

WHIPPING IDOLS.

Besides the images of stone and wood of the Virgin and the saints that the people in Mexico and Brazil worship they have small idols that they call "whipping idols." These idols are supposed to be to blame for many wrong things that happen, and they are taken down and punished, in the hope that they will thus take heed and set things right again.

A missionary in Brazil called one day to see a woman in whom she had taken a deep interest. She found her in a bad humor. What could be the matter with Donita Scobia? She soon let the missionary know.

Donita kept a little shop—a kind of curiosity shop—where all sorts of odd things were sold. She managed in this way to make quite a comfortable living. Things had gone on well for her until very recently, when she had met with a heavy loss; and this was the cause of her bad temper. Only three days before her money box had been robbed and the entire earnings of five days taken therefrom.

Donita was in despair. She did not know what to do, for she had tried in every way to find the thief. At last it struck her that the little image of San Antonio could tell her about him. It ought to do it, for it was on a shelf in the shop at the time of the theft, right over the money drawer.

She went to the image, and first coaxed and entreated it to tell her—to give her some sign whereby she might know how to find the thief. It remained silent. At last, growing angry, she took the image down and whipped it severely. Now, if it knew what it was about, it would direct her where to find the money. But two days passed, and not a sign of the thief was given yet.

Donita was overcome when she related the story to the missionary. She threw her apron over her head and burst into tears.

"Why didn't you call in the police?" asked the missionary.

"What good could the police have done? If the image couldn't tell, how could the police? No, it is quite plain to my mind that the San Antonio knows, but will not tell. He doubtless has the pouts, and I shall have to whip him again."

All this sounds strange and terrible, I know, and hard to believe. But it really happened; and this poor woman is but one of many who are living in just such darkness, ignorance, and superstition. How sad to think that Christians are doing so little to send them the light!—Missionary Board.

SOMETHING ALWAYS GIVES AWAY.

A Christian woman in a town in New York State desired to obtain a school-house for the purpose of starting a Sunday-school, but was refused by a skeptic trustee. Still she persevered, and asked him again and again.

"I tell you, Aunt Polly, it is of no use. Once for all, I say to you, you cannot have the school-house for such a purpose."

"I think I am going to get it," said Aunt Polly.

"I should like to know how, if I do not give you the key."

"I think the Lord is going to unlock it."

"Maybe He will," said the infidel, "but I can tell you this—He will not get the key from me."

"Well, I am going to pray over it, and I have found out from experience that when I keep on praying something always gives way." And the next time she came the infidel gave way, and she received the key. More than this, when others opposed the school he sustained her, and great good was done for perishing souls. "Something gives way." Sometimes it is the man's will, and sometimes it is the man himself. But God always finds the way.—Selected.

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