

account it a duty rather to discourage than to assist the enterprise of which this structure reminds them, and of the successful prosecution of which it affords an indication, if not an assurance. Crowds of ignorant though honest, and yet other crowds of ignorant and dishonest persons, and still others whose prejudice or opposition cannot seek a shelter behind their ignorance, as they look upon these walls, will find no pleasure in the sight. They who have built this house have studied no concealment. They have placed upon its front the word "Unitarian," though it be offensive to many eyes, and by some observers be deemed a contradiction of the title of "Christian," with which it has been united in the same inscription.

The circumstances under which we have entered these doors, seem therefore to determine the course of remark which is most suitable to the occasion. The dedication of the first avowedly Unitarian church in British America almost requires of us that we explain and justify ourselves in such a step. When there are so many other houses of public worship in which the members of this society might have found opportunities of religious service, and so many other names under which they might have arranged themselves in the division of the Christian forces, why have they thought it necessary to erect a sanctuary bearing the distinctive name of Unitarian? What is the import of this name? What are the reasons for adopting it? And what are the differences which it indicates between the worshippers here and those who gather around other altars? These are questions that naturally arise; and in answering them I believe that I shall more directly meet the wants of the present hour, than if I should discourse of the propriety or the character of Christian worship in general.

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