

[Rochester, Monroe Co.]

A Golden Day Fiftieth Anniversary of the Dedication of a Church Building

The society of the First Universalist Church will to-day celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the dedication of its church edifice. The fiftieth anniversary of the organization of the society was celebrated at the church building on Clinton street two years ago, when many of the prominent Universalists of the country were present and made addresses. The jubilee included historical, religious, musical and social services and was marked by an unusual interest and attendance.

The Society of the First Universalist Church was organized on December 1, 1835 [1845] under the leadership of the Rev George W. Montgomery, the first pastor of the church, and who is still a resident of Rochester, being nearly 90 years of age. Through his efforts the first church edifice was erected on Clinton street near where the Lyceum Theater now stands. The building was built of brick and stood about twenty feet back from the sidewalk. The tower and entry halls were added during the pastorate of the Rev. Dr. Asa Saxe.

The dedicatory services were conducted by the Rev. George W. Montgomery, who was assisted by such Universalist lights as Stephen R.[Rensselaer] Smith, J. M. [John Mather] Austin, and Adolphus Skinner. Dr. Montgomery was a pastor of the church for eight years and gave way to the Rev. J. H. [James Harvey] Tuttle, who occupied the pulpit for six years, when he was succeeded by the Rev. Dr. Asa Saxe, who left the pastorate of the church about three years ago. His place was taken by the Rev. L. H. [Lyman Hamilton] Squires, the present pastor, who came to the church from Jamestown, N. Y.

It is a remarkable fact that all of the pastors of the church are alive. Rev. George W. Montgomery resides on Chestnut street, in this city; Rev. J. H. Tuttle is now holding a charge in Minneapolis, and Dr. Saxe is acting as a supply for the Passover Church at Albany.

In a recent conversation with Dr. Montgomery, Rev. Mr. Squires was surprised and gratified to learn that he had preserved nearly all of the sermons preached during his pastorate and was especially glad to learn that the dedicatory sermon was among the number. Mr. Squires will accordingly preach that sermon to-night at the evening service.

The Universalist ministers' meeting will be held to-morrow morning at 11 o'clock. This meeting will include the Universalist ministers of Western New York. A sermon will be preached by the Rev. A. M. [Fingan?] and at 2 o'clock Rev. H. B. Taylor will read a paper on "The Scientific Intimations of Immortality."

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