

the laws of Moses and Israel."

We know that the cantors are preparing to fight against us with every weapon at their disposal. They are strong financially and have the determination to carry the fight to us to the limit, especially so since they know that religious representatives of some synagogues are with them, and that even the reporters are helping them along. Yet we put our trust in God and hope that this battle will be crowned with the same success for us as the battle of King David against Goliath the Philistine. For we fight in the name of God and in the name of our Holy Torah, and we, therefore, hope for a victory of our cause and the cause of our religion, and may the righteous see and rejoice.



TRANSLATION

Of a letter sent to the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of Massachusetts
by the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada.

May your hands be strengthened, our brethern, rabbis, "gaonim", great men of Israel, in the state of Massachusetts, in this holy war, the war of "Mizvah," which you are waging in the interest of the laws of the Torah for the preservation of the purity of our family life and against the lawlessness of indiscriminate marriage performing. Our "gaonim" of generations past fought in the same battlefield years and years ago, and they ruled that only one thoroughly competent in the marriage laws may officiate at a ceremony, and one other should be allowed to ever attempt tackling a thing of such utter importance. Particularly in this land there are numerous legal complications and transgressions against our religion caused by irresponsible, incompetent and ignorant "reverend" gentlemen performing marriage ceremonies, so that the legitimacy of the offspring is very often in doubt. And it is for this reason that our organization has many times warned the public that only those who have permission from a competent rabbi may perform marriage ceremonies.

We have heard recently of the great temerity that these transgressors are displaying in the State of Massachusetts, trying to get the official performing of marriages into their hand, and we herewith urge you to do all in your power to combat this attempt, in order that our laws might be observed. Do all you can to prevent the evil. Denounce it from the pulpit, educate the public to the true facts, and publish this letter of ours, for it is our Holy Torah that we are guided by, and the Almighty God will help us right the wrong and with His help we will witness the exaltation of the Torah and our Holy religion.

(Signed)