Recited by Robert Loulton Davis.
June 10th 1836.

The Monkeys & the Camel.

Two monkeys passionate and vain,
Possessed of far more tongue than brain
Disputed long, in language high,
On matters of Zoology.
Said Jacko, "Well we live and learn;
And you will wonder in your turn;
To find there grows (O wondrous lack!)
No hunch upon the Camel's back."
"Pooh! folly!" cried his brother ape,
"You quite forget the Camel's shape!
I never saw a Camel yet,
Without a hunch — my life I'll bet!
I rode one lately as my hack,
And felt the hunch upon his back!"
"'Tis false, Sir Pug, & very hard
Thus to be doubted: here's my card,
I'll say no more about the brute;
Let pistols settle the dispute."

And then, as all was fitly timed,
The paces measured, pistols primed,
The world had held two monkeys less,
All through this mutual redness,
Had not the seconds interfered,
And thus the point of quarrel cleared:
"Error & truth to each belong,
You both are right, & both are wrong.
The camel's hunch by Nature's laws,
When food has failed, & hunger gnaws
Oft proves a gift benignly sent,
To aid the creature's nourishment.
And guarding thus from famine's shock,
Contributes to the general stock.
The very hunch, Sir Pug admired
In yonder camel, had retired;
And when that hunch had ceased to be,
Then Jacko, 'twas not seen by thee.
Put up your pistols, use your eyes,
And learn from Nature to be wise!"

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