

# Gazette was city's 1st paper

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the county that Maxwell had sponsored a bill in the legislature to make Presbyterianism "the published religion of Indiana." The physician's long letter — designed to set the record straight — explained that an earlier bill authorizing an Indianapolis Presbyterian congregation to buy land in that city, had been so loosely worded that a judge had remarked that the deed could later be contested.

Maxwell, himself a Presbyterian, freely admitted being involved in drafting a bill to clarify the congregation's right of ownership, but he also pointed out that he had been a party to bills securing the property rights of the Catholic Church in Vincennes and Baptist Churches in Dearborn County and Wabash. Apart from the fact that an established religion was abhorrent to him, the physician/legislator also wrote that the perpetrators of the rumor probably had political motives.

The other letter to the editor has a familiar ring to it in that the writer deplores the condition of the courthouse. Apparently the building was suffering wear and tear because it was being used for "purposes foreign from the design and intention of the building."

"Yet," observed the writer, who signed himself "A Citizen of Monroe," "Pennywise says, that these things must be endured to save the public expense of providing buildings suitable for a Clerk's Office and other ordinary purposes."