

THE Raleigh Enterprise.

VOL. III.

RALEIGH, N. C., THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 1907.

NO. 37

LETTER FROM BILKINS.

Getting Ready for the Trip Around the World—Zeke Getting His Commissary Ready—Bob Practicing Climbing Mountains and Swimming Rivers, Stuck a Nail in His Foot—Betsy in a Turmoil.

Correspondence of the Enterprise. Bilkinsville, N. C., Jan. 10th.

Well, gentel reeder, I'm gitting redly to take that trip around the wurruld. Hit takes erlong time tu git everythin' fixed up. Thars bacun an' beans, sughar, morelasses, hard-tack, beef-tung, sassage, korn meel, pertgirs, kondensed milk, coffey, kookan' material, close an' a lot ov other things too numerous to men-shun, and a fine presents fer the kings an' emperors.

Bob knowin' that he's got ter clime the mountains an' swim streems, iz now practicing skalin' mountain sides. Yisterday he wuz in the river jest swimming ter beat the band, his head above the water, his tale az strait az an Injun arrow, but he cum ashore awl rite. Then he clim Pike's Peke and slid down it sides landin' at its base on awl fore feet. He iz gittin in splendid trim.

But Betsy iz in a turmoyle; she's afraid that Bob will brake hiz neck and that we both will git killed befour we git back frum around the wurruld. She iz like awl wimmin, awlways crossin' bridges befour they git to them. I axed her if she would like to take the trip with Bob an' me, but she said she could not stand it, it wuz so dangerous; so she will hev ter stay at home an' tend to the household affairs.

Betsy spent so much money Christmas that "change" has run short an' we'll have to pick out more cotton to raise money enuff fer to keep Betsy in grub an' me an' Bob sumthin' to eat on that ere trip around the wurruld.

The furst pond that Bob will have to swim is the Atlantick Oshun. It will take six days to cross it, but Bob nose how to flote and I kin ride sideways while he is doing that stunt. Bob will live on sea-weed while goin' over, an' I'll eat hard tack. Me an' Bob intended ter start on our trip next week, but Bob stuck a nale in his foot and is limping quite bad. He is now under the care of Dr. McMackin at his hospital at the city lot.

Yours as before,
ZEKE BILKINS.

Card From Soldiers.

To the Ladies of St. Mary's:

We have learned that the abundance of nice turkey which we enjoyed so much at our Christmas dinner was your noble and generous gift, and words are inadequate to convey our thanks for the delightful surprise. You have endeared yourselves to our hearts, and you will ever be remembered by us with gratitude.

Besides wishing for each of you a happy New Year, we hope you will attain all those accomplishments for which you are so earnestly striving and which your goodness deserves. May your college days continue to be pleasant, and when you bid your Alma Mater farewell and return to your home may it be to spend a long and a happy life.

THE OLD COMRADES.
N. C. Soldiers' Home, Jan. 1, 1907.

WAKE SUPERIOR COURT.

For Trial of Criminal Cases—Met Tuesday.

Judge E. B. Jones opened Wake Superior Court here Tuesday morning promptly at 10 o'clock. He presides here for the first time, although he has been on the bench for four years. His manner is vigorous, positive and emphatic, and his voice loud and clear. He looks to be about fifty years old, with gray hair and dark moustache.

His charge to the grand jury was a long one, taking up nearly an hour and a half. He started out by calling attention to the fact that all crimes greater than misdemeanors should be taken to the grand jury, and went on to say that he had been reliably informed that it is a practice in Wake County for justices of the peace to assume jurisdiction where they have none, for instance, in cases of assault with deadly weapons and even in cases of larceny. He said he was told that in the city of Raleigh such things were done, and added: "I have been informed that one of your justices of the peace has attempted to divorce people."

Tendency of Times.

On the subject of larceny he declared the situation was growing worse and worse, due to the times and the way of living. "We have on our silver dollar," said he, "In God we trust." He then spoke of the number of young men embezzling funds when in positions of trust, because they were trying to keep up with the requirements of society, to live like those who are rich. It was due to the rush for wealth, the idea of getting money anyway.

Vagrants Make Burglars.

There was so much burglary in North Carolina, said Judge Jones, because the vagrancy laws were not enforced. Men, black and white, have no right to go about unless they have some means of livelihood. Professional tramps generally commit the crimes of burglary.

The law, the grand jury, were held responsible for the many criminals developed from the class of children whose mothers were deserted by worthless husbands, and in turn had to neglect their children in order to make a living for themselves. Grand juries ought to indict more of these husbands.

While on the law against carrying concealed weapons, the judge said: "There's many a young fellow who thinks he is not up with the times unless he has got a package of cigarettes in his pocket, a bottle of whiskey in one hip pocket and a pistol in the other. Sometimes he goes to a church festival that way and kills his best friend before he gets home." Judge Jones declared that the law ought to be enforced or else repealed by the Legislature, for it arms the fellow who violates the law and disarms the man who respects the law.

As to Lynching.

As to lynching, Judge Jones said in part: "The best definition I can give you of lynching is that it is murder in the first degree. The most shocking and most shameful act in the history of our State in legal proceedings was the lynching of those parties at Salisbury. But you can't

convict because moral sentiment is not strong enough. You can't enforce a law that people don't want."

If there was any insane person in the jail on account of the overcrowded condition of the State Hospitals, the judge urged that they be confined in separate apartments from those in which the criminals were kept, for it was enough to make a sane man go mad to put him with people who persisted in violating the law in their right minds.

The class of people that was most persistently robbed in North Carolina, said Judge Jones, was the orphan children. He told the grand jury to see to it that the Clerk of the Court received annual statements from trustees and that the bonds were good.

Gambling.

When he reached the law on gambling, Judge Jones said: "I wonder how many niggers you are going to have me send to the roads for shooting craps in back alleys and how many gilt-edged citizens for gambling in stocks and bonds?" The man who gambles in stocks and bonds is just as guilty in the eye of the law as the little nigger who pitches craps in the back-yard, and I will go farther and say he is worse in the eyes of morality and law, for more is expected of him and he does more harm. But you don't expect to indict him. Sometimes he is a pillar in the church and a big man in finance. The ministers haven't got the backbone to do anything in his case, and you can't get at him, and he is sending more men to hell than anything else. But you say he is a good man, he supports his family. So does the highwayman, so does the bar-tender.

"I can't get a grand jury to bring these fellows in, although you have the whole court behind you. The Supreme Court of the United States has sustained the State Court in this matter, but still you won't bring them in."

Judge Jones explained how young men brought up under good home influences came to town and were lost by following the men in the silk hats who sit around the hotel lobbies and court-houses and tell about the money they have made speculating. That's the example set by men you can't reach, sometimes because they are on the grand jury themselves.

The Grand Jury.

The following grand jury was drawn:

J. S. Bryan, M. J. Stephen, W. C. Buffalo, C. E. Cope, H. M. Reece, F. A. Massey, C. G. Perry, Sim R. Beasley, J. M. Brewer, Jr., P. J. Wooland, E. T. Masey, J. F. Saunders, W. T. Rogers, G. T. O'Daniel, Jas. S. Morgan, W. J. Lowery, W. E. Morris and Charles R. Warren. Mr. J. M. Brewer, Jr., who is from Wake Forest, was selected as foreman.

True Bill Against Bivins.

At five minutes to 1 o'clock the grand jury brought in a true bill for murder against H. J. Bivins, the Seaboard Air Line detective who shot and killed an unknown man on or near the yard here several months ago. The man was hoboing in a box car, and Bivins claimed that when he went to arrest him he resisted and attacked him with a knife.

Witnesses at the preliminary hearing testified that the man was trying

to get away from the detective and that they saw no knife drawn. Bivins' attorneys applied for his release upon a writ of habeas corpus, but he was remanded to jail.

Bivins a Witness.

A man by the name of Bunn was tried Monday morning upon the charge of having assaulted H. J. Bivins with a deadly weapon, but the jury returned a verdict of not guilty. In this case Bivins was the chief witness, of course, for the prosecution. While the attorneys for the prosecution was addressing the jury and arguing to them that they should find Bunn guilty, basing his argument on the testimony of Bivins, the grand jury came in and returned a true bill against Bivins for murder. In order not to let the jury be prejudiced in the case, Judge Jones did not read out the name on the bill, so the jury had no idea who the true bill related to.

The first case taken up at the afternoon session was one in which A. B. Vincent, a negro Baptist preacher, was charged with engaging in an affray. It was a case appealed from the magistrate's court. Vincent and J. H. Love were both indicted for engaging in an affray and were found guilty by the magistrate. Love paid the fine imposed on him, but Vincent appealed to the Superior Court.

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Positively the richest reading of the year will be, "Around the World on a Mule," by Zeke Bilkins. Subscribe for the Raleigh Enterprise to-day and be in time for the first letter, which will appear January 10th.

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Officers Are Elected by Central Lodge

The following officers were elected Friday night by Central Lodge, No. 2, Knights of Pythias:

Chancellor Commander—C. L. Woodall.
Vice Chancellor—D. R. Styron.
Prelate—H. W. Davis.
Master of Works—C. H. Beine.
Master of Exchequer—John Ward.
Master of Finance—C. B. Denson.
Keeper of Records and Seals—W. W. Wilson.
Master at Arms—Miles Goodwin.
Inner Guard—Charles U. Harris.
Outer Guard—J. S. Jones.

Members of the Grand Lodge of Masons of North Carolina, as well as of the General Assembly, came in Monday from all over the State. The Grand Lodge met Monday night at 8 o'clock in the lodge hall on Fayetteville Street. Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock the board of custodians met in the same hall to review the work of the year just past. Grand Master F. D. Winston, of Windsor, is expected to-night (Tuesday). Officers of the Grand Lodge already here are: J. E. Cameron, of Kinston, Chairman of the Board of Custodians; Past Grand Master F. M. Moye, Grand Lecturer B. W. Hatcher, of Albemarle, and Assistant Grand Lecturers J. R. Rowell of Liberty, R. F. Edwards of Crumpler, and Charles F. Bahnsen of Farmington.