

The Curate's Love Verses.

FROM LONDON TRUTH. Rev. Ignatius Smith sat one Monday morning at his "Davenport," with a sheet of paper spread open on his blotting pad and a pen in his right hand, feverishly gazing up at the ceiling for ideas. He was not writing thoughts, but he was preparing his present discourse that he was lavishing on the pulpit stage. For it was a genuine labor of love—a poetical effusion in honor of a certain young lady for whom he entertained a grand passion.

"Not exactly," answered his chief, with a chuckle. "I have scarcely sufficient readiness for that. But fortunately, I read your lines through last night. And I decided (in the event of your not meanwhile finding out your dangerous mistake) to punish you for your carelessness, as well as for your bad verses, by giving you a thorough fright. Luckily the lines of your first two verses were so delightfully vague that I could safely use them as they stood, except for that small though important change. But the third defied my attempt, and I had to give it up as a bad job."

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