

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH: The Register Refuses to Enrol Names on the Parish Registry

Special Dispatch to the Baltimore Sun
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ANNAPOLIS, MD., Feb. 9.—When application was made by a number of persons today to be enrolled on the parish records to vote for a new vestry on the first of next April, the registrar of the church, J. M. Ridout, refused to register them, he said, because the vestrymen had not authorized him to do so. The applicants then quietly withdrew. Dr. Spencer is seriously considering a suit against the vestrymen, who, in their desire to depose him as rector, have rendered themselves liable, he claims, to action for damages. A compromise has been suggested to settle this church trouble which has received considerable notoriety. It is said the vestrymen antagonizing Dr. Spencer waited upon Bishop Paret with this object in view. Dr. Spencer will lay his case before the Bishop next Monday.

The court is expected to pass upon the legality of the election of vestrymen in advance of the contest which takes place the first Monday in April. Strictly speaking, it is claimed there has not been a legally organized vestry, according to the church canon, for at least forty years, and the friends of Dr. Spencer may use this argument in his defense. It is claimed there will be no doubt of his friends securing the necessary number to retain him as rector if the election is carried out under the canon law of the church.

The settlement of this church question is looked forward to with interest, and is discussed not only in the county, but elsewhere. One of the congregation received letters inclosing clippings from newspapers in Macon, Ga., and Chicago, Ill., taken from the Baltimore SUN, giving accounts of the church trouble. It is said the controversy may finally be referred to the Bishop and a committee of the Diocese of Maryland for action. The congregation and the officials of the church are said to be with the rector, but the vestrymen hold the balance of power, and they seem determined that the rector must