

WATERTOWN, N.Y.
[excerpt]

The Universalist Society in Watertown dates its origin back at about the year 1820. Its first house of worship, we remember, was dedicated by Rev. Hosea Ballou, and if we mistake not, in 1824. It was destroyed by fire some years since and a new church has been since erected on the same site. It is of brick, is large, and one among a not very numerous class of the better churches in the denomination. The late Rev. P.[Pitt] M. Morse, of blessed memory, was the first pastor here, and indeed spent a considerable part of his useful life in this place; and after residing at Henderson a few years returned here to die among his early friends. Their last pastor was Rev. E. [Elhanan] W. Reynolds, whose declining health has recently compelled him to resign his place, and who has already retired to Cuba [Allegany Co.] in the western part of the State, in the hope of recovering. Mr. Reynolds holds a very warm place in the hearts of the people, and they uniformly speak of him with great respect and affection. The two or three last years of his ministry here were not without some trials and some sources of regret. With a heart full of loyalty, and a soul that rose up with an instinctive horror of slavery and the slaveholders' rebellion, Mr. Reynolds could not fail to give offense to some in his congregation who sympathized with both. The result was here, and it had been in many other places, that these disaffected members withdrew, leaving the church of their former faith and love, rather than hear "the sum of all villainies," and the most wicked, as it is the most causeless, rebellion the sun ever looked upon, spoken of in terms of appropriate condemnation. We trust that when the present bloody war is over, and slavery and secession are both buried in one common grave, these old friends may again be found "in their right mind," and take their places once more under the lessons of the gospel, by which they seem to us to have profited so little heretofore. Of all the wonders of this wonderful world, we think a *pro-slavery* Universalist the most astonishing.

We are gratified to learn at Watertown what we had not before heard of, that since the resignation of Mr. Reynolds, the society has with commendable unanimity tendered an invitation to Rev. J. M. Atwood, of Clifton Springs, to become their pastor, and that having accepted it he will engage in its duties with the first of May proximo. The society is in a healthy condition, the congregations are large, respectable and attentive, and we indulge a confident hope that the coming union of pastor and people will be attended by a signal blessing to God.

The Christian Ambassador, Rev. Thomas Sawyer, D.D., Editor
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