

MAN AND WIFE CO-PASTORS.

The St. Johns of Kansas City, Kas., Share Honors With the Wrights of Brooklyn.

The New York Times of recent date printed an article about the Rev. Dr. Alfred E. Wright and the Rev. Dr. Alice K. Wright of Brooklyn, husband and wife, and made the statement that they were the only instance in America of husband and wife ordained ministers and co-pastors of the same church. The article was reproduced in The Star last evening and caused surprise in Kansas City, Kas., which has just such a case within its borders in the persons of the Rev. Charles H. St. John and the Rev. Eugenia St. John, husband and wife, and co-pastors of the Stewart Avenue Methodist Protestant church of Kansas City, Kas., and Junction mission near Argentine.

The Rev. Eugenia St. John has had a unique career. She and her husband have visited almost every large city in this country and Europe. She was married to Mr. St. John twenty-seven years ago at Auburn, N. Y. In 1877 she was licensed as a local preacher by the McComb, Ill., district conference of the Methodist Episcopal church. In 1880 the Methodist bishops decided that women could not be licensed under the church discipline. Mrs. St. John continued preaching, however, till 1888, when she joined the Methodist Protestant church. She was regularly ordained as a minister of this church in September, 1889, by the Rev. T. J. Shepherd, president of the Kansas conference, which was then in session at Haldan, Kas.

Mr. St. John was already a minister, having been ordained in 1874. After Mrs. St. John's ordination, Mr. and Mrs. St. John preached together at Fowle chapel, Emporia, Kas., and at Neosho Rapids, alternately. Three years ago they were assigned to the Stewart Avenue church and Gordon Place Methodist church in Kansas City, Kas., where they preached alternately. Mrs. St. John has just recovered from an illness of almost one year caused by a runaway accident in Nebraska, where she was delivering a series of lectures for the W. C. T. U.

The Rev. Eugenia St. John bears the distinction of being the first woman to sit in a general conference of any evangelical church. She was sent as a representative of the Kansas conference of the Methodist Protestant church to the general conference which met at Westminster, Md., in 1892. An effort was made to oust her from the general conference sitting because of sex. Mrs. St. John conducted her own case and made so strong a representation that she was allowed to remain. Her principal work in this conference was to secure the striking out of the word "obey" from the marriage ceremony of the church ritual. She introduced the measure to strike out this section wherein a woman's judgment is subordinate to that of the man. She was re-elected to represent the Kansas conference in the next general conference of the Methodist Protestant church which meets in Kansas City, Kas., in May this year. She is the only woman ever elected on a general missionary board of any church. She is a member of the home board of missions of her church with headquarters in Pittsburg, Pa.

The Rev. Charles H. St. John is a practicing physician and also president of the Humane society of Kansas City, Kas. He has been chaplain of the Third and Fourth regiments of the Kansas national guard.

The Reverends Charles H. and Eugenia F. St. John, one of two man and wife co-pastors in America in 1896.

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