

(CONTINUED FROM THIRD PAGE.)

The Licensed Preacher.

to the son, and to the holy ghost, which is one god. Amen.

The above testimony is signed by the following gentlemen—Oliver Cowdery, David Whitmer, Martin Harris and also the testimony of eight other witnesses: Be it known unto all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people unto whom this work (Bible) shall come that Joseph Smith Jr. the translator of this work has shown unto us the plates of which hath been spoken, which hath the appearance of gold, and as many of the leaves as the said Smith hath translated, we did handle with our hands.

And we also saw the engravings thereon, all of which has had the appearance of ancient work and of curious workmanship.

And this we bear record with words of soberness, that the said Smith has shown unto us for we have seen and hefted and know of a surety that the said Smith has got the plates of which we have spoken.

And we give our names unto the world to witness unto the world that which we have seen and we lie not, god bearing witness of it. Christian Whitmer, Jacob Whitmer, Peter Whitmer Jr., John Whitmer, Hiram Page, Joseph Smith Sen., Hyrum Smith, Samuel H. Smith.

My little ones, now I have given you the evidence of eleven gentlemen who have so generously come forward and testified to the divinity of the Mormon bible. Were they laboring under a delusion, may be a question with some of you. Some infidels say the book of Mormon was written by an eastern merchant merely for pastime.

I have discovered that infidels, skeptics and investigators are very much given to doubt when it concerns bibles and sacred history.

I often wonder why these "Paul prys" do not mind their own business, and allow us preachers to go on with our traffic which consists of pulling the wool over the eyes of the dear people. There is nothing that will hoo doo some folks so quickly and effectually as religion, providing the religion contains a devil or two.

My little ones, sometime ago the christian endeavor society held a season of prayer for the conversation of Col. R. G. Ingersoll, but these prayers were not answered and of course the naughty "Bob" was not affected by the religious labor of his would be persecutors.

This unexpected result so Chagrined the "boss" of the Salvation Army that he hankered to revenge his christian brethren, so a few days ago the Salvation Army at St. Louis Miss., concluded to burn old splitfoot (the devil) in effigy thinking perhaps this transaction would take one of Ingersoll's best irons out of the forge.

"Salvation army folks don't mind carrying coals to Newcastle if they can win souls to Christ in that way. Thursday night they burned the devil in effigy. The adding of earthly flame to hell fire is a unique idea. Just what shade of significance is attached to the spectacular ceremonial was not brought out by the orator of the occasion. It might typify fighting the devil with fire, the burning of his image out of sinful hearts or half a dozen other things. The audience Thursday evening paid its admission fee and took its choice on after effects.

Before the match was applied to Beelzebub Ensign Keast lead a regular old fashioned Salvation experience meeting.

The preparation of burning His Satanic Majesty included the erection of a scaffold consisting of two uprights and a cross beam. A wire was stretched between the uprights, giving the appearance of a foot ball goal.

On the platform was a trunk labeled "The Devil's Chest." The big figure of the devil lay face downward on the floor while his methods were under discussion.

Services began with a hymn by a chorus of young women in poke bonnets. Then Ensign Keast opened the devil's chest.

"I'm going to show you" said he, "a few tools the devil puts into our hands to help us carve our way into hell."

With that he produced a whisky flask from the chest. The audience greeted it with irreverent remarks.

After the trunk had been emptied the devil was raised into position, and an imposing looking devil he was. The effigy depicted in flaming red stood out impressively in the dingy room. It looked ten feet high. The distorted face was painted a ghoulish green, and with the rope about the throat with which it was suspended to the gallows cross beam sent an uncanny thrill through the audience.

In his left hand Beelzebub held a sachel. Ensign Keast opened it and took out the devil's card of introduction. They were big placards labeled "Pride," "Lust," "Backbiting," "Envy," "Plenty of Time." The ensign read them off without comment and nailed them to the gallows tree.

Meanwhile red fire and alcohol has been placed under the figure of the demon. The lights were turned out and the female portion of the audience were thrown into a flutter of excitement.

Out of the darkness came a great shout of hallelujah, as Lieutenant Gregerson struck a match and lighted the red fire.

When the flames shot up the tableau was thrilling. With the red glow in front and the figure of Satan loomed up like the horrid monster of a nightmare. Soon the fire attacked the effigy. Meanwhile the hall rang with shouts of hallelujah, the dash of cymbals and the rumble of bass drums.

In truth there never was so much rejoicing before or since in all Missouri for the devil was dead—burned up. Fie what a shame!

But why did these poor simple misguided fanatics burn satan? Do they not know that for nearly 1000 years we sky pilots have clothed our backs and fed our bellies on the fat of the land until the cuticle on our abdomens was drawn up hard and tight as the head of a drum? All by the kind aid of this very old split-foot. Great scott! how the Infidels, Skeptics, Agnostics, Freethinkers, Scientists, Rev. C. C. Moore of the Blue Grass Blade, Macdonald of the Truth Seeker, H. L. Green of the Free Thought Magazine, J. D. Shaw of the Independent Pulpit, P. W. Geer of the Torch of Reason and the devil knows who else will go mad with joy when they learn that his most royal highness has been burned to ashes at St Louis Mo. Little ones woe is mine! My best trump is taken! The devil is dead! Meeting is now dismissed. Amen.



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