

His Pastorate Ended

Farewell Sermon by Rev. H. B. Taylor of the Second Universalist Church

The Rev. Henry B. Taylor last night preached his farewell sermon as pastor of the Second Universalist Church. What the future of the church is to be is something that the trustees, if they know, refuse to discuss, but it can be stated as a certainty that no successor to Mr. Taylor has been engaged, and to this may be added the statement that it is considered improbable by those acquainted with the affairs of the church that reorganization of the disunited congregation can be effected in the immediate future, if ever.

All that can be learned regarding the future of the church is that Sunday-school will be held in the little edifice on Spencer street until further notice. The school will be under the indirect supervision of the First Universalist Church, or its pastor, the Rev. Isaac P. Coddington, who attended the services held yesterday afternoon and was made acquainted with the teachers.

Two members of the Board of Trustees of the church were questioned last night as to plans for the future, but neither had a word to say as to the outlook. One of them stated that as soon as plans were formed they would be announced, but he couldn't say definitely when an agreement or a decision will be reached.

When the congregation of the church split a few months ago, as a result of sermons on the traffic in liquor and law enforcement, it was announced that Mr. Taylor would continue to conduct Sunday services until April 1st., and the severance of his connection with the church a month in advance of that date was only decided upon last week. Mr. Taylor was asked last night for an explanation of the change of plans. He said that it was in accordance with his wishes.

There was a plainly discernable note of pathos in the young pastor's farewell sermon last night, and there was also indirect reference to the state of affairs existing within the church. The text was a part of St. John 16:3: "In the world ye shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer: I have overcome the world." After referring to the apparent incongruity of these words and the conditions existing at the time they were uttered, Mr. Taylor said that although sin did its worst for Jesus it could not harm Him; that defeat to Him was victory.

Referring directly to his departure, Mr. Taylor told his hearers that they could go to the pastor of the First Church confident that they would be warmly welcomed. Then he said:

"If I were to speak of my own feelings to those of you who have been true and loyal to me, I should make a poor picture of my heart. I dare not trust myself to speak of it. While I thank you with all my heart, I tell you

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with perfect truth that I go forth from this place without a spark of resentment towards anyone. I know well there have been many who felt that they could give their energy more willingly to a larger church, but I have nothing to say of their course.

"If during my work among you I have said a new word to you or laid before you a thought that has brought to you a keener realization of the higher life, I ask you sometimes to think of me and to pray for me in the work which I go forth to do."

Mr. Taylor will remain in the city until Friday, when he will go to Harvard to remain until the close of the college year, taking a course of lectures and reading. He said last night that it is possible he will supply the pulpit of an Eastern town.

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Transcribed on 6 Feb 2008 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY