

Seven Pictures of Mr. Hammer and the Bell by George Yerrall

The Outbreak

And it came to pass that Michael did ascend unto the housetop and commence taking down the bell--And the multitude cried out unto him to show by what right he did so; but he did hold his peace.

Now when Michael had lowered the bell even unto the floor of the building lo! the people laid hands on it and carried it away. Then Michael waxed wroth, and did say many naughty things and did cast pieces of wood among the multitude who cried unto him to stop lest he should kill some one. Then Michael raised his voice

The Parson in a Rage

aloud and cried "Verily, verily will I kill more of you."

Now when evening was come Michael and his serving-man did go unto a room in a public inn. And Michael's wrath was great and he did kick over the chairs and stools insomuch that his serving-man did quake and tremble,--And Michael bade him take a horse and ride to a distant town and hasten back with a cunning man who was a lawyer and then he would fix the rebellious multitude.

The Ghost Appearing unto Michael

When the serving man had departed and night was come, Michael did retire to his bed and lo! about the middle watch he was awakened by a rushing voice. He leaped from his couch and saw a bright light at a far distance coming towards him. And Michael watched it and trembled. It suddenly became of the shape of a huge bell such an one as he did try to take the day

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The Attorney "Slopes"

adieu and straightway mounted his horse and without a hat did journey no one knew whither and has not been heard of since.

And also of Michael and his serving man nothing more can be found. Verily, verily they shall have their reward.

Chronicles of the Bell, A. D. 1848

*George Yewell was then
18 years old and lived at
Iowa City. He may have
been an eye-witness.*

Became a famous painter.

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past. And it stopped, and a huge face did appear on the top of the bell and did say unto him "Michael! Michael!! Michael!!!" And Michael answered "What wilt thou" and it answered "Verily verily will I visit thee in thy slumbers until thou forsake thy wickedness."

Arrival of the Attorney

Now when the serving man did arrive in the morning with the lawyer, Michael was much downcast because of the visit of the ghost on the past night. Nevertheless they did set themselves to work to devise means to find where the multitude had hid the bell. Finally the serving man did remember that he had a sister who by the means of Clairvoyance could give

Clairvoyance

unto them the information.

And straightway they journeyed unto Keokuk and did hire a learned man who did put the young woman in a state of Clairvoyance. And then he spoke to her saying, "Where is the bell", and she forthwith answered "Verily it is in a well five miles distant S.W. from the town wherein it was placed."

Now Michael's spirits did revive and straightway he sent the

The Missionary Sermon

cunning man to the town to preach unto the natives and to threaten them.

And he did so and the multitude did laugh at and persecute him. Nevertheless he threatened the wrath of the law, and of the law-loving Michael, but they only laughed the greater until with a sad heart and sorrowful countenance he bade