



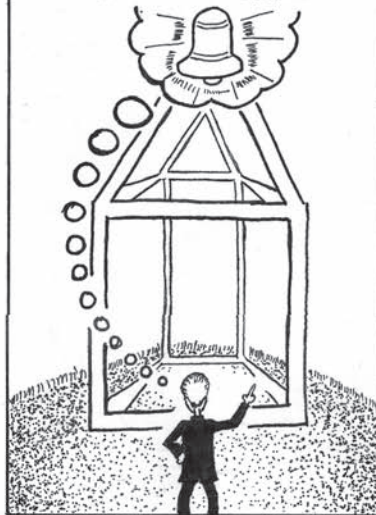
BROTHERS AND SISTERS! IT IS TIME
ONCE AGAIN TO VISIT THAT DARK PIT
OF CRIMES HISTORICAL AND TRANS-
GRESSIONS ALLEGORICAL; TO TRESPASS BACK
IN TIME TO UNCOVER THE ORIGINAL (AND
THE NOT SO ORIGINAL) SINS OF IOWA'S
FOREFATHERS AND MOTHERS. CAN I
GET AN AMEN? OUR SERMON COMES
FROM THE GOSPEL OF IOWA CITY'S
FIRST (AND MOST SCANDALOUS) PRES-
BYTERIAN MINISTER: MICHAEL HUMMER.

IA Confidential

REV. HUMMER

Hired in 1841, HUMMER'S
FIRST JOB WAS TO
RAISE MONEY TO BUILD
IOWA CITY'S FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
TOPPED WITH A
CROWNING JEWEL: THE
FIRST CHURCH BELL
WEST OF THE
MISSISSIPPI RIVER.



NO ONE IN IOWA CITY HAD THAT
KIND OF MONEY, SO ALMOST AS
SOON AS HE'D BEEN HIRED,
HUMMER TRAVELED EAST TO
RAISE MONEY FROM OLDER
CONGREGATIONS—AND RAISE
MONEY HE DID (MOTIVATED
BY THE FACT THAT HIS SALARY
WAS 10% OF THE DONATIONS)



IN 1844, HUMMER PAID
\$500 TO ANDREW MCNEELY
OF EAST TROY, NEW YORK TO
FORGE A BELL, AND SOON
AFTER RETURNED TO IOWA.



IDEAS THAT DIDN'T
SIT WELL WITH THE
PLAIN-SPOKEN FOLK
OF THE FRONTIER.



TENSIONS MOUNTED UNTIL, IN
1847, HUMMER WAS KICKED
OUT OF THE PULPIT. ALWAYS
FIERY-TEMPERED, HUMMER
CURSED THEM AND LEFT.



HUMMER AND HIS FEW LOYAL
FOLLOWERS MOVED TO KEOKUK
TO BUILD THEIR "SPIRITUALISTIC
TEMPLE", BUT IT LACKED A
CERTAIN SOMETHING...



SO, ONE SUMMER NIGHT IN 1848,
HUMMER RETURNED TO IOWA
CITY WITH A LADDER, A
HORSE, A WAGON, AND A PLAN.

