

The Watchman and Southron.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27, 1894.

Sweet Charity.

Of late the charity of good people has been strongly appealed to in behalf of storm sufferers on the coast. The newspapers seem to have discovered that there are now persons in needy circumstances in that section which was last August submerged by the waves of the sea.

We have taken no part for or against this recent claim upon our charity. When the misfortune first befell that people, our recollection is, that the people of Abbeville responded. That was right, but we are not so certain of the wisdom of giving to that people at this late day. It reminds us too much of a circumstance that occurred before the war. A man had the misfortune to lose his house and its contents by fire, and after that he would always appeal to the strangers whom he met. One of the besieged strangers interrogated him as to when he had suffered this great loss. It was ascertained to have been about twenty-eight years ago. It has now been nearly a year since the Bluffton sufferers lost their crops.

This newspaper doesn't understand charity to be the dividing out of our goods indiscriminately among the unfortunate, the thriftless or the lazy people who fail or neglect to work, and then call on us to divide our earnings.

Charity in its first, its best, and its highest incentive exists in the heart and not in the pocket book. It would restrain our tongues from speaking evil of our neighbor, and it would forbid our hearts from believing or entertaining evil of our unfortunate people. While of course plain and positive facts that are susceptible of proof are to be recorded in the book of remembrance, yet a large per cent. of the neighborhood scandal or gossip is based on the merest fiction—or at worst, is founded only on the speaker's evil construction of an act which in itself may have been totally innocent.

Our understanding is, if a person, be he rich or poor, friend or stranger, happen to an accident in our immediate vicinity, whereby he needs assistance, it is charity to give the needed help—whether to call his friends or a physician, whether to shelter him or to feed him. If his horse throw him at your gate, charity demands that we contribute to his relief, promptly and quickly. If the horse gets sick and lies down at our gate, it is our bounden duty to render the animal any assistance possible. That is charity.

But if our neighbor's horse dies, we are in no wise called upon to buy him another horse. That would be to endow with him an estate, which act would encourage shiftlessness.

There is no charity in feeding people who have work to do, but who seek an excuse for not doing it.

The poor we have always with us, and if people are amind to give as long as they can find somebody poorer than they are, they can soon divide out their entire estate.

It may be that there is suffering on the coast. We do not doubt it. We presume the same is true in Abbeville county. There can always be found suffering, destitution and hunger. The situation will never be different.

As the giving away of the money for which we have labored and economized in our living to save, is a practical thing, and one to be well considered, it is the duty of our preachers to protect their flocks from unnecessary drafts, and they owe it to the poor to see that they are not encouraged in idleness, and that they are not led to believe that Christian people will support them in the lack of a proper effort to sustain themselves.

If people need money that they are able to work for, it is charity to give them an opportunity to work. It is positively sinful to support such people in idleness. People ought to be taught to be self-reliant.—Abbeville Press and Banner.

A Hero.

A few years ago fire broke out in a charming little Swiss village, says an exchange. In a few hours the quaint frame houses were entirely destroyed.

The poor peasants ran around wringing their hands and weeping over their lost homes and the bones of the burned cattle.

One poor man was in greater trouble than his neighbors, even. His home and cows were gone, and so also was his son, a bright boy of six or seven years. He wept and refused to hear any words of comfort. He spent the night wandering sorrowfully among the ruins, while his acquaintances had taken refuge in the neighboring villages.

Just as daybreak came, however, he heard a well-known sound, and looking up he saw his favorite cow leading the herd, and coming directly after them was his bright-eyed little boy.

"O, my son! my son!" he cried, "are you really alive?"

"Why, yes, father. When I saw the fire I ran to get our cows away to the pasture lands."

"You are a hero, my boy!" the father exclaimed.

But the boy said: "O, no! A hero is one who does some wonderful deed. I led the cows away because they were in danger, and I knew it was the right thing to do."

"Ah!" cried the father, he who does the right thing at the right time is the hero."

Length of a Knot.

The velocity of a ship is estimated in knots and tenths of a knot, and the distance on the log line between two successive knots or marks is obtained by the following proportion: As the number of seconds in an hour is to the number of seconds in the hour glass (usually twenty-eight), so is the length of a sea mile to the length of a knot. This gives forty-seven feet four inches. Previous to marking the log line it is soaked in water for a few days to get it into the condition it is when in use. About fifteen or twenty fathoms of "stray line" is marked off by a piece of fish line with one, two or three, etc., knots in it, as may be required. Each division is subdivided into five equal parts, and a small piece of rag or bunting marks the two-tenths division thus formed. The knot or sea mile is 6083 feet, or 1.15 statute mile.—Boston Cultivator.

A Year Without a Summer.

Under the above heading a correspondent of the Louisville Courier Journal furnishes some interesting and remarkable facts about the weather in the year 1816. In view of the unusual seasons of this year, a brief abstract of the weather of that year will be of interest.

January was mild. February was not very cold. March was cold and boisterous during the first of the month, but the last of the month was mild. April began warm, but as the month advanced it grew colder and ended in snow and ice with a temperature like winter. May was more remarkable. Buds and flowers were frozen, ice formed an inch thick and corn was killed, and was planted and replanted again until deemed too late. June was the coldest ever known. Frost, ice and snow were common. Almost everything green was killed. In some of the Northern States the snow fell to the depth of ten inches, and great floods of water destroyed property from New York to New Orleans. July was accompanied by frost and ice, and nearly all the corn crops were destroyed. In August ice formed half an inch thick. The greater part of the corn was frozen and cut down and saved for fodder. Farmers had to supply themselves with seed corn made in 1815 with which to plant in 1817. It sold at from \$4 to \$5 a bushel. Flour sold at \$13 per barrel. The month of September was the mildest of the season. The same conditions of the weather prevailed in Europe as in America.

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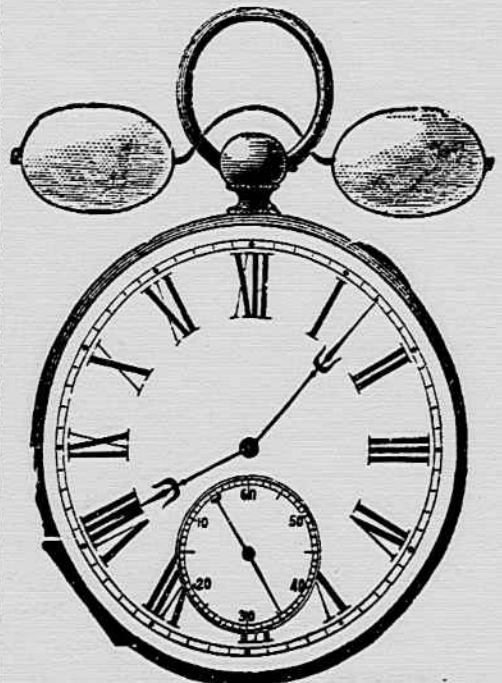
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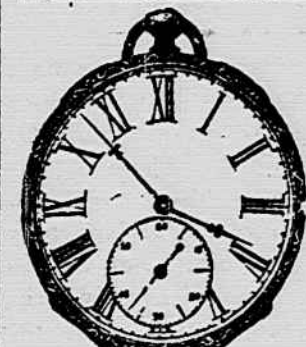
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