

**CITY OFFICIALS CRITICISED.**

**Rev. R. T. Smith Takes Them to Task for Not Enforcing the Law.**

At the Summit Street Methodist Episcopal church, the pastor, Rev. R. T. Smith, preached last night to a large congregation. The subject of his sermon was, "Important Questions for Young People." The text, from Acts xvi: 30, was, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

The prelude to the sermon was an interesting discussion on "Law Breaking in Kansas City and Our City Officers." In regard to this subject Mr. Smtth said:

"Sometime since, it is reported, our officers were importuned to close certain saloons which were being kept open contrary to the law and the Sabbath. The answer was to the effect that they knew of no saloons that were not obeying the law. Yet the policemen paced to and fro past those very places, and, it is reported, often stood before the bar. It is a ridiculous assumption that there are not scores of saloons open every Sabbath. The question is, 'Is there a single saloon in the city which is not open every Sabbath?' But these officers, elected by the people and paid to enforce the laws 'do not know' of any such cases. It is a shame and a disgrace to the church members, the moral men, and even to the respectable, law-abiding citizens of Kansas City that such things exist in our midst.

"We have officers to enforce the laws, and yet barbers continued to disregard the same till the journeyman barbers took the matter in hand. Recently a notice to the effect that the retail grocery men of the city will not keep open on the Sabbath after October 1, has been sent out, we understand. What about the acknowledged disobedience of the law for the five weeks intervening? Perhaps the officers 'do not know.' We ought to have men who can read, then they would know a few things.

"The other Sabbath, while going to visit the sick, I passed several saloons in which were men drinking and playing games. A policeman was within a stone's throw of the places. Passing up Grand avenue another Sabbath we saw several places of business open and met two policemen within a block, yet the officers who took an oath to enforce the laws of our city do 'not know' about these violations. Our police force is highly prized and justly, too, because of its success in running down crime when the officers have a mind to do so. The greater the shame when they allow it to flourish without an effort to drive it out. Our judges and police force are not elected and paid, neither do they take an oath, to enforce the sentiment of some whose influence they fear, but the laws of the city. We need men of character who can not be bought or bribed; who can not be intimidated or flattered. The law-abiding citizens of Kansas City, without regard to party, ought to organize a law and order league, see the law is enforced and at the first opportunity elect white men to office."

**WARRIOR AND WATCHER.**