

WASN'T A LIAR.

Why the "Squatter" Objected to His Name---A Bad Witness.

'What is your name?' asked the United States attorney of the old 'squatter,' who had been summoned before the court as a witness.

'Which name, Squire?'

'Your right name, of course.'

'I ain't got none.'

'What! you don't mean to say that you havn't got a name?'

'O, no, sir.'

'This summons says that your name is Ananias Peters. Is that so?'

'Reckon it is.'

'Thought you didn't have a right name?'

'I ain't.'

'Look here, sir. Don't trifle with this court. Your prevarications won't be tolerated here. Why did you say that Ananias Peters was not your right name?'

'Cause it wasn't right to name a noy Ananias, therefore it ain't a right name. The Bible, I believe, sort of calls Ananias a liar.'

'Which,' interposed the judge, 'makes it peculiarly applicable in your case.'

'Look a-here, jedge, I didn't want to projec with you, 'case you've got the upper hand of me, but I don't want you to hit me with the Bible. A man's in a bad enough fix when yer fling the law at him, but when yer fling the law an' the gospel both, he ain't got no show.'

'Where do you live?' asked the Attorney.

'At home.'

'Bnt where's your home?'

'In the neighborhood o' whar I live.'

The judge turned away to conceal a smile, and the attorney, giving the 'squatter' a look of extreme severity, said: 'Do you know where you are, sir?'

'Yes, sir, I'm here.'

'You won't be here much longer unless you answer my questions.'

'I am answerin' your questions, 'squire. Go on with your rat killin.'

'Where were you when Mr. Jason, the defendant, cut timber from Government land?'

'That's what I want to find out, I think it was some time in October..'

'Wall, some time in October I was in one place an' sometimes in another.'

'Did you ever see him cutting Government timber?'

'I believe I did.'

'When?'

'Durin' the war when he was in the army?'

'None of your foolishness now. Did't you come along the road one day in October and talk to the defendant while he was chopping down a tree?'

'No, sir.'

'Remember that you are under oath. So you didn't see him while he was chopping down a tree?'

'Didn't say that, 'squire, for I did see him choppin' the tree?'

'Did you stop and talk to him?'

'Yes, sir.'

'Thought you said you didn't stop and talk to him?'

'Didn't say it.'

'You did.'

'Didn't say it.'

'What did you say?'

'Said I didn't talk to him while he was choppin', for when I come up an' spoke, he quit choppin'. Ef thar's anything else you wantter know, fire away.'—Arkansaw Traveler.

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