

A PLEA FOR THE GRIPMEN.

The Rev. Dr. Mitchell Declares That They
Can Be Sheltered From the Cold.

The Rev. Dr. Mitchell spoke at the Grand Avenue Methodist church yesterday morning on man's inhumanity to man, as illustrated by the treatment of gripmen and motormen on the street railways. He told of the emancipation of the street car-horse and mule. He said he was proud of the street railway system of Kansas City, but that he felt it his duty to protest against the treatment of gripmen and motormen, who have to stand out in the cold with no protection excepting that which they can pile upon their bodies in the form of coats and wraps. He recited the claims of the street railway managers, that it is impossible to furnish protection for these men because they cannot watch the track if there is any obstruction of vision. He argued against this by telling of the experiences of the men in Pittsburg, Pa.

"The fact remains," he said, "that in Pittsburg where the climate is as cold as this in winter, where they have more smoke and more fog, where their streets are narrower and more crooked and universally more steep, the grip cars are all inclosed by glass windows, and they have certainly a few accidents as we have in Kansas City.

"At the beginning of last winter the motormen on the electric cars in that city had only a roof over their heads and the front of the car in their rear. That condition was far better than that of our gripmen, who stand where the wind sweeps all about them; but the citizens of Pittsburg and Allegheny made such an outcry against such inhumanity to the motormen that the companies closed entirely the two ends of the cars, and the men were sheltered on all sides, looking to the front and sides through glass doors. What is done in Pittsburg, can be done here if the companies are willing to undergo the expense. I, for one, enter my protest against this indifference to human suffering, and I believe this vast audience crowding this large auditorium this morning is in hearty sympathy with what I have said."