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## BILKINS AT JAMESTOWN.

**Some of His Admirers Are Getting Impatient—Foreign Rulers Are Getting Interested in His Trip and Will Dress Up—The Major Reflects About the Ocean and the Great Events it Has Witnessed—Will Discuss Serious Problems With the President.**

Jamestown, Va., Sept. 3rd.

Correspondence of the Enterprise.

I got a letter from a feller in Wake County yisterday givin' me fits fer not startin' on my trip erround the world on a mule. He sed that he subscribed fer the Raleigh Enterprise a-purpose ter read my letters an' that he wanted the perseshun ter begin ter move.

I hain't erquainted with my friend. But I wantar say that I expeck he iz like a lot ov other folks in this world—he thinks that a feller kin git everything ready fer a trip erround the world in erbout fifteen minits by the watch. Apt az anyway he thinks that the trip kin be made in erbout three days an' a half. Hit takes lots ov time ter git the legal papers an' other things fixed up, an' awl the Kings an' Emperers an' Dukes in Europe an' in Russia an' China hev ter hev time ter git the house cleaned up an' git new tailor-made suits ov clothes so they kin be ready ter reseeve me, fer, no doubt, they think I am sum great big man sent over by the Preserdent, an' they air rite much exsited over hit. I got a letter from the King ov the Sandwich Islands statin' that he wanted me ter spend at least a month with him, an' he didn't make any bones erbout sayin' rite out that he wanted plenty ov time ter git ready ter reseeve me an' that he hoped he'd hev time ennuff ter git a suit of clothes made an' order a barrel of flour from Minneapolis, Minnesota, U. S. A., so they could hev sum appricott pie fer me. He sed that they hed not bought any flour in sixteen years, an' I gathered from hiz letter that he hadn't bought a new suit ov clothes since he wuz eleckted King more than twenty years ergo. Hit seems that the climate iz so hot there that Kings don't wear much but dignity, an' the common folks don't dress up in anything.

I can't keep frum lookin' at the ocean an' thinkin' erbout what a time Uncle Noah had when he wuz buildin' the ark an' drivin' up two ov each kind ov cattle an' other things an' loadin' them in the ark fer a sail that mite last forty years fer awl he knowed. Uncle Noah wuz a mity brave man ter git awl them lions, tigers, elephants an' things in the ark and start out fer a trip that mite last a life-time an' make him seasick every day in the year. An' I can't help thinkin' erbout Jonah when he took the sail a-ridin' in the stomach ov the whale. We think we hev a heap ov ups an' downs, but our grate, grate grand-daddies erway back yonder thousands ov years ergo did hev trouble. Hit iz a wonder that they managed ter live frum the cradle ter the grave.

When I git ter Washington I want ter discuss the R. F. D. mail service an' the boll weevil with the Preserdent an' see what kin be done ter remedy things. If they ain't sumpthin' done the country will be gone purty quick. I understand that the

Postmaster Ginerall iz goin' ter send sum post-offis detecktives down into North Carolina before long an' see whether the R. F. D. service iz a joke or not.

I am pracktisin' up a little on ettyket before I start up through Virginy so I kin pass by the homes ov the first families without gittin' shot at fer travellin' through the country without havin' on a high churn hat an' a peddygree. I hear that the first families or Virginy air powerful pertickular erbout sich things.

I see by the papers that you air havin' lots ov candydates fer Governor an' like down in good ole North Carolina. I can't make out who sum ov them air frum this distance. If I wuz at home I could search the directories an' the regis-trashun books an' sorter locate sum ov them.

Yours truly,

ZEKE BILKINS.

## God First.

When he was dying, the German Poet Hoffman said: "We must then think of God also." The carnal human heart puts God last, the Bible puts him first. "In the beginning God." "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind."

God is put first in point of time and importance. He is first as the Creator. He is the final cause of all effect and the intelligent organizer of all order.

But this is not the kind of priority of which I wish to write, but it is of God as first in our relations to him. In the beginning of the day "God." In the beginning of the enterprise "God." In our services God should have the priority. There is a beautiful and appropriate custom in some of our churches of having a sunrise prayer-meeting on New Year's morning. It is fitting that we should begin the new Year with God. There is still an old custom kept up in a few pious homes of beginning every day in the year with God. This old custom is known as "family prayer." If any not familiar with the details of the custom, it will be well to seek out some of the older inhabitants and consult them.

Not only should God be first in time, because he is first in importance. In the first utterance, when Jehovah spoke from Siani to his people, he said: "Thou shalt have no other Gods before me." The incarnate Christ made the sum of the first five commandments of the moral law to be, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul and with all thy mind." All men are willing to take all of God's gifts that they can get, but many reject the Giver.

A few nights ago a little child three years of age was crying. His father went to him and said: "Son, what do you want?" He quickly said: "I want you."

Too many of us full grown children want God's bounty, but the last and not the first thing he can honestly say to him is, "I want you." Here is a good resolution for the New Year: "I will give God the pre-eminence."—Henry W. McLaughlin.

## Death of Miss Mills.

Miss Myrtle Mills, daughter of Mr. John A. Mills, President of the Raleigh and Southport Railroad Company, died at her home in this city at 10 o'clock Monday night. She had been ill with typhoid fever for three weeks.

Miss Mills was but sixteen years of age and had a large circle of friends. She was organist at the Christian Church in this city.

The funeral services were conducted at the residence at 2.30 p. m. Tuesday by Rev. Daniel A. Long, her pastor, assisted by Rev. C.W. Blanchard.

The family has the sincere sympathy of a large number of friends throughout the city and surrounding country, for her parents are widely known.

Dr. Long selected as a text 1 Thes. 4:13:

"I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope."

He said: "Sooner or later we will all have our bodily natures laid aside like a worn-out garment. Those of us who have been parted from those whom we have loved and lost feel that they were never more ours than now. All races have believed this; the Indians believed in the happy hunting ground beyond; the Hindoo widow in her invocation to Brahma. The hero of the Aeneid said:

"Gladsome ghosts in circling troops attend  
And with unwearied eyes behold  
their friend."

Socrates, pressing the fatal cup to his lips, said to his weeping friends:

"If the common expression be true that death conveys us to the place of departed men, with delight I drink this hemlock, for it sends my spirit to commune with Ajax and Palamedes."

Over one hundred and fifty years ago Dr. Young buried his only daughter, in Southern France, during the night. Then he wrote: "Death loves a shining mark, and a signal blow."

Our kinships and friendships are spiritual, and are as eternal as the father's love. "In my Father's house are many mansions." The Patriarchs were "gathered unto their fathers"—not buried in the same cemetery. David said of his departed son: "I shall go to him."

Moses and Elias lived far apart. After they had been in glory for centuries, they knew each other. Paul told the Thessalonians that—

"They would be the crown of his rejoicing."

"As for thy friends, they are not lost,  
The several vessels of thy fleet,  
Though parted now, by tempest tossed,  
Shall safely in the haven meet."

The highest truths are not reached by analysis. The deepest appeal is not made by logic, but to imagination; not to intellect, but to heart. This is true not only in religion, but also in everything. To know and love nature is a simpler and higher thing than to know the geology of

the rocks and the chemistry of the trees.

Everything that makes man great partakes of discipline. There is no music in a monotone; there is no art in one universal drab color. Moral degeneracy creeps upon the man or the nation that sits at ease, as the stagnant pool breeds malaria. We are not fit for the peace and prosperity for which our hearts long. To have no great trials is to lose the fear and love of God.

I am glad to see the leader of the young and fair here this afternoon. Those who have yet the roses in their cheeks, and the sunshine of heaven in their smiles. Their tender hearts have culled the choicest flowers in order to deck with garlands the gateway through which the young and lovely Myrtle Mills marched to glory.

"To know her was to love her, to name her was to praise." While she marched with you, she wore the white roses of a spotless life. She is gone to that spirit land where no glittering thunder-bolt slumbers in the folds of the rainbow cloud.

"On the sweet Eden shore so beautiful and bright,  
Her spirit made perfect is dwelling  
in light,  
Her white wings are wafting her  
gently along,  
Through the beautiful regions of  
glory and song."

To her brothers and young friends let me say: With you it is the bright and breezy morn of life. A long day I trust is before you. Like the morning of the natural day, may your young lives begin with devotion to the Giver of all good. To her parents and friends I would say: The loved one is safely landed in the Father's home. You will soon follow her. Do not "sorrow, even as others which have no hope."

Jesus has taught us that wherever there was want there He would be; wherever there was goodness and purity and chastity and virtue and love and mercy there He would be found. Wherever is the melody of peace, there is His voice; wherever are the soft strains of sympathy, there is His whisper. He told us to find Him in the prison cell, by the side of the sick and feeble, in the homes of the husbandless and friendless, where orphans cry for the vision of a mother's face they shall not on earth again behold, and where widow's wear their crowns of weeds. He told us to listen for His voice in the groan of despair, the shriek of fear, the sigh of grief, and the moan of the outcast. In the gloom of this sad hour, do we not hear a voice saying: "The Master had need of her." Soon these thick fogs of time, looking through which we misjudge God, and misunderstand each other, shall vanish at the radiant appearing of the one who shall shed from His countenance the glorious sunlight of heaven. God grant that the light of that countenance may be seen in the features of our souls, forever transfigured by the light of His glory.

Every believer who enjoys normal health has some special gift which might truly be designated as the gift of God. Ask yourself now, if you have never before done so, "What is my special gift?"