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## REV. LEWIS M. ROPER RELUCTANTLY GIVEN UP BY SPARTANBURG



(Spartanburg Journal, Monday).

Rev. Lewis M. Roper, for twelve years pastor of the First Baptist church in this city, yesterday resigned this pastorate, and this morning announced that he would accept the call from the First Baptist church at Petersburg, Va. Mr. Roper's connection with the church in this city will be severed on March 31 and he will assume his new duties the first Sunday in April.

### Big Virginia Church.

The church at Petersburg, Va., is next to the largest Baptist church in that state, being surpassed only by a church at Richmond in number of members in the congregation. It is an excellent charge and much honor was bestowed upon Mr. Roper in calling him to fill the pastorate of this church.

Mr. Roper came to Spartanburg on March 1, 1900. Prior to this time, he had served as pastor of the First Baptist church in Canton, O., for four years. Prior to this he was pastor of the Baptist church at Ittica, N. Y., for three years, and he preached at the First Baptist church in Rochester, N. Y., for one year. Mr. Roper is a native of Laurens, S. C.

### Strides Forward.

When he came to Spartanburg there was but one Baptist church in the city, and the home of this congregation was an out-of-date structure standing on the corner of North Church and Wofford streets. The membership was 400, and this was the total number of members of the Baptist congregations in Spartanburg. Now there are 1,740 members of three Baptist churches here. When Mr. Roper came to Spartanburg the annual offering to foreign missions was \$70 and this was all given by every Baptist in Spartanburg. Last year the First Baptist church alone gave \$2,500 to foreign missions.

The membership of that little church, as has been stated, was 400. Today there are 775 members of the First Baptist church alone, 650 at Southside Baptist church and 600 members of the other Baptist churches. The growth of the First Baptist church would have been even more remarkable but for the fact that Mr. Roper was instrumental in organizing other congregations, when his became too large for one church.

In 1900, just twelve years ago, the annual expenses of the First Baptist church were \$2,500. Today the church expends annually \$13,500 and this amount is being increased each year.

### A New Home.

Aside from this excellent showing, a new home has been erected for the church at the corner of Main and Dean streets. This edifice, together with the lot, was erected at a cost of \$45,000 and today the church owes on the building and lot less than \$10,000. In addition, the church owns a large lot and home house on East Main St., next to the church, and the sale of one-half of this lot would pay off all the indebtedness of the congregation.

### His Great Influence.

These bare facts illustrate the success that has marked Mr. Roper's stay in Spartanburg, but the good that he has done, the souls that have been saved, the poor, down-trodden persons who has been helped by his influence

and aid cannot be illustrated.

Mr. Roper has been a factor in the educational, moral, religious, civic and physical advancement of Spartanburg. Because his influence had grown to be a part of the life of the city his departure from Spartanburg will leave a great vacancy in the best part of Spartanburg, a vacancy that can never be felt, not only by the Baptist denomination but by every church in Spartanburg. Methodists, Presbyterians, Episcopalians, Lutherans and Catholics alike will miss Mr. Roper. The young men of the city, whom he has often befriended, will miss him, and his resignation has caused genuine, sincere regret over the entire city.

### Resolutions.

Spartanburg, S. C., Feb. 25, 1912. Copy of resolutions read before the entire congregation at the First Baptist church, Spartanburg, S. C., at the Sunday morning service February 25, 1912, immediately after Pastor Lewis M. Roper's resignation was accepted. The resolutions were unanimously adopted, first by all members of the First Baptist church and afterwards by the entire congregation:

Whereas, Our pastor, Brother Roper, has accepted a call to another field, and realizing our loss, not only to our own church, but to our denomination throughout the state, in that we shall be deprived of his wise counsel and valuable influence; therefore, be it

Resolved, That we desire to express our recognition and appreciation of the valuable services rendered by him during his twelve years' stay with us.

That we esteem him as a man of undoubted integrity, a wise spiritual leader and a faithful and devoted pastor.

That we extend to his, his beloved wife and family the assurance of our warmest friendship and regard, praying that God may bless them in their new field of labor.

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That first gray hair!

Oh how disappointed you are to see it.—Gray hairs take away that youthful appearance that you are so anxious to, and should keep,—for beauty and good looks depend so much upon natural colored, thick, glossy and healthy hair.

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He has done more work, better work, and with greater ease—simply because he used an

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N. B. The following schedule figures are published only as information and not guaranteed.

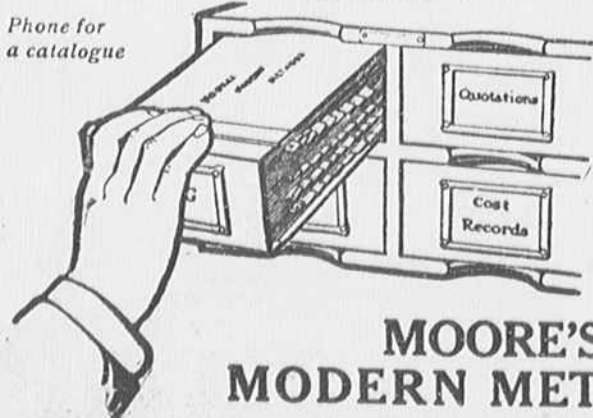
*54	53	Station	52	*55
8:20 a m	2:12 p m	Lv Laurens Ar Clinton	2:12 p m	7:55 p m
8:44	2:35	Clinton	1:50	7:35
9:32	3:20	Newberry	12:56	6:44
9:50	3:34	Prosperity	12:42	6:26
11:15	4:55	Ar Columbia Lv	11:15	5:00
	6:20	Ar Sumter Lv	9:41	
	10:00 p m	Ar Charleston Lv	6:15 a m	

\*—Trains 54 and 55 run solid between Greenville and Columbia daily except Sunday. These trains stop at Garvals St. Station, while trains 52 and 53 go to Union Station.

Solid through trains between Greenville and Charleston via Laurens and Columbia.

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