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BICKETT: THE "LITTLE GIANT" OF N. C. POLITICS.

By Dr. E. W. Sikes of the Chair of History and Political Science of Wake Forest College.

Under the above heading the Carolina Democrat in a recent issue published the following:

It is good for a political party to receive an effusion of new blood occasionally, to "break in a new horse." That is what the Democratic party did when it nominated Bickett for Attorney General. He had been born into the world in Union county in 1869, but was not born into politics till the suffrage amendment had been in existence for a few years. The year 1900 marks a decisive year in North Carolina politics. In a sense it was the end of the old dispensation and the beginning of the new. Before that time one issue beclouded all others. With a sigh of relief men saw that cloud pass away. The men who had dispelled it had a claim on the party, but so long as a party feels compelled to pay off its political debts, it is hampered. But Bickett was one man to whom the party owed nothing. No friend ventured to assert that the party must reward him out of gratitude. He was nominated solely on one ground, namely, his vigorous ability. This office must be filled by a lawyer. His duties are purely legal. The various departments of the State government seek his legal advice. Consequently, lawyers in the practice determine the nominee.

The bar of the State had become convinced of this young man's ability, his keen analytical mind, and his power of expression. This recognition had come to him when he had read a paper before the State Bar Association. From that moment he was the choice of that body. It is a mistake to say that his famous speech nominating Col. Horn for the governorship nominated him for Attorney General. That speech convinced the convention of what the Bar Association already knew. The convention recognized that a young David had come among them and that it had made a "find." It nominated him for Attorney General and told him to thrust his sickle into the field.

His work in that campaign will long be remembered. All people heard him gladly. In the few months of the campaign he placed himself in the front ranks of vigorous campaigners. His speeches were new—necessarily so, for he had never been in a campaign before. His vintage was fresh, gleaned from new fields. He was unhampered by old methods and old ideas. His description of the alliance between Tillman and Roosevelt in securing the enactment of railway legislation was rich, rare and racy.

The man has a keen sense of humor. His powers is not in telling jokes. Many a man can tell a joke who has not the gift of humor. Humor is originality. Bickett is original if nothing else. He is the kind of man with whom you would like to sit down and read David Harum or Artemus Ward. He can see the point before it is reached. Like Lincoln, he has a safety valve in the most difficult situations.

When appealed to for his decision as to whether a State official could arrest a Federal post master, he phoned the laconic reply "Take him."

When making an argument before the Supreme Court the justices never sleep. Something breezy always happens.

He possesses the gifts that make a successful lawyer. He is quick to see the point and to go to the heart of the matter. There are some men who can never see the other side. They never walk all around a question. Their vision is obscured by the claims of their own clients. Bickett is the opposite of this. He does not care to carry a case to the court house just to please his client. He has probably settled more cases out of court than in court. He has the confidence of the people for whom he has worked. He is a lawyer that knows the law and advises his clients accordingly. Since becoming Attorney General he has had to appear in some important cases. Among them were the proceedings in opposition to the method of dissolving the American Tobacco Company. His criticism of that method made good news for the papers throughout the country. So effective was it that the cartoonist used it to show the fallacy of the so-called dissolution.

Bickett is a student of the best books. He is quick to manifest an interest in every book bearing on American political and constitutional history. These works feed him. He does not confine himself simply to his law books and the

latest decisions of the courts. Such methods may make a successful lawyer, but it is not the method for making a great man. In this respect the English are superior to Americans. Their statesmen are men of culture. Lord Roseberry could lead parliament, write a book on Napoleon, or deliver an address on Shakespeare. The typical American statesman knows political machinery, but he makes few excursions in the realms of great thoughts embodied in the literature of great men. He is a better politician than he is a statesman. Bickett is more after the model of the Englishman. Consequently, there is room for growth, and each year will see him grow stronger and stronger. His law books are his tool-chest. He keeps these whetted and sharp for every fray and ready for the unwary antagonist who crosses his path. These books stay down town in his law office. Such is the type of man that America will come more and more to appreciate. Such were Webster and Calhoun, but the Civil War saw the recognition of a different type of man. The keen, shrewd business man has displaced the profound lawyer who also knew the fundamental principles of sound government.

Bickett is distinctively an optimist. He sounds no croaking note. He sees the bright side of things and seems glad that he is living and dwelling in this age. He is glad the fathers fought the struggles that they did and thinks that our duty is now to face the present with its new problems. He foresees the evils, but he does not hide himself. He is out in the front ready for the fray.

Then, too, he is well equipped. He entered Wake Forest College in 1886 where he spent four years, being graduated in 1890. He was there along with E. J. Justice, H. A. Foushee, G. W. Ward, Claude Kitchin, E. Y. Webb, H. A. Royster, J. E. White, and others. He took the regular course—not excluding Greek and higher mathematics. After graduation he went to Marion to teach, where he was found by W. A. Blair a few months later and brought to Winston to teach in the graded school. Here he was allowed the liberty to teach in his own way, and this gave the opportunity for his marked originality. But the voice of the law was continually calling him. Her wings were irresistible. After a short stay at the University he secured license and was ready for clients. The best equipment that he had gained for his profession came from his maternal uncle—David A. Covington. He had grown up under his influence and tutelage. In him he saw a man who prepared a case with thoroughness, who fought it with energy, and who was never caught off his guard in a trial. This superb model impressed the young attorney with the idea that law was a jealous mistress who brooked no rival and permitted no dalliance. He began the practice in Stokes county at Danbury, but when a good opening appeared at Louisburg, Franklin county, he removed thither, where he has remained ever since. Here he also met and married Miss Fannie Yarbrough.

Franklin county's authority on folks once to one of Bickett's friends once: "Well, your friend Bickett married one of the finest women raised in Franklin county since the war." A few hours in the delightful freedom of the home readily convinces one that the old gentleman's remark was correct. There is one child in the home—a boy who has just reached the age when he transforms all the manhood he touches back into boyhood. To be away from this home is the chief sacrifice that public life compels Bickett to make. He has that good quality of citizenship—love for his home—and no place is so dear to him, as his "own vine and fig tree."

This trait of his character colors his views of civilization. It keeps him in close touch with the fundamental basis of our civilization. He thinks that it rests on the little farm tilled by the owner. He would like to see every tenant the owner of his own farm. He agrees with Arther Young's famous saying that "the magic of property converts sand into gold."

He served one term in the legislature five years ago. He was known as a "progressive conservative." He was not always in the bell-tower ringing the alarm; neither was he in the cellar while the throned passed by. Nevertheless, he was at the fire and was a fighter. He is a leader safe and sound. The more the people know of him the more they like him. So far he has served well, and the Democratic party realizes that it has gained in him a valuable asset. His philosophy of life is such that his happiness will never depend on holding office; therefore he will never become an office seeker.

He is the "Little Giant" of North

Carolina politics today. He will make good wherever he is placed. His friends never feel any uneasiness that he will not hold his own in any group.

Spring Opening.

The spring opening of men's spring made to measure clothing of Candler-Crowell Co., of Schloss Bros., line of Baltimore, will be held on February 23, 29, and March 1st. Call in and see the many new fabrics.

Meets in Louisburg.

The Raleigh District Conference will meet with the Methodist church of Louisburg on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, April 9th, 10th and 11th, 1912. The conference will be presided over by Bishop J. C. Kilgo and gives promise of being a most interesting one. From what can be learned at present a large number of delegates will be present on this occasion.

Louisburg Baptist Chhreh.

Dr. R. T. Vann, president of Meredith College, Raleigh, spoke last Sunday morning in the interest of his college and secured a good sum for its endowment. He preached a very able sermon at night on "The Power of the Unseen."

Pastor Gilmore will discuss next Sunday the subjects announced for last Sunday: "Who Kindled the Fire?" and "The Sinners Friend."

In the Mayor's Court.

On Wednesday afternoon Mayor B. T. Holden had Willie Ruffin, alias Buddie Ruffin and Frank Satterwhite before him to answer to the charge of vagrancy. Apparently it was an "open and shut" case and the Mayor imposed a fine of 80 days on the township roads and to work out all costs on each. Ruffin took an appeal and was placed under a \$100 justified bond. Satterwhite failed in his bond and went to jail.

Lenten Services.

The following is a list of Lenten services for 1912 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, to be conducted by the Rector, Rev. E. Lucian Malone: Ash Wednesday (Feb. 21st) Morning Prayer and Holy Communion at 10:00 Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, Evening prayer at 5:00, Wednesday evenings at 7:30. Pentecostal office with address on prayer book, Friday evenings at 7:30 the Litany, with Lenten readings Holy week (March 31st-April 5th) morning prayer and Anti-Communion at 10:00. Good Friday (April 5th) morning prayer and Holy Communion at 10:00. Easter eve (April 6th) morning prayer and holy baptism. The services on Easter day will be announced later.

The W. H. M. Society Meets.

The regular meeting of the Woman's Home Mission Society of the Methodist church for February, met with Mrs. J. A. Turner on Monday afternoon. Quite a number of members were present and many interesting papers were read. There were several matters of business discussed and among the most commendable features of this meeting was the action taken wherein they will attempt to support some worthy young girl at the Louisburg Female College. This organization is doing an untold good in Louisburg and vicinity, and the ladies should receive much congratulation and encouragement. All present highly enjoyed both the business and social feature of the evening and returned to their homes feeling that their labors had been of use to their cause.

Wednesday Afternoon Club.

On Wednesday afternoon, February 14th Mrs. B. B. Perry charmingly entertained the Wednesday Afternoon Bridge Club at her home on Main street. The valentine idea was most appropriately carried out both in the decorations and the refreshments suspended from the electric light in the center of the sitting room was a large red heart from which hung twelve red cards with pencils attached. Each guest drew out a card and found herself in possession of a unique score card a white heart on which the number of table and couple was designated by small red hearts. Promptly at 8:30 o'clock the game commenced, and the fun continued until 5 o'clock when refreshments were served. These consisted of a solid course garnished with tomato aspic in heart shapes, heart shaped sandwiches and bon bons served in heart shaped trays. Each guest upon unfolding her napkin discovered a lovely little valentine. After partaking at last of coffee and cream, the merry party dispersed with pleasant impressions of St. Valentine's day.

Box Party at Hickory Rock.

There will be a box party and oyster supper at Hickory Rock Academy Friday night, March 1st. Proceeds to go to betterment of school. Public cordially invited.

At Methodist Church.

Sunday school opens at 9:30 on Sunday morning; Mr. F. B. McKinne, Superintendent. Preaching at 11 a. m., and 7:30 p. m., by the pastor, Rev. R. W. Bailey. Prayer meeting on Wednesday nights at 7:30 o'clock. The public is cordially invited to attend either or all of their services.

At the Opera House.

The management of the Opera House informs us they have contracted with the Wilbur Starr Quartette Company for one performance on next Thursday night. This Company is highly spoken of by the press and public and the people of Louisburg may expect to witness one of the best productions of this kind on the road. Go out and enjoy the evening.

Public School Notes.

In addition to the usual Washington's birthday exercises some of the teachers are making a special study of Camora's statue of George Washington, bulletin no. 8 published by the N. C. Historical-commission furnishes the interesting material for the series of lessons being given. A number of these bulletins were secured for this work through the kindness of Mr. R. D. W. Connor.

At the last teachers' meeting small N. C. flags were distributed, one for each school and the request made that the significance of the dates on the flag be taught in all the schools. The Times of last week published by request, an interesting article by Mr. Pink Ennis on "the history of our State flag."

Specimens of the hand-writing of each pupil have been sent in to Miss Arrington for inspection, the writing will be tested again later on, in order to determine the degree of improvement.

Record vs Record.

Under the above heading the Charlotte News of Sunday very wisely comments on the recent speech of Governor Kitchin in opening the Senatorial campaign as follows:

Governor Kitchin, in his opening address, devotes his time largely to an attack upon the record in the United States Senate made by Senator Simmons. As yet we have had time to glance at the Governor's address only hurriedly. A cursory perusal, however, shows that almost his sole attention is given to Senator Simmons.

The Governor throws down the gauntlet, in other words, and commences what will be a swift and furious struggle between brainy men.

As we have said, the day is young, and it will pay readers to wait before making up their minds. Mr. Simmons is to have a say, and Judge Clark and ex-Governor Aycock have not spoken as yet.

The chances are that Senator Simmons will "come back" in the manner attacked, and he will no doubt find a rich field from which to pick his theme. The Governor, too, has a record which is open to criticism.

His fess and furor over the "trusts" in his pre-election campaign, when compared with the tranquil after-election record will no doubt give the Senator a great opportunity to return his fire. The Governor, it will be remembered, proposed to do all but blot the trusts from the face of the globe! He intended especially to devote his energies to an iconoclastic inquisition upon those twin demons of monopoly, the American Tobacco Company and the Southern Railway. From last reports both of these "infant industries" were still doing business at the same old stand and despite the blight cast by gubernatorial disapproval, were managing to make enough to keep the wolf from the door.

The Governor has not "busted" any great number of trusts during his reign. In fact, we believe we might count on our fingers the octopuses he has set a limping. His administration has been as quiet as a May morning. The State has flourished during his ministry, that is true, but it would have flourished anyway. It has acquired the flourishing habit.

No, the Governor has nothing on the Senator, and his verbal assault strikes many of us as another instance of the pot calling the kettle black.

We deplore a campaign which commences with this sort of attack. Why is it necessary to erect a mountain of sensation out of figments of the imagination during a campaign? Why must a candidate build up some "par-

mount issue," which he has no idea of remembering after election?

Why can not a candidate stand on his merit, go about his business and abide the result of election?

The democracy of both Messrs. Kitchin and Simmons is sound and true, and no amount of misrepresentation will be sufficient to delude the public.

If Governor Kitchin gets more than he expected of the same sort of thing, he can blame none but himself, for he has commenced the campaign with personal attack.

Williams-Lassiter.

Apex, Feb. 19.—Miss Oza Ina Lassiter and D. T. Williams, of Louisburg, N. C., were very happily married at 11 o'clock Tuesday by Rev. E. M. Lassiter, of Cary, brother of the bride, at the home of the bride's sister, Mrs. E. T. Mills. Miss Bessie Williams and Mr. Felen Sears and Miss Odella Bailey and Mr. Sutherland Williams were the attendants, and also were Miss Asiel Scott and Mr. Hermes Mills and Miss Ella Lassiter and Mr. Walter Scott.

The bride was handsomely gowned in exquisite white massaline with pearl trimmings. Immediately following the ceremony the bride donned a neat traveling costume of brown, with gloves, hat and shoes to match, and the happy couple were driven to Cary, where they boarded a Southern train for Raleigh, where an elegant repast was served. Mr. and Mrs. Williams then took the "shoo fly" for the home of the groom in Louisburg, where they spent several days, after which they journeyed to their future home in Apex.

A Tribute to a Good Man.

On Tuesday, Feb. 13, 1912, there passed away near Louisburg in Franklin county, all that was mortal of Bro. Alex Wilson, who lived well and long among us. His company was always uplifting, it was a pleasure to meet him and no thoughtful person could be much in his presence without being impressed with his goodness of heart and gentleness of manner. His loyalty to his church was beautiful, giving did not impoverish him; as everything he touched prospered. He leaves a rich legacy to his family, neighbors and friends, in a successful well spent life. The world is richer and better by his having lived and sojournd among us. I hold him up as a model to the young men of our county, sober, industrious, honest, reliable. "An Israelite in whom is no guile." May his life be an incentive to higher and nobler things in those who are left to mourn his loss. To his grief stricken family I tender my heartfelt sympathy. J. O. GREEN.

Parrish-Foster.

Mr. Grover Parrish and Miss Sallie Foster were married in the Baptist church at Laurel, Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock, the Rev. G. M. Duke officiating. Old Mt. Zion church was tastily decorated with ferns and evergreens; the soft glow of many candles adding beauty to the scene. At the appointed hour the bridal party entered in the following order:

Uabers, Messrs. George Foster and June Egerton, down center aisle. Then came the attendants; Miss Annie Foster with Mr. Cleveland Foster; Miss Hattie Neal with Mr. Jordan Gupton; Miss Mary Rosser with Mr. Walter Johnson; Miss Lillian Upchurch with Mr. Cleary Parrish. The bridesmaids entering from left aisle, groomsmen from right and crossing at the altar. Down center aisle came the bride with her sister, Miss Lesie Foster, who were met at the altar by the groom and his best man, Mr. Archie Parrish.

During the ceremony "Heart and Flowers" was rendered by Miss Emma Duke at the organ accompanied by Mr. Ballard Egerton on the viola. The bridal party entered to the strains of Mendelssohn's wedding march; Lohengrin being used as the recessional. The bride was attired in a handsome gown of white massaline, the maid of honor wearing white silk. The bridesmaids also wearing white. The groomsmen wore conventional black.

Immediately after the ceremony the bridal party repaired to the home of the groom where a delightful reception was tendered them.

The bridal presents were numerous, evidencing the popularity of the bride and groom.

The bride is the attractive daughter of Mrs. Lucy Foster, and niece of our townsmen Messrs. George H. and Willie Cooper. The groom is a well known and deservedly popular young man of Laurel.

We wish for this couple many years of happiness.

Working for a living keeps more folks out of mischief than Sunday school lessons ever could.

THE MOVING PEOPLE

Those Who Have Visited Louisburg the Past Week—Those Who Have Gone Elsewhere For Business or Pleasure.

John Burt Hill is visiting his people here.

Wm. Bailey paid Raleigh a business visit Tuesday.

W. H. Ferguson went to Oxford Wednesday.

Mr. R. T. Smith, of Oxford, visited relatives in town the past week.

Dr. H. A. Newell, spent Tuesday in Raleigh, on professional business.

W. M. Person returned Wednesday from a business trip to Houston, Va.

Mrs. J. A. Tucker, of Florence, S. C. is visiting relatives and friends in town.

Mr. J. A. Turner returned Tuesday from a visit to his sister at Durham.

Miss Laura Mills, of Clayton, spent Sunday with her sister, Mrs. J. H. Bobbitt.

Mrs. H. A. Bost and children left Monday for Raleigh, where they will spend some time.

Messrs. R. F. Fuller and T. T. Terrell spent Tuesday and Wednesday in Richmond buying horses.

J. M. Allen left Tuesday for Baltimore where he goes to see his niece Mrs. R. L. Bernhardt.

K. P. Hill left yesterday for St. Louis, where he goes to buy another supply of horses and mules.

James Collier left Monday for Greenville, where he will take a position with the Greenville Independent.

Mrs. J. C. Tucker, accompanied by Mrs. J. A. Tucker went to Raleigh Monday where she entered Rex Hospital for treatment.

Mrs. R. C. Williams returned home Friday from Richmond, where she had been under treatment in a hospital. Her many friends will be glad to learn that she is improving rapidly.

Mr. H. L. Candler accompanied by Miss Clara Aycocke left the past week for the northern markets to purchase the spring stock of ladies dress goods, millinery, etc for the Candler-Crowell Co. We are informed they will select one of the largest and most desirable lines this season they have yet carried.

Mr. W. L. Odum, of Harris township, left Wednesday for Richmond where he will make his future home. Mr. Odum is a very clever and energetic young man and is deserving of much success. He has many friends in this county who regret to see him leave but wish for him abundant success in his new home.

Honor Roll.

The following is the Honor Roll for Seven Paths school:

1st Grade—Guy Moore.

2nd Grade—Joshua Moore, Christine Moore, Raymond-Creekmore.

3rd Grade—Lois Wilder, Gathaline Moore, Robert Wood, Simon Collier.

4th Grade—Maud Collier, Gladys Wilder, Harriet Moore.

5th Grade—Emma Wilder, Mozelle Moore, Nathan Lamm.

7th Grade—Emma Gay.

There will be a Shadow Party given at Seven Paths Academy Friday night, March 1st, 1912. Refreshments will be served. Public cordially invited. Proceeds for the benefit of the school.

MIS ANNIE PERRY.

Pope's Items.

Mrs. W. A. Fuller has been spending several days with her parents near Kirtrell this week.

Mr. Holman, who is running the big saw mill near here, had the misfortune to have his finger cut last week and has been suffering with blood poison.

We are glad to say that we have had but little sickness up here this winter.

Miss Irene Ferguson entertained quite a number of young people Wednesday night at a valentine drawing.

When you hear people say its too cold to go to Sunday school and then go five miles to a dance I think he enjoys what he practices.

Grady Fuller, who has been living near Raleigh, has returned to his home near Pope.

Mr. H. G. Bragg's little son Willie got hurt very bad last Friday at school, but is improving. G. H. P.

A woman has such an imagination she can think her husband is of distinguished appearance if he doesn't look like a sausage.—Chicago News.