

MINISTERS PRAISE HAYES

Newark Laymen Divided [Over] Wisdom of Former Pastor's Utterances

A number of Newark pastors and several members of the Universalist church were interviewed by a Democrat and Chronicle correspondent yesterday on the subject of the renunciation of Universalist doctrines by Rev. F. M. Hayes, D.D., as to their opinions of Dr. Hayes personally. The pastors were unanimous in speaking of Dr. Hayes in the highest terms. It was learned that they have adopted complimentary resolutions which were decided upon previous to last Sunday night, when Dr. Hayes made his statement. These resolutions speak of him in the highest terms as a Christian gentleman, as of his social qualities and of his fidelity to the cause of Christianity.

Outside of the ministers, there was considerable difference of opinion as to the wisdom of the utterances of Dr. Hayes and as to his honesty of belief in any one denomination. One prominent member of the Universalist Church said that personally he felt very sorry for Dr. Hayes, that he regarded his utterances as childish in the extreme, and he regretted that the pastors of the village had taken him under their wing, as it were, and indorsed him in his course. Another Universalist, one of the trustees of the church, said that he was thoroughly acquainted with the history of the matter from the beginning. It started, he said, several years ago when Dr. Hayes said he would not be a candidate for the pastorate another year. This was before the annual meeting.

At the annual meeting, in December, he alleged, Dr. Hayes appeared. He was asked to lead in prayer, after which he made an address in which he spoke very highly of Universalism, expressed his deep love for the church, and concluded by saying that he did not wish his remarks to have any bearing whatever on the action that was to be taken. The matter of his being retained as pastor was then voted upon and Dr. Hayes secured a majority of four. The trustees went to him and notified him of the action and said that he had a right to stay according to the vote, but that there were a number of the largest supporters of the church who would refuse to pay their pledge another year if he remained.

They therefore advised him to sever his relations with the church. He said that the trustees, while not guaranteeing him his salary, pledged him that under the circumstances they would do the best they could. He averred, however, that this was unsatisfactory to Dr. Hayes and that Hayes therefore decided not to remain with the congregation.

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