

Clara Belknap Wolcott [The Backwoodsman]

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Charity, no less than faith and hope, was a cardinal and a practical principle in the Christianity of Mrs. Belknap; charity which, if not, as claimed by one of the master spirits of the world, "the essence of Christianity," is at least one of its essential elements—without which it can have no existence.

But enough; it is most gratifying to know that the subject of this imperfect sketch was one whose practice in life, no more than her avowed principles, were never called in question.

Truly it may be said, she probably had not an enemy on earth; and that,

"None knew her but to love her,
None named her but to praise."

KEOKUK, Dec. 20, 1858.

THE BACKWOODSMAN has many substantial enjoyments. After the fatigue of his journey, and a short season of privation and danger, he finds himself surrounded with plenty. His cattle, hogs and poultry supply his table with meat; the forest abounds in game, the fertile soil yields abundant crops; he has, of course, bread, milk and butter; the rivers furnish fish, and the woods honey. For these various articles there is at first no market, and the farmer acquires the generous habit of spreading them profusely on his table, and giving them freely to a hungry traveler and an indigent neighbor. Hospitality and kindness are among the virtues of the first settlers. Exposed to common dangers and toils, they become united by the closest ties of social intercourse. Accustomed to arm in each other's defence, to aid in each other's labor, to assist in the affectionate duty of nursing the sick, and the mournful office of burying the dead, the best affections of the heart are kept in constant exercise; and there is, perhaps, no class of men in our country who obey the calls of friendship, or the claims of benevolence with such cheerful promptness, or with so liberal a sacrifice of personal convenience.—*Judge Hall's Sketches of the West.*

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