DR. VAN PELT IS GIVEN WELCOME

ew Pastor First Methodist Church Delights Large Congregation With Initial Sermon.

PROVEN A FORCEFUL SPEAKER

Successor to Dr. G. T. Dwinell is One of Strongest Leaders of Central Illinois Conference.

A most cordial welcome was yesterday tendered to Dr. Samuel Van Pelt, new pastor of the First Methodist church, on the occasion of the assumption of his new work here. Large congregations were present both morning and evening and the members of the congregation were more than pleased with their new pastor, who quite became known as a strong and able preacher but also because of the pleasing personality.

There were no formalities connected with the initial services yesterday during Dr. Van Pelt took up his next work in Rock Island. He was manifested in another way quite like of them, as he walked on the way into the congregation. He especially emphasized the early importance of the character and care of home.

Is Conference Leader.

Dr. Van Pelt comes to this city from Kansas where he has been prominent in conference work. He is one of the ablest and most prominent men in the central Illinois conference, and has held some of the most important charges in it, including a pastorate at Peoria, Galesburg and Bloomington. For years Dr. Van Pelt was connected in editorial work with the Western Christian Advocate, a weekly publication for the church and Sunday school. He was also a member of the board of trustees of Knox college, Galesburg, and was transferred to the Illinois conference from the Kansas conference.

Dr. Van Pelt is a graduate of Peoria college and Northwestern University. For years he