

## DID REV. DR. SAMPLE HUG?

Not Charged with It Till After He Had Declared His Faith in Free Silver

JAMESTOWN, N.Y., Jan. 18.—Dr. [Asa] Saxe, of Albany, as the representative of the Universalist Church, is hearing behind closed doors the evidence in the case of the Rev. Dr. S. W. Sample.

Before the Presidential campaign of 1896 Dr. Sample was pastor of Jamestown's Independent Congregational Church, which belongs to the Universalist denomination. During the campaign a Buffalo newspaper printed an interview with Dr. Sample, in which he declared in favor of Bryan and free silver and scathingly denounced the trusts and corporate interests, which, he declared, were affiliated with the Republican party.

This interview offended many of the wealthy members of the congregation. Then it was charges were made that Dr. Sample was unduly intimate with Mrs. Otis E. Conway, a member of his flock. Before, there had been gossip but no attention had been paid to it. Dr. Sample resigned and organized meetings which to some extent divided his former congregation.

In the charges which are the basis of the present secret hearing it is alleged generally that Dr. Sample was guilty of conduct unbecoming a Christian minister, and the specifications are his association with Mrs. Conway against the wishes and warning of members of his church, and an attempt to injure the church after leaving the pastorate.

In support of the accusation regarding his relations with Mrs. Conway it is asserted that on one occasion he was seen sitting in the church with his arm about her waist. In support of the other allegation it is alleged he said that he would make it difficult for the church to secure another Universalist minister.

Dr. Sample, in his reply, declares that he only associated with Mrs. Conway at the proper time and in the proper place, and this, with the full knowledge and consent of his wife. The hugging charge and that charge that he sought to injure the church is emphatically denied. He asserts that the real reason of his trouble with the church is due to the free silver interview mentioned, and that prior to its publication his relations with the church and trustees were of the most cordial character.

The witnesses are being subject to searching examinations, and the trial will not be concluded before to-morrow night.

Mr. Conway began an action for divorce on statutory grounds last summer. Dr. Sample's name was not on the list of co-respondents. The action was tried before a referee and a decree of divorce granted by the court. Mrs. Conway has left the city, and consequently Dr. Saxe will not hear her version of the story.

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