

From

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## Once Pastor Of Ferguson's Is Mum On Texas Muss

Texarkana, Dec. 5.—An independent in politics. Rev. Herman W. Knickerbocker, of the First Methodist church, former pastor of the church of which James Ferguson and Governor Miriam Ferguson were members, said Wednesday he had no comment to make on the present situation at Austin.

He expressed himself, however, as partly amused at the spectacle and partly regretful over the "state of Texas politics."

The interview was the occasion of reminiscence on Dr. Knickerbocker's part, dealing with events following the impeachment of Ferguson, when the latter asserted he had been "sanctioned" by his pastor.

"Just after the impeachment verdict had been rendered," Dr. Knickerbocker recalled. "Mr. Ferguson stood there alone, in the senate hall. I went to him and said, 'You have my sympathy and prayers.' Shortly after, I found to my consternation that Mr. Ferguson had cited me as among those who were 'still with him.'

'Now I've never taken the stump in politics—I leave that to my brother in Dallas—but on that occasion I had to come out and issue a public statement, explaining that Mr. Ferguson had construed my sympathy as commendation.'

Mr. Knickerbocker was pastor of First Church at Austin during the Ferguson reigme, and took Mrs. Ferguson and her two daughters into his church at that time. He also preached a year at the First Methodist church in Temple, where he was also acquainted with them.

That A. G. Carter, of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, is now involved in the tangle is also of interest to Dr. Knickerbocker who was acquainted with him during his pastorate in Fort Worth.