

Stubborn, on retiring, called upon Father Bigheart, and informed him of the *pleasant* interview he had just had with the Mufti. Father Bigheart repeated over the understanding come to at the said committee meeting, just as it is recorded above, declaring that he had not before that moment spoken to any living mortal of the occurrences of that committee meeting—"No, not even to my wife," said he. "But are you sure you have not spoken to the Mufti on the subject?" said Stubborn. "No, I have not," said he, in the most positive manner, and he unquestionably spoke the truth. Judge Simple and 'Squire Crabsnarl being accomplices with the Mufti, Stubborn would not take the trouble to speak to them. But he asked Father Bigheart to go at once with him to the Mufti, and confront him to his face. After a moment's reflection, Father Bigheart said: "Father Stubborn, I believe what you have said; I must believe you, if for no other reason than your request for me to go with you. I believe you. But," said he, "suppose the Mufti should turn upon you, and deny having said these things to you, which in all probability he would, rather than be proven in making crackers, he would have the advantage of you (as you were alone with him), and might charge you with believing him, and bring me as a witness to prove his charge. You, of course, would suffer. If any one else had heard your conversation, I would go with you as a matter of duty. Perhaps you had better not take me there." "I see," said Stubborn. "how it might turn out; and, to be in keeping with his other conduct, I have no doubt but he would do so. I will have no more to say to him, if I can avoid it."

And now, kind reader, you see here is a fine batch of crackers; all of them of *home* manufacture, and of the very best material. Let us see how many there are in this batch, before proceeding to the next:

- No. 1.—The Mufti's denying of having in his possession Stubborn's letter to Sanctity.
- No. 2.—His asserting that Sanctity would not return Stubborn's letter until he had a written apology from him—for his reverence then had the said letter in his possession, for the purpose of returning it.
- No. 3.—His assertion that Stubborn had agreed to make an apology to Sanctity.
- No. 4.—His assertion that the said committee had laid it upon Stubborn to make an apology to Sanctity.
- No. 5.—His asserting that he had had conversation with *all* the said committee since the evening of their meeting.
- No. 6.—His assertion that the said committee assured him that Stubborn was to make an apology to Sanctity.

Here, then, are no less than six out and out, well and *deliberately* made crackers, all of the *purest* material, all *home-made*, without any admixture of foreign material, besides the frequent repetitions thereof, which, if accounted as originals, would amount to some twenty-five or thirty more. But the injured Stubborn was lenient enough to account the repetitions as *derivatives*, and only credit the Mufti with the *out and out* original crackers, and the translator does not feel himself at liberty to amend the original legend by playing upon words, or by giving a translation that shall not be literal, as far as the idiom of the two languages will admit. But, nevertheless, the translator thinks that Stubborn's leniency has not done justice to the Mufti, for he should have given him credit for every repetition of a cracker as being a genuine original, for "he that once a fault doth do, and lies to hide it, makes it two." Before analysing the next batch of reverend crackers, it is necessary to again premise a little.

Well, then, as before hinted at, there was a time when Father Stubborn was in fair estimation, a new and elegant Mosque had been built; stockholders, above a given amount, had a right to become the *bonafide* owners of bunks; provided their amount of paid up stock was equal to the value of a bunk. If it was not, they must either add more to it, or take it out in renting some seat. While "Father Stubborn" lay ill of the sickness heretofore mentioned, the Mosque was finished, and a time set for the sale of the bunks. Stubborn not yet having recovered so as to go out, got a friend to attend the sale, with particular instructions not to make a purchase of a bunk above the amount of his stock. A certain bunk was assigned to Stubborn for the price of fifty dollars, that sum