

The Chemawa American.

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KEEP ON THE
SIDEWALK!

That honesty is the best policy is plainly shown in the following article:

Some Indians I asked about the store of a new trader, and examined his goods, but offered to buy nothing. Finally the chief visited him. "How do you do, John; show me goods. Ah! I take a blanket for me, and value for square-three siter skins for blanket and one for calico. Ugh! pay you by'm by tomorrow." He received his goods and left. On the next day he returned with a large part of his band, his blanket full of skins. "Now, John, I pay you." He drew from his blanket four siter skins, one after another, laying them on the counter. After a moment's hesitation, he drew out a fifth, a rich and rare one, and laid it on the counter. "That's right, John," pausing it back, the trader replied. "You owe me but four; I want only my just

due." They passed it back and forth between them several times, till at length the chief appeared satisfied. He put the skin back in his blanket, scrutinized the trader, and then stepping to the door, cried to his followers: "Come, come trade with the paleface John. He no cheat Indian; his heart big." Then turning to the trader he said; "Suppose you take last skin, I tell my people no trade with you. We drive off others; but now you be Indian's friend, and we be yours." Before dark the trader was waist deep in furs, and had his till well filled with cash. Even intemperate savages recognize as honest man and confide in him.—Ex

While the North American Indian is not generally considered a financier, he possessed a more perfect system of money than any primitive race. So far advanced was he on the road to the civilized use of money that wampum, as a medium of exchange, was immediately made use of by the first white settlers, not only in their dealings with the Indian, but for the purpose of trading among themselves.

So important was this medium considered to be that in 1641, wampum was made legal tender in Connecticut, and for twenty years it was accepted for duties and taxes to the amount of twenty pounds. It was also currency in the New Netherlands, and at one time in Virginia.

In 1648 public ornaments in Connecticut determined the value by making one white bead or two black beads the equivalent of one penny. On this basis wampum was made use of for three-quarters of a century in a large share of the commercial transactions in America. —[Ex

There is no doubt but home life would acquire a new charm and the family board be more attractive if good advice were more generally followed. It is equally certain that there would be less indignation. Let us all try to remember the above and we will be happier, healthier and better in every way.