

covet, &c., anything that is thy neighbor's." This Mufti says: "It is no harm to make up false accounts," in order to get money. God's law says that, "all liars shall have their portion in that lake which burneth with fire and brimstone," &c. But this Mufti says, "not so, for it is no harm to make up false accounts." It is, therefore, according to his teaching, no harm to lie. A false account is in itself a lie, and the author of it necessarily a liar; but perfectly consistent with this Mufti's teaching. God's righteous law is ignored, religion is blighted and humbled in shame before such teaching. And this Mufti had the assurance to teach such doctrine before his Quadrantal Synod in the words above quoted. Now all this was deliberate on the part of the Mufti, and not the effect of the heat of debate—but the direct effect of premeditated design—*malice prepense*, which will now be seen.

It was a fact patent to many, that ever since the time Sanctity became a member of the congregation of the faithful, the great Mufti had been very systematic in his persecution of old Stubborn, and for reasons, as Stubborn thought, which will be revealed in the chapter on Crackers.

In pursuit of his *pious* purpose, and so as to make sure work of it, the Mufti's sublime knack of scheming and trickery had to be in active exercise. It was understood for some time, that the Mufti expected his admirers to ask the National Synod of Muftis to break faith with the entire community, by sending him back to the Embrio City the fourth year. He knew that Stubborn would not favour such scheming. It was, therefore, expedient that Stubborn's vote should be neutralized. It might not be quite safe to make a regular onslaught upon him so early as in the second year of the Mufti's charge, as that would be giving him time to recover himself, and might be the means of frustrating the great design. There was one plan, however, which might succeed, but it must be kept a profound secret from all but confidential Crabsnarl. So then, when the business programme for the last Quadrantal Synod, for the *second year* of the Mufti's ecclesiastical jurisdiction, was prepared, the following beautiful, pious, and all-important memorandum was found on the programme, or snugly engraved on the disinterested and pious heart of the Mufti: "Remember to forget to renew the Local Muftis licenses. As Stubborn is the only one under my city charge, no one else can be effected by my forgetfulness, and as people generally mind their own business, the pious trick may not be discovered. This disinterested manœuvre will be as effectual in neutralizing Stubborn's vote, as though he was put down by a direct vote of the Synod. Then, when the vote for my remaining in charge at the Embrio City the fourth year is taken, Crabsnarl, being the recorder, will count heads, and Stubborn will be told that he cannot vote, for that he is a not a Local Mufti."

All passed off quietly at the Quadrantal. The trick was not discovered by any but Stubborn. He saw by certain wily and significant glances of the eye, which passed between his reverence and Crabsnarl, that the renewal of his license, as a Local Mufti, *was indeed forgotten*. But he understood the law in the case, and cared nothing for it, only that he was disgusted at such prank-playing and hypocrisy in the house of God.

Although Stubborn could not make any of his friends believe in the *sincerity* of the trick, they being unwilling to believe that so great a revival preacher as the great Mufti was acknowledged to be, could, or would, descend to such littleness of soul and positive meanness. It was not many months before he had the proof positive, that his reverence did actually *remember to forget to renew his license as a local Mufti*. For one evening, at the close of a public prayer meeting, his reverence not discovering the presence of any of Stubborn's family, took occasion to read over "for the information of the congregation," all the names of his official staff. Stubborn's name not being mentioned, some persons looked up as though surprised; when, as quick as thought, his reverence resumed, and said that "Stubborn was not an official member, but that he treated him as a Local Mufti on account of his age." If Stubborn had been present, the *pious* trick would have been exposed in language suitable for such *disinterested* administration of ecclesiastical law. All this was proof of the far-seeing policy and low-minded cunning of the great Mufti, as well as his determined perseverance in having all stumbling-blocks removed out of the way of his election to a fourth years' charge at the Embrio City. It also proved that Stubborn was correct in the opinion he