

DR. GRANT TO TEST BAN ON DIVORCE

Militant Rector Reiterates Determination to Marry Mrs. Lydig

FORBIDDEN BY CHURCH CODE

New York, Aug. 8.—Power to grant a dispensation to the Rev. Dr. Percy Stikney Grant to marry Mrs. Rita Lydig, twice divorced society leader, is not within the province of the Bishop of the diocese, and marriage in such circumstances is expressly forbidden by the law of the Episcopal Church, it was declared yesterday by authorities on ecclesiastical law.

In announcing his intention to marry Mrs. Lydig these authorities believe that this Church's most noted advocate of liberal changes in the code of his religion is showing the courage of his own declared convictions regarding divorce, with a full knowledge that he may be compelled, and will be willing if necessary, to leave the Episcopal fold and become an independent clergyman.

While Dr. Grant said yesterday that he would not leave the church as long as he was of real service within it, and that he saw no reason why he should not continue to be of such service in his parish, it was pointed out that he could perhaps make a more effective fight for his reforms through adopting this attitude than by showing belligerency.

Dr. Grant a Hard Fighter Because of this possibility of helping along his ideas and because of Dr. Grant's record for sticking to his guns in the face of rebuffs, it is believed by his friends that he will not resign, but will seek to force the Church to oust him. Dr. Grant demonstrated this latter trait last winter at the election of the Bishop. At that time he advocated that the election be made on a certain platform, and his plan was ignored.

According to the Church authorities, the only possible case in which the bishop can grant a dispensation other than to the innocent party of a divorce for misconduct is where the divorced person is not a member of the Church, and is willing to be baptized. Then the Bishop is permitted to exercise his discretion as to whether the character of the person is such that he would be deserving of this consideration.

Mrs. Lydig, while formerly a Roman Catholic, has for several years been a

Watched 'Christening'



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communicant of Dr. Grant's church. For this reason, and because her divorce was not obtained on the one statutory ground acknowledged by New York law, she being the innocent party, this divorce is not recognized.

Subject to Dismissal Mrs. Lydig, for these reasons, could

not be married in the Episcopal Church, authorities say. If she and Dr. Grant were married in another church, or by civil ceremony, the union would not be recognized. They would then be placed in a situation which might bring about the dismissal of both from the Church.

Charges against them would not have to be brought by the Bishop himself, but could be preferred by any communicant of the diocese who felt that canon law had been violated. If such a charge is brought the Bishop is bound by his office to consider it, and if he finds that it seems to have base to appoint a court to try the case.

"You say that the Bishop has not the power to grant a dispensation in such a case?" one authority was asked. "Such power does not belong to the Bishop, except in the two eventualities discussed, which do not occur in this case," he answered. "We would be awfully hurt if he should take such power to himself in a case so openly opposed to the canons of the church. Trouble undoubtedly would follow."

"But we are simply discussing improbabilities. Bishop Manning is very strict regarding the divorce laws. And

these laws were expressly retained in their fullness at the last convention." Dr. Grant has declared he will marry Mrs. Lydig as soon as her health permits.

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Women's White Tub Skirts, \$1 to \$5. Many are greatly lowered in price, but it is the charm of their styles that makes them even more desirable than their low prices! After all, the line of a skirt are most important and that is where these skirts are so exactly right. Materials, too, are good and include gabardine, plain and fancy surf satins, corduroy and box-pleated cream serge. (Market)

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Men's Printed Madras Shirts, \$1.45. Plenty of black, lavender, blue and mixed stripes, sometimes plain, sometimes in clusters of three and so on. Much of the material shows corded white stripes. The shirts are made on our own comfortable Wanamaker dimensions and have soft cuffs. (Gallery, Market)

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