

The great Mufti looked daggers at Stubborn, and immediately commenced his premeditated attack upon him for having prevented a robbery, and having spoken of the vile attempt of Sanctity upon the inheritance of his fatherless niece, as unbecoming a saint. The result is before the reader. See chapter III., &c.

There are other instances of the profound Jesuitical tactics of this great Mufti, which cannot well be introduced into this chapter, as they more properly belong to the chapter on *crackers*, on account of their interwoven connection with the manufacture of that staple article or element, in the great Mufti's sublime science of morality and ecclesiastical administration. It is, however, proper to remark here, that the Moslem Statute Book, page 33, in defining the duties of Mufti's, says they "are required to execute all our rules fully and strenuously against all frauds * * * * * suffering none to remain in our Church, on any account, who are found guilty of any fraud." But this great Mufti is so far above all law, either divine or human, that in the exercise of his profound knack at low scheming, he can prevent a saint being found guilty of crime, by reversing the order of both civil and ecclesiastical jurisprudence; and punish, *as for a crime*, the unfortunate wight who happens to prevent a robbery; and, *ex cathedra*, justify crime, in the presence of his entire Synod, the guilty man himself being one of them.

CHAPTER VIII.

PRELIMINARY TO A CHAPTER ON CRACKERS.

Stubborn a good Musselman—Sanctity in the way of being a Musselman—His present to the Mufti—Chanting of children about the streets—Protection of Sanctity—Commencement of the Mufti's maladministration, and persecution of Stubborn—Composition of a committee—Attempts to coerce Stubborn—Stubborn rejects the demands made of him—Stubborn's proposition—Father Bighart—Stubborn's proposition to accept of a lie as satisfaction for injuries done him by Sanctity, that the Mufti might take Sanctity to the sacrament, accepted—The Mufti to do all the trotting in the completion of the arrangement—Appeal to the reader—Angels rejoice at the repentance of sinners—Devils chuckle at proceedings like those of said committee.

Before entering into the details of the sublime science of originating and telling off crackers, it is necessary that the following statements and remarks should be made, preliminary thereto:

Prior to the occurrences related in the preceding chapters having taken place, "Father Stubborn" was looked upon by the great Mufti as being a tolerably fair Musselman. At the same time, Mr. Sanctity had not put honor upon the congregation of the faithful by becoming one of them; but he was fairly under way for it, for he had, in the "most graceful and winning manner," made the great Mufti a large present, of which his reverence had frequently spoken in the most glowing terms, both to Stubborn and others. Indeed, the great subject was so much spoken of, that even the school children chanted it about the streets; one of the Mufti's children was then going to school. All this shadowed forth the great amount of piety with which Sanctity was soon to be invested. In the mean time, and about the commencement of the second year of the Mufti's charge at the Embrio City, Father Stubborn had nearly recovered from the illness before hinted at; and having discovered a very pious action in the was-to-be Mr. Sanctity, he wrote his saintship (that was to be) a letter of chastisement, telling him of what he had done, and commenting upon his first lessons, or rather experiments, in piety, in the true spirit and philosophy of genuine Moslemism. The was-to-be Mr. Sanctity felt the rebuke very keenly. But he could not divine any way for him to get out of the snare his experiments in piety had caught him in, but to appeal for protection to the great Mufti, who, seeing the necessity of the case, at once, as Stubborn believed, made him a probationary saint, so as that he might have the protective benefit of the full measure and weight of the great Mufti's ingenuity and popularity, as a reward for the distinguished gracefulness and dignity with which he had presented a receipted bill of large dimensions to his reverence.

And here commenced that mal-administration of ecclesiastical law—that malignant determination to persecute Father Stubborn without cause—that determination to elevate this new-made saint to some distinguished position in the society of the faithful—and that glib skill in manufacturing and letting off