

DEDICATION IN DEXTER

On the 22nd of December, 1841, the new Universalist church recently erected by our friends in Dexter and vicinity, was solemnly dedicated to the service of that "God who is the Saviour of *all* men." The public services of the occasion were performed in the following order-viz. 1st, Voluntary by the choir; 2d, Reading of the Scriptures, by H[enry] L. Hayward; 3d, Hymn; 4th, Introductory prayer, by H[arvey] Boughton; 5th, Hymn; 6th, Dedicatory prayer, by J[ohn] French; 7th, Singing; 8th, Sermon, by P[itt] Morse; 9th, Anthem; 10th, Concluding prayer, by O[liver] Wilcox; 11th, Singing, followed by the benediction by Br. Morse. The congregation was as large as could possibly gain admittance into the house, and during the very protracted services, maintained the most perfect order and decorum. The sermon (which by the way was a most glorious one,) was from the following words of Holy Writ- "My house shall be called a house of prayer for all people." It was designed to show the true nature of prayer, its importance as a religious duty, the proper manner of performing it, and the good and salutary effects which are sure to follow when it is rightly performed. The persons constituting the Choir did themselves much honor, by the correct manner in which they performed their part of the services. Sermons were delivered in the evening, by Brs. Wilcox and French, assisted by Brs. Boughton and Mott.

The friends of Universalism in Dexter have manifested a zeal, well worthy the imitation of many other societies of like precious faith; who need but a suitable house of worship to enable them to go prosperously onward, and rapidly increase in numbers, strength, and influence. In the month of August last, they were refused the use of the only house of worship which the place then contained, (and for the erection of which *they* had liberally contributed,) for an evening lecture by the writer of this article. This circumstance aroused them from their slumbers, and showed them the importance of *owning* a house, which they could at all times control, and in which they could worship their heavenly Father, "without any to molest or make afraid."

And it is due to the Universalists of Dexter to say, that as soon as they saw their duty in this matter, they went promptly about the immediate discharge of it. As might have been anticipated, their success was in proportion to their zeal - and in *three months* from the striking of the first blow, a neat, commodious and well proportioned house was ready for dedication.

The house is 30 by 46 feet, surmounted by a modest, pretty looking tower, fitted to receive a good bell - and the whole finished in a plain and highly creditable style. The Society seems ardently and devotedly engaged in the good work, and with proper management, and lives regulated in accordance with the Spirit of the Gospel, will undoubtedly prosper, and "grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ."

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