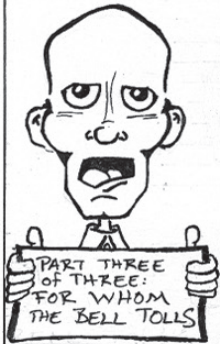


OK, A QUICK RECAP: AFTER BEING FIRED FROM HIS POST AS IOWA CITY'S FIRST PRESBYTERIAN MINISTER, MICHAEL HUMMER MOVED TO KEOKUK TO START A SPIRITUALISTIC TEMPLE. THEN, TO SPITE HIS FORMER CONGREGATION (WHO STILL OWED HIM \$650 IN BACK PAY) HUMMER RETURNED TO IOWA CITY IN THE LATE SUMMER OF 1848 TO STEAL THE BELL FROM HIS OLD CHURCH TO INSTALL IN HIS NEW ONE. A CROWD HALTED THE THEFT AND HIT THE BELL IN THE WATERS OF THE IOWA RIVER—BUT WHEN THEY RETURNED, THE BELL HAD DISAPPEARED!



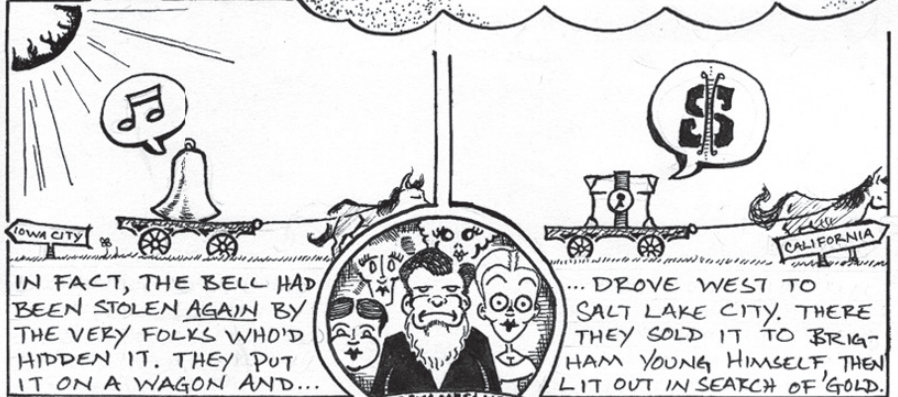
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SO WHERE WAS THE BELL? MOST ASSUMED IT HAD "WASHED DOWN RIVER, OR...



"...SUNK STRAIGHT TO CHINA!" BUT THESE EXPLANATIONS DID NOT SATISFY HUMMER.

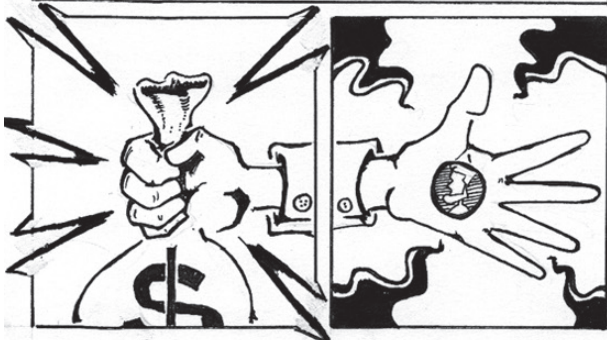
BACK IN KEOKUK, THE REVEREND HUMMER MET WITH A CLAIRVOYANT NAMED MARY MARGRAVE WHO PROMISED TO USE HER POWERS TO FIND THE BELL. HER VISIONS LED HUMMER TO SEARCH IN A DOZEN DIFFERENT WELLS AROUND THE COUNTY, AND EVEN THE BASEMENT OF THE CAPITOL BUILDING, BUT NO BELL!



IN FACT, THE BELL HAD BEEN STOLEN AGAIN BY THE VERY FOLKS WHO'D HIDDEN IT. THEY PUT IT ON A WAGON AND...

...DROVE WEST TO SALT LAKE CITY. THERE THEY SOLD IT TO BRIGHAM YOUNG HIMSELF, THEN LIT OUT IN SEARCH OF GOLD.

BACK IN IOWA CITY, HUMMER SUED HIS FORMER CHURCH AND WON, SORT OF: THE COURT AWARDED HIM \$550 IN BACK PAY, BUT CHARGED HIM FOR THE BELL, LEAVING HUMMER WITH ONLY PENNIES LEFT.



FINALLY, IN 1855, BRIGHAM YOUNG CAUGHT WIND THAT THE BELL BELONGED TO A CHURCH IN IOWA CITY, SO HE WROTE TO THE NEW PRESBYTERIAN MINISTER TO LEARN MORE. REVEREND HUMMER HEARD THIS NEWS AND IMMEDIATELY WROTE TO SALT LAKE CITY EXPLAINING HE WAS THE LEGAL OWNER OF THE BELL. YOUNG REPLIED HE WOULD GLADLY RETURN THE BELL, PROVIDED HUMMER REIMBURSE THE \$600 YOUNG HAD PAID FOR THE BELL, PLUS SHIPPING. FACED WITH PAYING FOR THE SAME BELL FOR A THIRD TIME, HUMMER LET THE MATTER DROP, AND THE BELL DISAPPEARED FOR GOOD! END