

[Rome, Oneida Co. NY]

Scores Attendants at Church for Their Pecuniary Habits
Rev Irene Earll Trying to Reorganize Universalist Church in Rome

An effort is being made to reorganize the Universalist Church in Rome and Rev. Irene Earll has for two Sundays conducted services under the authority of the Missionary Board of the New York State Convention of Universalists.

Miss Earll is the daughter of the late Dr. Isaac Earll of this city, and was a number of years ago connected with the Central library. She was confirmed by Rev. Frederick W. Betts.

Miss Earll, addressing the Universalists of Rome, says:

"If the religion for which the church stands is true at all, it is awfully true. Yet you are giving to it your spare change, your idle time, your perfunctory service. You may blame the ministers, but what can you expect of a minister whom you value at \$5 a year? You spend \$1,000 a year to keep and nourish your body, and begrudge \$3.65 for your immortal soul. You have no time to give to the church because you put so much into your clubs, your orders, your fraternities. You think by buying a 15¢ ticket to a church supper it will admit you to heaven. You fool yourselves by thinking that when you go in a church concert and hear rag-time music or to a church fair and buy a pin cushion that you are doing the work of the Lord and giving Him his due; but when you go up before the Great White Throne with that music on your lips and that pin cushion in your hand, it is not what the Lord will think of you, but what will you think of yourself?

"You will spend ten times as much on a two weeks' vacation as you do on a year's food for your immortal souls. You have no sense of obligation to your church; you give to that if you have anything to spare after you pay your bills at the grocery. Why do you not lift your church to the dignity that is hers by right? Why not recognize that you have a soul and that you are going to have it a good deal longer than you are your body—why do you starve it? Why not see that there is in the church, with its service of worship, something which you need and want and get the best that is there in the best way?

"You have your part in the blame for the decline in the Christian church and the consequences upon the world; you have your part in the rehabilitation of that church, which alone can save the world from sin."

The Post-Standard, Syracuse, Onondaga Co. NY, Fri. 23 Sep. 1904