

[Southold, Suffolk Co. NY]

The Little Church on the Corner

So many years have elapsed since any teacher of Divine truth, as revealed to Universalists by the Scriptures, has occupied the pulpit of the Church where once a goodly congregation met to worship, that few of our young people (?) to mind the time when the Church doors were open on the Sabbath regularly, so long, indeed, that few people here knew, until recently, exactly what Universalism teaches, save to a vague, uncertain degree.

For ten years past Universalism has seemed to be sleeping, if not dead. The Church has played the part of the theater; the children of Universalists have been sent to the Presbyterian, or some other church; and all idea of re-organizing a society, broken up by the action of the N.Y. conference years ago, seemed out of the question.

Suddenly there comes in our midst a pleasant little man, who announces that on such an evening he will preach in the Universalist church. Many people have known his name for years and not a few have listened to him, the Rev. H.N. Nye, of Brooklyn. The evening came, the preacher, and a few, some thirty or more, to hear him. None slept while he talked, and most of his hearers were glad to hear service announced at the regular hour on Sunday morning in that church.

Few were the topics touched by Mr. Nye that he failed to make clear to all. To mention any one thing in his discourse would give no just idea of all he said; to mention all would take volumes. Mr. Nye for the most part spoke without notes, moving freely about the stage, for it was from the stage of the S.L.A. that he spoke, and always [sic] in a kind, familiar way which warmed the hearts of all who heard him. At the evening service of the following Sunday his congregation numbered about one hundred and fifty; and all listened with earnest interest to the words that came from his heart. For three Sundays has Mr. Nye preached, and revived, and drawn together the scattered sparks of Universalism until now there seems to be a likelihood that the Society so long dormant will spring up more vigorously than before. The Church will be repaired perhaps at no very distant day, then if there can be found a minister who from motives of pure love, without the hope that he will be paid as well for preaching as he might have been for teaching in some village school, there may be permanent religious teaching in the little Church on the corner.

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