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A Fable

A duck which faithfully stuck to business during the summer and laid several dozen of large fawn-colored eggs complained that she wasn't appreciated. "See that hen over there," said the duck; "she hasn't laid as many eggs as I have, nor as big, but she has books written about her and verses composed in her honor, while nobody is saying a word about me."

"The trouble with you is," said the wise rooster that was standing near, "that you don't tell the public what you have done. You lay an egg and waddle off without saying a word, but that sister of mine never lays one without letting everyone in the neighborhood know about it. If you want to be of any account in this community you must learn to advertise."

Testing the Missionary's Word

An exchange tells of an Indian who listened to a very instructive talk on the solar system and afterwards attempted to prove the statement which had been made, with the following result:

One evening, when the building was well filled with braves and their squaws, the missionary described the solar system to the extent of saying that the earth revolves about the sun, and also turns over once in twenty-four hours.

Early the next morning the missionary was awakened by a knock at his door. He answered it, and found an Indian, wrapped in a blanket, standing on the porch.

"Why, Ohnga," said he, "is anything the matter?"

"Missionary lied!" grunted the Indian.

"I lied? What do you mean?"

"Missionary says world turn over every night. Injun go home, set up stick, put apple on stick. If world turn over, apple fall off. This morning apple on stick. Missionary lied. Huh!"

Under the Benevolence

"A little philanthropy covers a multitude of fraud," writes a framer of modern maxims. Probably the statement is more glittering than true as regards the management of most public benevolences; nevertheless an unveiling of individual motives might reveal a good deal of sham underlying much that we comfortably class as philanthropy or charity. A small boy who had always been trained to give a portion of his earnings and allowance to missions, was greatly interested in the conversation of an eminent clergyman who visited at his father's home. The learned guest was not only an authority, but an enthusiast regarding the work being done in foreign fields, and as he talked, Donald edged gradually nearer until there came a pause when he could interpose a question.

"Do you suppose the heathen 'll ever all get converted?" he asked.

"I hope so, my little man, I hope so! Will you be glad to have that time come, too?"

"'Deed I will," was the prompt reply. "If they'd ever get over wanting so many pennies I could begin to save up to buy a horse. Every time I get some saved somebody tells about heathens or poor folks."

Few of us would express our views so frankly even to ourselves, and yet it may well be true that many of our gifts are called forth less by the need of others than by the fact that their need disturbs our conscience. It is not so much their suffering as at our own discomfort that evokes the pennies we would gladly keep.

—Forward.

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