

[Wethersfield, Wyoming Co.]

A New Society at Weathersfield Springs

Weathersfield [Wethersfield] Springs is a pleasant little village in the central part of Wyoming county, N.Y. The first part of the name was given in honor of a town of the same name in Connecticut; but the latter part is purely a local affair. Close beside the village are several springs of remarkably pure cold water; the largest of which covers two or three acres of ground. There is also a small mineral spring, the chief mineral property of which is sulphur.

The natural resources and beauties of the place are such, that with some pains it might be made one of the handsomest inlaid towns of the State. The locality is certainly very healthy, and the air and water of the place might safely challenge a comparison for salubrity and pureness with any other part of the country.

There is an institution of learning established here, called the Doolittle Institute. The buildings consist of a handsome school-house, of size sufficient to accommodate from two to three hundred pupils; and [?] large and convenient buildings, for the private accomodation of the teachers and those students who board at the Institute. This school was founded solely by the generosity and munificence of Mr. Ormus Doolittle, one of the oldest inhabitants of the town; and who is looked upon there as a public benefactor and general friend.

When the enterprise of building a Universalist church there was first started, this gentleman offered to give one of the finest sites for such a house in the village; and the church, if erected, will occupy this site. And I also understand that, if the subscription shall be raised to a sufficient amount to insure [ensure] the erection of a creditable house, the generosity which gave the building-lot, will prove itself not to have been exhausted by that gift.

About two months ago, some of our friends at the Springs agreed to try the experiment of a few meetings, and if that was a success, to organize a Society and attempt the erection of a church. The Academy building, of the Institute before referred to, was kindly given to us for our Sunday meetings; and the Episcopal choir lent us their aid through all our religious services. Meetings have been held on three Sundays, beginning with an audience of about one hundred, and closing with one of about three hundred. On the 12th inst. a meeting was held for the organization of a Society. It was well attended, and the business harmoniously conducted. A Society was organized in due form; a special Committee appointed to procure subscriptions for building a church. The enterprise, I think, will be vigorously pushed on to a successful termination. They appear to me to be a class of men who prosecute their schemes to triumphant issues. All about the village there is a flourishing community, a great majority of whom, I believe, are of that liberal class which would much prefer to attend and support a Universalist meeting. I trust they will see to it, that the enterprise thus begun, does not fail for want of their prompt and liberal support. I hope soon to be able to tell the *Ambassador*, that the necessary funds for the building are raised, and that the church is in the process of erection.

The Pastor, *pro tem*

*Christian Ambassador*, Auburn NY, 31 May 1862