

OUTWITTING THE SYNOD. An Echo of the Suspension of the Seven Reformed Ministers. SUIT OF EASTERN SYMPATHIZERS To Save Their Church Property and Declare for Independence. REFORM VIEWS ARE TAKING DEEP ROOT

SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH.

New York, Sept. 23.—The congregation of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, or as it is better known, the Church of the Covenanters, in Tompkins avenue, Brooklyn, is interested in a suit just begun to foreclose a mortgage for \$8,500 on the property, which is held by the trustees of the estate of the late Hugh Henry Scott. The congregation is not financially embarrassed, and the trustees have purposefully refused to pay the interest on the mortgage, with the approval of the Rev. John F. Carson, the pastor.

The foreclosure proceedings are the outgrowth of the rumpus, which occurred at the famous Covenanters' conference in Pittsburgh a month or two ago. According to the terms of the church, not only the pastors, but the members of the congregations, are prohibited from exercising the right of suffrage, on the ground that there is no recognition of Divine power in the constitution and laws of the country.

At the Pittsburgh meeting the reform element in the church made itself felt, and a succession, backed by several ministers, was made that the canon law in the matter of prohibiting the exercise of the franchise should be amended. The trustees of the synod not only expected these suggestions, but suspended seven young ministers who had been very emphatic in urging their reform views. The seven young men made a successful appeal from the decision. The Rev. Mr. Carson, of the Tompkins avenue church, took advanced ground in favor of the suspended ministers, and on his return to his parish made an address in support of their reform views, and nearly nine-tenths of the congregation upheld him.

It is thought that the governing body in the denomination may make an attempt to dispossess Mr. Carson from the ministry, and the foreclosure proceedings are brought so that the property may be bought in by the congregation itself and held independent of the synod. When this is done Mr. Carson can declare his liberal views without any fear of removal by the synod.

Mr. Carson said: "I don't think the congregation has any intention to let the church pass out of its hands. The present state of affairs has grown out of the attitude taken by the synod in regard to the suggestion of a change in the common law at the East End meeting in Pittsburgh. A large proportion of our congregation have adopted these suggestions, and should the church remain in our possession, as we have reasons to believe it will, there will be no change in the organization."

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