

Bickett: The "Little Giant" of North Carolina Politics. Ask Mr. Brown.

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

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 1899 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 unthought 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 Tilman and Roosevelt in securing the enactment of railway legislation was rich, rare and racy.

The man has a keen sense of humor. His powers are not in telling jokes. Many a man can tell a joke who has not the gift of humor. Humor is originally Bickett's 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 postmaster, he phoned the laconic reply "Take him."

When making an argument before the Supreme Court the justices never sleep. Something treecy 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. His pantry is at home both literally and figuratively. His library at home is the pantry out of which he feeds himself. There is where his soul grows. He is no lawyer lank and lean when he is outside of the court house or 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 life 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 foreseeth 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 1888 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 wooings 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 dalliings. 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 Yarborough. Franklin county's authority on folks remarked 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 Arthur 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 throng 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.

Here's Some Important News for Men Who are Growing Bald. People who have taken our word for it that PARISIAN SAGE is the real hair grower, beautifier and dandruff cure have never been disappointed. Here's the word of a person who took our word:

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NOTICE OF SALE.

By virtue of a power of sale contained in a certain mortgage deed, executed by Wm. Horn and wife, Edna Horn, on the 1st day of March 1911, which is duly recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for Union county, in Book AD at page 145, default having been made in the payment of the note thereby secured, I will, on

Monday, March 4th, 1912, at 12 o'clock M., at the courthouse door in Monroe, N. C., sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described tracts of land, conveyed in said mortgage, to-wit: Lying and being in Union county, N. C., on the waters of Ray's Fork creek, adjoining the lands of A. M. Hargett, Marion Helms and others, and bounded as follows: Beginning at a stake on the East side of Ray's Fork creek, 1 cedar and gum pointers, and runs down the various courses of said creek N. 22 W. 26 chs. to a hy., Marion Helms corner, 1 P. O. and gumpointer; thence S. 88 E. 12.75 chs. to a stake, one P. O. pointer; thence S. 3. W. 25.1 chs. to a cedar, in a hedge row; thence N. 37 W. 18.18 chs. to the beginning, containing 40 1-4 acres, more or less, and being the same lands conveyed to said Wm. Horn by G. W. Rushing and wife by deed dated Dec. 13, 1899.

Sold to satisfy the provisions of said mortgage deed, and to satisfy note or bond thereby secured.

This the 5th day of Feb., 1912.
G. M. STEWART, Mortgagee.
Lemmond & Vann, Attorneys.

Notice of Sale of City Lots for Partition.

North Carolina, Union County.

Under and by virtue of an order of Clerk Superior Court of Union county, N. C., made in the Special Proceeding entitled "W. Roy Trull and C. M. Trull vs. Lomie Trull, Gertha Trull, Pauline Trull and Everett Trull," begun before the Clerk Superior Court of said county, and State, on December 13th, 1911, the undersigned commissioner will, on Monday, March 4th, 1912, at 12 o'clock M., at the court house door in Monroe, North Carolina, sell to the highest bidder, on the following terms to-wit: One-third cash, balance on credit of eight months, two certain city lots, lying and being the city of Monroe, N. C., and described as follows:

Bounded on the north by Brown avenue, on the east by Stafford street, on the south by lot No. 3 in block "C", and on the west by a branch or drain, being lots Nos. 1 and 2 in block "C" of the Monroe Land Improvement Company's Addition to the Town of Monroe, North Carolina. These lots each contain 59x166 ft. more or less.

And being the same lots conveyed by D. A. Mauney and wife to E. E. Presson, by deed dated May 9th, 1898, and being also the same lots conveyed by E. E. Presson and wife to Jas. T. Trull by deed dated March 5th, 1901, and recorded in Book of Deeds 34, at Page 81, et seq. This 30th of Jan., 1912.
R. W. LEMMOND, Commissioner.

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