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BILKINS IN RICHMOND.

Outwits Mrs. Bilkins and Escapes From the Springs—Incidents of the Trip—Richmond and How That City Impressed Major Bilkins—About to Get Into Trouble With the "F. F. V's."

Correspondence of the Enterprise.

I reckon you will be sirprized ter hear frum me erway up here at Richmond. I escaped frum Fuquay Springs Tuesday mornin' at eight thirty.

I writ you last week erbout playin' off the henpecked husband till Betsy wuz purty nigh distractked outin' ov her hed. By Sunday I thought she wuz punished enuff an' I changed tackticks. I am bound ter say that I didn't create much ov a sensashun at Fuquay Springs, fer they ackted like henpecked husbands wuz thick az peas thar, an' that made me mad. So a-Monday I went out in the woods an' sit down on a big log an' done sum thinkin'. A gude gineral awlways plans hiz battle before the fite. Tuesday mornin' I wuz up soon, an' after brakefast I went down ter the Spring. Purty soon I rushed back an' tole Betsy that I had jist got a tillygraff callin' me ter Washington by the first male. "Land sakes," sed Betsy. "whut air we cumin' to? Let me read hit." "Can't," sez I, "fer hit cum by tillyphone an' hit iz rite strate frum the Preserdent himself. He must a-got up before brakefast an' called me over whut they call the grate distance tillyphone." "Mersey on us!" sed Betsy, "the Preserdent must a hearn erbout you bein' a magistrate an' wants ter appoint you Judge."

"Can't say, my dear, but hit iz a feather in my cap ov sum sort. The Preserdent lays awake at nite thinkin' up things ter do an' I can't tell whether he wants me ter go up an' fix up a bear hunt or so an' dig the Panamaw Canal."

"Dear, don't talk that," sed Betsy, "fer I can't give up fer you ter go ter them forin countries an' git killed by the Inguns."

"That iz awl rite," sez I. "The Preserdent kin put eny offis on me he hez in hiz portofollyo, purvidin' hit iz in the United States, but I won't go outside an' catch sea-sickness an' malary. I'll look out fer myself an' you will be the first lady in the land an' wear ten pound dymonds if I kin git hit that way."

"Go on then," sez Betsy, "an' hurry back, fer I'll be powerful lonesome without you."

So I bustled eround an' packed my haversack in erbout four minits an' made the train for Raleigh an' bought a ticket ter Richmond, fer I concluded ter stop thar an' spend a day or two even if the Preserdent iz waitin'. I'm a-goin' ter see sum ov the wurd or bust the traces. In fackt, I'm a-goin' ter turn this business trip inter the longest picknick on the reekords.

I left Raleigh at 11 o'clock. When we got out a little peece the conductktor cum ter git my ticket. I axed him if we would git ter Richmond in time fer dinner. He sed hit would be sorter late, but 'lowed that a feller kin git dinner in Richmond eny time a day or nite. "But," sez he, "if you air gittin' hongry I'll see if the ingineer can't out off three

or four hours frum the regular skedule." I thanked him an' tole him I had a snack with me that would keep me frum collapsin' a day or two.

When we got ter Henderson I looked out an' seed so meny houses I thought maybe hit wuz Richmond. Soon az I seed two or three terbacker warehouses I got my haversack an' started fer the door. The conductktor axed me whut I wuz up to. "I'm gittin' off," sed I. He pushed me back in the car an' sed hit wuz more'n a hundred miles ter Richmond yit. After awhile we got ter Norliny an' sum ov the folks on the train went inter the tavern thar an' et dinner an' sum ov 'em stood eround an' picked their teeth instid ov goin' in ter eat.

After leavin' Norliny we rode erlong a hour or so an' crossed the Virginy line. The land looks so poor in Virginy that I wanted ter take up a colleckshun fer hit, but I kept quiet. After sum time we got ter another big town. I axed a drummer if hit wuz Richmond. He sed no hit wuz Petersburg. My granddaddy useter hawl terbacker ter that town an' that made hit look sorter familiar like ter me.

After leavin' Petersburg hit didn't take long ter git ter Richmond an' I hain't bin still a minit sinse. This iz a bigger town than Durham an' Hillsboro both tied tergether.

Richmond iz located on the river Jim seventy-five miles frum Weldon an' ten miles frum Asheland. Hit struck me that they iz more rocks than water in the river Jim. But they tole me that hit iz different down the river a piece, there bein' more water than rocks. They started a shippyard here sum years ergo an' depended on a big freshet ter git the ships down the river. The freshet wuz delayed an' the thing busted with a lot ov ships on hand.

Richmond iz very historickical. Hit wuz first settled by the Ingins an' Pokahontus wuz Mayor. Later on sum time the Purytans cum here an' driv the Inguns erway an' settled in Richmond, but they never settled for the land.

The prinsiple producks razed in Richmond air Old Virginy Smokers an' Old Henry Drinkers. They air puttin' a new roof on the capitol building, which looked like hit wuz fished outin' ov a junk pile before they started to fix hit up. The most hystorical places erbout Richmond air the Jefferson Hotel an' the battle ov Seven Pines. I didn't stop but two minits at the Jefferson, but I stayed at Seven Pines half a day. That iz a sacred spot, the bones ov thousands ov soldiers bein' burried thar.

I went ter see a feller that they call "Justis John." I tole him I wuz a magistrate down in North Carolina an' offered ter bet him that I could hand out more justis in an hour than he could deal out in a week. He sed he wuz ready ter arrange a match eny time.

I met up with a feller on Broad Street an' got ter talkin' with him. He axed me if I had got erquainted with any ov the "F. F. V's" yit. I tole him no, that I didn't drink a drop nowadays. He looked sorter scared an' axed me if I didn't know the meanin' ov "F. F. V." I tole him no, but I guessed that hit wuz sum sort ov harmless bar-room layout. He

sed hit meant "the First Families in Virginia." I apollygized an' tole him that down in North Carolina we hev the "B. T.'s an' the "G. M. I.'s," the first meanin' "Blind Tiger" an' the other bein' the dispensarys or the "Great Moral Institushuns," an' that I thought he meant sumthin' ov that sort. By inquirin' on a little I found that most ov the remains ov the "First Families" air keepin' boardin' houses in Richmond an' sprayin' the family trees betwixt meals ter keep the moths out ov the trees.

I will close my letter an' will write you soon frum Washin'ton.

Az before,
ZEKE BILKINS.

Wake School Board.

The Wake County School Board held a special session Friday to consider petitions for building and repairing school-houses. All the Board, Thomas Johns, B. S. Franklin and J. L. Foster, were present. Supt. Z. V. Judd was secretary. Twelve petitions were granted and five were deferred until a meeting August 4th.

J. M. Turner petitioned for the consolidation of Districts Nos. 1, 2 and 3 in Panther Branch. Action on the petition was postponed until August 4th.

A plan was accepted for a school-house at Fuquay Springs to cost \$750. W. J. Ballentine presented the matter to the Board.

G. V. Norwood asked the consolidation of Districts 3 and 4 in Neuse Township. It was opposed by J. T. Brown. Supt. Judd was instructed to investigate the matter and report to the Board.

L. D. Merritt, colored, urged the Board to have an industrial department added to the school at Forestville. He was told that the Board had no authority to do anything of the kind.

A new school-house was decided upon for New Hill in Buckhorn Township. Supt. Judd will examine the Christian church there with a view to buying it for the school.

Apex school was granted repairs to the amount of \$540. Dr. H. G. Utley and Representative P. J. Olive recommended it to the Board.

Swift Creek, No. 7, near Inwood, was granted a new house, the cost not to exceed \$350. The committee was instructed to sell the old house.

Supt. Judd and Commissioner Franklin, after investigating the grounds in Districts 4 and 6 in Holly Springs Township reported to the Board. The Board decided to locate the school-house on the north side of A. T. Stephens' home, near the Holly Springs road.

The question of consolidating Districts 4 and 5 in Middle Creek Township was deferred to the meeting of the Board on August 4th.

Rally Near McCullers.

There will be an educational rally at Catawba Springs, near McCullers Station, the first Saturday in August. Supt. Z. V. Judd and others will speak on this occasion. Mr. J. Milton Banks is chairman of the committee making an arrangements.

Supt. Judd will sneak at a Sunday-school picnic at Macedonia church, in Swift Creek Township, next Thursday.

Clayton News.

Correspondence of the Enterprise.

Miss Minnie Moring, of Raleigh, is visiting Mrs. Cadmus T. Young. Miss May Perry and Mr. Robert Branton are visiting Mrs. B. M. Robertson.

Miss Pauline Branham, of Benson, N. C., left for her home Wednesday after a few days' visit to Mrs. John S. Barnes.

Mr. De-wood Austin had the misfortune of losing a fine gold watch on Tuesday night. He thinks he Howell's, near Raleigh, and Clayton, N. C. Mr. Austin will give a suitable reward for its return.

The young men of Clayton gave a delightful melon party at the Academy Hall Wednesday evening in honor of the visiting young ladies.

On next Tuesday evening there will be a concert given at Clayton High School auditorium under the auspices of our home ladies. There will be a grand exhibition of local talent and visiting talent. Miss Blanche Barnes, who recently received high honors at the Conservatory of Music, Durham, N. C., will play several of her charming selections.

There was a flood of cotton on our streets Wednesday. The price was as high as eleven cents for some bales. "NO-ONE."

Clayton, N. C., July 26th.

News from Garner.

Correspondence of the Enterprise.

Miss Callie Ford, near Auburn, who has been very sick for the past few days, is improving.

A revival is in progress at the Christian church here this wee. Rev. Geo. Underwood is pastor.

The County Home and farm, under control of Supt. W. F. Black, is in a very fine condition. He has the finest crop of corn and cotton I ever saw, I think. Mr. Black is the right man for that position.

One case before the mayor; fined \$10 and cost for being disorderly.

Heavy rains continue to visit this section, doing much damage to the crops.

For the past few days there has been several car-loads of melons shipped from this place by J. B. Wilson, and others.

Mr. N. W. Powell has gone to Asheville on business.

C. H. W.

Garner, N. C., July 26th.

Mr. Bilkins Goes North.

Major, also 'Squire, Constable and Road Supervisor Bilkins, has escaped from Fuquay Springs and writes from Richmond. He intimates that he will visit the National capital and a number of the great cities North. If he digs up anything worth writing about he will give it to our readers in his usual quaint style.

Those who are fond of that kind of literature should see that their renewal is sent in promptly or they will miss the paper and the Bilkins letters.

When you see the blue cross mark that means that you will not get the next issue of the paper unless you get busy and send in your renewal. The mails are cheap and convenient, and there is no need of waiting for your paper to be cut off, for it will be done.