

BILL TO MAKE DIVORCES EASY IN NORTH CAROLINA

People Shocked When They Heard the House Had Passed Bill Letting Down the Bars

VIGOROUS PROTESTS MADE

Shall North Carolina Join Hands With These Foreignized States of the North and Northwest Which Seem to Be Making Unholy Efforts to Destroy the Institutions of the Family?

The people of North Carolina will be astonished to read this morning that the House yesterday on the second reading passed a bill greatly letting down the bars and making it so easy to get a divorce that one gentleman said: "If that bill becomes a law I am going to give up my business and go to practicing law."

The bill that passed the second reading was to make separation for five years a cause for divorce if parties had no children. It had not been discussed until yesterday morning and few of the members had even heard of it.

The bill passed only after Mr. Richard H. Battle gave a solemn and impressive warning of the dangers of letting down the bars, but when an attempt was made to put it on its third reading, that failed. So the bill is yet before the House and members will have an opportunity for consideration before going on record on the measure.

One Representative yesterday afternoon said: "Usually if a bill comes to it with a unanimous report I vote for it and I followed that course with this measure, not dreaming of the serious consequences of the bill. When it comes up on the third reading I will help to kill it." He is one of others who voted for it without a clear understanding of the fact that it opens wide a door to make divorces as easy as may be desired in North Carolina.

North Carolina should not try to rival Nevada and South Dakota and Chicago as the rendezvous of parties seeking divorces. Of course it pays such States in money to invite rich divorce-seekers to come there to establish a residence long enough to get divorces, but hurts them in reputation. North Carolina does not need such money or reputation and it does not wish to make divorces easy for its own people.

There was surprise that in this day and time in North Carolina such a law could pass even on reading in a legislative body, and then there was criticism of the action. The following statement from men who hold high positions in North Carolina shows what is the best opinion in the State:

WEAKENS THE MORAL FIBRE. That is the inevitable result of Easy Divorce Laws.

To the Editor: Easy divorce laws mean a weakening of the moral fibre of a people, and it is to be hoped that our Legislature will not hastily make easy the dissolution of the marriage bond. E. B. JOHNSON, Presiding Elder Fayetteville District, Methodist Church.

MORAVIAN POSITION. Will Marry None Except Those Divorced on Biblical Grounds. Bishop Roushalek, of the Moravian church, in response to an inquiry sent this telegram: Wilmington, Feb. 7.—Moravian ministers marry those only who have been divorced on Biblical grounds. EDWARD RONDTRALER.

SHOULD NOT REMARRY. Dr. Hill, Former Presbyterian Moderator, gives his views. Rev. H. G. Hill, D. D., of Maxton, pastor of the Presbyterian church at Maxton, and one of the leading Presbyterians of the State, in response to a telegram, writes as follows: Maxton, Feb. 7.—Willful desertion for five years should be cause for divorce for the party deserted, but should not release from the marriage bond the deserter. H. G. HILL.

BISHOP STRANGE SPEAKS. Says the bill is a mistake and should be defeated. In response to an inquiry, Bishop Robert Strange, of the Diocese of

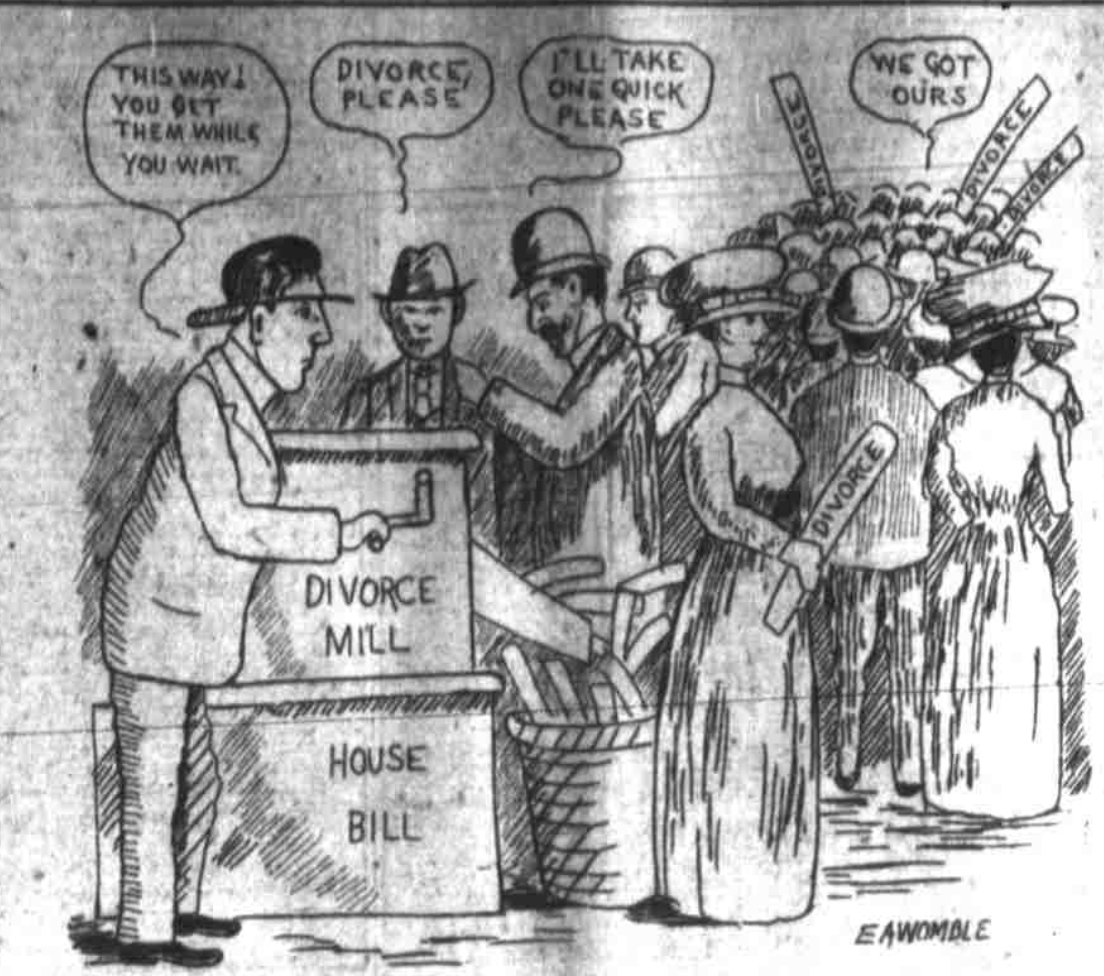
Eastern North Carolina, sent this telegram: Wilmington, Feb. 7.—The bill is a mistake on religion, on morals and on good government. ROBERT STRANGE.

THE SANCTITY OF THE HOME. An earnest protest against the five years' cause for divorce. To the Editor: The sanctity of the home is the strength of our American civilization. We cannot guard it too closely. Easy divorce laws encourage and condone immorality and are a disgrace to the State. It is with deep regret, therefore, to learn that a bill has passed the House making separation for five years a cause for divorce. I earnestly protest against the enactment of this law, and trust that the Senate will defeat the bill, and save the State from the evil that would be thus fostered. D. H. MARSEY, Editor Raleigh Christian Advocate.

CITADEL OF CIVILIZATION. Gentlemen, Have a Care, Let Us Do Violence to the Home. To the Editor: It becomes all well-wishers of the home—the citadel of our civilization—to have a care, lest the present General Assembly do violence by allowing easy divorce. The pending bill before the Legislature would do this. It is a disgrace to the people cannot be too guarded at this point. Gentlemen, defend the sanctity of the marital relation. M. T. PLYLER, Presiding Elder Smith City District, Methodist Church.

A BACKWARD STEP. Rev. Livingston Johnson makes a plea for better second thought by Legislators with regard to the Roberts bill. The divorce bill which passed the House of Representatives today is a decided backward step, and if it passes the Senate will be a disgrace to the laws that stand upon the statute-books of our State. The bill, as I understand it, makes separation for five years where there are no children, sufficient ground for divorce. What are we coming to? In this day when North Carolina is making such strides, industrially, and educationally, are we to take such a backward step in morals? Is it possible that we have such little regard for the laws of God as to make the separation of those who have been united in the holy bonds of wedlock so easy? A few years ago a majority of our people greatly rejoiced because more stringent divorce laws were enacted. The progress and prosperity of any people ultimately depend upon the home life, and the home depends upon the sacred regard paid to the marriage bond. If by legal enactment, such frivolous grounds are set forth in this bill can be used for the separation of man and wife, we may expect a retrogression along all moral lines. Let us hope and pray that the Senate will take higher ground and bill for-ward. E. B. JOHNSON, Corresponding Secretary Baptist State Convention, Raleigh, N. C., Feb. 7.

SEVEN STRONG REASONS. Rev. Hight C. Moore, Editor of the Biblical Recorder, Rings Clear and True. To the Editor: The proposal in the present Legislature to add a new ground for divorce should by no means become the law of the State, for the following reasons: 1. It would certainly promote among us the divorce evil, which is one of the greatest curses of our American life. 2. There is at present but the slightest demand or occasion for such a law, and it would be calamitous to the State at large for a law to be passed which would increase the demand or multiply the occasions. 3. We already admit five causes for divorce, while the Bible recognizes but one. To add another would be only to stray farther from the standard which we all regard as the perfect pattern of our civilization. 4. The proposed law would lead to still further laxity in our divorce legislation—for if we admit separation, we may be called on to add extravagance, thriftlessness or even insanity or infirmities as grounds for the breaking of the marriage tie. 5. While there may be occasional hardships under the law as it stands, there would, under the suggested amendment, be greater injury to the general public, in that the total population would be vitiated and the tone lowered. 6. To weaken the present law would be a backward step in our legislation, for safety at this vital point lies in greater strictness rather than in growing laxity. 7. In short, the proposed law is a blow—unintentional, no doubt, but a blow, nevertheless—at the sanctity of the marriage relation, the purity of the home, and the integrity of the race. So, for a, I earnestly hope the Legislature will not by the passage of such a law make divorce easier, the family more unstable, or the home less secure. HIGHT C. MOORE, Editor Biblical Recorder, Raleigh, N. C.



HOUSE STARTS DIVORCE MILL

If the Bill That Passed Second Reading Yesterday Becomes a Law, the Divorce Mill Will Do a Land Office Business

SHALL NORTH CAROLINA JOIN HANDS WITH THESE FOREIGNIZED STATES OF THE NORTH AND NORTHWEST WHICH SEEM TO BE MAKING UNHOLY EFFORTS TO DESTROY THE INSTITUTION OF THE FAMILY?

Surveys the Senate will consign this measure to the fate it deserves—oblivion—and save the State from the reproach of it. Its enactment would be a backward step, and that at a time when there is surely enough light to guide our lawmakers forward. Let the heart of the old South repeat this invocation of a protest we have held in secret, and make it stronger than the marriage bond and hedge the family about the more securely. ADEL J. MONCRIEF, Pastor Baptist Tabernacle Church.

BISHOP CHESHIRE PROTESTS. Against Pending Roberts Bill Hindering Time of Separation as Cause for Divorce. To the Editor: I understand that a bill is pending before our General Assembly to add another statutory ground for divorce from the bonds of marriage. Without inquiring for the present into the particulars of the present bill, have not the citizens of North Carolina the right to ask of their representatives that this important subject of divorce should not be dealt with in this fragmentary and patch work fashion? The family relation, resting upon the stability and sanctity of marriage, lies at the foundation of our Christian civilization. Every blow struck at the security and permanence of this divine institution is a blow at the foundation of all that is best in our daily life. A single brick pulled out of the foundation of a house may not seem to a thoughtful person to be any great matter. The house seems to stand as securely as ever. But is it the part of a wise man to be pulling out bricks here and there? Should not all good men unite in prohibiting any undermining of our foundation, however trifling the initial act may seem?

The subject of marriage and divorce no one can deny to be one of the most important subjects upon which a law-making body can act. When any action is taken, it should be upon general considerations of principle and policy, embracing the whole subject, and it should not be based upon mere particulars and small details as the claims or the hardships of such or such a situation, in which an individual may find himself. And I earnestly and confidently claim that the Constitution of our State intends that legislation upon marriage and divorce should be always upon general principles, and not upon particular cases. I think you, sir, and the intelligent readers of your paper, cannot have forgotten the

strong presentation of this point made to the General Assembly of 1905 by one of the ablest men who has sat in the Governor's chair of North Carolina. Governor Aycock pointed out that the Constitution of the State, in prohibiting divorce by special act, and providing that legislation on divorce should be only by general laws, plainly implies that such legislation should proceed only upon general principles, and should not be accommodated to the urgency of particular circumstances.

Now six years ago the General Assembly took up this subject of divorce in its general aspect, and with the bias of considering the particular hardships of individual cases, by the action of representatives of religious bodies the attention of our lawmakers was directed to that subject. It was for months before the meeting of the Legislature discussed by the press of the State. Thus considered and thus freely discussed by our ablest papers, and by many of the ablest men of the State, including both Governor Aycock and Governor Glenn, there was such a unanimity of opinion as I have never observed in any other discussion of as great a question in this State. So far as I recall not a single paper of any importance opposed the proposition that we should go back in substance to the Code of 1851. The attention of the State was aroused, the most thorough examination of the subject for months preceded the action of our General Assembly, and as a result the law enacted swept away the numerous grounds of divorce, a vinculo matrimonii which had from time to time been added, and in the statute passed in 1905, enacted a law which commended itself to the intelligence and the conscience of the people of North Carolina.

So if that law is to be changed it should be only after such full and public discussion as shall show that it commands the approval of a general public sentiment. Circumstances have caused my absence from this city during almost the whole time of our General Assembly of 1911 has been in session, but I am told that it is a body of men of an unusually high average of ability and character. I am sure they must feel that in such a matter as that under consideration they cannot consider the mere interest or advantage of particular individuals, but that they must represent the will of the people at large in their attitude to this subject. And the people of North Carolina are against such measures for loosening the bond of marriage, and ordering legislation in the interest of special cases. They have shown most clearly that the act of 1905 commends their

approval, and I most earnestly appeal to our representatives to stand by the principles upon which that act was based. I have been much among the people in many parts of the State, and I know that they are opposed to any loosening of the marriage bond, and thus increasing the facility of divorce which must be the inevitable consequence of passing such acts as the one now proposed and soon to be voted upon. I have not the least knowledge of the particular origin or purpose of this measure. I know not by whom it was introduced nor by whom it is favored, but I know it to be against the best interests of our people and I believe it to be against their conscience and against their will. Very respectfully, JOB BLOUNT CHESHIRE, Raleigh, Feb. 7, 1911.

WAR AVIATION EXPERIMENTS. War Department Has Offer Under Consideration—Taft Does Not Favor Much Expenditure in This Direction—Prefers to Eat the Fruits That Others Gather. (By Associated Press.) Washington, D. C., Feb. 7.—The War Department today received from the International aviators, through Alfred J. Moisant, an offer to supply seven aeroplanes and aviators to manage them for the use of the army on the Texas border. Gen. Wood, Chief of Staff, has replied that the offer will be taken under consideration. The International aviators have been giving aviation exhibitions in the South recently and now are at San Antonio, so that their machines easily could be taken to the boundary. President Taft is opposed to having the United States spend much money for aeroplanes and losing army officers through accidents, while aviation is still in such an embryonic stage as far as its connection with actual warfare is concerned. He believes in waiting until it is more certain that aviators can be of assistance to the army, and for the experiments to be conducted with aeroplanes along the Mexican border, he thinks that it will be hard for an aviator 400 feet or more up in the air to distinguish very clearly just what the situation below is. President thinks it would be better to let other countries do more of the preliminary work in discovering the use of aeroplanes in war and that there will be plenty of time later on when the United States has the full harvest of good results, if such there are, which other countries discover.

MONUMENT TO LINCOLN. House Enacts Senate Measure for a Commission to Secure Plans and Designs. (By the Associated Press.) Washington, D. C., Feb. 7.—The House enacted into law today the Senate bill providing for a commission to secure plans and designs for a suitable monument or memorial to Abraham Lincoln in this city. It is estimated that this memorial will cost in the neighborhood of \$2,000,000 and be the most imposing of all the monuments in Washington save only the towering shaft erected in memory of Washington. The commission is composed of President Taft, Senator Shelby M. Cullom, of Illinois, Speaker Cannon, of Utah, Westcott, of Rhode Island, Representative McCall, of Massachusetts, Senator Money, of Mississippi, and Representative Champ Clark, of Missouri.

NON-RESERVE CLAUSE. Delays Players From Any Redress by National Baseball Commission. (By the Associated Press.) Cincinnati, Ohio, Feb. 7.—Baseball players who sign contracts containing a non-reserve clause, which is not authorized can look for no redress from the National Baseball Commission of any grievance that they may have. Such was the substance of a decision handed down today, when the commission refused to consider a claim of Ambrose Putman for back salary, alleged to be due him from the Petersburg, Va., club. The commission announced that it would consider no claims from players who have contracts containing non-reserve clauses which have not the approval of the National Board of the National Association of Minor Leagues.

Ballgame Disturbance. (By the Associated Press.) Cape Hatteras, Feb. 7.—The dispatch boat Nord Alexis arrived here this morning from Gonaves, where it took the National Baseball Commission, transported to that place by the Albatross. The troops were landed and are now awaiting the arrival of President Simon, who at the head of a large force, is proceeding here by land. He was at Blainville, about ten miles from this city yesterday. The commandant of the Cape Hatteras district today accompanied General Florestal Magloire, who recently was appointed to command of the Haitian army on an inspection of the city. Fighting continues at Trou and Casamir.

Will Play Post Season Series. (By the Associated Press.) Baltimore, Feb. 7.—The Eastern League baseball players will play a post-season series of five games with an all-star team of the team that finished second.

NEGRO WEST IN SWAMP SURROUNDED BY POSSE. The Murderer of Deputy Sheriff Mumford Located, Pursued and Slightly Wounded. NOW HIDING IN SWAMP. Large Posse From Wilson, Greene and Lenoir Counties. Rushed to Location and Now Believe They Have the Desperate Negro Surrounded—Located in a Negro House and Was Shaving When an Attempt Was Made to Arrest Him By Two Men.

The latest information in the pursuit of the negro Lewis West, wanted for the murder of Deputy Sheriff Mumford and the wounding of Chief of Police Glover is that he is hiding in a swamp near Hookerton, in Greene county, and that an immense posse from Wilson, Greene and Lenoir counties have surrounded the swamp and that his capture, dead or alive is expected hourly.

Posse Hurries to Hookerton. Wilson, Feb. 7.—This afternoon telephone messages received here from Hookerton, in Greene county, stating that the negro Lewis West, who murdered Deputy Sheriff George W. Mumford and probably fatally wounded Chief of Police O. A. Glover, was in that neighborhood, and upon this information, a special train was run from Wilson over the Norfolk Southern and East Carolina railroads, carrying a posse of about 75 men, well armed.

The train left Wilson at about 3:45 and reached Hookerton about 5 o'clock, arriving at the scene, your correspondent, who went with the posse, gleaned the following facts: This morning about 12 o'clock St. John Haddon, a B. F. D. carrier, and Mr. John Ketchum saw a suspicious negro walking along the road and saw him go into a negro house. Haddon had a gun, Ketchum did not. They went to the house where the negro was, Haddon went to the back door and saw that the negro was shaving. Haddon then went to front door and told him to surrender. At this the negro cut at him with a razor and ran over Ketchum. Haddon fired on him, wounding him in the leg. They then followed the trail which was bloody. He was recognized from description to be Lewis West. He had been on his neck and had on white sweater and red undershirt.

At this writing, 7 p. m., the posse is leaving Ormond's store for a swamp two miles away. The negro is said to be only about half hour ahead of posse. Lenoir Seeks Posse. Kingston, Pa. Report reached here about noon today that the negro Lewis West, who shot and killed Deputy Sheriff Mumford in Wilson, was surrounded in a swamp near Ridge Springs, a small village on the border of Greene and Pitt counties, about 15 miles from here. The message was by phone from Sheriff Warren, of Greene county, to Sheriff Nunn, of this Lenoir county, and stated that Sheriff Nunn organize a posse at once and come to his assistance. Sheriff Nunn quickly got together and then with the posse he is surrounded men and left for the scene in a hurry. A little later several other gentlemen, among whom were Major LaRouque and Deputy Sheriff George Gray, left in an automobile. The report reaching here was to the effect that a negro answering the published description of West, was seen on the road by a mail carrier, who reported it to others. Investigation near where the negro was seen proved that a negro hid called at a negro house nearby and told the occupants that he was the man who killed Mr. Mumford, and asked for aid in escape. They showed the party which way he went and they pursued him. A man was soon sighted who ran and was shot at by one of the party who thinks that the shot wounded him. He took to the swamp, where he is surrounded as reported. At this time (9 o'clock) none of the party have returned to the city. To Raleigh for Safe Keeping. The Wilson county jail and Inched, Sheriff Sharp and Deputy Mercer brought Jim Simms, who was arrested in Wilson, and a negro giving his name as "Stetson," who was arrested in Selma Monday night, to the State's Prison last night for safe keeping. The sheriff and his deputy arrived in the city on the evening train over the Norfolk Southern and returned at nine o'clock. Reports come from Wilson to the effect that all day yesterday groups of people lingered about the jail yard, and that if the prisoners had been allowed to remain there last night they would have been taken out and hanged, as the feeling against them was at high pitch. Sheriff Sharp said last night that Simms stated that Stetson was in the house when Deputy Mumford was shot. As for Simms he was shot in the house. It is said, when the tragedy occurred, Stetson said he was not inside the house but was on the outside. (Continued on Page Four.)

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