

[Batavia, Genesee Co. NY]

UNIVERSALIST DEDICATION

PREPARATIONS FOR AFFAIR BEING RAPIDLY MADE—DEDICATORY SERMON BY DR.
GROSS [GROSE]

Arrangements are fast being completed for the services dedicating the Batavia Universalist church which will probably be held either on Sunday or Monday, September 12th and 13th, or on Sunday and Monday, September 19th and 20th. It is expected that Rev. Dr. F.[Frederick] W. Betts of Syracuse, the Rev. Dr. A.[Arthur] W. Gross [Grose] of Rochester, the Rev. Dr. I.[Isaac] M. Atwood of Rochester, the Rev. Dr. H. T. [Herbert P.] Morrell of Buffalo, F.[Frank] J. Tanner of Buffalo and Rev. L. B. Weeks, New York State Superintendent of Universalist churches, together with a number of Batavia clergymen, will deliver addresses.

Three Services on Sunday

There will be three services on Sunday. On Sunday morning, the Lord's supper will be celebrated. A number of persons who have letters from other churches will be received as members, and the right hand of fellowship will be extended to new members who will join the church at this time.

Dr. Atwood's address at this meeting or a later one will be a historical sketch of the growth of Universalism in Western New York.

Dr. Atwood's first sermon as a Universalist clergyman was preached many years ago at Alexander. The Doctor, when a young man, taught school at Corfu, and here through his acquaintanceship with Mr. and Mrs. Henry Porter he became interested in Universalism and determined to be a Universalist clergyman. At that time he was a member of the Baptist church.

Dedicatory Sermon by Dr. Gross [Grose]

The principal dedicatory service will probably be held Sunday afternoon when a charge to the parish will be delivered by the Rev. Dr. Morrell of Buffalo, and the dedicatory sermon will be preached by Dr. Gross [Grose] of Rochester, and Frank J. Tanner of Buffalo, president of the Universalist state convention, will extend greetings from the convention. On Sunday evening, Mr. Tanner will speak on "The Work of a Layman's League," and a league for the Batavia church will perhaps be organized. At this service Rev. L. B. Weeks will also speak.

On Monday evening a fraternal meeting will be held and the Rev. F. W. Betts of Syracuse will speak. Several Batavia clergymen will be invited to deliver addresses at this service.

Improvements on Building

Improvements and repairs to the church building are now in progress, and will be completed before the date for the dedication of the church. The woodwork of the interior of the church has been varnished and the vestibules are being papered and supplied with new floor coverings.

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The last of a number of movements for the establishment of a Universalist church in Batavia began on March 14th last, when a service was held at which an address was delivered by F. J. Tanner of Buffalo and a sermon by the Rev. Harry M. Wright, the present pastor. The next Sunday, the Rev. Dr. Gross [Grose] of Syracuse [should be Rochester] preached to a large audience and soon afterwards negotiations for the purchase of the church were begun which ended a few weeks later when the Baptist society sold the edifice for \$4,500. The Universalist society raised \$500 which has been paid on the purchase price, leaving a mortgage indebtedness of \$4,000. There are over thirty families now connected with the church, and audiences of from fifty to one hundred persons attend services here every Sunday.

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Transcribed on 25 Apr 2012 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY