

AT WAR NO LONGER

Members of the Harmony Grove Church Withdraw from Court.

CONSENT VERDICT REACHED

Charges and Counter-Charges Have
Been Declared Off and the Fac-
tions Are at Peace.

The members of the Harmony Grove Southern Congregational church are now harmonious again, and the petitions, applications for injunction and other judicial proceedings that have been pending in the superior court have been withdrawn, and peace once more restored by a consent verdict that was taken yesterday morning before Judge Lumpkin.

The discord that arose among the membership of the Harmony Grove Southern Congregational church dates back to last February, when an application for injunction was taken out by one faction of the church, asking that the little chapel in which they had been accustomed to worship be taken from the possession of the other faction.

The petition was presented to Judge Richard H. Clarke, and when he signed his name to the paper granting the petition, he completed his last official act. Within four hours after the order was signed Judge Clarke was dead. Even while he was signing the order he was visited with the stroke that ended his life.

The paper was placed in the hands of Sheriff Barnes and, accompanied by a number of the indignant members, he went out to the church, which is located near Bolton, and removed the lock that had been placed upon the door by the other faction. The next day services were held as usual, but a long legal fight through the courts had just been inaugurated.

On many occasions different features of the case have been heard, and Judge Lumpkin had frequently heard argument upon the case in chambers, and now the record in the case, if all had been taken, would fill a large volume.

Yesterday morning a consent verdict was taken, in which the matter was satisfactorily adjusted and the court proceedings will be taken from the courts and further litigation will cease.

The Membership Was Divided.

The members of the church claimed in their petition that there was a society composed of several persons well known in the neighborhood in which the church was located, who styled themselves the Harmony Grove Congregational church, a name which was almost identical with that which held the possession of the property.

The petitioners claimed that none of the members of this society were members of the Southern Congregational church.

The petitioners state that they were in the quiet and undisturbed possession of the church until February 5th, when S. C. McDaniel, W. F. Brewer and C. C. King entered the church by force, breaking off the lock that was upon the door and placing a new lock in its place. That was the cause of the bringing of the petition which was granted by Judge Clarke just a few hours before he died in his room at the Markham house.

It is said the act of three members named was to prevent the members of the church and congregation from holding divine worship. Upon the door of the church was tacked the following notice, which the members allege was tacked up by one of the three members charged with having broken off the lock and placing a new one in its stead:

"You are hereby notified that any intrusion by opening this church for religious or any other service, except by the regular membership of this, the Harmony Grove Congregational, church or by the consent of the trustees of the same, and any intrusion by any other person whatsoever, will be considered a trespass and will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law."