

That'll Be the Day!

[The following correspondence between the secretary and the rabbi of Abi-Shalom Congregation appeared in *The Israelite* for July 4, 1873. We suspect that it is apocryphal. The name Bilshon could very well be translated in the vernacular as "the man with the tongue." The secretary's name, translated, means "the original man." — EDITOR.]

Rev. Dr. Mordechai Bilshon:

Reverend Sir, — It is my agreeable duty to inform you that the vestry of Abi-Shalom congregation, in its last meeting, resolved that you, being overtaxed with work, should be given two months vacation which is hereby granted; and that, for the benefit of your health, you should be enabled to spend the vacation in some watering-place, to which end I inclose a check of \$1,000.

Your most obedient servant,

ADAM HARISHON, *Sec'y A. S. Cong.*

Adam Harishon, Esq., *Sec'y A. S. Cong.:*

Dear Sir, — In reply to your very kind communication (the late resolutions of the vestry, and check of \$1,000), permit me to say: I have no sins to wash away in any watering-place, hence I will not go there. I do not believe in baptizing, either by submersion or otherwise; therefore, I have no use for watering-places. I have no duties to perform at any of those places, consequently I will not go there. Not going there, I have no need for the money to be spent there, and so I return check of \$1,000 which will give 4,000 meals to hungry men. I am not overtaxed with work. Men used to do little or nothing are always overtaxed. I am not. My health is excellent. I can do my duty. I will take vacation after death, when my work shall be done. If the brethren of the vestry want to wash at some watering-place, let them go there in God's name; I stay at my post.

Your most obedient servant,

MORDECHAI BILSHON

We believe the above is original enough to merit publication, although the names are changed.