

I.

A GENERAL CONFESSION.

A famous showman once said, "You can fool some of the people all the time, and you can fool all of the people some of the time, but you can't fool all of the people all of the time." The pages that follow give the circumstances of an attempt the writer made to disprove that old circus man's conclusion. Some years ago I made a hilarious journey over nineteen hundred miles of railroad track spinning yarns (under the title, "The Lights and Shades of a Parson's Life") to every audience that I could inveigle into any public hall to hear me—and got home alive. They had come to be "edified"! Hence my doubt of the truth of the opening quotation.

I brought home with me, however, some interesting conclusions. Wherever my alleged lecture was given, the local press, in expressing regret at the paucity of numbers present, said, "If ever this lecturer comes to our town again, he can be assured of a full house." Consequently, I would suggest to all budding lecturers that they should devise some method to give their second lecture first! Another piece of advice that may be of value to such entertainers is that they should always keep absolute control of the local programme. In many places where