

MAKING FUN.

"As I was travelling in a stage-coach, on a recent tour," writes a lady, "I met a young girl who seemed to be upon the constant lookout for something laughable; and, not content with laughing herself, took great pains to make others do the same."

"Now travelling in a stage-coach is rather prosy business. People in the situation are apt to show themselves peevish and selfish; so the girl's good humor was, for a time, very agreeable to the travellers. Every old barn was made the subject of a passing joke, while the cows and hens looked demurely on, little dreaming that folks could be merry at their expense. Animals are 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 old woman came running across the fields, swinging her bag at the coachman, and in a shrill voice begging him to stop."

"The good-natured coachman drew up his horse, and the good old lady, coming to the fence by the roadside, squeezed herself through two bars, which were not only in a horizontal position, but 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 had made sad work with her old black bonnet, and now, taking her 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 carried the old lady upon a card; pretended when she was not looking, to take patterns of her bonnet, and in various other ways tried to raise a laugh. At length the poor woman turned her pale face toward her."

"My dear, said she 'you are young, healthy and happy; I have been so, too; but that time has passed. I am now decrepit and forlorn. This coach is taking me to the death-bed of my child. And then, my dear, I shall be a poor old woman all alone in the world, where merry girls think me a very amusing object. They will laugh at my old-fashioned clothes and odd appearance, forgetting that the old woman has a spirit that has loved and suffered, and will live forever.'"

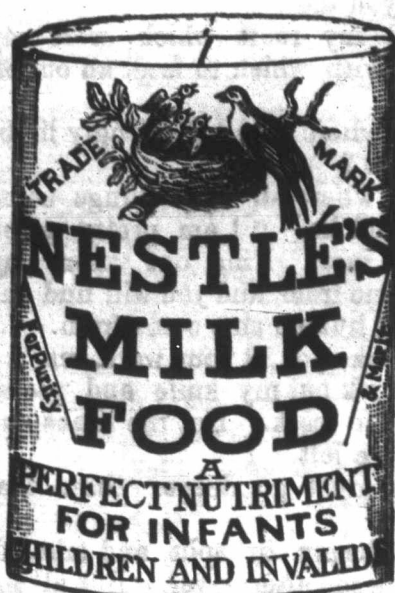
"The coach now stopped before a poor-looking house, and the old lady feebly descended the steps."

"How is she?" was the first trembling enquiry of the poor mother.

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

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

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