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BILL ARPS LETTER.

I had a pleasant call to Florida, and have just returned. The railroads make it so easy for you now that even a veteran can travel if he has the money. I left home one morning after early breakfast, and was in Jacksonville that night to supper with my boy and his family, 415 miles in thirteen hours, and traveled over parts of four roads. It was a day-light trip and I had opportunity to notice the changes that latitude makes in vegetation. This new route to Florida is a star line from Atlanta and the west. It includes the Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis, the Western and Atlantic, the Central to Macon, the Georgia and Florida Southern to Valdosta and the Atlantic, Valdosta and Western to Jacksonville, the prettiest, cleanest and best regulated city in the south. All of them first-class roads, with parlor cars and dining cars and sleepers that run all the way through. They don't even tarry at Jacksonville, but keep on and on to the jumping off place, if you wish to go there. That new road between Jacksonville and Valdosta has made this speed and comfort possible, for it has done away with the elbows at Tifton and Waycross. The great Plant system has no elbows after you get on it, but it is a long way from Atlanta and the west. The new road was just what our people wanted. It is first-class in all respects, and makes its 110 miles in less than three hours. I like these straight Florida railroads; they don't reel you about like our roads among the mountains, and they just glide along like a snake in the grass. These mountain roads swing an old man around the curves and strain his groin and loins and diaphragm and epigram and make him sore and stiff for two or three days after he gets home. I can hardly navigate now, and yet my wife wants me to plant some lettuce and beans and okra and work among the roses right away. Besides all this, the cook has quit, and I have got to get up by sunrise and fire up the stove and put on the coffee and hominy and then call her to get up and cook the rest of the breakfast. I used to make the biscuits, but I have struck on that; I don't believe that a man's rough old horny hands were intended to mix up flour and milk and lard in biscuit dough. My old friend Judge Hillyer and Judge Underwood were once walking along a side street in New York and as they passed a bakery they saw the bakers through the blinds, and they were treading dough in the long troughs with their feet. Judge Hillyer said: "Do you reckon their feet are clean?" "Well, yes," said Underwood, "I reckon they are by this time; they have been treading a good while." But I don't care an ace about the cook quitting. I believe in self-maintenance—I believe that every household should be raised to do their own work when it is necessary—and I am proud to say that my wife and my children have never begged a cook to stay against her will. Honors are easy; let her go and rest if she wants to. The fact is, it suits me pretty well, for the cooking is better and the things are cleaner and it saves money—we get along on less victuals and can dine out with our children every day or two. We can use bakers' bread and make toast and bake Irish potatoes and fry eggs and get along fine without a cook.

But I was thinking about Florida—fair Florida that Ponce de Leon found fifty years before the Pilgrims found Plymouth or John Smith found Jamestown. Fair Florida—the Eldorado of this continent. It has been hidden for all these years, but has been found. I never saw the like of northern tourists, the hotels at Jacksonville are overrun, it takes several columns in the papers to give their names. These tourists are all rich, and spend their money freely. The men are fairly good-looking, but the women look tired and prematurely old. Northern women will not compare with southern women for beauty and refinement of manners. I have known this for fifty years. They have to work too hard; poor things, I am sorry for them. They have got nothing but money. I walked round the St. James and Windsor and never saw a beautiful woman; they are masculin and coarse, and not an angel among them. New England or New York or any of those cold, icy states won't produce fairies or sylphs or angelic creatures. You have to come as far south as Philadelphia and Baltimore to find a beautiful woman, and they are scarce even there. You don't find them in plenty until you get down to Charleston and Savannah. Down here where I live they are nearly all good-looking and graceful and, as David Harum said, are coupled well and stand up square on their pasture joints and step like a deer. This is their good fortune, not only from heredity and climate, but because our men are more chivalric to their wives and daughters and do not work them so hard. A recent number of a New York paper says our long-haired philanthropists are fearfully in earnest about the southern negroes, but you never hear of them regretting the toil of a woman clerk in a retail

store. She rises at 5 o'clock every morning, cooks her own breakfast and spends a nickel for car fare; she attends to all receipts and shipments, she keeps the books and balances the cash; she is not allowed one second for luncheon, and never eats in the middle of the day. She does not go home till after 7 and on Saturday nights till after 12 o'clock. Her salary is \$7 a week. She is bright and interesting, and of good family. For her \$7 a week she labors never less than ninety and often one hundred hours, and this is about 8 cents an hour. There is no hope for this girl except in matrimony, and the right man will not find her.

And yet these northern philanthropists will skip over them all and, like Ogden & Co., make a tour down south to see how the negro is getting on—the best contented race upon the earth.

From Jacksonville I dropped down to High Springs, where the good ladies of the New Century Club were calling me. I had a delightful—an ovation of young maids and matrons and old veterans whose gray hairs and care-worn faces reminded me of the passing years and the passing of the confederacy. These veterans will soon all be gone, for—

"Time cuts down all. Both great and small. Except a pensioned soldier; They do not die, But multiply As fast as they grow older."

We have but 70,000 left now, all told; but they have nearly a million up north on the pension rolls. High Springs is on a boom of improvement. The Plant system has its largest hospital there, and its most extensive shops except those in Savannah. Everybody is busy and everybody seems contented and happy. I was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Gracy, whose beautiful home and lovely little children made me feel at home. Wherever I find little children I have no fear, and I do as I please, and eat with my knife and drink coffee out of my saucer if I want to. The good-looking mayor was selected to introduce me to the audience, but not being used to such performances, forgot his little speech, and began with "Now I lay me down to sleep," and so they had to get the preacher to take his place. I shall not soon forget the kindness of those good people of High Springs, and especially the cordial greeting I received from the twenty-one ladies of the New Century Club. The scriptures tell us that the time will come when seven women shall lay hold of one man, but I was captured by three times seven and maintained myself well considering my antiquity.

BILL ARP.

The Austin Libel Case Not Even Given to the Jury.

Charlotte Observer.

The case of Rev. J. F. Austin against G. S. Escott and Charles M. Ray, editors of the Mill News, of this city, wherein criminal libel was charged, was tried in Asheboro yesterday and resulted in a victory for the defendants. In effect the defendants charged the plaintiff with drunkenness, lewdness, shady business transactions, and abandonment of his wife; and therefore the plaintiff brought the action, last October.

Austin himself was practically the only witness for the prosecution and his case was greatly damaged by his admission, on cross-examination, of many of the charges made against him by the defendants.

The eleven witnesses for the defense substantiated every charge made by the Mill News, and gave Austin a very bad character. The case was so overwhelmingly in favor of the defendants that Solicitor Rush stated that he could not, in view of his oath of office, ask the jury for a conviction. He requested the court to instruct the jury to render a verdict of not guilty. In so instructing the jury Judge Brown stated that he fully concurred with the solicitor and had the case gone to the jury and they had returned a verdict of guilty he would have set the verdict aside. Judge Brown said that, departing from his usual rule in such cases, he would order that the plaintiff be taxed with the costs. As it developed that the plaintiff was unable to pay the costs it was ordered that the costs be paid by the State.

Messrs. Escott & Ray and Mr. E. T. Cansler, one of their attorneys, returned last night from Asheboro.

"Faithless Sally Brown."

"There is one attorney of ripe years and experience in Greensboro," says The Record, "and not another woman will fool him as to her grief and piety. The Record learns that he was attending to a suit for one whose husband was killed by a train not many months ago. When he was consulted and retained in the case he says the woman's pastor and a number of friends called on him and told him what a good Christian woman she was and how she was grieving over the loss of her husband. The attorney's sympathies were enlisted and he managed to get the case settled without a suit. The woman was given \$1,000, the money being paid just the other day. About the first thing she did was to buy a new suit of clothes for a married man and now the two have eloped—gone glimmering!"

TYPE IS ALMOST EXTINCT.

Black Mammites of the South Are Becoming Merely a Memory.

Birmingham Age-Herald.

The black mammites of the picturesque regime before the war so fast disappearing that a loan exhibit of these bear old types ought to be arranged by those who still claim the devotion of the few remaining types in typical homespun frocks and bandannaed heads. These is a typical mammy in Birmingham who figured recently at the wedding of a young woman to whose mother and grandmother she had been maid.

The wedding was a quiet one, despite mammy's entreaties to have a "big wedding."

"Hit's or shame," said mammy, "ter marry dat chile off'n enny sich a way. He mudder an' old mistiss, too, bot had big weddin's, and now dis here chile gwine ter be put off wid a reg'lar po'white folks weddin'. Ain't er gwine ter have no supper, no bakin' o'cakes. I never seed a bride wite didn't have a bride's cake."

The old creature begged the young bride-to-be to at least arrange for a wedding supper and offered to bake the cakes.

"My ole hands," she said, "neber will give out s'long as I can work for young mistiss' children. I've gittin' along, but I've dun live ter see all de children get mar'ed, an' now I wants ter cook one mo' weddin' supper fo' 'die."

And, sure enough, she did.

The mistress of the house, going below stairs the morning preceding the wedding, noticed the unusual appearance of the kitchen at an early hour. "Dear me," she said, "mammy, every-thing looks as if you had been up all night."

And mammy, in a freshly starched homespun apron, a white handkerchief wound about her head, stood in the doorway. The kitchen was as shining as the pans upon the shelves. The face of the old negress glowed contentedly.

Her withered old hands told the story of years of hard work.

"Mistiss," she began, "I sho' is ben up all night. I've ben er cookin, some weddin' cake fer de baby. Lawdy I couldn't 'low dat chile ter marry 'dout plenty weddin' cake. I don't keer whether dar's enny folks to eat it or not. I dun cook 'em for dat chile."

And, leading the way to the pantry, she showed the results of her night's work. There were rows of cakes, elaborately embossed, at which she gazed in silent admiration.

Her mistress, looking at the ebony-hued face before her, at its kindly, broad-seamed lines, was in that mood when a smile is dangerously akin to tears.

Aphorisms From Josh Billings.

Success is not always a sure sign ov merit, but it iz a fust rate way to succeed.

The hardest dollar for a man to git iz too often the one he needs the most.

Yung man, alvius pla to win—a game that aint worth winning aint worth playing.

The choicest compliment that can be paid to virtew is, that the best lies we have are thoz: which most resembles the truth.

My friend don't never strike a dog—there never was a dog yet who had haff a chance, who didn't luv sumbody else better than he loved himself.

Yung man, don't git down on yure knees before the world—if yu do, it won't be long before the world will insist upon yure gitting down a peg lower.

Men ov moderate abilities make the best company—men ov grate wit may be compared to a grate fire, you kant git near enuff to it to git warm, without gitting burnt.

Activity in Gold-Mining.

The report of the State Geologist says a great many gold mines have been opened or re-opened. The greatest activity prevails in Cabarrus, Rowan, Mecklenburg, Gaston, Burke and Henderson. There is much activity in copper mining and there will be a large output this year. The iron ore beds at Cranberry were opened and shown to be one of the finest beds in the United States, while the Johnson county beds have a thickness of from 6 to 15 feet of ore. Mica mines are being extensively worked. The output of monazite in the past two years is \$100,000 worth. There is more activity in stone quarries than ever before. The coal output of the Cummock mine was 18,000 tons last year. The total value of the output of mineral products of the State in two years is over \$1,000,000. The capital invested in mineral deposits during that period is over \$3,000,000, and the capital invested in the development of water-power and timber resources is over \$2,000,000 largely due to Geological Survey.

Anson brings forward Hon. James A. Lockhart for judge of the new eighth judicial district; Union presents R. B. Redwine, Esq., and Scotland Water H. Neal, Esq. The eighth has more recommendations, according to the published reports, than any of the new districts. It appears that Senator M. H. Justice, of Rutherford, will be a judge, and the statement is made that Representative Francis D. Winston, of Bertie, will be the appointee in his district.

IMPEACHMENT TRIAL.

The impeachment trial is now on in full force. The court met Saturday, there being 45 present. Governor Jarvis, for the defence, made allusion to the News and Observer and said that the defence would conduct the trial independently of the positions of newspapers, and that the newspapers should not have made such attacks upon them.

Mr. Winston replied that the impeachment managers had been vigorously and viciously attacked by the newspapers, and that their motives had been assailed. Col. Kennan was put upon the stand. The questions which were asked him were mostly matters of record, though both sides are closely contesting all the grounds. Col. Kennan, who is clerk of the Supreme Court, said he did not issue the writ of his own motion, but in response to the order of the court under special instructions. Judges Clark and Montgomery dissented. He said he was directed not to file Judge Clark's protest, or to make any note of it. The writ of mandamus was issued October 12.

RALEIGH, March 18.—Today's morning session of the impeachment trial was entirely consumed by W. P. Bynum Jr., in the opening speech for the defendant judges. His speech related solely to questions of law regarding impeachable offenses and citing defects in charges contained in the impeachment articles. Taking up North Carolina supreme court decisions since 1790 in cases similar to one complained of, he showed a long record of decisions, justifying the judges in their action. He argued that errors of judgment were not impeachable, even if the consequences were evil, and contended that the order for a writ of mandamus was never made by the supreme court. The clerk of court issued it on the advice of individual members of the court. He declared the integrity and probity of the personal official conduct of the judges were in their favor in a question of corrupt or partisan motive.

Chief Justice Furches was on the stand all the afternoon. He took up thirty-six "office holding" cases which have been decided in the past four years; showed the question involved in each and the ground for the decision all relating back to the case of Hoke vs Henderson, decided in 1834, saying the decisions were all unanimous until 1899, when Judge Clark (democrat) began to dissent. He showed that out of the thirty-six cases twenty-four had been decided in favor of democrats, as evidence of his taking no account of politics in any case; said he had never seen Theophilus White, the party plaintiff in the case of the impeachment is for; that no order to issue mandamus was ever made by the court as a court, that only the individual opinion of members was given; that a motion to that effect was not heard for the reason that nothing was before the court and for the same reason Clark's protest and dissenting opinion were not permitted to be made a record of the court. He solemnly declared that no thought of partisan bias had ever entered his mind, but that every act and decision of his had been in keeping with long settled principles of law, dating back to the earliest record of jurisprudence in North Carolina.

RALEIGH, March 19.—Chief Justice Furches concluded his testimony before the Court of Impeachment this morning. He was cross examined for an hour by Mr. P. in regard to the issuance of mandamus and on the principle involved in the office holding cases. P. sought to establish that the Day case first held that a man had property rights in the duties of his office and then tried to elicit from the witness that this principle applied to the cases of Judges Jones and Meares would have held them their offices.

Justice Furches said this was not before the court and he could not tell what the conclusion would have been. B. F. Long, for the defense conducted the re-direct examination and Senator Henderson sent forward half a dozen questions. The Chief Justice answered them all.

Maj. W. M. Robbins, of Iredell, who has known Justice Furches 35 years, testified to his character. He once defeated the Chief Justice for Congress, and both lived in the same town. When Watson asked if Furches was not a bitter partisan Robbins declared: "He was not more bitter in his politics than you and I in ours."

This was greeted by applause and the president demanded order and threatened to clear the lobby.

Maj. Robbins continued, his eyes swimming with tears and his voice husky with emotion:

"I have loved him as a man and hated his politics all my life," and he broke down. "I never hated him," replied Watson with tears in his eyes.

Ex-member of the House, Holman, testified to Furches, high character, but Watson drew from him that Furches was considered a bitter partisan.

J. H. Hoffman, of Statesville, and Dr. S. W. Stephenson, representative from Iredell, also testified to his high character.

Justice Robert M. Douglas, then took the stand and his examination was in progress when the court adjourned.

He repeated much of the evidence as Furches gave, then was questioned on various office holding cases.

RALEIGH, N. C., March 20.—Asso-

ciate Justice Montgomery was the principal witness for the defence in the impeachment trial today.

Justice Montgomery said when he first went on the bench and the case of Wood against Bellamy arose, he was inclined against holding to the Hoke-Henderson doctrine but Clark's argument and statement in conference influenced him in deciding to adhere to the doctrine, with the court.

The Court was unanimous in decision until 1899 when Clark began to dissent beginning with the Day case.

He accused Judge Clark, in a court conference with advising voluntarily the State Treasurer not to obey the court mandamus and being at the bottom of the trouble and instigating the newspaper attacks on the Court. Judge Montgomery, cross examined by Watson denied being sarcastic towards the Legislature in his opinions.

He asked to be permitted to ignore the question, if the Supreme Court was not "a political brawl" and other questions.

He told Watson he talked to him like he was a boy.

RALEIGH, N. C., March 21.—Spectators to-day expected sensational developments at the impeachment trial which Judge Walter Clark, took the stand, but were disappointed, as Judge Clark simply recited the facts in the case.

There was not enough conflict between the testimony to invite a cross examination.

The defense consulted for a few minutes, then the Judge left the stand without being cross examined.

Judge Clark divulged some spicy words that have been flying across the council board of the Supreme Court, such as "I defy you."

After Judge Clark the defence put on Allen, Craig, Graham and others who swore as to the character of oath administered by the House-subcommittee to witnesses.

Major W. A. Guthrie, for the prosecution, began his speech at noon and it was a strong effort.

The issue, he says, is for the Senate to re-establish the line separating the judiciary from the legislative branch of the government, as thirty years ago it was done between the judicial and executive in the Holden trial.

He argued that Governments grow and the doctrine that the office is property might have held under the constitution of 1796 but not now.

The Lord made a woman from Adam's rib but the court made seven commissioners out of White.

RALEIGH, March 22.—Major Guthrie, concluded his speech for the prosecution in the impeachment trial this morning claiming the Supreme Court should have dismissed the case of White vs. Auditor for want of jurisdiction, also that the Judges had wilfully broken the constitution in issuing mandamus and should be convicted.

God punished an innocent violation of his command, with death, said he. C. M. Cooke follow with the defense. Dissater befell Israel when it dishonored Samuel, their Judge. He asked no considerations to enter into the trial save justice and law.

If Judges Furches and Douglas are impeachable for upholding Hoke vs Henderson then other judges ought to have been indicted also. He said Clark's conduct and threats were calculated to cause trouble among the judges.

The Legislature and not the court made a mistake in the White case.

Two counsel for the prosecution and Senator Simmons secured mandamus from the Superior Court Judge Robinson against the Treasurer for a claim. Why not impeach Judge Robinson for mandamus illegal and not paid.

Important Question of the Heirs of Consul-General and Mrs. Wildman.

Whether Consul-General Wildman or his wife perished first in the wreck of the steamer City of Rio de Janeiro will probably be discussed in court in the settlement of their estates. As husband and wife left separate estates and as each in the event of survival is entitled to inherit from the other, the question of who died first is important to the heirs of each. Should it appear that Mrs. Wildman lived longer than her husband her relatives will be entitled to a large share of the Consul-General's estate. Should the Court hold that the husband lived longer than the wife, as is the presumption of law, the relatives of Mr. Wildman will receive a large part of her estate.

There is no evidence to show which of the Wildmans lived the longer. No one saw either of them come up after the ship sank. They were last seen near together, but neither was in a boat. The supposition is that the family all went down together, in which case the law assumes that the man, who is stronger, is the survivor.

A negro Pullman porter by the name of Logwood robbed a Baltimore lady Friday night between Washington and Greensboro. The lady put her purse in her pillow, which the porter saw. During the night she felt the pillow jerked out from under her head and raised the alarm. The negro was confronted with the charge and denied it vehemently but jumped off the train at the first stop and made his escape.

DENOMINATIONALISM RUN TO SEEK.

The following item is from the news columns of the Biblical Recorder:

"One of our pastors says he has never known a better opportunity than there is in his town for a Baptist druggist."

We frequently see such items as this in religious papers, and the impulse to comment on it is irresistible. There are "extra pious" people in all denominations who are not content unless their relations in all the business affairs of life are wholly, or as nearly so as possible, with members of their particular denominations. Hence we often see the statement that a Methodist merchant, a Presbyterian doctor, an Associate Reformed Presbyterian lawyer, or a Lutheran, Episcopal, Baptist or Catholic business or professional man or mechanic can find an opening at some point. This means that people of a certain sect want to patronize a member of that sect in preference to all others.

Now it is commendable enough in members of any particular denomination to do what they can to aid and encourage the growth of their denomination and to aid in proper and legitimate ways the members of their denomination. But there is always a line, dictated by common sense, as to how far this matter should go. Because a lawyer, doctor, merchant or druggist is a member of the Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian or any other Church, doesn't make him any better lawyer, doctor or merchant, and sometimes being a member of the Church doesn't make him any better man. Hence to patronize a man simply because he is a member of your Church, regardless of his professional ability, or whether he sells better goods or cheaper goods, or whether he is a good and deserving citizen, a good neighbor and a friend, is utter foolishness—is denominationalism run to seed—which is the case in the extract above quoted, for in this case a druggist who is a member of a certain Church is wanted, not one word being said about his competence or professional skill.

In fact we always look with a suspicion on a man who asks support for office or patronage for business on the ground that he is a member of some particular Church. Generally speaking, such men are scoundrels. The question one wants to consider is whether the man is worthy, is competent and can be trusted. If he is a member of the Church and a Christian so much the better, but he should not be boycotted on this ground if he is all right otherwise. People who exercise common sense would, in a case of dangerous illness or an important lawsuit, employ a doctor or lawyer who was known to be successful and skillful in his profession, even if he was a "heathen," rather than a Presbyterian elder, a Methodist steward, or Baptist deacon who was known to be neither skillful nor successful.

All things else being equal, we repeat that it is natural for Church members, just as members of other organizations, to stand by each other, but if Church membership alone is considered it is denominationalism run to seed. These remarks are not inspired by local conditions. For broadmindedness in all matters the people of Statesville as a whole are not surpassed by any community anywhere. We have simply expressed our views on a question that is often thrust before the public.

Blow on Head Cured Lunatic.

The case of a violently insane patient having been cured in the State Hospital here by a severe blow on the head is reported by Superintendent Seiden H. Talcott.

A fellow-patient having a grudge against an attendant of the institution, put a cuspidor in a pillowcase at night and waited in a doorway for the attendant to pass. Another patient was mistaken for the attendant, and as he passed through the door the man with the loaded pillow case brought it down upon the other's head with such force as to stretch him senseless on the floor.

Some hours elapsed before the injured man regained consciousness, but when he finally recovered from the attack all his delusions had vanished. After being kept under observation for a month, during which time he continued perfectly sane, the man who had received the knockout was pronounced cured and left the institution a free man.

Needed in Other Places Besides Kinston.

Kinston Free Press.

An exchange says that "laying on of hands" for complaints, especially in children, is now taking the place of faith cures and hypnotism. A mother cured her son of using profane language with one dose. She laid her left hand on a substantial slipper, and then laid the slipper were it would do the most good. It effected a cure, a relapse is not looked for. There are a number of boys in Kinston that undoubtedly need a heavy application of this old remedy.

Well Healed.

"Your medicine has helped me wonderfully," she wrote to the patent medicine house. "Three weeks ago I could not spank the baby, and now I am able to thrash my husband. God bless you!"