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### LETTER FROM BILKINS.

#### A Few Facts About the Twin City—How Time Was Divided—An Attempt on the Life of the Major—Can't Go Home Yet, and Why.

Winston-Salem, N. C.

Correspondence of the Enterprise.

Winston an' Salem put their heds tergether a few years ergo an' they air twins. Salem wuz gittin' purty old an' wanted sum young shoulders ter lean on.

Salem wuz settled in 105 A. D. by the Moravians. They started an almanack called Blum's Salem Almanack purty soon after they got thar; also a newspaper called the Salem Press. In them days time wuzzent cut up inter years, weeks, days, hours an' seckonds like hit iz now, an' the moon didn't change exsept when hit wanted to. The Blum boys thought they would give the folks a little sumpthin' extra, so they got up a time-table an' changed the skedule so we hev a hundred years in a centery, twelve months ter the year, seven days ter the week and twenty-four hours ter the day. They awlso figger out whut sort ov wether we will hev fer next year an' print hit in the almanack. And they tell the farmers when ter plant an' what ter plant. Fer a long time Blum's almanack wuz used fer purty nigh everything in Western North Carolina. Peepke wouldn't plant anything or do anything without lookin' in the almanack ter see if the signs were rite. The Blum's cut the moon into four peeces tryin' ter see whut hit wuz made ov an' that iz why hit hez four quarters now. The moon hez awlways stood high, even if it does get full purty often.

Winston-Salem is situated erbout half way betwixt Kernersville an' Cornatzer, near Belo's pond. Winston wuz first settled by a race ov terbacker manufacturers. They did well until the American Tobacco Company settled them. Now they ain't so many factories there. Hit wuz the birthplace ov "Checkers," a liver remedy that prevents snake bites. But the manufacturer iz goin' ter Virginia, the mother ov Presidents, an' the present home ov booze.

I think Durham and Winston orter git tergether an' be twins. They look more alike than Winston and Salem, an' the smell ov terbacker iz jist az strong.

A slick lookin' feller made an attempt on my life the other nite an' I haint got over hit yit. I finished eatin' supper at my boardin' house and went up ter the leadin' hotel ter pick my teeth. I hadn't moren set down till that feller cum an' interdused hizself. He sed he represented the Monumental Mutual Aid Society, which iz the biggest thing in the world, an' he wuz rite after takin' a polisy on my life fer the benefit ov my wife an' children. I looked him over purty careful, fer I wuz afeared he would knock me over with one ov them gold-bricks. A feller can't be too careful eround strangers. My, but he could talk at the rate of a mile a minit. But hit wuz purty nigh awl Dutch ter me. He talked ordinary life polisies, which air fer folks whut ain't rich nor aristocratic, I guess. I didn't bite an' he talked erbout twenty year endowments, ten year endowments, partisipaytin' an' unpartisipaytin', and blamed if every

one ov 'em wouldn't figger me out rich before you could walk eround a ten-aker field. I listened ter him talk erbout endowments an' semi-endowments, annual dividends, guaranteed bonus polisies an' things till I got rite lite heded. Then he wanted ter know awl erbout my family history an' how old my grate-granddaddy and grate-grandmuther wuz before they died. Hit wuz powerful interestin'. "My friend," sez I; "I want you ter go an' see my wife an' spin off that Latin an' Greek fer her. She awlways did dote on big wurds, an' maybe she'll take out a polisy." He sed he'd be charmed ter meet her. I thanked him fer hiz perlaverin' an' promised ter think hit over. He wuz so nise that I hated ter say no, fer I reckon purty nigh everybody takes a polisy when he gits after 'em. But I didn't wanter jump in too quick.

Betsy iz still writin' fer me ter cum home. She says the children air dyin' ter see me. Poor things! I reckon they hev a hard time when I'm erway, fer Betsy haint got nobody else ter speak her mind to. But I can't go an' sell that cotton yit an' spend hit awl fer Easter hats an' ribbins. The price iz too low. I'll hold my cotton till the rust eats up the ties before I'll give hit erway. ZEKE BILKINS.

#### "You Never Can Tell."

"My friend," solemnly observed the man with dandruff on his coat-collar, "you, who think you are so wise, do you remember that not long since you vouchsafed to give me certain advice as to the conduct of my love-affairs?"

"Why, sure!" exclaimed the friend. "And I venture to say that if you followed it you have succeeded admirably."

The man with dandruff on his coat-collar gave the other a look of ineffable contempt. "Succeeded admirably! I should say I did! Listen! You will recollect that, in your superior wisdom, you told me that if I wanted to win the girl I should make love to the mother."

The friend chuckled. "And a very good idea that was, too."

"Foolish man!" exclaimed the other, with a note of pity in his voice. "And you said, too, that if I could get the mother on my side, all I had to do was to hop around with a ring, and say, 'When'll it be?' to the girl."

The wise man nodded.

"Also," continued the first speaker, "you thought it would be a neat idea to hand the mother a compliment or two with respect to her youthful appearance, together with a jolly to the effect that the young women of the present were not at all to be compared with those of the past."

"Well, well!" impatiently interrupted the wise one, "how did it all come out? You've won the girl, I suppose."

"Yes, I have!" protested the man with dandruff on his coat-collar. "You're a fine one to give advice in love-affairs. The old lady has sued her husband for divorce and me for breach of promise!"—April Woman's Home Companion.

Jerry Simpson is one of the biggest sheep owners in New Mexico. It seems like a reversal of form to find Jerry raising material for socks. —Washington Post.

### MELROSE KNITTING MILL.

#### A Raleigh Enterprise that Sends Its Products Far and Wide.

One of the busiest places in Raleigh is the Melrose Knitting Mill, located near the Seaboard Air Line in the northern section of the city.

The Melrose was built in 1901 and has in operation the most modern machinery for the manufacture of men's underwear. The output is about 150 dozen daily, and eighty-five people are employed.

It is a stock company. Mr. V. B. Moore is president and treasurer and Mr. J. S. Wynne is vice-president. Both gentlemen are in the foremost ranks of the most active and progressive business men in the city, and are too well known to need an introduction. Mr. F. W. Kohler is the efficient superintendent. He is a native of Florida, but has been in the manufacture of underwear in Northern States nearly all his life and knows every detail of the business, and understands the machinery thoroughly.

The process of knitting, dying, drying, cutting and sewing underwear from first to last is very interesting, and it is done very rapidly, the machines, seemingly, being just as intelligent as human beings, though experienced help is necessary to carry it all out.

The products of the Melrose Mill go to many cities in this country, including New York, Boston, Chicago, St. Louis and smaller cities; also to Canada and Porto Rico.

#### Adulterated Food Sold.

The fifth annual report on the inspection and analysis of food products in the laboratory of the State Chemist, Dr. B. W. Kilgore, has been issued. It covers the work of the past year and throws some interesting light on the matter of the adulteration of foods that are found in the various markets of the State.

For instance, the report shows that during the year 347 samples of foods and drinks were analyzed chemically and microscopically, and of these, fifty-nine samples were found to be adulterated. Of the total number of samples fifty-nine were flour and were all pure; thirty were all pure; twelve were fresh meats and ten of them were adulterated by the use of such preservatives as sodium sulphite, boric acid and silicic acid; thirty-three were canned meats and thirteen were found to be adulterated by the use of about the same injurious preservatives; fifty-three were canned oysters and fish and only one was found to be adulterated, boric acid being the preservative used; eleven was canned fruits, all being pure; thirty-three were prepared mustards and salad dressings, twenty-five being adulterated with coloring matter and starch; twenty-seven were canned vegetables, only one being adulterated with silicic acid; sixteen were canned corn, seven being adulterated by the use of silicic acid and sacharine; fourteen were cocoa, none being adulterated; ten chocolate, two adulterated with starch, fifteen butter, eleven cheese and fourteen whiskey samples were all found to be pure.

In this connection it will be of in-

terest to note that during 1903 there were 177 samples examined, 155 being found to be adulterated. The samples analyzed during the past year were gathered from various parts of the State as follows:

- New Bern, 51; Edenton, 5; Lexington, 8; Mocksville, 6; Kinston, 5; Rockingham, 11; Wintson, 5; Greensboro, 14; Wilson, 4; Elizabeth City, 14; Monroe, 5; Concord, 5; Raleigh, 105; Durham, 29; Hendersonville, 1; Graham, 3; Pittsboro, 6; Oxford, 4; Charlotte, 1; Washington, 4; Statesville, 8; Thomasville, 1; Greenville, 3; Lincolnton, 3; Hickory, 2; Wadesboro, 10; Asheville, 17; Reidsville, 2; High Point, 5; Newton, 2; Salisbury, 1; not stated, 12—total, 347.

#### The Young Man and His Wife.

The suburbs and small towns offer special advantages to those who must live on narrow incomes, and who yet have a taste for the refinements of social converse, good books and good pictures. These are the places to which other persons similarly situated have already gone, and in them one can find the perfection of neighborly life and mutual helpfulness. Indeed, the very fact that your neighbors know all about your business and your income, unpleasant as it doubtless is at first, serves as a corrective of the sham which comes to be second nature to the dweller in cities, accustomed either to have or to imitate the having of a number of quite superfluous things.

As for example, the city woman who confesses to the necessity of doing her own work is rare indeed, while the country dweller is long past any sense of shame in this regard. "Help" is so hard to get and so incompetent that most women of health and ability dispense with it altogether. A friend receiving your afternoon call, gets up in the middle of the chat, and without a thought of apology, goes into the kitchen to take the ginger-bread out of the oven, her unembarrassed talk floating back over her retreating shoulders with a flavor as sweet and homely as that of the spicy bread itself.

Now that machinery is at last invading the kitchen, it is no longer necessary to give up the life of reading and music and social graces generally in order to get along without a servant. One young woman, having set her mind and heart upon marrying a poor young lawyer, and receiving the enthusiastic support of a wealthy uncle, who said he admired her courage too much to spoil it by any gift of money, received from him a dish-washing machine. It was a contrivance somewhat like a revolving book-case, furnished with hooks and racks upon which the cups and dishes were hung or set. A stream of boiling water rose through the centre and played upon all the dishes as they slowly circled round it. After they had been thus washed, they hung there till the next meal, the steam evaporating quickly, and leaving them clean and polished. This little machine saved her from two to three hours' work every day, and proved so satisfactory that, although her husband has now a large income, she continues to send her laundry out, employ a woman to clean once a week, and do the rest of the work herself.—Marion Foster Washburne, in The Pilgrim for April.