

WOMAN'S WORLD

REV. ALICE K. WRIGHT AND HER WORK IN A BROOKLYN PULPIT

The Rev. Alice K Wright, a bright faced, clear eyed little woman, who assists her husband as pastor of the Prospect Heights Universalist church [Fifth Universalist Society], at the corner of Ninth avenue and Sixth street, Brooklyn, occupied on a recent Sunday the pulpit of the Rev. Lewis E. Pease in the Universalist Church of Our Father [First Universalist Society], at the corner of Grand avenue and Lefferts place.

Mrs. Wright spoke quickly and nervously, with graceful gesticulation. Her text was from Luke, "For whosoever will save his life shall lose it, but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it."

The preacher said this was an epitome of the lesson of unselfishness.

Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Wright were installed together as pastors of the Universalist church in October, 1893.

The unusual spectacle of a husband and wife, both regularly ordained ministers, being installed in a pastorate attracted a great number of people besides the regular congregation. It is not unusual in the Universalist church for women to become ministers. In fact, there are about 40 such in the United States. It is out of the routine, however, for husband and wife to adopt the ministry, even in that church.

To a reporter who visited her a few days after the installation Mrs. Wright said:

"When I was little I rather took to speaking in school, and as I grew up that taste developed into a desire for elocution. I passed the examination in the School of Elocution in Philadelphia and from there went to St. Lawrence university, Canton, N.Y., and took the course of science and letters.

"I made a short visit home, and then, much to my father's unhappiness, returned to Canton and took the theological course."

Mrs. Wright leaned back in her chair and laughed softly, then glancing merrily at me, in the same musical voice continued:

"It was there I met my husband. He was studying too. We were in the same class, and some way it happened that we two went crazy over Greek. We got way ahead of the others in the study, and, I have been told, our heads were together for hours over those Greek lessons.

"I don't know how it happened. Honest and truly, it is all Greek to me how we became so attached, but"—her blue eyes twinkled like stars—"I do wish you could get a husband just like mine—just as good, kind and gentle. He really is the best man I ever met."

"How long have you been married?"

"Oh, a long, long time! This is the second year, but we have only returned from our wedding trip. We got married and went directly to Vermont and took charge jointly of a dear, sweet little parish, and before we got ready to take a vacation we were called here, where, I am glad to say, we still go hand in hand."

"When did you preach your first sermon?"

"At the age of 19. I went home where I was born, Sheshequin, Pa., to preach it. It is so odd, but I preached in Sheshequin my first sermon, married my first couple and officiated at my first funeral service. My father now rejoices in my success as an ordained minister."

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