

Disgusted and unhappy, the children look down on their parents, and frequently, after many and bitter quarrels, leave them entirely, while the parents, hurt and angry, seeing no cause for such behaviour, blame the schools, declaring their children have been taught to "put on airs," and obstinately refuse to allow any other members of their family to be sent east to be educated.

In this way much unhappiness is caused which might be avoided if the Indian children who remain at home, and their parents, could be taught to be cleaner and a little more refined before those who are at school come home. Then they could work together and do, oh, so much good among their own people.

Now what we want to do, dear boys and girls, is to civilize and refine these little Indian children. How do you suppose we can begin?

By sending them a little "housekeeping lesson trunk."

Can you imagine what that means? I don't suppose you can, though some of you may guess at part of it by looking at the picture which goes with this article (by the by, a real Indian boy drew it; don't you think it is pretty well done?)

There are lots and lots of trunks in the world, children; I daresay many of you have had more than one pretty and useful gift reach you under cover of a trunk?

Don't you want to pass a good thing along to these wretched Indian children under cover of this little trunk?

Now, I will explain to you what this particular one is like.

It is a perfect little affair, with strong hinges, handles and lock, and so light that two children may easily carry it. It is partitioned off inside, and in the compartments thus made are plates, and cups and saucers, and platters of strong ware, with pretty bright red and blue birds painted on them, to attract the eyes of the Indians, who love bright colors. Besides these, here are knives and forks and spoons, dishes and pans and towels, and a table-cloth (made of enamelled cloth), and everything else that is needed for setting a simple meal for six people, and for washing the dishes after the meal is over.

These are every-day things to you, little readers, but to the Indian children they would be both beautiful and strange—so strange, indeed, that they would have to be taught how to use them.

Miss Huntington (that is the name of the lady who first thought of this excellent plan; I am sure many of you must have heard of her, she has done so much toward benefitting other people) proposes that one of these well-equipped little trunks be sent to each teacher among the Indians, that by its aid a simple "housekeeping lesson" may be taught.

In this way: The teacher might say some Friday afternoon to the children who have been best in school during the week, "Tell your mother that I am coming to take supper with you all to-morrow afternoon; tell her also not to cook anything till she sees me. Take this little trunk home with you now, and put it carefully away in a safe corner until I come. Then you'll see what pretty things are under that cover."

The children will be only too happy to take home the locked trunk and to deliver the message. Everybody's curiosity will be aroused at once, and all will wait eagerly for the morrow's afternoon to bring the teacher to unlock the wonderful box.

You may be sure they will watch her every movement with the deepest interest as she proceeds to spread the table-cloth out of doors (on the ground generally; tables are not often found among the Indians), and to lay out the various articles necessary for a simple evening meal.

Of course the teacher will allow all to help her, showing them where to place the different things; that will be a part of the lesson. And when she produces from her basket something that they all like, in the way of food, you may depend upon it, there will be no happier little people anywhere than these Indian children. It will be so new to them, from the reverent asking of the blessing to the thorough washing and drying of the dishes, and the repacking of the trunk, in all which they will be allowed to take a part.

This little treat, no doubt, will make an impression on the children, and other visits from the little trunk may be given as a reward for good behaviour. Gradually the little ones will learn to like this new way of taking a meal better than their old one; the parents will become interested through the children, and before very long some will be asking: "Why can't we have some dishes and knives and forks for ourselves to keep all the time?" And when that happens, dear boys and girls, you will know that a great deal has been accomplished—that old bad habits are beginning to be broken up and new good ones to take their place; that thoughts of God are associated with their food, and that some degree of cleanliness and comfort exists where only dirt and misery used to be. Isn't this worth trying for?

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Archdeacon Moran, of Baltimore, who has tried this kind of mission work, writes to Miss Huntington in the highest praise of it, and orders some more of the "housekeeping lesson trunks."

The boy who drew this picture knows the joy of visits from the little trunk, and in his own fashion he has tried to put some of that joy into this sketch. He is called *Sofay-Ying* in the Ojib language, but he likes best his English name of Charles Washington.

See the bright faces of the boy and girl bring-