

DOWIE RETURNS;

HEARS OF ROUT.

Zion Leader Reaches Chicago Just After One of His Agents Is Driven from Indiana Town.

THREAT TO KILL ELDER.

Prayer Treatment for Diphtheria Victims Arouses Dyer Citizens Against Disciple Fisher.

PLAN DISPLAY ON SUNDAY.

When Dr. John Alexander Dowle returned to Chicago at 5 p. m. yesterday, after a trip abroad, one of the happenings in the local field to be related to him was Elder P. Fisher's forced retreat from Dyer, Ind., where a mob had threatened his life if he did not leave the place. The ire of the villagers was aroused because, after Roy Stommel, aged 9, son of August Stommel, had died on Sunday last of diphtheria without having had medical attention, Elder Fisher had appeared on Wednesday to pray at the bedside of Ruth, Roy's 5-year-old sister, also afflicted with the dread disease. The elder was given his choice between violent death and a quick departure. He left. Then the child was given antitoxin and put under the care of three doctors.

Dowie returned from his trip abroad at 5 p. m. He was met, at the Michigan Central depot by several of his elders. They escorted him to the Zion Building at Michigan avenue and Twelfth street, where other followers had assembled to greet him. In the evening the overseer went to the tabernacle and conducted a service for members of the church. Outsiders were refused admission. The meeting lasted until midnight.

Dr. Dowie's first public appearance will be at the Coliseum on Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock. This affair, it is expected, will surpass all demonstrations ever made by "Zion." A white-robed choir of 250 people and a procession of 100 officers of the church, also in white, will furnish the spectacular features. The meeting last night was partly in preparation for the Sunday affair.

Elder Driven from Dyer.

When young Roy Stommel died on Sunday morning at Dyer the people were indignant. When Elder Fisher, the Dowie apostle, went to Dyer on Wednesday to pray at the bedside of Ruth, the boy's sister, they were maddened. The villagers met, considered the matter, and then offered Fisher his choice between being strung to the nearest tree or making a hasty departure from the place. Fisher declared he would leave at once. He was escorted to a train on the Monon road, bound for Chicago, and to make sure of his leaving a member of the committee was sent with him as far as Hammond, Ind. One of the elder's remembrances of Dyer is a parting kick from an indignant member of the committee.

Fearing, that Fisher or some other of Dowie's emissaries would again attempt to invade the village, men armed with revolvers, crowbars, and ropes watched all incoming trains yesterday at the Monon and Michigan Central depots.

Every stranger who left the train at Dyer was closely questioned and was not permitted to leave the depot platform until his identity had been established.

"If any member of Dowie's flock sets his foot on this ground he will never get back to Chicago to report," said one of the vigilantes.

Hypnotism, Brothers Say.

Ruth Stommel is August Stommel's only remaining child. August Stommel is the owner of a general store, and his brothers say he has been hypnotized by the Dowieites. Sunday night when Elder Fisher learned of Roy's death he declared that his prayers had been useless because the father was a dealer in tobacco. In his fanaticism Stommel ordered all his tobacco stock—a wagon load of it—hailed to a field and burned.

Mr. Stommel had not called a doctor to attend his son because his wife and her two sisters, Mrs. John Johns and Mrs. Flannigan, and Mrs. Johns' daughter, Katie, had implored him to keep away from "the devil's disciples." They begged him to put his faith in Dowie's agents.

Stommel's two brothers, William Stommel of Hobart and Charles Stommel of Hammond, Ind., learned of his plight and decided to force him to call medical assistance for his daughter.

Mrs. Johns became converted to Dowieism several years ago after apparently being cured from stomach trouble. She went to live at Zion, and

subsequently interested her 23-year-old daughter, Mrs. Stommel, and Mrs. Flannigan, her sister, in the Zion teachings.

When the daughter, Ruth, became ill on Sunday night, a few hours after her brother had been buried, the Stommels began to pray for her. All day on Monday, on Monday night, on Tuesday, and on Tuesday night they pleaded, but gave no medicine. The child grew worse.

Why Fisher Left Town.

Mrs. Stommel summoned Elder Fisher, but her two brothers-in-law, Charles and William Stommel, arrived a few hours ahead of him. A Vigilance committee was organized and a crowd of determined men greeted Fisher when he reached Dyer. The village has no peace officials. There is no village President or other village officer. The citizens say they are able to take care of themselves.

The leader of the committee informed Fisher that he would have to leave town at once. The Dowieite asked to be allowed to send a message. Charles Stommel heard him.

“Here is a message I will send if you make a move,” he said, as he shoved a revolver under Fisher’s nose. Five minutes later the north-bound train arrived and Fisher was half dragged, pushed, and kicked aboard.

Proposes Anti-Dowse Law.

State Senator Crumpacher, at the request of the villagers, will introduce in the Indiana Legislature a bill providing a penalty for parents who allow children to be treated by others than licensed physicians. Attorney Joseph I. Bach of Hammond is drawing up the bill.

Stanley T. Sutton, former Prosecuting Attorney for Lake and Porter Counties, Ind., has also in preparation a bill designed to act against Dowie’s teachings. The bill will provide that when children under 16 years old are allowed to die without medical attention those responsible shall be liable to punishment for manslaughter.



Elder E. P. Fisher