

[Utica, Oneida Co.]

THE GOSSIP OF THE TOWN
Universalists and the Y.M.C.A.

There is some excitement among the members of the Universalist Church just at present over a discovery made in relation to the rules and regulations of the Young Men's Christian Association. The discovery is of a fact which came out some time ago and which was thoroughly aired at that time but has probably been forgotten. It is one of the tenets of the Association that no one not an Evangelist, or who is not willing to become one, can enter into full membership with the organization. A prominent member of the Church of the Reconciliation sent in his application for membership in the Association recently, so the story goes, and was informed that he could be only conditionally accepted, as he was a Universalist and did not come under the general meaning of the term "Evangelical." Certainly there could be no other objection to the gentleman, who is all that could be desired in the way of companionship. It is not likely that he believed he would be morally much improved by a membership in the Association, but that he thought the principle of the organization is right and that if he could assist in the work he would be doing that which is good. It is understood that the Rev. Mr. Rice will offer himself as a member and if he is not fully accepted, he will have something to say on the subject from his pulpit.

I don't think that anyone believes or would like to believe that the gentlemen at the head of the Association in this city have any deep and underlying prejudice against any man because he happens to differ with them on the vexatious and broad questions of religion, yet the founders of the Young Men's Christian Association saw fit to put such a clause in their constitution, and the time has not yet arrived when their notion of liberalism has reached such a pitch that they can see their way to eliminate it.

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[writer's name is unreadable]

Transcribed on 6 May 2008 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY