

[Smithville (Smithville Flatts), Chenango Co.]

DEDICATION AND CONFERENCE AT SMITHVILLE

On Wednesday and Thursday, 25th and 26th ult., a Conference of the Chenango Association of Universalists was holden at Smithville Flatts, and the new Universalist Meetinghouse, erected in that village during the past season, was solemnly dedicated to the worship of Almighty God. The dedicatory services were performed on Wednesday in the following order:

1. Voluntary by the Choir. 2. Reading of select Scriptures by Br. A.O. Warren. 3. Hymn. 4. Introductory prayer by Br. J.T. Goodrich. 5. Dedicatory hymn. 6. Sermon by Br. D. Skinner from Prov. ix: 1,2. 7. Dedicatory prayer by the same. 8. Anthem. 9. Benediction.

In addition to the dedicatory services, those of the Conference were held during the two days.—Sermons were preached on Wednesday by Brs. [John]. T. Goodrich and A.O. Warren, and on Thursday by Brs. [Dolphus] Skinner and [William] M. DeLong. Notwithstanding the extreme inclemency of the weather and the badness of the travelling, the congregation was large and very respectable. The house, especially on Wednesday, was much crowded, and a commendable zeal manifested by our brethren and friends in this place and the surrounding neighborhoods. The house is built of wood, 36 by 46 feet, with a vestibule and orchestra or small gallery in front, surmounted by a modest and well-proportioned steeple, the whole finished in plain but very neat and good style, and painted throughout. It reflects credit on our denomination and much honor on the zeal and perseverance of the few choice spirits who went forward in the work, in despite of difficulties and obstacles arising from the pressure of the times and other causes, to the completion of this commodius house of worship. The society is neither large nor wealthy, and in these times were not able to complete their house without exceeding in their outlay the amount of available subscriptions, and are consequently in debt for the house about \$500. An effort was made the day after the dedication to raise this amount by subscription, and nearly half the sum was subscribed in a short time. And we can not but hope they will persevere in the effort, and that our friends, one and all, in the region, some of whom have as yet done little or nothing, will put to a helping hand, pay the church debt at once, (which is always a deadly incubus to the prosperity of any society while it exists), thus free the society from embarrassment, and enable them to take hold with renewed courage and zeal, employ a preacher, which they will then be able to do for one half the time, and thus go on prospering. Our cause is onward in all this region; moderately prosperous in most places where the preached word is enjoyed, and highly so at Oxford where our worthy Br. Goodrich ministers constantly in word and doctrine. Its aspect throughout the country is altogether more encouraging than it has ever been before. May the great Head of the Church continue to bless and prosper it now and evermore.

D.S. [Dolphus Skinner of Utica, NY]

Evangelical Magazine and Gospel Advocate, Utica, NY, Friday February 10, 1843