

REV. W. C. BITTING, NOTED LIBERAL, DIES

**Pastor of St. Louis Baptist
Church for 19 Years and of
Mt. Morris Here 21 Years.**

AUTHOR OF SEVERAL BOOKS

**Refused to Be Bound by Creeds—
Was Corresponding Secretary of
Northern Baptist Convention.**

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 10 (AP).—The Rev. Dr. William Coleman Bitting, 73 years old, pastor of the Second Baptist Church from 1905 to 1924 and widely known in church circles in the United States, died here early today.

Dr. Bitting, noted as a liberal exponent of religion, once said in an address that "creeds are merely intellectual guesses at the infinite. I am bound by no creed. Personally, I am a Metho-formed, Presby-gational, Bapto-palian.

"I am not trying to get men into Heaven; I am trying to get Heaven into men. Nor am I trying to keep men out of Hell, but to keep Hell out of men."

Dr. Bitting was born at Lynchburg, Va., studied at Richmond College and was ordained to the Baptist ministry in 1881. In 1884 he became pastor of Mount Morris Church, New York City, and served there until 1905.

For the last twenty-three years Dr. Bitting had been corresponding secretary of the Northern Baptist Convention. A graduate, class of 1880, of the Crozer Theological Seminary, he held the degree of Doctor of Divinity from three institutions, Richmond College, Howard College and Brown University. The University of Chicago made him a Doctor of Sacred Theology in 1916. Among his books were "Earthly Blooms from Heavenly Stems," "Foundation Truths," and "The Teaching Pastor." He married in 1886 Miss Anna Mary Biedler of Baltimore.

In Mr. Bitting's long pastorate at the Mount Morris Church the congregation was greatly increased and many additions were made to the church's property.