

[Rochester, Monroe Co.]

PASTOR REFUSES TO TALK

Rev. D. M. Kirkpatrick is Now in the Hands of His Attorney

The surprising arrest of Rev. David M. Kirkpatrick, pastor of the Second Universalist Church, on the charge of impersonating an officer, is still creating no small amount of comment. It is now pretty generally conceded that the affair is not as serious as it was first represented to be, although the arrest of a pastor of his standing is in itself food for no little remark. There are now rumors that the case may not be brought into court.

On Tuesday night, the pastor was willing to talk on the subject of his arrest, but yesterday when a reporter called to see him, he stated that he had decided not to say anything for publication. This is no doubt on advice of his attorney, Frederick Smith, who is afraid that some misconstruction will be placed on the words of the minister, in the same way that his acts were misconstrued. Chief Cleary said yesterday morning that it was a grave mistake to connect Rev. Kirkpatrick with the mythical "rubber man."

"When the warrant was issued," the chief said, "in my mind there was not the least suspicion that Mr. Kirkpatrick and the 'rubber man' were in any way connected. I did not know that Mr. Kirkpatrick was the minister, either. The offense charged was simply a misdemeanor and that is all."

"Mr. Kirkpatrick, very likely," he continued, "was trying to investigate a little after the fashion of Dr. Parkhurst in New York. He never thought about any danger of being misunderstood."

The members of Rev. Kirkpatrick's church are still with him, and refuse to think that he has been guilty of any wrongdoing. In the prosecution of his church work there has never been a doubt of the pastor's sincerity. An intimate friend of the minister is reported as saying:

"I think that there is a great deal of unnecessary surmising done in a case of tis kind. The whole truth of the matter is that Mr. Kirkpatrick was going about a work in which he was very much interested, in a way which was more than likely to arouse the worst elements of the city. The two great facts which seem to me to have the most bearing on the case are that when the woman pointed him out he went across the street and said to the police officer that he was not anxious to keep his identity from them and presented to them his card, and that some time ago he announced his intention of preaching on this subject. He simply was indiscreet in the way he went at the task of finding out the information which he was so anxious to gain. That any more serious charges are to be brought against him, is simply stating an untruth, and which it will not be very difficult to prove an untruth."

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