

### Making Fun of People.

Once, when travelling on a stage-coach I met with a young lady who seemed to be on the constant look-out for something laughable. Every old barn was made the subject of a passing joke, while the cows and sheep looked demurely at us, little dreaming that folks could be merry at their expense.

All this was perhaps harmless enough.—Animals were not sensitive in that respect. They are not likely to have their feelings injured because people make fun of them; but when we come to human beings, that is quite another thing.

So it seemed to me; for, after a while, an aged woman came running across the fields, lifting up her hand to the coachman, and in a shrill voice begging him to stop. The good-natured coachman drew up his horses, and the old lady, coming to the fence by the roadside, squeezed herself through between two posts which were very near together.

The young lady in the stage-coach made some ludicrous remark, and the passengers laughed. It seemed very excusable, for in getting through the fence, the poor woman made sad work with her old black bonnet, and now, taking a seat beside a well-dressed lady, really looked as if she had been blown there by a whirlwind.

This was a new piece of fun, and the girl made the most of it. She caricatured the old lady upon a card, pretended to take a pattern of her bonnet, and in various other ways sought to raise a laugh at her.

At length the poor woman turned a pale face towards her, and said—

‘My dear girl, you are now young, and healthy, and happy. I have been so too, but that time is past. I am now old and forlorn. The coach is taking me to the death-bed of my only child. And then, my dear, I shall be a poor old woman, all alone in a world where merry girls will think me a very amusing object. They will laugh at my old-fashioned clothes and sad appearance, forgetting that the old woman has loved, and suffered, and will live for ever.’

The coach now stopped before a poor looking house, and the old lady feebly descended the steps.

‘How is she?’ was the first trembling inquiry of the mother.

‘Just alive,’ said the man who was leading her into the house.

The driver mounted his box, and we were upon the road again. Our merry young friend had placed the card in her pocket.—She was leaning her head upon her hand; and you may be sure that I was not sorry to see a tear upon her fair young cheek. It was a good lesson, and one which we greatly hoped would do her good.

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Mrs. Dun. McNaughton, E. River	2 6

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Knox's Church, Pictou, for College Expenses,	5 0 0

#### SYNOD.

Knox's Church, N. Glasgow, beside paying expense of minister and elder to Synod,	2 12 0
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