

hang on to and cultivate—faith in God and in His ability and willingness to grant unto us the righteous desires of our hearts. We forget this too often. We go along as though we had no friend in the heavens. We should dismiss such thoughts from our hearts, and live so near unto the Lord that He will give unto us continually His Holy Spirit, filling our hearts with joy and peace. I know that none of you ever went to Him in secret and bowed down before Him in the midst of your troubles without His giving you comfort. You came away from the interview refreshed and filled with peace. This is the spirit that we should all seek for, and not give way to gloomy feelings, or to murmuring. If men do not suit you, make God your friend. He says, "Cursed is he that putteth his trust in man, or maketh flesh his arm." The man that trusts in his fellow man is likely to be deceived. Men will fail; husbands will fail; wives will fail; children will fail; parents will fail; but God never fails. He never grows cold, or indifferent. He is always the same unchangeable being, and His promises can be relied upon to the very uttermost. This is the God whom we worship, and whom we should serve with all our hearts. Not serve the devil; not give way to temptation. Close our hearts against all manner of sin. Ask Him to help us to do so, and to overcome our evil inclinations and desires. And above all—I see a good many young men here—be pure in your feelings concerning the other sex. Do not allow lust to enter into the heart; for I tell you that that drives the Spirit of God from us. God will have a pure people. He wants our tabernacles to be pure, in order that the Holy Ghost may dwell there. No man who is lustful can be pure. We should be pure in thought; pure in the sight of the eye and the conception of the thought; pure in act and pure in word. If we live this way, God will dwell with us, and He will be our friend all the days of our lives. He will not leave us in the midst of trouble. We may go through six troubles, and he will be with us in the seventh. He will be with us in the deep water. He will be with us in the fiery furnace. He will be with us under all circumstances, if we serve Him. I bear testimony to this. The testimony of my life is in favor of it. I know it to be true. I do not theorize. I tell you that which my actual experience has proved to me. I know that this is the kind of God that we worship. And he will save His people. He will redeem them, and He will bring them off triumphant, and He will crown them with glory. I pray God that this may be our happy lot, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

THE PARSONS' SCANDAL CASE.

Mr. F. J. Stark said he came from Missouri about three years ago. His age was twenty-five. He until recently was employed as an inside guard in the penitentiary, having gone there in the latter part of October, 1888. Mr. Dyer was then warden. Witness stated what were his general duties while a guard at the penitentiary.

Mr. Varian—Were you in the Prindle woman's cell on the morning when

she and Maggie Forkner came down to go before the commissioner?

A.—No, sir, I was not.

Q.—Did you go into her cell after she had returned from seeing Mr. Stephens and myself, and did you have a conversation with Prindle in which you advised her and Maggie, when they were going before the grand jury to be sure and tell their story straight, and to "clinch the odds—of a b—," or words to that effect?

A.—No, sir, most assuredly not.

Q.—Did you ever have such a conversation with that girl or anybody else in the wide world?

A.—No, sir.

Q.—Did you ever have any flirting or any other impropriety with these women?

A.—I had only the same relation with them as with the other prisoners.

Q.—But did you—yes or no?

A.—No, sir; I did not.

The witness' attention was then directed to the question of the "mysterious key," and he stated that when he told Mr. Vandercook of his suspicions, the latter at once sought to ferret the matter out.

He believed he did tell Forkner on one occasion, when she was about to go before the grand jury, that "there was no occasion to be too hard on the old man" (meaning the marshal), but that if she was forced to go upon the stand, she had simply to tell the truth—what she knew and nothing more. He had no ill-feeling against the marshal.

To Mr. Rawlins witness admitted having occasionally talked to the female prisoners in their cells.

Mr. Rawlins—When you told Annie Prindle and Maggie Forkner to be "easy on the old man," why did you speak in that style?

Witness—Well, I just meant that I would like them to be as easy as possible towards him.

Q.—Did you use the words "old man?"

A.—Yes.

Q.—Is that the way you were generally in the habit of speaking of the marshal?

A.—No, sir; I do not know that it was.

Q.—Why did you use that expression to Maggie Forkner?

A.—It just occurred to me, but I do not know that I had any particular reason for it.

Q.—Now, do you think it was the proper way for you to address a prisoner in respect to the man who had charge of the penitentiary, and who was your superior officer?

A.—In the way I used it I did not know that there was anything disrespectful about it at all.

Mr. Rawlins (sarcastically)—Of course you thought that it would tend to raise the marshal in their estimation? That was your motive for thus speaking of the marshal to Maggie Forkner, who was then a prisoner?

A.—Well, I thought that if I spoke to her in that way that she would be "as easy as she could."

Q.—Did you go to that cell and talk to her in this way with the intention of inducing her to suppress her testimony before the commissioner, or to retract anything she had said before with respect to the marshal?

Witness said that he did not.

Q.—Did you not believe that there was a "job" put up on the marshal by these two girls?

A.—Well, I don't know that I did. I did not know what was going on at the time; I could not form any opinion about it at all.

Q.—Did you or did you not believe at that time that those girls had put up a job on the marshal?

A.—I did not know anything about it.

Q.—Did you believe it?

A.—No, sir.

Q.—Did you believe they were going to testify against the marshal?

A.—Well, I knew they were going down from the penitentiary.

Q.—Did you believe and understand that they were coming down here to testify against the marshal?

A.—Yes.

Q.—And it was for the purpose of procuring a modification or abridgement of that testimony in some way that you went to Maggie Forkner and had this conversation with her?

A.—It was for the purpose—

Q. (firmly)—Answer the question, please.

A.—For the purpose of procuring a modification of her testimony, do you say?

Q.—Yes.

A.—Well, I don't know that it was.

In answer to other questions by Mr. Rawlins, witness said he never told the marshal about the duplicate key. He investigated a charge against Essie Banks (arising out of a "fall out" with Annie Prindle), at Warden Vandercook's request, and the warden ordered her to be locked up in her cell.

Mr. Varian—This charge spoken of was an assault—the knife trouble we have before heard about?

Witness answered yes.

Warden S. H. Parsons, re-called by the prosecution, said he told the marshal of this conversation he had with the women.

Q.—When was this?

A.—On December 2 or 3, I believe.

Q.—What did you tell him?

A.—That Fireman Boyer had sent word that Essie Banks wanted to see the marshal's wife in regard to things that had transpired there. Boyer said that Stark and these two girls were putting up the job.

Q.—You told the marshal that Essie Banks said that before the girls went before the grand jury Stark went to their cell and had this conversation with them?

A.—Yes. I did not go near her myself. Mr. Stutesman was present at the time and he went out later on the same day and saw Essie Banks about the matter.

E. R. Field, next called by the prosecution, said he had been a guard at the penitentiary since January last. He knew Anna Prindle as a prisoner. He never had any improper relations with her, and never saw anything wrong on her part there. Witness gave his evidence on this point most emphatically.

To Mr. Rawlins witness said he occupied a room on the third story of the penitentiary. He had not talked with other prisoners over the Essie Banks' story, and certainly had not said that if he were asked in respect to that matter, and had to tell the truth, he would have to do the best he could in order not to criminate himself.