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LETTER FROM BILKINS.

Women Are Useful, But Troublesome—Glenn Williams and His Great Mistake—The Major Thought it Time to Replenish the Camphor Bottle, But Betsy Refused.

Correspondence of The Enterprise.

Wimin' air powerful useful eround the house an' help to make home cheerful an' awl that. I don't see how we men could manage ter keep house an' git erlong if hit weren't fer them. But they air mity agravexous sumtimes. They wantur know awl erbout everything, an' when you tell 'em the best you kin apt az ennyway they don't believe you.

Betsy wuz lookin' at a newspaper the other nite that had a picter relatin' ter the diggin' ov the Panamaw canal. Hit showed a grate army in front ov a picter ov "Uncle Sam," who wuz standin' with a shovel in hiz hand lookin' like he wuz sent fer an' couldn't go. One regiment carried a flag with "civil ingineers" on hit; another regiment had "machinists" on the flag; another had "nurses" on the flag; another "cooks," another "clerks," another "carpenters," another "laborers." An' still she couldn't understand hit.

I tole her that the government had paid \$50,000,000 fer the canal, which wuz partly dug, and had sinse spent \$10,000,000 gettin' ready ter dig, an' that the picter represented the situashun az hit iz terday—awl ready, but no diggin' goin' on. Then she wanted ter know if awl them civil ingineers, nurses, clerks, doctors an' laborers wuz a goin' ter stand thar an' let "Uncle Sam" do awl the diggin', fer he seemed ter be the only one havin' a shovel an' hiz coat off ready ter dig.

I tole her she had sized up the business exackly; that Uncle Sam would do awl the diggin'. She then wanted ter know whut awl them other fellers were there fer. I tole her the civil ingineers would show Uncle Sam whar to dig; the nurses would nurse him when he got sick, and the clerks an' laborers would tinker eround and boss the job.

But Besy wuzent satisfied an' got mad and went off ter bed like her dignity wuz hurt.

I see by the papers that N. Glen Williams, the big licker distiller haz been bankrupted by the Watts law an' the prosecutions in the Federal Court.

I am sorry fer Glenn. He uster be on the Dymakrat Executive Com-mitty, an' iz yit, I reckon. But I warned him two years ergo that the jig wuz up with him. He wouldn't beleeve me. He sed that he an' his ancestors hed bin makin' whisky fer a hundred and sixty years, an' awlways contributed ter the campaine fund an' run a nice, orderly place.

But, sez I, "Glenn, they iz a new deal on now, a new ring ov politishuns. Before this the politishuns catered ter the licker men an' per-teckted them. Onless a man could stand a quart a day he couldn't stand enny show fer a big offis. Most ov them drink now, but they air more pertickler. The new perlitical ring hev counted noses an' they figger that if they can git the support ov awl the church people they air willin' ter throw the licker men overboard an' take chances. Sum of the real foxy politishuns awlso figgered that they

could rope in the folks on a State dispensary system an' hev several in every county and git commissions on the whole business. But the people hev nipped that game in the bud, ter a grate extent sinse that, tho' they iz sum left yit."

Glenn sed: "Zeke, I don't know eny other business an' if the Legislature destroys my business I will be ruined."

"Can't be helped," sez I, "the rubbercon hez been crost. Bar rooms an' distillers air not respecttable eny more. If yer wantur run a respecttable licker business you will hev ter start a dispensary fer that iz the only style ov licker sellin' that iz harmless an' respecttable."

If Glenn Williams had taken my advice an' a started a dispensary he would terday be an honorable, respecttable citizin an' az rich az cream.

I begin ter feel sorter like Christmas ain't very far off an' hev bin lookin' after the camfer bottle. I axed Betsy yesterday if I hadn't better git sumpthin' ter dizzolve a little camfer, an' hev sum on hands in case either ov us got sick. She sed they wuz still a spoonful er two in the bottle an' that would do a few months yit. I am a gude purvider when hit cums to camfer, but Betsy iz powerful ekernomikal when hit cums ter medicins. If we could git a breed ov snakes introduced inter this country that could stand the climate till after Christmas an' hev energy enuff ter bite sum folks now an' then, hit would save me a lot ov trouble. But we can't hev everything the way we want hit.

Yours fer progress,
ZEKE BILKINS.

"Passin' of Laws."

Just how far it is possible to "legislate" morality into people we are not prepared to say, but it is certain that it will take some higher power than the Legislature to pump piety and morality into the average human being, and while they were passing so many "thou-shalt" and "thou-shalt-not" laws, prescribing the action of man from infancy to the grave, we have been impressed with the thought that the average member of the Legislature might possibly "let charity begin at home, and try their own lives by the rules they write for others. If they would do this may be it would keep so many frivolous laws, that are never enforced, off the statute books. But they go to the Legislature to do something, and they do it—every time they meet. "Pass a law" is the predominating idea, and they have "passed" plenty of 'em up to date.—Our Home.

As to which of the sexes is the more courageous, it is, after all, hard to decide, for as often as a man marries, a woman marries likewise.—Puck.

The report that gold has been discovered on the Isthmus of Panama is probably founded on the fact that a good deal of it has gone there that never came back.—New York Mail.

Senator Patterson has been fined \$1,000 for contempt of the Colorado Supreme Court. The expression of honest opinion sometimes comes high.—Jacksonville Times-Union.

Federal Court.

The December term of the United States Federal Court convened in this city Monday morning.

In charging the grandjury Judge Purnell laid down the law on peonage, and asserted that this involuntary servitude existed to some extent in this district.

Peonage, involuntary servitude, the judge declared, was a violation of the constitutional amendment, and statutes based thereon, adopted after the prohibition of slavery. Since then there have been acts passed by certain States, among the number North Carolina, which are in direct violation of this law.

Judge Purnell asserted that the Landlord and Tenant Act, passed, he believed, by the Legislature of this State in 1903, came under this head. The United States law is that whenever there is a debt, no matter how contracted, it matters not whether it is a court fine or court costs, or both, and the defendant, being unable to pay, is hired out to another or made to work out those costs for others, he is virtually made a slave for such a time and that is peonage.

Two things, Judge Purnell repeated, were necessary to constitute a case of peonage: There must be a debt; second there must be some means in the magistrate or other court whereby he is made to work out that debt under contract.

Then the judge recited the origin of recent interest in this matter. The first case came from Florida. A man was sentenced to pay a fine and court costs. He was unable to do so. He was hired out to a saw mill man in Georgia. For some cause he ran away and returned to Florida. His master went there to get legal process to bring him back. The court held that he could not for the man was working in peonage. The higher court upheld this. This was the first time that attention was called to the law, for it was passed mainly for New Mexico and the Southwest.

But now that the law is known and has been interpreted, it is incumbent upon the Federal judges to direct attention of grandjuries, now that the people are informed on the matter, is to enforce the law.

The remainder of the judge's charge was an exposition of what constitutes crimes cognizable in the Federal Court. He enumerated counterfeiting coin, printing, even advertising in the form and likeness of United States Treasury notes; violation of the tariff laws, and the statutes governing the Postoffice Department.

The following grandjury was drawn: Nathan McClain, J. W. Moore, Jack C. Winston, George W. Sherrin, David C. Bell (colored), Rufus Ham, Earnest Raines, C. L. Williams, William Clayton, J. M. Edwards, W. J. Blanchard, K. H. Parker, H. W. Holland, C. H. Washington, James W. Mangum, J. A. Satterwhite (colored), J. T. Sharpe, Jr., C. W. Richardson.

Earnest Raines, of this county, was made foreman.

L. M. Green was appointed officer to the grandjury.

United States vs. Joe Taylor was tried for retailing by jury, with a verdict of guilty; verdict eighteen months in the penitentiary.

United States vs. John McDermid,

was tried by jury for retailing, with no verdict yet returned.

Jesse A. Giles, Esq., introduced to the court W. A. Chisholm, Esq., who took the oath of an attorney and was admitted to practice in the United States Circuit and District Court for this district.

Edward Wood, of Durham, plead guilty of retailing. Judgment was suspended on account of the man being paralyzed.

The case against C. D. Wilkie, storekeeper and gauger, was continued until Monday.

The case against W. T. Carver and D. M. Andrews was continued for ten days.

Ed. W. Clark was given 60 days in Moore County jail for woking at a still.

George McDonald, sixty days for working at a still.

William Warren plead guilty to retailing and was given three months and fined \$100.

James Ragan, an old white man, with a beard that nearly reached to his waist, was given three months in Roxboro jail and fined \$100 for work at an illicit distillery.

Ed Gunter, for illicit distilling, was given four months in jail and fined \$100.

George W. Fuquay plead not guilty of retailing. He only relieved a case of distress with a little liquor, for which he received pay. He was convicted, but judgment reserved.

Peck Hays was given 60 days and fined \$100 for violating the revenue laws.

Meeting of Hospital Board.

The nine Directors of the State Hospital for the Insane here met Governor Glenn at noon Monday, in his office, submitted to him the annual report of Superintendent McKee and received from the Governor instructions to scrutinize carefully and make personal investigations to ascertain if any patients entered as indigent insane, are able to pay. In such cases, if any, they must either pay or leave and make room for the indigent, who should have the preference.

Another meeting will be held in January, when the matter will be gone into more fully.

Dispensary Board Report.

The Dispensary Board made the long-expected report to the Board of Aldermen Monday at 12 o'clock.

They found that the Dispensary does not make over 80 per cent profit on the goods sold; that it does buy through local agents, "men of good reputation and integrity," in Raleigh. But makes an omission by failing to tell us who those commission men are.

They find that the quarterly reports have been incomplete; that an employe in one instance had shown a preference for a certain brand of whiskey by recommending it; that the whiskey sold is not inferior; that some was sold minors and persons in a state of intoxication; that Budweiser beer had been sold without the name burned in the cork, and that the apparatus and bottling facilities are not satisfactory, etc.

A mind content both crown and kingdom is.—Robert Greene.