

inhabitants, and earnestly pressed to come and see with his own eyes the wonderful thing he would not believe on their relation, he yielded to their wishes; and on the magic box being shown him, wondering he exclaimed; "Is it possible that the inventor of the microscope should not be heard of in this part of the country? This is a microscope—a microscope, I tell you."

But nobody knew what he meant. The term was a little understood as the thing itself. Some even began to suspect him also of being a sorcerer, and would have condemned him as such had he not quickly destroyed the charm and dissipated the illusion. Taking the box, he removed the cover in which the lens was enclosed, and turning the box upside down out came a little horr. beetle and crawled upon the table. The philosopher then explained this optic mystery in a manner suited to their comprehension. New admiration now succeeded their fears, and the animal appeared as laughable an object on the table as it had been frightful in the box. All suspicion was now banished, the good name of the Father restored and each one returned laughing to his home.

Busy people, however, were found who published this adventure, mentioning the box and the sentence of the judge, but forgetting to say anything about either the philosopher or the microscope.

This story, however ridiculous it appears, furnishes us with a very important instruction for the correction principally of four faults.

First. Our readiness to pronounce on what we are ignorant of.

Second. Our haste in judging of others. We view other people's faults through a microscope, which enlarges objects surprisingly. This microscope is our heart, and this lens is our malignity. What are all the crimes, those frightful monsters, we discover in others? Nothing but a horn-beetle in the microscope. Take away the lens, and there will remain at most something deserving our compassion and indulgence.

Third. Our readiness in believing the evil reported of others. Rest assured they who speak ill of their neighbor only report what they have seen in the microscope. If they relate what others have said, then it is one microscope on another, and the further a report is spread the more it is distorted and augmented.