

# THE Raleigh Enterprise.

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## LETTER FROM BILKINS.

**Mr. Bryan is Still in Training—Speaker Cannon—Early Snow at Bilkinsville—The Local Sportsmen Hold a Session and Spin a Few Yarns, Some of Them Being Fish Stories.**

Correspondence of the Enterprise.

December 4th, 1907.

I see Mr. William Jennings Bryan is still raining for the next presidential fight, and is dieting himself so he will have lots of wind and won't get tired. Billy has been running purty near ever since I kin remember anything about it. He has won a gude many premiums and blue ribbons for fast going and high jumping and the like. But if he has ever been president the papers don't mention it. I'd give the price of a gude shoate to see Billy president for about half a day. But I reckon the day of miracles is about over. When he gets to be president it will be after the office goes a-beggin'.

This is one of the most peaceable countries on earth, even if it has had a Cannon for speaker of the House at Washington. He was an ole gun, too, but he is the sort that causes a gude deal of destruction when he is fired off.

We are having a big snow at Bilkinsville today, and the rabbits are getting ready to immigrate. This town is full of rabbit hunters and fishermen. To hear some of them talk you would think that they had killed at least a million rabbits in the past. I always wink the other eye when some of them begin to spin rabbit yarns and fishin' stories. But they kin tell some stories that would make a stranger open his eyes. Bill Simpkins was here one day last summer and was sitting on a goods box in front of the store talkin' fishin'. He said that he went sayneing one day down on Middle Crick, just after the war and dragged out forty bushels of fish ranging in size from half a pound to twenty-four pounds apiece—awl caught in about thirty minutes by sayneing up and down the crick a distance of a hundred yards. They were several sitting around and they tried to change the subject, but Bill went right on talkin', and said that after haulin' the fish home he took off his wet clothing and put on dry duds, and when he shook his clothes about six bushels more fish and several eels and turtles came out of the clothing. Some of them sitting around tried to change the subject again, but Bill wouldn't stop. He said he caught a whale in Swift Crick with a hook and a line that was sixty-four feet long, and he figured that it must have weighed not less than fifty-five thousand pounds and eight ounces, or thereabouts. If this thing keeps up the Governor will have to call a special session of the legislature to suppress the fishermen living around Bilkinsville. They air a site.

The big snow today was a cool surprise. We ain't used to snow in these diggins so early. I have been seeing that the weather man was predicting a warm wave and I was getting up firewood as fast as I could, for I knew a cold wave was on the way. The manager of the weather

burow at Bilkinsville must be a grandson of Annyias, for he kin get up more yarns about what the weather is going to be than two of them lightening stenographers could take down in four months. When he predicts a warm wave I always carry my overcoat and a hot brick in my overcoat pocket. When he puts out a rumor that it is going to be a cold wave, I put on my linen duster and carry a palm leaf fan. That is the only way to keep even with these weather predictors. They air a plum site.

Az ever,

ZEKE BILKINS.

## The Marital Unrest

In the time of our great-grandmothers and grandmothers nobody thought of dissolving the marriage tie. A woman's career was marriage, and having once embarked upon it she never considered going back.

But in these days debate is rampant, and so many persons have considered going back that one wonders what slight reciprocal affection induced them ever to advance at all. Probably it was not affection, but attraction, which depends upon outward and visible signs rather than inward and spiritual graces, and can cause the most unlikely and unblendable character to find each other irresistibly charming. And while they are finding each other charming, marriage is so easy! Since the beginning of the world, admonition and advice have done very little toward the curbing of passion, and the obstacles have only served to excite it.

And it is not too much to say that most young people, if left to form their own characters, with little in the way of respectability forced upon them and a great deal in the way of responsibility forced upon them and a great deal in the way of comfort and pleasure at their right hand, will form rather self-indulgent characters, which, rushing rapturously into matrimony, as it were into the seventh heaven, are exceedingly chagrined to find how much self-denial is demanded of them when they get there. Nobody has explained to them what marriage, and the companionship of it really means, nor what a fund of tact and tenderness, forbearance, good-will and gentle judgment one must have to tide over the hard places that come, at times, to even the most loving couples.—Carlina Duer, in the Delineator.

Peter W. Hairston, of Davie County, and one or two others were riding horseback near Walnut Cove a few days ago, when Mr. Hairston's horse shied, throwing the rider in a gully on the roadside. Mr. Hairston received a severe gash over his right eye, his nose was broken, his wrist sprained and he was hurt otherwise.

Last week Charles Waters, about twenty-two years old, got a load of saw-paw at Marion and returning to his boarding-house at Cliffside, Rutherford County, proceeded to raise a rough house. An officer was called and in trying to escape from the officer Walters jumped into the river and was drowned.

## OPINIONS IN A NUTSHELL.

Looks as if Old Prosperity was getting his second wind.—New York Mail.

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Nothing sobers a business man quicker than to find money tight.—Washington Post.

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The Russian Douma, it is said, may fall. However, it will not have far to fall.—Philadelphia Ledger.

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College presidents continue to deplore hasty talk and then lose a lot of it.—Philadelphia Ledger.

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If the banks would let up now the other interests of the country are about ready to do it.—Philadelphia Press.

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New York's Horse Show was a financial failure, but as a millinery display it was flawless.—Philadelphia Ledger.

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We are making financial history, but the prophets are not agreed as to the final chapter.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

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Has any census been made of the men who think they know what the President's message will say?—New York World.

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Better do your holiday shopping with the money you are hoarding before the burglars get it.—Philadelphia Press.

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The army test rides cost \$15,000. But what is that compared to the amusement they gave the President?—New York Sun.

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The fact that turkeys are plentiful doesn't seem to have occurred to the people that are fixing the prices.—Baltimore Sun.

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Since New York bankers admit that the crisis is past, perhaps they will soon loosen up on depositors' money.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

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Eleven murders have taken place in one Kentucky "speak-easy" within a year. Kentucky takes its prohibition sadly.—New York World.

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It seems that the President was in no danger while on the Mississippi, but he thought he was, which was equally distressing.—Philadelphia Ledger.

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The usefulness of the Panama Canal in floating a loan is only a suggestion of the great purpose it is to serve in floating ships.—Washington Star.

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In spite of the assurance that the President is toning down his message, his critics do not appear to be toning down their remarks.—Washington Post.

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Admiral Evans is a man always ready to do his duty—to sail a ship or fire a blazing sentence when it shall please his country to need a hot phrase.—Baltimore Sun.

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"There will be a further drop in the prices of provisions and meats."

says an Armour manager. "Further?" Has anyone noticed the previous drop?—New York World.

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Money stringency is said to have sent formerly well-to-do New Yorkers to the pawn-shops. The experience may teach them how the other half lives.—Philadelphia Ledger.

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Twenty thousand automobiles are licensed in this State, and sometimes you get the idea that they are all in operation at the street corner where you want to cross.—Philadelphia Press.

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A company has been formed in Paris to operate sight-seeing airships. With "rubber-neck balloons" it will not be long until we shall have to tunnel, if we seek any privacy.—New York Sun.

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An Ohio convict made \$20,000 while serving a five-year term. He got board and clothing free, too. A scramble may be expected for positions under that warden.—Philadelphia Ledger.

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We are not at all choice. We take \$10 gold pieces, with or without the words, "In God We Trust"; also greenbacks, silver, nickels, coppers and scrip. It all looks good to us.—Durham Sun.

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The discovery of the Kuskwagmites in Central Alaska by a Philadelphia professor may be pleasant for the Kuskwagmites, but we fear it will revive that simplified spelling controversy.—New York Tribune.

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The shooting season is yet young, but the opening promises well. So far the number of persons killed or maimed by the accidental discharge of guns, or by being mistaken for game, is large.—Statesville Landmark.

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Now that it has been discovered that persons can converse over the telephone with the transmitters placed upon their chests we expect it will become usual for young people to hold the instrument over the cardiac region and thus indulge in real heart-to-heart talks.—New York Tribune.

## Christmas Work.

December means Christmas to the children, so we want the whole month to be used for working up the Christmas Offering. The tiny stockings proved such a success last year that all Leaders who used them then will want to use them again. Other Leaders also will join in this plan and we hope to have the offering go beyond our fondest expectations.

Please explain fully to the children that their money this Christmas will go toward the building of the Sunbeam School at Ying Tak, China. Since this is their very own work, they will feel a deeper interest in collecting all the pennies possible in the bright little stockings.

If you have no Sunbeam Society in your church, will you not have the children join in this Christmas Offering? Letters have been sent to the Sunbeam Leaders and on plans fully explained. If you wish a pattern for the stockings and full explanation of our plans, they will be sent you upon application.