

Great, indeed, was the excitement among the Indian lads. Nearly every boy in the audience rushed to the front, and the trial began. Indians in their wild state have no music worth preserving, and so in all our missions our hymns and songs are translated, and the tunes of civilization are used. The teacher seated herself at the little organ, and the testing began. They sang such hymns as "Rock of Ages," "Come, thou Fount of every blessing," "Just as I am," "Jesus, my all to heaven is gone," and many others.

The inferior singers were weeded out very rapidly, and sent back to their seats. When the number was reduced to about ten, the work of selection proceeded more slowly; but eventually the number was reduced to six. The question now was, Which of these six was to receive the four-bladed knife? This was not easy to settle. The members of the committee differed very decidedly; so one boy after another was tried, over and over again, and still no unanimous decision could be reached.

While the committee was discussing the matter, five of the boys, seeing our perplexity, took the matter out of our hands and settled it in a way that surprised and delighted us all. These five were fine specimens of Indian lads. They were lithe and strong, and full of life and fun. The sixth boy, Jimmie Jakooos, was a cripple, having one leg which was very much shorter than the other; the result being that he had to use crutches. These five had moved over to one side, and were observed to be excitedly, though quietly, engaged in conversation.

After their brief discussion one of them sprang up, and, looking at me, asked: "Missionary, may I say something?"

"Certainly you may," I replied.

"Well, missionary," he answered, "we five boys have been talking it over, and this is what we think about it: You see, we are well and strong. We can chase the rabbit, and partridge, and other game; and then when winter comes, we can skate on the rivers and lake; but Jimmie is lame, he has a bad leg. He cannot run in the woods, he cannot go skating on the ice; but Jimmie is fond of whittling. He is a good hand at making bows and arrows, and paddles, and other things; and a fine knife would be just the thing for him. And so we five boys have talked the matter over, and as he is a cripple, we will be very glad if you will give the best knife to Jimmie."

Noble boys! How the people were thrilled at this speech! It electrified me, and filled not only my eyes with tears, but my heart with joy.

I could not but think of the past—of the cruelty and intense selfishness of those dark days, when, among both the young and old, every one was for himself, and the unfortunate and feeble were despised. Now, thanks to the blessed, ennobling influences of Christianity, even the boys were catching this Christly spirit.—*Young Folks' Missionary.*

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