

WOMAN IN THE PULPIT

The installation of the Rev. Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Wright as co-pastors of the Universalist Church of the Reconciliation in North Henry street is an unusual recognition of the place of the minister's wife in the administration of the affairs of a parish. The man usually receives all the honor, while the woman does much of the work. If she does not teach in the Sunday school and work in the women's aid society and make patchwork quilts for the Hottentots she does not receive the approval of the mature sisters in the congregation. When one woman does not approve of another she can not go much farther in her condemnation. It is true that a woman occasionally receives some of the credit for her husband's work. If she be literary she is supposed to write his sermons, and when an especially good sermon is preached the women of the congregation are sure that she wrote it. Mrs. Wright was graduated from the same college in which Mr. Wright was educated, and she has been ordained to the ministry. Now she is going to preach and she will write sermons herself. There are two churches in the parish and she may preach in one and Mr. Wright may preach in the other. If they choose they may use the same sermons. As a husband and wife are one, neither could be accused of plagiarism, even if the wife wrote all the sermons. It is probable that they have agreed upon a division of labor. The woman may select the texts and supply all the adjectives, while the man may put in nouns and verbs to fit; or one may write the first half of the sermon and the other write the second half. The system is a good one and it may hasten the day when churches will be brought to understand that when they engage a pastor they do not engage his whole family without a distinct understanding to that effect.

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