

for services and Dr. Holmes, preaching from the text--this was in 1829--preaching from the text; "Think it not strange concerning the fierc trial which is to try you," organized his new Congregational church in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The Unitarian minority was not satisfied with taking the church building but demanded of the church its church fund, poor fund, communion service, baptismal basin, church records, church library, and so on, and obtained them, and so didn't give them a cent of the property that these people had given most of, who were the members of the church, and they had to go out and start in and build up a new church. The situation thus resulted in the great bulk of the church, of the Congregational church in New England going into Unitarianism. They lost their great college--Harvard. Out of twelve churches in Boston, eleven of them went Unitarian. The great--well, not the bulk of the churches but the bulk of the big churches and the bulk of the wealthy churches, and the bulk of the men of education, went with the Unitarians. People said, "Another twenty-five years and there will be nothing left of the Congregational church. Everything will have come into Unitarianism. As a matter of fact, though the Congregational church, largely as a result of its type of organization, has been the slowest growing of any of our great denominations, a hundred years have passed and the Unitarian church is hardly a sliver in America while the Congregational church is today probably fifty times as large as it was at that time. It is not a great, a large church but it is a substantial church in America and ~~of course~~ thirty years ago there were very many large evangelical churches in the Congregational church. Today with its absolutely independent form of organization in which each church is a law to itself, today you have in the Congregational Church in the United States a few churches which are outstanding evangelical churches but the great bulk of it is ^{quite} thoroughly modernistic. I have a friend in Chicago who used to attend the Congregational church there and I happened to be visiting him about three years ago at a time when they were having their--their pastor was giving a report on the meeting of the National Association of Congregational Churches and so he devoted his