

**The Licensed Preacher.**

By Rev. Old Mort lity.

My Little Ones:— It pleases me not a little to see so many of you at the Tabernacle this morning. I have much to say, and I hope you will be both pleased and benefitted thereby. Some of the things that you may hear are not to be repeated to your parents, but your good judgment will twig the things that are to be kept from them. It is very trying on me to wear two faces and talk with two tongues, but having learned the preacher's trade, I am compelled to make my living by it, as I am incompetent to make an honest livelihood in any of the ordinary fields of labor. I make this confession to you, as an honest confession is said to be good for the soul. How many of the 113,000 sky-pilots in this country could say as much if they were brave enough to express their minds? But they will not do so, for should they hint their honest convictions, they would be compelled to vacate their pulpits.

My little pets, as a class we are an incumbrance upon the face of the earth. But oh, how short-lived we are! Presently the American people will have dropped the scales from their eyes, and they will see us as the light from the Torch of Reason falls upon us. And then what will the harvest be? Our churches, tabernacles and joss-houses will all be replaced by good schools and various temples of science. No sky-pilot will ever after cloud and darken the brain of our American people. Oh, happy day, when these things come to pass! Oh, happy day, when the so-called "holy" Bible will have been cast aside as a most senseless and useless compilation of obscene hoo-doo trash.

My pets, perhaps some of you will live in this happy time to come. As it is hastening hitherward with rapid strides I trust you will be prepared to welcome it with glad hosannahs piped on ram's horns and silver trumpets—sixteen silver trumpets to one ram's horn, or sixteen ram's horns to one silver trumpet, according to your fathers' politics.

It pains me to note that several of the ladies of Oregon are going about the country lecturing on the subject of Freethought and other kindred subjects. Does not the Bible say that when a woman wants to know of a matter she should ask her fool of a husband concerning it? Now why do these poor, misguided ladies not consult their consorts and have done with it? Surely, if they be in the dark their husbands will enlighten them, providing the things they would know are right and proper subjects for their information. To these poor, misguided women I would

say, if you have no husband, put on your "sparking" clothes and get one without further delay, and then ever after when you are in doubt consult him and he will make all crooked things straight unto you. Women, keep silent, for thus does the good book recommend, and I to this give my hearty approval.

Not alone in the wild and woolly west are the ladies taking up arms against this Holy Bible, but those of the eastern states have put on their "thinking caps" and they, too, are talking and writing both day and night against this most holy book. These intelligent eastern ladies have lost their respect for the ministry and they look upon us divine messengers of peace and good will to men as frauds.

Away down in Kentucky they put people in jail when they say a word against this precious Bible or speak disrespectfully of distilleries and saloon keepers. Why, there is the Rev. C. C. Moore, of Lexington, who has become so accustomed to being cast into a damp, gloomy bastille that he becomes quite tired and lonesome when the jailer sets him free. And in order to avenge himself against his persecutors he wrote a red-hot book, "The Rational View". He says that the father of Jesus Christ was a common Roman soldier. If this be true, how could Jesus be the son of Jehovah? Is it not a wonder that the people of Kentucky do not send this gentleman to jail for "keeps"?

There has recently sprung up in New York a religious sect who call themselves the "Holy Rollers". This sect is adding hundreds to its ranks. They take the Holy Bible as their guide, and thousands of country people come from afar to listen to the new sect. We now have 144 religions to fight the devil with. I wonder what Col. R. G. Ingersoll will say when this new religious sect will have converted the entire city of Gotham. Most surely he will commit "justifiable suicide". Then again, he may become a "Holy Roller" and burn his many anti-religious writings at the terminus of the "Five Points". Strange things are occurring these days, and we should not be astonished if Mr. Ingersoll becomes a "Holy Roller" and goes stumping the land right on the opposite tack from which he now sails. With Brother Ingersoll in our ranks, we could slap the God of the Holy Bible into the constitution in a hurry.

Meeting is now dismissed.  
Amen.

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**If This is a Christian Nation,**

In case Spain should declare war, what should be the attitude of the United States? For be it remembered that this is a "Christian nation". The supreme court has distinctly affirmed this to be a fact; and an abundance of "proof" on this point is supplied by the repeated declarations of eminent theologians affirming the same thing. All these affirmations have, save by the American Sentinel and a few other journals, gone unchallenged. From the popular point of view, therefore, it may be said that there can be no doubt as to the proper attitude of the United States toward her belligerent neighbor, so far as the question of her being a Christian nation is concerned.

This being so, it is only to be expected that the nation's attitude toward Spain will be a Christian one. It will be marked by the spirit of Christian charity. Our nation will "suffer long" and still be "kind". She will not seek her own exaltation; she will not resent an insult or an injury. Should Spain emite her on the one cheek by sending a fleet over and bombarding New York City, she will turn the other cheek also, and allow the Spanish fleet to bombard San Francisco. And all this while she will love Spain and pray for her and seek to do her good. For all this is plainly included in Christian conduct. Will our nation do this? Does the supreme court or any of the theologians who have so positively affirmed that "this is a Chistian mation" believe that she will conduct herself thus in the event of a d-claration of war from Spain? Not one of them believe so, it is safe to say; and yet—such is the inconsistency of human nature—they will no doubt hold to the idea of the Christian character of this nation while with her army and navy she is taking eye for eye and tooth for tooth from her antagonist, and otherwise violating the cardinal principles of Christian conduct. And it is also safe to say that Spain is not counting on anything else than this in the event of a declaration of war. The declaration that "this is a Christian nation" was not intended to serve as a governing principle of national conduct in case of war, but it certainly applies here if it has any force whatever. The state is not Christian unless it follows the example of Christ.—[American Sentinel.]

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