

the good deacon Balldick touched a sympathetic chord and made a point she would cry aloud and swing her black-bordered handkerchief for all it was worth.

Roxey promised to have my sudden death liberally advertised in all the county papers. Besides this, she promised to get out a thousand "posters" and twice as many "dodgers". These she would post and distribute where they would do the most good.

Little pets, I do need a few hundred dollars, but I will not venture into a coffin as long as I live. Other men not so liberally endowed with horse sense may play dead man, but as long as I can make a dollar by telling your parents that two she bears ate forty-two children for supper and the whale ate a whole Jew for its breakfast, and many other stories just as wonderful, and just as untruthful, I will let well enough alone. So, therefore, I positively refused to play the role of dead man to Roxey Jane's cut and dried funeral sermon. So she and I are now at outs.

A FALSE REPORT.

A few days ago an Oregon paper published a sensational account of the sudden death of the devil. I read this libelous article with great sorrow, for well I know that if the devil were dead my occupation would be ruined and I would become a charge on the county. For nearly two thousand years we so-called servants of the "meek and lowly one" have "worked" the ignorant and thoughtless with this sulphurous fiend.

Did I say fiend? No, no, I will not call his royal nibs by so cruel and unjust an epithet. I will say, the pulpiter's best friend, for such he has ever been for the orthodox religionist.

A report from Mintonville, Ky., states that the Rev. Gilham, of the Christian church preached a sermon there in which he affirmed there is no devil. The congregation took offense and when the reverend gentleman undertook to speak again he was ejected from the house and about twenty pistol shots were fired after him.

How Rev. Gilham escaped with his life is hard for me to guess. Kentucky, of all places on earth, is greatly in need of our mutual friend and staunch standby.

Now, pets, fail not to inform your dear parents that the devil is still alive and doing business at the old stand. Also say unto them that I will continue to receive their donations with my accustomed bland smile.

GREAT MINDS DIFFER.

"The Missouri Presbyterian Synod, in session at St. Louis, passed a resolution censuring Princeton professors for signing a petition for a saloon license for the Princeton Inn."

So much for the defiant Presby-

terians who shake their fists in the face of the god of the Jews, who says: "Go thy way, eat thy bread with joy, and drink thy wine with a merry heart; for God now accepteth thy works." (Eccles. ix. 7.)

Thus commands the god of the Jews.

Faithfulness to temperance principles is quite a new excuse for excommunication. But the synod of the Dutch reformed church in South Africa has passed the following resolution:

"This synod declares that members who unite themselves with teetotal societies become unfaithful in their membership in the Gereformeerde kerk, and must be repeatedly and earnestly warned, and if they will not give heed after many warnings they must be treated in accordance with article 21 of our synod rules, that is, cut off from membership in the church."

My pets, I do not feel willing to take sides on this vital question. I am located in this pulpit solely for the cash there is in the job. I do not drink liquor, nor will I offer it to others, notwithstanding the god of the Jews recommends its use in very strong language. Rum and religion go hand in glove, and I will not deign to separate these twin evils.

I notice that since Roxey Jane has introduced individual chalices cups that hold a pint of wine the membership of this tabernacle has about trebled. So I guess I had better keep a silent jaw on this temperance question, and I will continue to hoodoo your simple-minded parents with snake, fish, bear, ghost, dream, spirit and other interesting bible stories.

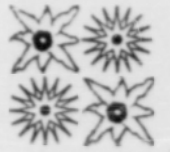
Amen.

Australian Natives.

The Hon. David W. Carnegie who has returned to England after a thirteen months' journey across the Great Victoria and Great Sandy Deserts of Western Australia, gives a very unfavorable account of the natives he met with. There are not many of them, and the planet is to be congratulated on their paucity. The people are very dark, Mr. Carnegie says, and add to their blackness by smearing themselves with grease and ashes—a fact which makes their presence known at a considerable distance. They are very ugly—more like monkeys than anything else, with their flat foreheads and protruding lips. As a rule they are very thin, and of small stature. Men, women and children are all stark naked. They make no houses. They simply scoop out a hole in the sand and squat in it. This is a fresh and striking confirmation of the Darwinian theory.

Life is a short day, but it is a working day. Activity may lead to evil, but inactivity cannot be good.—[Hannah More.

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