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LETTER FROM BILKINS.

The Major is Still at Home—He is Playing for the Influence of the Ladies and Will Work for Them in the Legislature—An Alarming State of Affairs.

Correspondence of The Enterprise:

I am still at home tryin' ter get the crop started off an' countin' candydates fer offis that air cumin' out through the papers.

I haint never seed the like. Hit iz worse than the plags that afflicted Egypt in the ole times. They haint bin no less than three candydates cum out fer sheriff sinse I begun ter plant my little patch of taters. If this keeps on at this rate the candydates will overrun the country like the grasshoppers did in Kansas some years ago.

Betsy sez I hev bin the cause ov awl the trouble fer I kept ritin' erbout what grate sucksess me an' Bob hev bin havin' an' hit set the other candydates on fire.

That iz the way with wimin; they blame everything on the men, purvided hit don't cum out awl rite, but if anything iz a grate sucksess, they claim credit fer hit. If you git ahead ov a woman you hev ter git up at 1 o'clock in the mornin' the year round.

Betsy iz trying ter keep me from goin' out canvassin' ergin. She sez that they iz so many candydates out that they iz bound ter be a mix-up an' somebody will git hurt, an' she knows that a lot ov them will hold a spite at me bekase I am gittin' erlong so well an' they air bound ter be jellous.

I aint afeard ov none ov them onless they waylay me in a cowardly way. Bob kin outrun any ov them, an' if they try ter double team on me I'll be ter the other side ov the county before they git started.

Betsy wuz a readin' a lawyer's speech on the paper the other nite. The lawyer started off by sayin' "Gentlemen ov the jur..."

Betsy sed she hadn't never hearn ov a lawyer sayin' "Ladies ov the jury," nor "Ladies an' gentlemen ov the jury," which would sound a site better.

I didn't say anything fer erbout a minit fer I wuz thinkin' an' I thought I seed a gude openin'.

"The reason iz," sez I, "that the wimin air discriminated erginst. They don't git their rites an' can't serve on juries. They hev ter pay taxes an' wurk fer a livin' in a gude many cases, but they can't vote nor serve on juries, exsept in a few States whar they kin vote. If I change my mind an' go ter the Legislature I'll interduce a bill the first week ter allow wimin ter set on the jury if they want ter, an' I believe that my liberal views will help my canvass fer whatever offis I am runnin' fer."

Betsy 'lowed that she wouldn't sit on the jury if they'd summon her an' she didn't believe that many would. But she'd like fer them ter hev sum rites an' hev the chance ter act on the jury.

"You'd hev ter sit on the jury if the sheriff summonses you," sez I. "you couldn't do az you pleeze. You mite be busy makin' a new dress or trimmin' a hat an' if you wuz called ter court you'd hev ter go. You mite wanter go ter a bargain sale, but if you were servin' on the jury you'd

hev ter stay in the court house from mornin' ter nite."

"Then don't pass that law," sed Betsy. "I didn't know they hed awl them ruels; why that iz outragus and would take our liberty awl erway frum us."

I knowed a little diplomacy would fix hit awl rite. But I am still willin' ter carry out my campane promises if the wimin wanter serve on the jury.

Speakin' ov wimin's rites, I see that the average hight ov wimin hez increased erbout two inches in the past few years an' men average two inches shorter than they did twenty or thirty years ergo. In the wurds ov a famous perlitercal platform, I "view with alarm" any sich az "that. What air we men cumin' to? Air we a-goin' er turn ter monkeys ergin, az Darwin sez we once were? At the present rate the wimin will soon be seven or eight feet high, an' the men erbout four feet high, with chances ov even a grater difrence after a gude many years. If hit cums ter that the wimin' kin lay us down ercross their nees an' spank us till they git tired or lead us eround by the ear and do an' say what they please, an' we will be too skeered ter even cry. I am glad I will not be in this country when that cums ter pass, an' it iz sartin ter cum if they ain't a change.

I'll soon be on my canvass ergin, if Betsy doesn't object.

Truly,

ZEKE BILKINS.

County Cotton Association.

The reguar monthly meeting of the Wake County Cotton Growers' Association was held at Metropolitan Hall last Saturday. About fifty delegates attended.

The special feature of the meeting was the discussion of ways and means of most effectually keeping down the acreage. Delegates were urged to go to the farmers in their sections and urge reduction of acreage, personal effort being regarded as the most effectual method. Reports indicated a general disposition to cut acreage.

Secretary R. H. Jones reported that regular books for secretaries and treasurers of the sub-divisions of the County Association have been ordered and will be distributed as soon as they arrive. These books were ordered at the suggestion of President Harvie Jordan and are of the "loose-leaf" style and cost \$2.25 each, being made under the direction of the Southern Association.

The Treasurer's report to the meeting shows that the county Association has in hand about \$225, a large part of which was raised by subscription for the purpose of organizing the county.

There was a discussion of the question of voting salaries to the County Secretary and county Treasurer, but no action was taken.

Wake County is now pretty well organized and most of the membership seems firmly resolved to carry out the purposes for which the organization was started.

The American people are gradually evincing a disposition to criticize Senators who draw their pay, but do nothing to earn it. They do not seem to think the honor of being represented by such men counts for anything.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

H. D. HAWLEY DEAD.

One of the Famous "Gold Brick" Men Serving Time in the Penitentiary Died Thursday Morning.

H. D. Hawley sentenced to the penitentiary for ten years for attempting to swindle a citizen of this State in 1900, died at the penitentiary Tuesday morning about five o'clock of some liver trouble.

The remains were turned over to his wife who had lived in this city for some time in order to be near her husband, to whom she seemed devoted, and she accompanied the remains to New York where the burial will take place. Hawley was fifty-six years old.

Three men were convicted at the same time, the others being Howard and Daly. Daly was given seven years, while Hawley and Howard got ten years each.

At the urgent solicitation of the Governor of Illinois, Governor Aycock pardoned Daly soon after his conviction. Friends of the other two men, probably the gang they belonged to, made desperate efforts and spent much money trying to get them off, but were unsuccessful.

In 1900 one of the three men visited Mr. Paul Garrett, a wealthy man at Weldon, and a man who was shrewd enough to lead the gang into a trap. After getting the gold brick scheme in good shape, with Mr. Garrett apparently about ready to bite, it was arranged that he meet them in Greensboro, when the "Indian," who was Daly, would appear with the "gold brick," and the trade could be consummated, the brick of course being worth more than the amount to be loaned upon it by Mr. Garrett. Howard was the "chemist" who turned up in Greensboro, a "stranger" to all parties, and he tested the gold brick to see if it was genuine, and of course he said it was.

Mr. Garrett was to meet the parties in the woods near Greensboro at a certain hour with the cash, after all the other preliminaries were gone through with.

He met them at the appointed time. But instead of a large amount of cash he carried two or three Government detectives, the Sheriff of Guilford County and several policemen. Howard, the "chemist," was with the other two, and before the trio knew what had happened they found themselves completely surrounded with officers who had them covered with Winchester.

The conviction followed. Howard is the only one of the three now in the pen, and, if he lives, will doubtless serve out his time, he having a little more than three years yet to serve.

The penitentiary authorities usually give each convict a small amount of money when they leave the prison. The wife of Hawley got the amount and then scraped up enough to pay her fare and that of the corpse to New York, and for a cheap coffin. She was probably a much better woman than was her husband as a man. Possibly she did not know that her husband was a gold brick swindler until his arrest and conviction, though that was not fully established.

We may bring forth fruit in old age and have the crocus in autumnal fields.—Alexander Maclaren, D. D.

Garner News.

Correspondence of the Enterprise.

Mr. David Bryan, who lives near Garner, and Miss Boyette, of Wilson, were on the 21st ult., happily joined together in the holy bonds of matrimony.

Mr. Ottis Pool, who lives near Garner, and Miss Louceba Hawkins, of Jones County, were married on the 21st ult.

Mr. Willie Beasley, of Baltimore, Md., and Miss Ina Goodwin, of Holly Springs, were married on the 28th ult. by J. D. Johnson, Esq.

Deputy Sheriff R. E. Young has decided to become a candidate on the Democratic ticket for constable of St. Mary's Township.

J. N. N. Smith, constable of St. Mary's Township, declares himself a candidate on the Democratic ticket for the office of constable.

C. H. W.

Garner, N. C., April 4th.

Pleasant Grove Farmers' Club.

Mr. F. A. Whitaker organized a Farmers' Club at Pleasant Grove School House's Creek township recently.

At the first meeting, which was called on short notice, twelve joined. Several members have been added.

The following officers were elected: L. M. C. King, Presiden; J. M. Carlton, Vice President; M. J. Carlton, Secretary; O. A. Ellen, Treasurer.

Delegates to the County Meeting are: J. S. Hailey, M. J. Carlton.

O. G. Ellen, Treasurer, Cary, R. F. D. No. 1.

Executive Committee: C. H. Jackson, G. M. Jackson, J. S. Hailey, W. H. Pollard, and T. E. Hailey.

This Club is in a progressive community and the membership will cooperate with the other clubs in the county.

Predicts that Blackburn Will Not Be Convicted.

The Blackburn trial will come up this month, and here is a wager of dollars to doughnuts that he is found not guilty. The thing looks too much like persecution and the men who have destined to do him regardless, will find that they cannot do such things. We are not trying the case; we know nothing of his guilt or innocence; but we do know that it is in the air that he should not be convicted. There were other ways and other times to have gone after him. Persecution will not always win—and while the Government may be honest in what it is trying to do it seems to us that the seeds sown were first scattered by a motive that honest men cannot condone.—Fairbrother's Everything.

The Landmark has its own opinion as to Blackburn's guilt, which it would rather not express in advance of a trial. But the people who are prosecuting him are not concerned about his guilt or innocence. They are after him because they want him out of the way. If he stood in with them they would condone any offence he might commit, no matter how glaring. But as he has been against them they—who are no better, no, not as good, than he is—have suddenly become very virtuous. Away with such infernal hypocrisy!—Statesville Landmark.