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The skeptic was abashed. The earnest faith of the young fruit-seller amazed him. He could adroitly insinuate doubts into the minds of those who have only given an intellectual assent to the truth that the Bible is God's book, but the girl's heart experience of the power of God's word was an evidence he could not shake.

SWISS HONESTY.

A young traveller, who was making a pedestrian tour through the Alps, tells a story of Swiss honesty that is well worth repeating. The Swiss friend, who was, with the foreign sight-seers, observing they were weary after a six hours' march from the monastery of St. Bernard, said: "We shall soon reach my brother's house and you shall all have a hot cup of coffee and some food." But when they reached the farm-house it was closed-doors locked, shutters shut and the whole place deserted, for it was the time of vintage and everyone was in the vineyards.

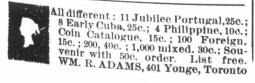
Our young traveller was much disappointed, but the good Swiss friend said: "You will get your refreshment just the same, and reaching up towards a cross made of gay mountain flowers, which hung on the door, according to the pretty Valois custom, she pulled down a great key, and in another minute the door was open. Our friend quickly kindled a blazing fire of logs, hung the kettle over it, and in a short time we had a most excellent cup of coffee and some refreshing food.

All this seemed strange to the tourists, and they made inquiry as to how householders dare go away and leave the key in such a convenient place. "Oh," said the Swiss friend, in quite a shocked tone, "there is no fear of any of our people entering a house which does not belong to them, if the key is put under the cross, it is always safe there."

Another pretty story is told of the custom in some Italian villages on festival nights. The peasants illuminate the houses with lamps made of snail-shells. First each window-sill is covered with sand, then empty snail-shells are arranged on the sand in a row; and in each are put a few drops of oil and a tiny cotton wick. When all the little lamps are lighted, the cottages are quite brilliantly illuminated.

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