

PREACHER DEFENDS THAW.

Richmond Calls Him Less Blameworthy Than Rockefeller.

Special to The New York Times.

PHILADELPHIA, July 25.—The Rev. George Chalmers Richmond, rector of St. John's Protestant Episcopal Church, who for several months has been at odds with Bishop Rhinelander, today devoted his sermon to a defense of Harry K. Thaw. The announcement that Dr. Richmond would preach on the topic, "Harry Thaw; Is He a Menace or a Missionary?" attracted a congregation that filled the church to the doors.

Although the rector did not condone the slaying of White, which caused Thaw's imprisonment for nine years, he said that he considered Thaw less blameworthy for social corruption than "Carnegie and Rockefeller, whose ideas of 'getting on' in life have been given a fair trial at Pittsburgh and today at Bayonne." He called Thaw a "good specimen of the moral results of Pittsburgh's fast life," and suggested that Thaw should devote the rest of his life to social service in Pittsburgh.

"Thaw had the courage to free this world of a moral hypocrite," said Dr. Richmond. "Some men have no pity for him; only condemnation and wrath. I do not belong to that crowd, because I am familiar with the Book of Life. Thaw played the rôle of a saviour to society. I do not uphold Thaw's course in killing White. But Thaw has suffered and regretted his method with White in years of dark confinement in a mediaeval lunatic asylum which is a disgrace to New York.

"Why pursue him? Why stamp on him now? Why curse the jury system. Why declare it all a miscarriage of justice? Are we to become as hateful toward Thaw as Georgia is toward Leo Frank?"