

Dedication at North Brookfield, N.Y  
[abridged]

The new Universalist Church recently erected in the above place, was solemnly set apart and dedicated to the worship of "the one true and living God," on Wednesday, the 11th inst. Before the hour appointed the house was filled to overflowing, and during the entire services, many stood in the passages leading to the doors, and around the doors. At 11 o'clock A.M. the dedication took place in the following order:—

1. Select Anthem by the Choir
2. Introductory Prayer by Br. J. B. Gilman
3. Hymn, 483 (Streeter's Collection)
4. Reading select portions of Scriptures by Br. A.[lbert] W. Bruce
5. Dedicatory Prayer by Br. W. G. Anderson
6. Hymn, 480 (Streeter's Collection)
7. Sermon by Br. Job Potter—text, Ps. xcix.5
8. Voluntary by the Choir
9. Address to the Society and Benediction by Br. C. E. Hawes

The sermon by our venerable father [Rev. Job] Potter, an ex-communicant from the Baptist church in this very place, some thirty-five or forty years ago, for embracing the destructive error "that in the dispensation of times, He (God) might gather together in one all things, in Christ; both which are in heaven, and which are on earth, even in him," was eminently scriptural and practical. It breathed an excellent spirit, and was delivered in a fervent and eloquent manner. It was clear, simple and direct to the point.

In order to allay the spiritual thirst and hunger of the people, Br's. Bruce, Gilman and Anderson were constrained to preach two sermons each, during the two days of the meeting, and Br. Hewes would have been obliged to preach twice, had not previous engagements called him away to Oriskany Falls, where he was delivering evening lectures. He preached, however, one sermon, somewhat more than an hour long, on Thursday afternoon. The weather was propitious on Wednesday, but rather wet on Thursday. Notwithstanding the rain on that day, the house was crowded with nearly as many people as on the previous day. On Wednesday afternoon Br. Bruce preached in the basement, and Br. Gilman above.

The church, for a country one, is exceedingly beautiful; and it has the largest bell in the county, with the exception of the Hamilton Presbyterian Church.—The edifice just completed and dedicated cost about \$3000. The lot on which it stands cost about \$300 and the bell \$600. The whole amount was subscribed by substantial persons, and the society is not one single dollar in debt.

Our friends in North Brookfield and that region supplied the wants of the people in the most liberal manner. The choir was led on both days by Mr. J. A. White, teacher of sacred music, of Eaton, Madison co., N.Y., a man who needs no eulogy from me. To say that the singing under his leadership was harmonious and devotional is to express what everyone present must have felt. It had power, pathos and fire in it, which seemed to link us all together, by its magic spell. It fanned the flame of our aspirations and carried them up to Heaven....

Gravesville, N.Y., Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>, 1854

Per request,  
W. G. Anderson

*Christian Ambassador*, Auburn NY, Sat. 28 Jan 1854