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## LETTER FROM BILKINS.

**Mr. and Mrs. Bilkins Celebrated the Fourth in the Usual Way—Why Widows Sometimes Fail—Advice to Czar—The Major is Not Afraid of Libel Suits.**

Correspondence of the Enterprise.

I'm a-feelin' sorter rocky to-day. Me an' Betsy soent the day at Piney Grove skule house yesterday a celebratin' ov the 4th. I didn't want'er go, fer hit wuz too hot to dress up in a biled shirt an' wear a coat. Hit wuz the kind ov a day that makes you feel like shuckin' off your coat, hat an' gallerses an' sit back under a tree an' fan an' hev sumbody ter carry water ter you.

But Betsy iz too paterotick ter stay at home on the 4th ov July. She don't care so much erbout Columbus diskiverin' America or Washington crossin' ov the Delewear an' things like that, but she allers manages ter git a new dress or a new hat jist before the 4th an' then she gits paterotick ter go sumwhar an' show her new close. Az fer me, I'm ready ter shake hands with myself if I git a new suit ov close every four years. But Betsy must hev sumthin' new before every hollerday an' jist before every big meetin'. I'll be blessed if I know whut she hez done with awl the things she hez bought sinse we wuz married. She orter be able ter open the biggest millinery store in the State.

When we air goin' off ter a picknick or enythin' iv that sort we alers rit up before day. I feed the mules an' git everything ship-shape by sunup. But Betsy hez ter primp an' fix an' primp an' fix until hit iz late before we git started. Sumtimes hit looks like she iz expectin' ter be a widder afore she dies. That iz one reason a widder can't allers marry; they put the best foot foremost awl the time an' they can't spruce up much after they git rid ov the first hubby. With us men hit iz different; we go sorter slouchy an' let our hair an' whiskers grow till we look like a brush pile. If we air so misfortunate az ter lose our wives we go erlong lookin' sad fer a long time an' then we begin ter trim up a bit by gittin' our hair cut, shavin' an' puttin' on a little more stylish lookin' close. The change iz so notersible that the gurls quit pittyin' us az widdowers an' begin ter calculate how long hit will take ter catch us at the sycologikal minit.

When we drove up ter the skule house yisterday Henry Johnson cum up ter help me unhook the mules an' gossip a little. He 'lowed he thought I'd a bin huntin' blockade stills az made an' purvided by the Watts, Ward an' Woods laws instead ov hangin' eround a picknick. Seems that sum folks think that a publick official hadn't orter hev a hour's rest, even on the 4th ov July. I've bin huntin' them ever sinse the legislater adjourned an' still my constituents air not satisfied. "Henry," sed I, "I've bin over every rode in Martin Creek Township an' I hain't found nary still. This still business iz exaggerated, enyhow." He 'lowed that they must be plenty fer the renewen officers kin find them purty often. He awlso sed that the renewens hed broken up nine blockade stills in Caswell County in one day an' that he seed in a paper that they wuz

forty stills runnin' in Durham County, purty nigh in site ov the capital. At that rate they must be erbout 1,500 stills in the State, which iz four times az many az they wuz before the Watts law wuz past; an' ninety-nine an' nine-tenths ov the county officers sittin' in the shade sayin' hit ain't their business.

I tole Henry that if he an' sum others didn't quit criticizin' us officers they'd awl git arrested fer embrasery in a writ ov sigh fay. That sorter scared him an' I look fer silence in hiz naborhood hereafter.

I've bin a-thinkin' erbout writin' ter the Zarr ov Rushy an' tell him how ter git even with the Japs. If he reads your paper he will see it enyway. What he wants ter do now iz ter hev the Russian army an' navy jump on the country an' lick hit ter a stand-still an' take awl the credit frum the Japs. Az nobody but the soldiers air armed hit will be an easy job. If the Zarr wants ter git real popular himself he kin manage ter git in the way ov a bullit an' git killed an' let Col. Trubbletoff or sum ov the little fellers be elected Preserdent. Them Russyhyns hain't never goin' ter be satisfied with a Zarr, an' I don't blame them. Ter hev a Zarr bossin' you iz wurse than bein' married.

I see that Mr. D. H. Senter, of Chalybeate Springs, iz talkin' ov suein' me an' your paper fer libel bekase I sed that he wuz one hundred years ole. Let him sue! I kin prove that he iz ninety-eight by awl the nabors an' no court in the country will punish a man fer missin' a fellers age two years. In legal lan-gage that iz called a little tecknic-ality an' iz excuzed by the statutes an' the Code. If he wants ter raze a rookus erbout hit I'll fine him fer contempt ov court an' give him forty years in prison. I hain't so sure erbout hit, but I beleve I kin awlso git him up fer embrasery if the contempt purseedin's don't satisfy him. He wants ter be careful erbout ery-tain' the law.

Yours truly,  
ZEKE BILKINS.

## At the University.

The last Legislature provided for the erection of a new chemical laboratory at the State University. The building will be completed for the fall session. It will cost \$45,000, be built of pressed brick, with stone facing.

The prospects for the University continue bright, and an unusual number of students will enroll this fall.

## Cary High School.

This school has always stood well in the community in which it is located. Since Prof. E. L. Middleton has been in charge, the work has been enlarged, additions made to the faculty, and now students are found there, not only from Wake County, but from other counties in the State. The location is excellent and expenses moderate, and the educational advantages are equal to that found in any high-grade preparatory school.

During the first two months of the fall term Cary High School offers free literary tuition to all bona fide public school teachers and half rates through the remainder of the year. This is a liberal proposition.

## FIERCE FIGHT AT GASTON.

**Two Will Die and a Third Wounded—How They Celebrated the Fourth in South Carolina.**

(Special to Charlotte Observer.)

Columbia, S. C., July 4.—At a big barbecue at Gaston, sixteen miles south of here, in Lexington County, Mack Jerrett, Rembert Moore, Elliott Pound, T. E. Reese and Joe Reese, all of whom were drinking, undertook to settle some old quarrels, of several years' standing, with the result that T. E. Reese was shot in the abdomen and will die. Mack Jerrett was fatally cut in the back and side, and Joe Reese was dangerously shot in the hip. The fight is said to have commenced by Pound knocking Jerrett down, the latter drawing a revolver and beginning to shoot as he arose. Others had pistols and knives in play, and for a time excitement ran high. No arrests have yet been made and the feeling runs high.

The fight occurred in the road in front of P. S. Hutte's store about 11 o'clock, where a crowd of two hundred men and women had gathered for a Fourth of July barbecue. The firing was rapid and the battle was short, sharp and decisive, the women running and screaming at the beginning and others seeking safety in and behind the store and back of trees. A bullet passed through the window where Representative Hutte was standing and lodged in the back of the store. Station Agent Doc. Goodwin, a man of powerful build, attempted to act as peace-maker, but he was promptly driven into the store.

Jerrett and Moore are shingle makers at Gaston, having recently come there from north Georgia.

Whiskey was flowing freely, and soon Jerrett and Pounds were renewing a difficulty had at a jolification about a year ago. Ed. Reese told Pounds not to take the cussing he was getting at the hands of Jerrett, who was advancing with knucks. Reese then hopped on Jerrett, who is one-legged, and stabbed him six times, severing his spinal column and paralyzing his remaining leg. Moore then got in his work with a 38, firing upon Ed. Reese, whom he wounded in the abdomen, and then quickly firing a bullet into Joe Reese's hip and felling him. Pounds, who was unarmed except for a pair of knucks, got out of the fight with only a few bruises. Ed. Reese was shot by Moore as the former was standing over Jerrett, stabbing him. In a mortally wounded condition, Reese ran into the store and secured his revolver, which his companion, Sharp, had taken from him just before arriving "to keep the ladies from seeing it," and emptied it at Jerrett and others, but seems to have missed all. Jerrett was also game. In a mortally wounded condition, he raised himself on his elbow and emptied his revolver at those who had attacked him. Ed. Reese, who was brought here to-night for treatment in the Columbia Hospital, admits stabbing Reese and says Moore shot him and his brother, Joe Reese, missing the first three shots he fired at him, as he stood over Jerrett. When he came out of the store with his revolver Moore had left. All participants are young farmers of that neighborhood.

## Wake County Commissioners.

The Board of County Commissioners met Monday in regular monthly meeting, but little was done other than looking after the outside poor. Messrs. R. S. Stephenson and Stephen Lee of Swift Creek Township complained that the Adkin road had not been worked for four years, and asked that it be attended to.

Application was read from J. A. Sexton, E. G. Ragsdale and J. D. Ballentine asking that a new road be laid out in Middle Creek Township, leading from the Fayetteville road or some point between W. H. Holland's and J. A. Smith's via Fuquay Springs to some point on the Piney Grove Church road, between Piney Grove and A. T. Stevens. The matter was deferred until next meeting.

L. D. Terrell and W. H. Hood were paid \$100 each for listing taxes.

The election of cotton weighers was fixed for Thursday.

The Board refused to share the expense of guarding small-pox suspects at Pilot Mill since it was understood that the mill owners would pay the costs.

The Board decided to sit next Monday, July 10th, to revise the tax lists and valuation of personal property reported to them.

Rufus H. Barbee was given permission to peddle patent medicines without license.

The Board met again Wednesday. The report of Superintendent of Roads H. G. Holding was read, and his recommendations to pay M. T. Christmas \$10 and F. R. Clifton \$25 damages were adopted. W. H. Pope was paid \$6 for gravel taken from his land.

The petition of J. J. Marcom for a cartway in Cary township was referred to Supervisor W. F. Jones.

F. M. Shearon, road supervisor for Wake Forest township, was sworn in.

An order was passed for none of the township supervisors to hire hands to work the roads unless instructed by the county superintendent of roads. They are also instructed not to make bills unless authorized by the superintendent.

The superintendent of roads was instructed to send a machine to the Avent Ferry road and work the same, beginning at Jeff Uchurch's farm, running to Avent Ferry by Holly Springs and then to Adkin road, wherever a scraper can be used to advantage.

## A New Town.

Coats, a new town on the Cape Fear and Northern Railroad, in Harnett County, is growing nicely. Several stores are doing business, and a number of neat residences have been built. The soil thereabout is sandy and clean, and it is a good farming section, long noted for its industrious inhabitants.

Not far from the center of the village there is an excellent spring, affording twelve gallons of pure, cold water per minute. It is owned by Elder J. T. Coats, and he has fixed it up attractively. Elder Coats has a fish pond near the spring and his shepherd dog goes to the pond several times per day and swims in after any pieces of wood that may be floating on the water, carrying them to a pile on the shore.