

"You seem to have a good deal of faith," said Charlie.

"I do have; and I don't give people up until my five senses are convinced. I don't assume everybody to be a liar, much less a woman like Blanche, from whose eyes nothing but virtue shines. Remember Madeline. Was she not most faithful, most loving, even unto death, though you were convinced, perhaps on better evidence than this, that she was false? Come, do have some faith, and don't take things exactly as you see them. Probe to the bottom."

"Would I could believe in her!" said Charlie. "If I could but keep my trust, I would follow her over land and sea."

"Take my word for it that you can trust her," said Will.

"But these letters,—how do you explain them? They are in her handwriting."

"There's where you jump. The link is not quite so sure. I have sent a telegram to Paddie. He'll be here in a minute, and then we'll study it up. But give me your hand that you won't whistle her off until you know she's false."

"Here it is. I'll stick to the evidence. I don't believe you'll change it much. Paddie is pretty smart, but he is not magician enough to convince me that Blanche didn't write these."

"Possibly she did. I admit the resemblance. But now for the identity. Paddie, here's a question for you. Set your wits to work. You are an expert, I believe, in penmanship."

Briefly, Will told the story to Paddie, as the latter came hurrying in.

"I should say all were written by the same person," said Paddie; but I must study deeper. These notes and letters you know were written by Blanche?"

"Yes," said Charlie.

"And this you received to-night, and this is the one sent to the house—"

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

The Licensed Preacher.

"BY OLD MORTALITY."

My Little Ones—

In America we have 143 different styles of religion. In order to keep these various religions constantly before the people it requires 113,000 preachers. The various nations of the world have 1000 forms of religion and many thousand odd and senseless dogmas.

The church property of this country is valued at \$679,694,439. It costs the American people for their religion \$200,000,000 per annum; our country boasts of 20,612,863 church members.

This is called a Christian country yet our jails, prisons and houses of correction are filled to the walls with law breakers.

In 1896 there were 10,652 murders. There were also 6020

suicides. And 60,000 men and women went down to drunkards' graves.

Our population numbers about 73,000,000, so you see that not one-third of our vast legions are church members, yet notwithstanding this fact we pat ourselves on the back, and tell our heathen neighbors that "we uns" are out of the slough of despond, and on board the ark of safety because we are a christian nation, and "don't you forget it."

Little ones maybe you are not particularly interested in this part of my discourse so I will change the subject and tell you something about the book of Mormon, which, by the way, is the only one of the 27 different bibles that men have made oath as to divine production.

And as God in his great wisdom and sagacity selected Americans to edit the book, I feel somewhat proud of this Mormon Bible.

Heretofore we have been compelled to depend solely upon our foreign neighbors for our bibles and our religion. By the way, it is said that the A. P. A.'s will read no other bible, because this one is so truly American.

IN COURT.

Testimony of three witnesses: Be it known unto all nations, kinderds, tongues and peoples, unto whom this work shall come, that we through the grace of God the father, and our Lord Jesus Christ have seen the plates which contain this record which is a record of the Nephi and also of the Lamanites, their brethren and also of the people of Jared, who came from the tower of which hath been spoken and we know hath been translated by the gift and power of God—for his voice hath declared it unto us, wherefore we know of a surety that the work is true. And we also testify that we have seen the engravings which are upon the plates, and they have been shown us by the power of God, and not of man.

And we declare with words of soberness that the angels of God came down from heaven and he brought and laid before our eyes, that we beheld and saw the plates, and the engravings therein, and we know that it is by the grace of God the father and our Lord Jesus Christ, that we beheld and bear record that these things are true and it is marvellous in our eyes. Nevertheless the voice of the Lord commanded us that we should bear record of it. Wherefore, to be obedient unto the commandments of God, we bear testimony of these things.

And we know that if we are faithful in Christ, we shall rid our garments of the blood of all men and be found spotless before the judgement seat of Christ and dwell with him eternally in the heavens, and the honor be to the father, and

(CONTINUED ON SIXTH PAGE.)

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