

does the spectacle give, rise not to the mere emotional feeling which weeps itself away in sentimental tears, but to an earnest desire to *do something* to mitigate the sufferings of woe-worn humanity? How vast and world-wide the claims on your compassion!—now near, now at a distance—the unmet and unanswered cry of perishing millions abroad—the heathendom which lies unsuccored at your own door—the public charity languishing—the misson staff dwarfed and crippled from lack of needful funds—a suffering district—a starving family—a poor neighbor—a helpless orphan—it may be, some crowded hovel, where misery and vice run riot—or some lonely sick chamber, where the dim lamp has been wasting for dreary nights—or some desolate home which death has entered, where “Joseph is not, and Simeon is not,” and where some sobbing heart, under the tattered garb of poverty, mourns, unsolaced and unpitied, its “loved and lost.” Are there none such within your reach, to whom a trifling pittance would be as an angel of mercy? How it would hallow and enhance all you possess, were you to seek to live as almoner of Jehovah’s bounties! If He has given you of this world’s substance, remember it is bestowed, not to be greedily hoarded or lavishly squandered. Property and wealth are talents to be traded on and laid out for the good of others—sacred trust, not selfishly to be enjoyed, but generously to be employed.

“The poor are the representatives of Jesus, their wants He considers as His own,” and He will recompense accordingly. The feeblest expression of Christian pity and love, though it be but the widow’s mite, or the cup of cold water, or the kindly look and word when there is neither mite nor cup to give, yet, if done in *His* name, it is entered in the “book of life” as a “loan to the Lord;” and in that day when “the books are opened,” the loan will be paid back with usury.

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ON THE FRUIT.

The term fruit in botanical language, is applied to the mature pistil whether dry or succulent. Fruits are formed in various ways. Some, as in the pea, consist solely of the pistil, very slightly altered. The grape and plum consist of the pistil, changed so as to assume a succulent character either entirely as in the grape or partially as in stone fruit. The gooseberry, currant, and apple, are formed not only by the pistil, but also by the calyx, a portion of which is seen at the top in the form of brown scales. The hazel fruit consists of the pistil transformed into the nut, with a covering of leaves called the husk outside; so also the fruit of the oak which has a cup like covering. In the strawberry, the succulent parts, which is eaten, consists of the enlarged growing point, bearing on its surface numerous small carpels or fruits, which are often called seeds. The mulberry, pine apple and cones, are made up of a number of pistils formed by separate flowers, and all combined into one mass. In common language we apply the name of fruit chiefly to that which is succulent and eatable. Various means are adopted by gardeners to render edible fruit more fit for the dessert. All the varieties of apples, for instance, are produced from the wild crab by grafting, that is taking a slip from the sour crab and making it adhere to the stem of another tree. By cultivation and constant grafting man has been enabled to produce fruit fitted to gratify his palate. The better the stock on which the graft is placed, and the more nourishing its sap, the more likely is the fruit of the grafted plant to be good. If we sow the seed of an apple, however fine, and allow it to grow wild, it will revert to the original species, and produce unpalatable crab apples. Such is also the case with slips put into the soil. It is only by cultivation and grafting that the good varieties are kept up. The