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LETTER FROM BILKINS.

The Major Has Pulled Himself Together and Is Filling Numerous Offices to His Own Satisfaction—Putting the Union County Law into Effect in His Township—Looking Forward to the President's Visit.

Correspondence of the Enterprise.

I tell you hit iz nice ter be at home whar you don't hev ter put on eny style an' don't hev ter wear your coat an' a standin' collar in hot wether. Me an' Betsy hain't had a cross wurd sinse I got home, an' she treats me fine. The dinners I git hain't so full or frills and' French, an' they ain't no cut glass on the table like they wuz in that hotel at Asheville, but they taste a 100 per sent better. If the nixt legislature gives me the lokermotive affixy I'm goin' ter stay at home an' tuff hit out. I would hev stayed at home this time if Betsy hadn't insisted that hit iz so much more stylish an' sosierty like ter go gallivantin' around when you git erbout half sick. My private an' offishual opinion iz that when a man iz sick enuff ter go erway frum home, he iz not sick ter hurt.

Sinse hit got hot Betsy hez bin hintin' around that we will hev ter go ter Fuquay Springs an' spend the summers. I try ter change the subjick every time she says anything, but she will bring hit up ergain. I reckon we will hev ter go sumwhar. She will hev ter show thet new dress an' hat. Wimin air curiositys enyhow. The older I git the less I know erbout them. A heap ov men like ter dress up an' show off. But I don't beleve one out ov a thousan' would pack up an' go ter the Springs or a seashore resort jist ter show a suit ov clothes. If I knowed ov one ov that sort I'd send him ter the rodes fer six months.

This mornin' Betsy axed me if I had decided which I'd ruther do, go ter the Springs or the seashore? I know in my mind that Betsy hes done decided whar she will go an' that fixes hit. But I tole her that my offishual ingagements would stand in the way ov goin' enywhar. Bein' school committymen, rode supervisor, consterable an' justis ov the peece will take up awl my time. Them that dance hev ter pay the fiddler. Then that I tole her that the Preserdent iz cummin' ter Raleigh this fall an' I'm going ter invite him ter cum out an' spend a few days with us an' take a bear hunt. "I'd like ter see you an' the Preserdent huntin' bears around here," said Betsy. "They hain't bin a bear here in a hundred years," continued Betsy. "I know that," sez I, "but I'm goin' ter borrow that big bear they hev in Pullen Park at Raleigh an' turn him loose out here. I'll tell Mr. Roosevelt that they iz plenty ov fine bears here, but hit iz erginst the law ter kill 'em. Ov course he must be law-abidin'. But we kin hev a sham bear hunt like they hev sham battles an' naval fites. When we git in site ov "Bruno" I'll tell Mr. Roosevelt ter blaze erway, but ter aim high. When he shoots he will technically shoot the bear rite through the heart, but praaktically he won't touch a hair. Then the nusepaper correspondints whut air' trailin' erlong kin report that the Preserdent shot a six hundred pound bear on 'Squire Bilkins' farm an' shipped the bear ter Washington by express. I'll hire a

brass band ter cum out an' play while we air eatin' dinner. We peeples in offishual life hev ter make a purty smart stir when we air swappin' compliments. Awl that will cum high, an' I tole Betsy we must save our money an' gude clothes fer the ocashun.

I hev bin puttin' the Union County anty-licker law in operashun here. I got wurd that Bill Sanders wuz lyn' drunk erbout half a mile frum my house the other day. I tuk a wagon erlong and arrested him an' hawled him back ter my court fer trial. But he wuz plum senseless an' I had ter issue a writ an' stay the purseedings till he slept hit off. When he got erbout half sober he wuz the scardest man I've seed in erlong time. He sed: "Judge, I hope you won't be hard on me, bein' this iz the first time I've bin in your court. Please make the fine lite."

"Bill, whar did you git that lick-er?" sed I, "an' how much?"

"At the dispensary in Raleigh," sed he. "I got a quart, yer honor."

"Drink hit awl?" I axed.

"Yes, I drunk hit awl," sed Bill.

"I thought so," sez I, "an' you were so drunk that I didn't know at first whether ter hold a coroner's inquest or jist arrest you fer bein' drunk an' down on the highways. But I find several pints in this case that will make me put on my studyin' cap."

"They wuz only two pints, yer honor," sed Bill.

"I wuz not referrin' ter pints ov lick-er," sed I, "exsept insidental-ly," but I beleve the Union County ack which perhibits havin' one quart or more lick-er in your perseshun hes bin violated. Bill begun ter tremble, an' sez: "Pleeze, yer honer, may I plead my own case?"

"Blaze erway," sed I.

"Your honer, I plead not guilty. In the first place, the Union County law wuz only fer that county, hit don't touch Wake, an' in the nixt place the court can't perduce a quart ov lick-er or prove that hit iz in my perseshun."

"Hold up thar," sez I, "the Supreme Court held in the anty-jug law that hit would be erginst the constertushun ter arrest a jug in one county an' not in another, so thet law fer one or two counties wuz stretched awl over the State jist bekase hit didn't say hit wuzsent to cover the State. I rule here an' now that the Union County ack iz null and voyed onless hit kin be stretched enywhar we want hit, an' hit applies ter you, an' your own statement that you hed drunk a quart ov lick-er iz the best everdence in the wurd; hit iz red hot primary facy everdence."

"But I drunk the lick-er," sed Bill, "an' that iz primary facy everdence that I didn't mean ter sell hit."

"You air rite," sed I, "an' I'll weigh that in the scales ov justis. I'll serve a writ ov superseedus on myself an' delay the purseedins, which iz the same az suspendin' judgment. By payin' the cost, which iz \$3, you will be discharged until funder notis." An' Bill wuz glad ter git off so litely.

Truly,

ZEKE BILKINS.

"Courtship is light comedy," says a writer. If it ends in matrimony it will wind up on the bill as a melodrama, or a farce with the curtain going down in the divorce court.—Wilmington Star.

Marvels of Memory.

A good memory is one of the chief elements of worldly success. Without it, the finest intellect or imagination is constantly hampered in its struggles with the world, and, if the memory is very defective, often goes down in utter discouragement and defeat.

The way to get a good memory, or to retain it, if you have one already, is by exercise, for this function of the mind has a definite physical basis in the brain, and, like any other part or organ of the body, must be used, to be strengthened. And if it is properly used and exercised, the limits of its attainments and usefulness are almost boundless, as some of the illustrations given below will indicate.

Themistocles, a famous Greek general, is said to have known every citizen in Athens. Otho, the Roman emperor, attained great popularity, and through that, his seat on the throne, by learning the name of every soldier and officer of his army. Hortensius, the Roman orator, is said to have been able, after sitting a whole day at a public sale, to give an account from memory of all things sold, with the prices and names of the purchasers.

Coming down to later times, there is a very interesting story told of Frederick the Great, of Prussia, the French author Voltaire, and an Englishman with a very long memory. It is said that at the king's request, Voltaire read one of his long poems, that he had just completed in manuscript, through aloud, while the Englishman was concealed from Voltaire's sight, in such a position that he could hear every word.

After the reading of the poem, Frederick observed to the author that the production could not be an original one, as there was a foreign gentleman present, who could recite every word of it. Voltaire listened in amazement to the stranger as he repeated, word for word, the poem which he had been at so much pains in composing, and, giving way to a momentary outbreak of passion, he tore the manuscript in pieces. He was then informed how the Englishman had become acquainted with his poem, and his anger being appeased, he was willing to do penance by copying down the work from the second repetition of the stranger, who was able to go through it the same as before.

When reporting was forbidden in the houses of the English Parliament, and any one seen to make notes was immediately ejected, the speeches, nevertheless, were published in the public press. It was discovered that one Woodfall used to be present in the gallery during the speeches, and, sitting with his head between his hands, actually committed the speeches to memory. They were afterwards published.

Lord Macaulay had a marvelous facility for remembering what he read, and he once declared that if by accident all the copies of Milton's "Paradise Lost" were destroyed, he would be able to write out the whole of this long poem without a single error. In fact, he once performed the marvelous feat of repeating the whole poem, making only one omission.

Charles Dickens, who was once a reporter, and thus had occasion to roam about the streets a great deal,

contracted the habit of reading the signs of shopkeepers. So firmly fixed upon him did this habit become, that he was able, after walking a long street, to repeat the names and business of every shopkeeper on the thoroughfare.

But great power of memory is not always found in educated persons. There is a notable instance of "Blind Jamie," who lived some years ago in Stirling, England. He was a poor, uneducated man, and totally blind, yet he could actually repeat after a few minutes' consideration, any verse required from any part of the Bible, even the obscurest and least important.

The power of retaining events has also sometimes been manifest in a marked degree. A laboring man named McCartney, at fifty-four years of age, claimed that he could recollect the events of every day for forty years. A test was made by a well-known public man who had kept a written record for forty-five years. The man's statement was fully corroborated—indeed, so accurate was his recollection that he could recall without apparent effort the state of the weather on any given day during that long period of time.—Everywhere.

Defective Eyesight and Hearing.

Writing in the June Delineator on the care of the eyes and ears, Dr. Grace Peckham Murray says: "Many children have imperfect vision and suffer from it long before the parents are aware of it. These are some of the indications which should lead one to suspect trouble: The eyes are red and inflamed most of the time, and styes occur frequently. Children who need glasses squint and peer, or shut their eyes to a chink, or hold a book or an object close under their noses or far off at arm's length, or they may fear the light or have a drawn and anxious look and be unable to read from the blackboard. All such children should have a careful examination of the eyes, and be fitted with the kind of glasses that are necessary to correct their vision. Many children that have the appearance of being backward and stupid are not in reality, but seem so because of their imperfect vision or hearing."

Elsewhere, in the same article, we read in regard to the ears, that: "Earache in a child is a symptom that requires immediate attention, since it may be due to boils and abscesses or inflammations, which give rise to chronic middle-ear trouble. The danger is that such trouble will extend to the soft bones back of the ear, and what is called a mastoid abscess will form, which, if it breaks into the brain, may prove fatal; so in case of earache and inflammations always look out for the swelling which comes back of the ear, and call in the physician in time to prevent disaster. Children who seem stupid and do not answer readily when spoken to may have imperfect hearing. This should be kept in mind and tests applied to discover if such is the case."

Baltimore reports that the crab crop is promising. This helps to assuage our grief over the failure of the peach crop in Delaware and Northern Georgia.—Philadelphia Inquirer.