regular and permanent teacher, and succeeded.— The result of that effort is now before the world in the form of the beautiful church now dedicated and a respectable and we trust united and devoted society, gathered to worship therein for coming years; and it speaks in no measured terms in praise of the zeal, faithfulness, and perseverance of Br. M. and his co-laborers.

The meeting was continued through Wednesday and Thursday, three services each day; and in addition to the Dedicatory services, sermons were preached by Brs. W.[William] B. Cook, H.[Henry] L. Hayward, S.[Stephen] R. Smith, and D.[Dolphus] Skinner, Br. J. R. Johnson also assisting in the services; Br. J.[John] M. Austin, we regret to say, being on Wednesday noon, by telegraph, called to return home on account of the sickness of his youngest child [his daughter Alathea, who died shortly afterward] and thus prevented from preaching as was anticipated. The services were all well and respectably attended, especially the Dedicatory and two evening services; but the weather and going were such, the roads from recent heavy and continuous rains being intolerable and next to impassable, we doubt not [that] hundreds from the surrounding country were prevented from attending, who would otherwise have been present.

The Dedication sermon was appropriate and happily timed and listened to with earnest and gratified attention. The other sermons delivered at the meeting, so far as becomes us to speak of them, were also good and well adapted to leave a favorable impression and produce good practical results. And we devoutly hope and trust that much good has been done at this meeting in the name of the holy child Jesus, and that our friends in Rochester and the cause at large may continue to be prospered and blessed now and forever.

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Transcribed on March 22, 2007 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY