

NEW-HAVEN'S PULPIT DETECTIVE.

THE REV. MR. HOUGHTON AGAIN SOLVES THE ROSE AMBLER MYSTERY.

NEW-HAVEN, Sept. 30.—The Rev. Dr. Houghton preached again to-night on the Rose Ambler murder. The Church of the Messiah was crowded, and despite the rain many people were turned away from the doors for lack of accommodation. He declared that he cared nothing for the criticisms of the press upon the recent sensational sermon in which he accused Lewis of murdering his betrothed. The preacher insisted that he had nothing to take back. He still believed William Lewis guilty, and he was not afraid to declare his honest convictions. "The Christian pulpit," said Dr. Houghton, "should stand for the largest liberty of thought and the strongest defense of virtue. The spirit of the age demands a true, manly independence at the sacred desk. It calls for men not afraid to express their convictions on any questions of public interest. We want no blear-eyed preachers, who set like owls on the rafters of the temple of Zion, hooting the worn-out fables of by-gone days into the ears of thoughtful men. We want free, earnest, broad-minded scholars, who have convictions and the courage to express them. The press assails me, yet I believe neither my motives nor my meaning have been understood. When I said that I believed that William Lewis murdered Rose Ambler it was not spoken to create a sensation, nor can I understand how it did create a sensation, in view of the fact that nearly all the leading daily newspapers had hinted, if not openly declared, this same opinion. My belief was nothing new. It went by common consent that William Lewis was probably the guilty man. My object was not to forestall public opinion. That was quite well formed already. My purpose was to go back of the fact of the murder and look into the life of this suspected man, and see if there were a good reason for thinking him the murderer, because of a shameful lack of moral principles and virtuous instinct."

Having thus explained the object of the sermon of last Sunday, Mr. Houghton proceeded to try William Lewis once more—to "repaint the picture," he expressed it. Lewis's relations with Rose were reviewed, and the actions of the man after the discovery of the crime were dwelt upon. He manifested no grief, Mr. Houghton said. He patronized beer saloons. He exclaimed to a Birmingham man, who had asked about the crime, "What in hell do I care about it." The preacher called attention, too, to the way in which Lewis had won Rose's affections, stealing them away from Norman Ambler, her husband. "Hear this broken-hearted husband with tears and trembling lips tell the story of his wrongs to the Coroner's jury: 'If it had not been for Will Lewis Rose and I would have been living happily together now.' See this fellow Lewis creeping up under the cover of the night to Norman Ambler's house, there with low whistles signaling a woman from the side of a loyal husband, tempting her into paths where virtue was not. He ceased not until the once happy home was broken up and husband and wife by the court's decree were divorced. What would an honorable man say if this were attempted in his home? To ask is to answer, and I assert, in the face of all opposition, that it is the duty of the minister of Christ to rebuke such outrageous conduct. In the name and in the defense of virtue I lift up my voice against the career of William Lewis."

To a reporter to-day Lewis declared that he should take steps at once to prosecute the Rev. Mr. Houghton for slander.

The New York Times

Published: October 1, 1883

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