

WANT MARRYING PASTOR RESTORED

Presbyterians of Elkton, Md., Protest Ousting of Rev. John T. McElmoyle

SEEK NEW AFFILIATIONS

The Presbyterian Church at Elkton, Md., is trying to get back its "marrying parson," the Rev. John T. McElmoyle.

In order to oust the minister, who married 1000 couples, during his last year as pastor at Elkton, the New Castle Presbytery dismissed the Rev. John T. McElmoyle from the Presbytery several months ago, and its action was upheld by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church. Now the church is trying to withdraw from the Presbytery.

A resolution asking for the transfer of the church from the New Castle Presbytery to the Baltimore Presbytery has been adopted by the congregation and will be presented at a meeting of the Baltimore Synod in Washington on October 22. The "marrying parson" affiliated himself with the Baltimore Presbytery after his dismissal from the New Castle Presbytery.

The Rev. J. McElmoyle, against the wishes of a number of his parishioners, preached in the church Sunday and expects also to occupy the pulpit next Sunday. Shortly after his dismissal from the New Castle Presbytery, Dr. McElmoyle joined the Presbytery of Baltimore, and members of the church who are opposed to him contend that he has a right to preach in a church, or to occupy a manse belonging to the New Castle Presbytery.

An Interesting Career
The history of Dr. McElmoyle's pastorate at Elkton is long and varied, but decidedly interesting and not a little thrilling. His reputation as the "marrying parson" was not entirely deserved, his friends say, and was bestowed by his enemies because of the moral effect such a term might have upon his chances of remaining in Elkton beyond a certain time. When that time passed, his friends say, attempts were made to oust him, and his feat of marrying 1000 couples in a year was noted upon an effective campaign material by his enemies.

Most of Elkton's preachers have garnered a goodly harvest from patronage by the matrimonially inclined, and the business of marrying such couples has made the proportions of an industry. It is said that the average number of marriages in the town approximates 800 a year and that the coffers of various individuals in Elkton, such as court officials, taxi drivers and especially the preachers, have swelled to the alluring figures of \$30,000 a year.

Marriages by Wholesale
Of that, for a while, Dr. McElmoyle received a goodly share. The story of his feat of marrying the thousand couples in one year is well substantiated, although it is probable now that other ministers in the town have exceeded his number. At all events, members of Dr. McElmoyle's congregation remarked his activities in thus marrying couples in wholesale quantities and tried to force his resignation. Dr. McElmoyle refused to quit.

Matters finally reached such a stage that the question was referred to the New Castle Presbytery, of which the Elkton church is a member. The Pres-

bytery ordered the pastor to resign, and upon his refusal to do so, summarily removed him as a member of the Presbytery. This action was sustained at the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, but Dr. McElmoyle remained a regularly ordained preacher, although no longer as pastor of the Elkton church.

Church Has No Pastor
Various means to dissolve the connection of the Elkton church with the New Castle Presbytery and to join the Presbytery of Baltimore, so that Dr. McElmoyle might be recalled as pastor of the Elkton church, have been unsuccessful, and at present the church has no pastor.

At the request of the trustees, Dr. McElmoyle has at various times preached in the church. Attempts last week to sever the Elkton church connections with the New Castle Presbytery were again unsuccessful and it is now planned to make another attempt to obtain membership for the Elkton church in the Baltimore Presbytery when the latter meets at Washington late this month.

OLD LINER ON LAST TRIP

Veteran of the Sea Will Return to France Tomorrow

New York, Oct. 10.—(By A. P.)—La Touraine, oldest passenger ship plying between France and the United States, starts on her last trip tomorrow when she sails from her North River berth. Her owner, the French Line, has decided to dispose of the thirty-year-old vessel upon arrival in Havre. La Touraine is famous for having crossed the Atlantic more times than any other passenger vessel.

Captain Louis Le Pretre, commander of La Touraine, said the new dry-docking of Attorney General Daugherty had nothing to do with the decision of the French Line to displace the ship. She is simply worn out.

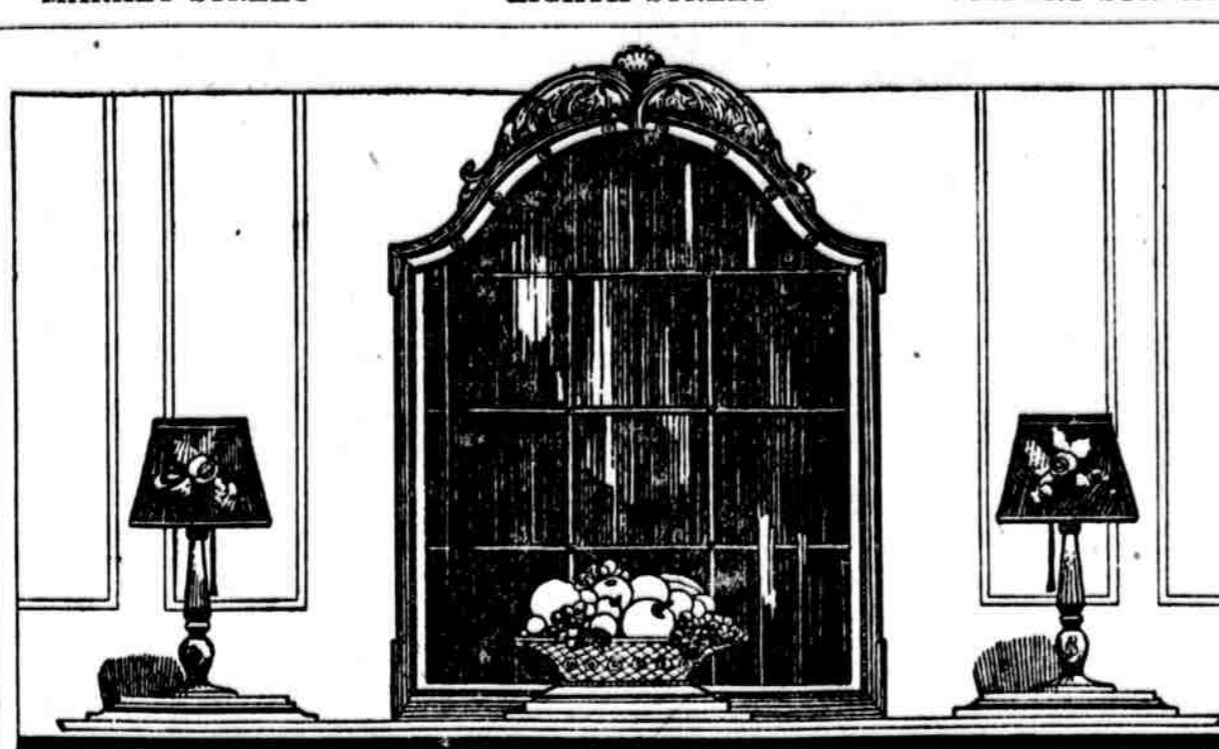


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