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From the Raleigh Sentinel.

PUNCTUALITY.

Messrs. Editors:—It is said of General Washington that "he was always punctual to meet an engagement, and allowed five minutes to others for the variation of their watches; but if those who were to meet him did not arrive within the specified time, he promptly mounted his horse and rode off to attend to other business." The same is said of Lord Nelson, with this difference, however, that "he made it an invariable rule to be present at any appointment, and to be ready for every enterprise at least fifteen minutes before the time, and to wait rather impatiently for the arrival of the moment allotted for action. When the hour had fully come, and the delay of others rendered it inexpedient to proceed, he looked upon his own obligation as cancelled, withdrew immediately from the place of rendezvous, and no inducement could ever prevail upon him to return." No one ever had to wait for General Washington or Lord Nelson.

The lesson inculcated by the anecdotes respecting these great men is, to be in time for every duty. It should be the standard principle of every man who has any regard to those with whom he acts, to be truly punctual to all his engagements. To himself it is a rule of incalculable importance, and applies to every occupation and every pursuit of life. The ancients represented Time under the similitude of an old man, with a single lock of hair upon his forehead, gravely but steadily approaching a multitude—and whoever seized this lock, and held him by it, was borne onward with the most assured pledge that could be given of future success. But if any suffered him to pass them, he spread out his wings, which till then were concealed behind him, and flew away with a rapidity which rendered pursuit utterly vain. Hence the old and useful adage, "Take time by the forelock." Better be five minutes with General Washington, or even fifteen minutes with Lord Nelson, too early, than one minute too late.

The importance to one's self of being at or before in time, may perhaps be better illustrated by an example or two.

I have in my eye a young man who was my class mate in College. There was nothing in the structure of his mind or in its development peculiarly striking. He seemed to possess a mind cast in the ordinary mould, with no stamp upon it either of genius or brilliancy. But I marked the regularity with which he attended upon all the duties of the institution. He was always at or before the time, in the Chapel, the recitation room, the Society Hall, or wherever else there was a just claim upon his merit or attention. Nor did he ever offer as an excuse, that he was unprepared for any exercise to which he was properly called. He "took time by the forelock," and had his lessons all thoroughly digested long before the hour of recitation arrived. His compositions were all written several days in advance of the time he was required to read, and as leisure offered, he would frequently re-model or re-write them. He left nothing to be done at the eleventh hour; but carried out the principle of punctuality into everything that concerned him.

The result was, he left many of his class lagging behind, while he pressed onward with increased energy, and making every day some increase to his stock of knowledge. He was at last graduated as A. B. with a distinction which he had no expectation of attaining. And without entering into the minute particulars of his subsequent life, it is enough to say that he became a minister of the gospel, where he carried out this same principle in his preparations for the pulpit—in his family, in his punctual visitations, and in the meetings of ecclesiastical courts.

Whoever else was behind the time, with him there was one unvarying rule—he was never tardy, he was never unprepared. And by this means he acquired that vigor of thought, and energy of style, and pathos of utterance, so essentially necessary to distinguished usefulness, as a herald of the Cross;—thus securing the high

respect and confidence of his brethren, and of all who knew him. To himself, then, his habit of punctuality was amazingly useful; and to many others not much less so than to himself, for his example has had a powerful influence in producing a similar habit among all who were within its range.

Now let each one—as the preachers say—improve this subject, by making some such personal reflections as these: What right have I to cause a number of men, whom I have engaged to meet at a particular hour, not only to waste their time, but become impatient and fretful by my delay? What right have I to rob them of that which I can never restore—the precious hours worse than wasted? What right have I to set such a ruinous example—to betray an important trust—to trifle with the sensibilities of those whom I am bound to respect; and cut off a portion of their usefulness? In an individual case, which I have occasioned, the effect may be small, but in the aggregate the amount exceeds belief.

SENEX.

AN EARTHQUAKE ZONE.

From the New York Journal of Commerce.

We are not aware that any geologist has called attention to the fact that the most disastrous earthquakes of which we have any record, in the northern hemisphere, have occurred between latitude 37 degrees and 40 degrees. This is not a theory, but a fact, and in Asia. A comparison of data would justify the supposition that there is a zone or belt encircling the earth, within whose limits (we speak now solely of the northern hemisphere) the most destructive energies of the molten interior burst forth with the most frightful violence. We could narrow this belt still further, and say that some of the most calamitous earthquakes known in history have occurred between 38 degrees and 39 degrees north latitude. The island of Mytilene (in the Levant), which was the scene of one of these terrible and mysterious visitations on the 6th March last, comes between these fatal degrees. The accounts of this earthquake, by recent European mails, state that the island had not been similarly visited during the present generation. It is volcanic, as is proved by the existence of numerous hot springs. Nothing remarkable was observed in the weather previous to the earthquake, though a singular haziness of the atmosphere and a great variability of temperature have often been remarked as among the preliminary indications of these phenomena. The first shock came about 6 P. M., and lasted fifteen or twenty seconds. It was sharp, but did little mischief, as is invariably the case with first shocks. A second and far more violent one followed, which shook down whole blocks of stone buildings, rent the earth asunder in enormous gaps, and buried hundreds of human beings and acres of quay and busy streets in unfathomable graves. The sea now covers what was once the most thrifty and important part of Mytilene. One-half of the island has been laid waste, and the loss of human life is estimated at over 1,000.

This earthquake was but a small affair compared with that long series of similar misfortunes which visited Calabria in the same latitude, 38-39 degrees, in 1783-4. The number of shocks of the first degree to which that unhappy country was subjected in the former years was 501, and in the latter year 98. But few houses in the cities, towns, and villages, from the western flanks of the Apennines to Messina, in Sicily, were left standing, and upwards of 40,000 persons perished. The convulsion of earth, sea, and air—for they were all affected together—was felt over a great part of Sicily and as far north as Naples. Previous to this, in 1755, had occurred the most destructive earthquake of modern times at Lisbon, in latitude 38-39 degrees, a city which, until that time, had never been seriously injured from this cause. A sound of thunder, as if under ground, was the first warning, and in the next six minutes the greater part of the city was in ruins and 60,000 persons were no more.

With the first shock the sea retired, leaving the bar dry, and then roiled in with a gigantic wave fifty feet high, which swept over the lower part of the city, drowning thousands of the miserable inhabitants who had fled to the streets and squares for safety. A great concourse of the people had collected on a new marble quay, as a spot where they could stand beyond the reach of fallen ruins, when it suddenly sank, with all who were upon it, and it is said that not one of the dead bodies ever floated to the surface. The water above the spot is now one hundred fathoms deep. Over 100,000 persons were destroyed by this earthquake. Its effects were felt on all sides to a distance of many hundred miles: the agitation reaching even to Great Britain, where lakes and springs were affected in the most remarkable manner. In Loch Lomond, Scotland, the water suddenly rose two feet and four inches, and subsided below its former level. It was reported that similar phenomena were observed in Lake Champlain and in some ponds in Massachusetts. The vibration, or wave, of the earthquake appeared to be transmitted at the rate of about twenty miles a minute. The island of Sicily and the western coast of Asia Minor, in the same latitude, have been repeatedly desolated by earthquakes, involving the destruction of towns and villages with the greater part of their populations.

Following this earthquake zone across the ocean into the United States, we find that the only great terrestrial convulsions to which this country has been subjected occurred upon it. The first at New Madrid, Mo., (latitude 38-39 degrees) in 1811. The ground at New Madrid was in a quaking state for several months, though the number of severe shocks were few. Among the remarkable changes that were wrought in this region were the formation of lakes twenty miles in extent in the course of an hour, and the drainage of others equally large in the same space of time; the sinking of the site of New Madrid, and the river bank for fifteen miles above, eight feet below their former level; the busting open of the soil, and the ejection of vast volumes of water, sand, and pit coal as high as the tops of the trees; the splitting of the earth into chasins in a direction generally from northeast to southwest. During these shocks the earth rose in great undulations, and as the waves advanced, the trees bent before them as if to a hurricane. We believe that no lives were lost in this earthquake. Still, following this line across the continent, we come to San Francisco and the surrounding country on the Pacific lying in 38-39 degrees. Here occurred another memorable earthquake in 1865, which gave the last people of San Francisco a new sensation—one that they do not want repeated. Nobody was killed, if we recollect rightly, and but little damage was done to property; but the confidence of the inhabitants in the stability of their real estate once shaken can never be entirely restored. This is a peculiarity of earthquakes—that they destroy our trust in what is apparently the most solid and permanent of things, the very earth beneath our feet, and introduce a new and vague source of apprehension into the troubles of life. Crossing the Pacific Ocean, on the same line of latitude, we find the coast of Japan peculiarly subject to these disturbances. Several years ago a submarine earthquake occurred about fifty miles from the coast and drove in a huge wave, which destroyed several villages with most of their inhabitants. The same wave left its mark on the eastern shore of the Pacific, to the height of twelve feet in some places, having travelled the entire distance at the estimated rate of about 500 miles an hour.

We do not propose to suggest any explanation of the coincidence to which we have alluded. They are too remarkable to be accidental, and might, if carefully and philosophically investigated, shed new light on the mystery of the earthquake—that rude, primeval process of Nature which still throws its stumbling blocks, as if in mere wantonness, across the path of our civilization.

LOVE A GREAT LEVELER.

From the Louisville Journal, April 18.

Some time ago a wealthy gentleman of this city (who had once followed the river for a profession, but had retired from active life on his wealth and his laurels,) employed some carpenters to repair his palatial residence. He has (or rather had; for she now isn't his'n,) a beautiful and accomplished daughter. She saw one of the hands, who is a model of manly beauty. She looked upon him and loved him. There is a species of electricity between two young hearts: When the attraction begins it is neither centrifugal or centripetal, but both, and a good deal of each. She saw that he was too modest to make the first advance, and so she broke the ice by inviting him into the dining room to partake of refreshments. She drew him into conversation and became satisfied he was no fool. Indeed, he possessed graces of person, mind and character that might well have been envied by many a scion of aristocracy who would be offended if a mechanic passed between them and their nobility. She knew that her lover (for he acknowledged that he returned her passion) would not be allowed to enter the parental residence, and so, when she met him on the street she not only recognized him, but actually made appointments for him to meet her on the street and accompany her to a certain fashionable church, of which she was a member and constant attendant. Thus it went on, in stolen interviews, until last Tuesday night, when she left her father's roof and eloped with her mechanic lover. They were traced to Jeffersonville next morning, but too late to arrest their flight. They have gone to Cincinnati or some other point East, and ere this have been joined in the holy bonds of wedlock. Of course there was a good deal of excitement and a good deal of mortification in the family; but we advise her parents to make the best of that which cannot be helped. We have taken some pains to inquire into the young man's character and we assure them that they have secured one of nature's noblemen for a son-in-law, even if he is a mechanic.

How to Drive off Rats.—Many of the buildings about the city are infested with rats, and as these animals are a public pest, it may not be improper to publish the following simple recipe for getting rid of them. It is so cheap that all may try it. A correspondent of an agricultural exchange, says:

"Take a bunch of matches and soak them over night in a teacupful of water—then take out the matches, thicken the water with Indian meal to a stiff dough, adding a spoonful of sugar and a little lard—lay it about the premises, where the rats and nothing else will get it.

I have tried different kinds of exterminators, with poor success until I tried this. Rats are now strangers about my premises, and make short stops when they call, and go away with a terrible squeak and a terrible griping in the stomach."

Thousands of cattle have died in Kansas during the past winter from exposure and lack of proper food. The mortality has been especially severe in the southern part of the State. One company has lost twelve thousand in two or three weeks.

One of Josh Billings' maxims: "Rise early, work hard and late, live on what you can't sell, give nothing away, and if you don't die rich and go to the devil, you may sue me for damages."

Smoking at night in the streets is prohibited in Salem, Mass., and a young man who persisted in doing so was last week fined \$6.75.

A cargo of 40,000 bushels of California wheat, lately arrived at Philadelphia, netts the owners \$50,000.

Nashville expects to make 73,000 millions of brick this year.

Mad dogs have appeared in many of the leading cities of the west, and several people have been bitten by them.