

Humorous.**THE LENT PAPER.**

"Jim, what has become of last week's paper?" inquired Mrs. C.—of her husband.

"Surely, wife, I cannot tell; it was lost from the office, I think."

"Yes, James brought it home on Saturday evening; but neighbor N.—and his wife being here, he laid it out on the parlor table."

"Oh, N.—has got the paper; I remember now of sending it to him."

"I am very sorry for that; I think you do very wrong, husband, in lending the papers before we have read them. He who takes a paper and pays for it, is certainly entitled to the first perusal of it."

"Yes; but N.—asked me to lend it to him how could I refuse so kind and obliging a neighbor? I am sure he would lend us his if he took one, and I should like to borrow it."

"Don't N.—take a paper?" inquired Mrs. C., with surprise.

"No."

"Why not? He is as he says, always very fond of reading."

"Yes; but he seems to think himself unable to take one."

"Unlikely! He is certainly as able as we are. He pays a much larger tax, and is almost always bragging of his superior cattle, and—"

"Hush, wife! It is wrong to speak of our neighbors' faults behind their backs. He promised to return the paper to day."

"I hope he will. It contains an excellent article which I desired very much to read."

Mrs. C.—was an excellent lady and probably possessed as liberal feelings as her peace-loving husband; but she could not believe it to be their duty to furnish a free paper to her wealthy and covetous neighbor.

N.—had formerly taken a paper; but thinking it too expensive, to the small difference of his wife and little ones he had ordered its discontinuance. He, however, dearly loved to read, and had, for a year or more been in the habit of sending little Joe on the disagreeable errand of borrowing old papers of his neighbor.

Mrs. C.—waited patiently through the day, expecting to see little Joe coming with the paper, but the day passed, as likewise did the evening, and no paper came.

The next morning, after breakfast she was ready to say—

"Well, John, the paper has not been returned yet."

"Ah, indeed; I guess neighbor N.—has forgotten his promise or is absent from home, replied C.—

"I think," she continued, "we had better send James after it."

"Would it not be best, wife, to wait until afternoon? N.—may return it before that time?"

"As you think best," was the mild reply.

They waited until nearly dark, but no paper made its appearance. James a smart lad of ten years was now instructed to proceed to neighbor N.—'s and get the paper. He soon arrived and made known his errand. He was very politely informed that it was lent to R.—the blacksmith, who lived half a mile further on. James unwilling to return home without it, notwithstanding the lateness of the hour, continued on to the Blacksmith's.

It was quite dark when he arrived, but he soon made his business known, and was informed by Mrs. R.—, that little sis got hold of the paper and tore it up."

"I'll take the fragments said James, who was for having nothing lost."

"The fragments, Jim! exclaimed Mr. R.— Old Donk, the pedlar, came along, heard today, and I sold 'em with the rags!"

James somewhat dispirited by his unsuccessful mission, and not being very courageous in the dark, silently beat a hasty retreat for home, where in due reason he arrived and reported the result of his errand.

"Ah!" very composedly remarked Mr. C.— I suppose R. asked neighbor N. to lend him the paper, and he did not like to deny him. We cannot, I think, accuse either of doing intentional wrong; and one paper, continued he, is of little value."

"You may argue N.—'s case as you please," replied Mrs. C.— but be assured of one thing."

"What is that?" asked Mr. C.—with evident fear.

"Nothing, only neighbor N.—will not long be at the inconvenience of troubling people for old papers."

In about three weeks after this conversation N. was informed by the postmaster that he had a paper in the office. He was highly pleased at this announcement, but he could not think who was so very kind as to send him a paper. After many conjectures, however, he came to the conclusion that it was from some friend whom he had assisted in former years.

One day had passed: the paper couched to come, and N. was still "ignorant" from whence it came, but one day at a halting he informed his neighbor of his good fortune, and expressed some fear that he would have to do without a paper soon.

"No you shan't" said James C. in a loud tone of voice, "for mother sent us two dollars for you last week!"

"Well done, Jim!" shouted a dozen voices, while a simultaneous roar of laughter ran along the line of tempests.

N. who had previous to this announcement been remarkably cheerful and talkative, became suddenly silent, while a deep red color, the emblem of shame, mantled his brow—this was a good lesson for N."

Early next morning he went and paid Mr. C. the \$2, acknowledged his error, and was never known afterwards to take less than two weekly papers. (Maine Par.)

"A woman in Ohio, put her baby into the washing tub, and it dirty frock and petticoat into the cradle, and set her little boy to rock it. She did not discover her mistake until the baby cried, when she pinned it to the line, as she hung it out in the yard." (d. 7.)

The Montrose Democrat.
Editor, J. C. McCOLLUM & HERRISON.

TERMS.—\$1.50 each in advance, \$2.00 not paid within 15 days of the receipt of the paper. No back numbers will be sent. Premiums are paid, except at the option of the Publishers. All communications connected with the office, to ensure attention must be directed to the Editors, Montrose, Pa.

NOTES OF ADVERTISING.

One square (12 lines or less) 1 or 3 weeks, \$1.00. Each subsequent insertion, \$1.00.

Each column, 12 lines, \$1.00. Each additional 12 lines, \$1.00.

Business Cards, four lines or less, \$1.00.

One-eighth column, one year, \$1.00.

One-fourth, " 1.00.

One-half, " 1.00.

One column, " 1.00.

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