

[Western New York]

## The Cause in Western New York

It is always gladdening to the soul of the real Universalist to witness the prosperity of the cause of gospel truth; to see our friends awake and active in the great and good work of evangelizing the world. During my travels in Western New York I have seen cause to rejoice in view of the untiring activity of what few brethren in the ministry we have within the bounds of the Genesee and Niagara Associations, and also in view of the devotedness and zeal of many of our lay brethren. In Rochester our friends are doing nobly, and I am informed there is a prospect of gathering a new society ere long in that growing city. Br. J. M. [Rev. James Munroe] Cook is doing the work of an evangelist in truth and verity in Riga and Fairport. This active young brother is determined that the cause of truth shall "go ahead" in Western New York, and that there shall be a shaking among the dry bones of nominal Universalists. His labors are signally blest wherever he labors. The cause has been revived in Morganville [Genesee Co.] where the labors of Mr. [Rev. B. B.] Bunker are enjoyed. In Lockport our friends are quite encouraged; they will probably build a Meeting House here another year. There has been a revival of pure and undefiled religion here the winter past. An account of the same has already been published in the "Luminary." We lectured here two evenings to very good congregations. At Buffalo our friends are beginning to wake up from their long sleep of two or three years. We trust that the wheels of gospel truth will soon begin to roll again.

But while we have found cause to rejoice in view of the prosperity of Zion in many portions of the moral vineyard in Western New York, yet we have also seen cause to mourn over the desolation or at least the destitution of Zion in many places where we have traveled. What are our friends about on the whole extent of the Ridge road? Nothing nothing! Look at it and think seriously of it. Beginning at Lewiston, where our friends have a beautiful House of worship, Zion is almost wholly desolate in all other respects. The House has been built for years and yet no regular preaching has ever been sustained there. We have a few excellent friends in Lewiston and the vicinity, and we believe a good society might be gathered there in a short time by the judicious labors of some active preacher. There is quite a field here. All that is wanted is a little more zeal on the part of our friends. Brethren, do try and do something soon, and we believe the Lord will bless your efforts. We preached there one Sabbath to an excellent congregation. At Ridgeway where our friends have a good house, there is no preaching at present. At Gaines I fear the society is guilty of the "sin of omission" to an equally deplorable extent. Do wake up brethren! The association is near at hand, when you may have a good opportunity to obtain a preacher. At

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Parma Corners [Monroe Co.] our friends are destitute of the preached word. At Wolcott, Zion I fear is desolate, or at least our friends have been asleep there for years. O awake, awake, put on thy strength O Zion! Delay no longer. We believe you will find an excellent pastor in Mr. [Rev. Nathan] Sawyer. "A hint to the wise" &c.

I would here remark that there are not half preachers enough in Western N.Y. Many of the preachers who once labored there have removed East and West. What few there, are generally active and preach to good acceptance; but there are many destitute Societies which stand in need of the preached word. The "Western Luminary," a paper published in the flourishing city of Rochester, is doing much good we sincerely believe, and not withstanding all that has been said pro and con in regard to the utility and inability of such a publication, yet it is evident that the great majority of the friends where I have traveled really think that such a paper is needed. At all events, the active publishers are determined that the paper shall be sustained.

Wishing our kind friends, where we have traveled, prosperity in well doing, and returning them many thanks for their many kindnesses during our sojourn with them, we will now bring this rambling article to a close.

N. [Rev. Nelson] Brown

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