

[Champion, Jefferson Co. NY]

From "The Cause in Champion"

I visited this people for the first time on the first Sunday in August, 1839, and preached two discourses to full congregations. I made, by request, another appointment for the first Sunday in September, which I fulfilled. At this time, I found a strong and ardent desire, manifested by a *very few* of our friends, to establish the regular preaching of the Gospel of impartial grace. I say, this desire was manifested by a "*very few*" of our friends" - for they were few indeed.

However, a subscription was commenced, to support preaching one fourth of the time, and to continue as long as the *means* should hold out. On the strength of this *little* encouragement, I came here to reside, September 10th. But our friends soon began to feel that if the doctrine of God's changeless and impartial love contained any spiritual nourishment worth having, being fed with it only once in four weeks was not the most expeditious method of advancing their growth "in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ;" and they accordingly decided to have the rich provisions of the Gospel spread before them on each alternate Sabbath. For the last nine months, I have preached here one half of the time, to respectable and increasing congregations....

On the 7th of the present June, we organized the "First Universalist Society in Champion," consisting of 21 members. The cause is evidently onward - and we feel certain that if the walls of our Zion are again suffered to be broken down, it will be in consequence of carelessness and a criminal neglect on the part of its professed friends.

Henry L. Hayward

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