

The Albany Appeal

We call the attention of our readers to an article in another column, entitled—"The Albany Universalist Society to the Public." The difficulties which have arisen among our Albany brethren have been so often stated in our columns, by both parties, as well as by uninterested parties, that we think our readers must have become familiarized with the whole matter, and in a condition to form such opinions relative thereto as may be satisfactory to their own judgments. We trust, therefore, that it will not be deemed necessary to discuss the subject to any greater extent through our journals—painful as it must necessarily be to every lover of our cause. And as the two divisions of Universalists in Albany feel that there is no immediate prospect of a union between them, we trust that all strife will cease, and that hereafter the only feeling will be a noble and christian emulation to see who shall excel in devotion to truth, and duty, in the exercise of the amenity and forbearance, the charity and good will, which are the truest tests of a sincere devotion to the Gospel of Christ. We have no doubt that the portion of the Universalist Society which have gone into the union movement are sincere in their conviction that duty to the Gospel required them to take that course, and that they were desirous to see that Gospel prosper through the measures they adopted. Let them show their sincerity by zealously laboring for the upbuilding of the doctrine of impartial grace in their new relation. Equally confident are we that the brethren who resolved to remain in their old organization were actuated by the most conscientious motives, and believed it their duty to labor to keep a distinctive Universalist Society in existence in Albany. Entertaining these views, as they did, we honor them for their devotion and firmness, and their disposition to struggle on amid exceedingly discouraging circumstances, in the course they felt compelled to adopt. They too, we trust, will manifest their sincerity by their zeal, their good works, and a forbearing and forgiving spirit. From the commencement we have felt a disposition to attribute *equal* sincerity and purity of motive to *both* parties—believing that they differed only in judgment as to the *measures* to be adopted in forwarding the Gospel of Christ in their locality, under all the peculiarities of their circumstances.

And now let our readers peruse the appeal to which we have called attention. The brethren of the old organization have resolved to ask aid from the friends of the cause, to relieve them[selves] from the debt which has so long and disastrously rested upon them, and to secure means to enable them to sustain the preached word in their old place of worship. They will send out their agents into different sections of the State for this purpose. We hope they will be cordially received, and that the friends of Universalism wherever they go will contribute liberally to their object, to the extent their means will allow. Most earnestly do we hope they will succeed in obtaining a sufficiency of means to place the old Society in a condition to maintain the constant proclamation of the Gospel of impartial goodness... And then we will all thank God, and take courage!

Christian Ambassador, Auburn NY, Sat. 3 May 1856