

THE RECORD IS THE REASON

By R. B. White

Some two or three years ago the North Carolina Society in New York asked our Attorney General to come up to its annual banquet and bring a message from "down home." It was a brilliant gathering of the Tar Heels who had made good in New York and yet had not forgotten their love for the "Old North State." Doubtless they looked for a good speech. They got more than that.

It was different. It brought North Carolina home to them. They caught a new view of her essential genius. For Bickett, instead of giving any fluff in fireworks or cold storage statistics, just talked to them about "The Corn Club Boys" of North Carolina, and they sat up and took notice. There was humor in it and a bit of tenderness, and above all was the fresh comprehension of the old home State which not only builds factories but is doing its finest work in the making of men.

That was just I like Bickett. Perhaps no one else would have thought of such a subject for New York. Probably no one else could have presented it with such force and charm. It made those absentee Tar Heels think of North Carolina in terms of manhood. Out of it came an even deeper affection for the old home. That is one of Bickett's characteristics. He seems somehow to know folks and especially North Carolina folks.

It is a curious bit of statistical fact that if you look over the list of public men who have really achieved much in the past forty years, you will find that about three out of four at some time or other, taught school. Now, school teaching is probably good training, but by itself it could hardly justify these facts. The better philosophy is this: When a young man teaches school it shows two things:

1. That he has been pretty well educated.

2. That he must work for his own living and "root, pig, or die."

Certainly these two things were true of Bickett. Left an orphan at 14 he made his way through college, and taught school two years afterwards to pay the debts. It helped in the development of character, of ability and of resourcefulness, but better still it gave an understanding of the conditions which so many of us have to face. To the fellow who is trying to make his own way Bickett would always like to reach out a hand. He knows.

The other day there came to the editor of the Franklin Times, a letter from a small farmer who lives some six miles from Louisburg. It was very plain as to paper and writing, but it came from that man's heart. It is so characteristic of Bickett's attitude that I give it here just as it was written.

Franklin, N. C. R.F.D. 2,
April 9, 1914.

May I say a few words to the public concerning T. W. Bickett, the man whom we expect to be our next Governor.

What I wish to say is this, not what some one said, but a personal transaction. We, R. M., C. H. and W. A. Bailey several years ago decided to buy us a home or homes, and this decision was reached without money. The next thing to do was to find a man who would sell us land on easy terms. We found this man in the person of T. W. Bickett. The terms were made about equal to the annual rent. When short crops would come we would tell him that we could not make a full payment. He would simply say that it was all right. When I asked him to endorse my note to the bank he did not spit his teeth, but simply smiled and stuck his fist to the paper. Last fall we finished paying the last dollar and received the deed.

He has done this same thing for a lot of other folks. When I spoke to him about being Governor he said he intended to multiply that transaction by five thousand. I think he would come as near doing that as any man in the State of North Carolina. I think he would do more for the masses of people than any man I ever knew.

(Signed) R. M. BAILEY.

The letter tells the whole story of Bickett's attitude better than it would be possible for me to write it out. I suppose I have heard him mention this subject more than fifty times, with the statement that there could be no finer achievement than to convert the white tenants of North Carolina into land owners; that owning some land ought to be the privilege of every Anglo-Saxon. When

it comes to the genuine wish to be of service to those who desire service, there's nobody in the State who has anything on Bickett.

Many men are lawyers. Some lawyers are men. The distinction lies in where they put the emphasis.

Bickett is ranked as one of the big great lawyers of the State. When you analyze his advice, or the way he conducts a trial, you see that he is a man before he is a lawyer. To him the law ought to be the servant of society. A case presents itself to him not as a purely legal question, but with reference as to how it shapes up with the big things of right and humanity.

Down in his home town he has been the adviser in practically every important enterprise. He has a common sense, human nature way of looking at things, which makes his counsel valuable far beyond any matter of law involved.

As Attorney General he has had to prosecute for the State some four hundred cases before our Supreme Court. Still he has been able to approach each one on its basic merits. He gets the human element every time. He makes you see where the thing is important in our social and economic life.

For instance, in the case of State vs Howard, the defendant was charged with the slander of an innocent woman. He had called her a "crook." Bickett's argument was a gem in its interpretation of human nature. He did not resort to encyclopedias, but with that rich appreciation of life, which is his by birth and experience, he made the Court understand what the expression meant to the man on the street.

Or, take the Christy Warren case. Bickett's brief for the State doesn't read like an ordinary legal document. You are made to see things in an intensely human way. The crime and the parties are made real. You can feel the natural unnaturalness of it. You are given a vivid insight into human lives twisted and warped by the passion of evil. When you have finished you are convinced of their guilt by the very humaneness of his argument.

They say that when Bickett argued the Tennessee case before the United States Supreme Court at Washington the nine dignified Justices sat up and listened to him just as folks down here do. There were touches of humor here and there, bits of good-natured sarcasm and pertinent illustrations which kept the Court wide awake, and with it a good humored tone which was irresistible. It was a foregone conclusion that North Carolina would win.

The clerk of this Court stated publicly that Mr. Bickett in the Red "C" Oil case made one of the three best speeches delivered before the Supreme Court at Washington in the last twenty years.

A great many people talk of Bickett's ability as a speaker and this is one of the big things about him. But after all, it is only a sidelight on the man himself. The effectiveness of his speaking is largely because he himself is so much one of the folks. He thinks about the same things in much the same way and brings to them in words their own unspoken aspirations.

Governor Aycock once said to me that one of the greatest pleasures he got out of public life was to be able to speak out what folks of North Carolina wanted to say and could not. There is this same quality of understanding about Bickett and it is this which gives such genuine force to what he says.

We find this same touch when we consider his relationship to the various departments of the State Government. His legal opinions have been sound but his common sense has been invaluable. With him it has been less a question of the letter of the law than of the spirit of the law and of our people.

There was the tedious freight rate hearing of two years ago. Bickett was on hand through the weeks and months of this, representing the State. The air was full of figures, fractions and experts. An hour of it would give an ordinary man the headache yet Bickett was able to reduce all these things down to a common sense basis and get at the really essential matters. Just ask a member of that Commission about Bickett's value in the hearings.

The Attorney General's office in his hand has not been any cold storage plant of legal opinion solely, but he has given to it a spirit of understanding of willingness and of desire to

make the law of North Carolina a help and protection to her people. Bickett was born in Union county the son of a country doctor who had been a surgeon in the Confederate Army. He was educated at Wake Forest, taught two years in Winston and studied law at Chapel Hill, practised one year in Stokes county, and located at Louisburg in 1895.

For ten years he was attorney for the County Board of Commissioners. He has held only two public offices—a member of the General Assembly in 1907 and Attorney General. In both he more than made good.

He has been one of the mainstays of the Democratic party in every campaign for many years, and its chief reliance since Aycock's death. He knows North Carolina and her folks, and they know him. He knows our government and our institutions.

And with it all, he is a big hearted, clear-thinking, clean living, likable man who will fit anywhere, who can be trusted anywhere, and of whom we would be proud anywhere.

To the Governor of North Carolina there are permitted four fields of activity:

1. The Pardoning Power. Beyond question the most perplexing and embarrassing duty of the office.

As Attorney General it has been necessary for Bickett to prosecute every criminal whose case came before the Supreme Court. He has had to face every plea known to astute lawyers. The Supreme Court reports show his success. In doing this he has acquired wisdom as to the ways of the wicked. For a cool headed, discriminating consideration of a pardon, no training could be finer.

2. Economical Administration of the State's Business.

Bickett's big work when in the Legislature looked to this. Since that time he has had to be in close touch with every department. He would know the job from the start. He can size up a business situation as accurately as anybody. He can get other folks to do things. Just ask the man who knows—the man who has had his business advice.

3. Leadership in Legislation.

Certainly Bickett knows a law when he sees one. That has been his business. He knows the State. He knows the men. He would be a positive help to the Legislature, and the equivalent of a bond against half-baked statutes.

4. Leadership of Public Opinion in Public Movements.

Wanted a man of address, of ideas, of public forcefulness who can speak with power the ideals of our people. It is not so much what a Governor does as what he gets other folks to do. Frankly, is there anybody in North Carolina who could answer this demand better than Bickett?

We Franklin County folks who know Bickett, his integrity, his high mindedness, his genuine character, and love him for them all, may not be altogether impartial judges, but we do think that "THE RECORD IS THE REASON."

CARD OF THANKS

The family of the late Robert J. Sawyer desires to express their appreciation for the many kindnesses shown them during the illness and upon the death of the husband and father, and especially for the many beautiful floral offerings sent in.

L. B. Sanderlin who has just completed the work of the freshman year at the A & M college at Raleigh, passed through the city Saturday on his way to his home at Shiloh.

Mrs. Lillian Wise, who was in charge of the school at Newbern's Landing during the past term, is

Messrs. J. I. and B. C. Needham of Shiloh were in the city Saturday.

Miss Blanche Lister is visiting her sister, Mrs. W. T. Halstead at Red Oak, Virginia.

EAST LAKE BRIEFS

East Lake, N. C., May 29—Mrs. Susan Basnight died at the home of her daughter Sunday morning. She was buried at the M. E. church, Rev. W. R. Hardesty conducted the funeral services. She is survived by four children: Mrs. J. W. Twiddy, Mrs. L. W. Ambrose, Mr. T. H. Basnight, and Willie Basnight.

Mr. Ephraim Pritchett will leave tomorrow for Washington County after spending a week with his sister, Mrs. J. E. Duvall.

Misses Gerdie Twiford, Rattle Creel, and Katherine Smith spent Sunday afternoon with Mrs. Cincinnati Basnight.

C. H. Creel spent Sunday with his parents Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Creel at Sycamore.

Miss Bertie Creel has returned from Elizabeth City after spending a few weeks among relatives and friends.

Mr. E. H. Duvall of Buffalo City spent Sunday afternoon with his parents Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Duvall.

Mrs. C. K. Jarman of Buffalo City spent Sunday with her mother, Mrs. John F. Holmes.

Miss Pearl Lee will leave today after spending a few weeks with her brother, Mr. Robert E. Lee.

HIGH SCHOOL DEFEATED

Belvidere, May 28—In the election for the State High School on the sixteenth of this month twenty one votes were cast for the special tax and fifty seven against it.

Mr. and Mrs. William McQueen gave a delightful dinner Saturday evening at their home on Martin street. The table was attractively arranged with a centerpiece of pink roses and covers were laid for six. Mr. and Mrs. McQueen's guests were: Mr. and Mrs. Matthews of Edenton, Mrs. J. W. Old of Norfolk, and Mrs. F. F. Cohoon.

Miss Rose Goodwin who has charge of the Department of voice at Chowan College is home for the holidays.

A Chest of Silver for the Cleverest Answer

The bride shown in our window has received a letter. The cleverest answer to it will win the grand prize—a genuine mahogany chest of 208 pieces of

ALVIN SILVER The Long-Life Plate

20 other prizes valued at \$50.00 each. Also a set of six tea spoons for the best answer on blanks from this store (except winners of above 21 prizes). Answers to be on regular answer blanks and mailed direct to Alvin Mfg. Co., Sag Harbor, New York.

Get an answer blank from us.



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SAG HARBOR, N. Y.
LOUIS SELIG

To The Public!—

Owing to the tremendous increase in prices on Barber Supplies—we are compelled to advance the price on shaves from 10c to 15c on June 5th. Realizing that the public in general desire an attractive place such as ours—and knowing the high prices now existing—we are sure our reasons for advancing our price are understood.

R. F. PRITCHARD

4 North Poindexter Street

OUR MOTTO: "Cleanliness and Attention."

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Dogs prove that a
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TIME TO SELECT

Another store is the nicest kind of place to make your selections. It is filled from top to bottom with the most beautiful of everything that goes to make a cosy, comfortable home. If your finances are limited you will find delightfully pretty things here at little prices. If unlimited, there's no better place to get just what you want.

Silverthorn & Morrisette Co.

Norfolk Southern Railroad
NEW SHORT ROUTE

Freight Service

If you value quick transportation; route your shipments via Norfolk Southern Railroad.

Watch the time made by their package cars, and you will find that your interests are best served by patronizing them, as "Time is Money."

Norfolk Southern

This line is specializing in fast freight service for both carload and package freight.

Route Your Freight Via Norfolk Southern Railroad