

## Universalist Church in Leyden, N.Y.

Mr. Editor:—It has been hinted that the Universalist church in Leyden, Lewis co., N.Y., (three miles from this place), is to be sold to some other denomination more liberally endowed. Permit me, therefore, to enquire, if among the numerous Universalist clergymen or friends of your acquaintance, are any able or desirous of owning a church? If so, let them come and purchase this. Though once a stately edifice, it has become somewhat decayed and out of date, so that services are scarcely ever held in it. Except on funeral occasions, when some friend of the Society has been good enough to die, we are not privileged to hear the teachings of the gospel of impartial grace.

The Society, once large and flourishing, is becoming more and more abridged, its zeal has abated, and many of its friends have formally become members of other denominations, whose services they are obliged to attend, in preference to spend their Sabbaths at home, to perplex themselves with tedious cares. It is true, most of them still retain their faith in the world's redemption, and are readers of the *Ambassador*, but their zeal in behalf of their religion cannot be greatly commended. In this connection, too, the fact that the useful, the pleasing, and the divine, constitute an indispensable requisite to man's enjoyment of health, happiness and prosperity is lost sight of or forgotten.

Though deserted and decayed the church may be, there are still good reasons existing why it should be retained in Universalist hands, standing as it does, if not for the purpose designed, at least as a monument to the genius and high worth of the illustrious Savillion W. Fuller, by whose able and untiring exertions it was erected. To him also does the Society (implanted even in the teeth of the most obstinate resistance by other denominations), as a body, owe its existence. While he remained it flourished and prospered. But with the dying echo of his voice, its heart fled and decline began. Nor has the social circle outside its walls experienced a less melancholy change. Social harmony has gone—friendly intercourse in a limited sense has become a formal monotony—while secret associations<sup>1</sup> have become the means of supplying the deficiency.

But is there no help for this state of things? It is frequently asked, "What are we to do when a feeling of enterprise exists no longer?" Alas! I am but illy qualified to answer in such matters. In the hope of inviting some ministerial agency from abroad to proclaim the riches of Impartial Love, I have written the above.

Would it not be wiser for the Universalists of Leyden to occupy their church, than to have it pass from their hands into those of other denominations? Can they not join with some other place and aid in giving one of our preachers a comfortable support? If the church falls into the possession of others, can they be held guiltless? This is an inquiry to be answered by each one's conscience. Perhaps you, Mr. Editor, or some of your kind readers, may be qualified to devise some way whereby so great a misfortune may be arrested, and the Gospel in its fullness again preached in Leyden. If so, a suggestion will be thankfully received. If the brethren in this region would but do their duty, our Society, now without guidance or instruction, may be rendered worthy of itself and of a heavenly blessing.

Truly and sincerely yours,  
J. D. C.<sup>2</sup>

*Christian Ambassador*, Auburn NY, 18 Mar 1854

<sup>1</sup>-Transcriber's note: I believe the writer is referring here particularly to Masonic societies.

<sup>2</sup>-This is probably the Rev. J. D. Cargill.