

# The Meyersdale Commercial.

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## MOUNTAIN BELL.

North Carolina-Tennessee Mountain District Preacher in Town--Speaks in the Churches--An Interesting Character, a Self-Sacrificing Labor of Love.

Mountain Bell, Cross Trail Pilot has been living among these people as one of them for over three years living in a cabin which they have built for him and riding a distance of 75 to 100 miles each week on horse back to reach his four mountain missions. By leaving the Bible in the cabin, the love of God in their heart, and then by being firm and bringing the message clear and plain they look from the Pilot of the trail to the Master Pilot above and there find that Jesus was a man among men. It is not a trail of roses but the Great Physician and Shepherd of the Hills are one and there shall be one fold and one shepherd. Mr. Bell was born in Mankato, Minn., and received his education in the north. He has the southern spirit and the call of the mountains is law to him.

He has been with us for over a week and has presented his work in the local churches, the Brethren Sunday school, the Luther League and at the Sunday evening service in the Methodist church.

He is securing supplies from the various Board of Education in the large cities, chalk, pencils, slate, and anything which will assist the children to learn the lessons of life and be the means of teaching others for in the mountains as in no other place a little child shall lead them gently along the Trail of the Cross.

Rev. Bell leaves here for Frostburg, Cumberland, and Harper's Ferry. He wishes to express his thanks to those who have helped him, and the shadow of the Alleghenies is also dear to him.

The library's of the north furnish no guide to Smoky Mt. which we will call the Heart of the Hills, the dividing line between North Carolina and Tennessee. Our highest point is Mt. Mitchell, 6,711 feet high. We will go from 50 to 75 miles along either slope of Great Smoky without being able to cross except through a water gap or by blazing a trail which would mean camping out all night upon the Mt. Here we find a virgin forest of hard wood, together with the southern pitch pine and cypress. The timber is shot down the mountain side through bark shutes and then hauled to the mill by ox teams along the valley road. The only means of transportation along the mountain trails is by saddle horse or pack.

As we near the cabin the old man greets us in this way, "Stranger you all better come in and rest your hat." The mountaineer is a tall, lank, husky built fellow, after the lines of Abe Lincoln. His dress is as simple as his entire life. Hat, necktie, shirt, blue jeans, corduroy, boots and the 44 caliber gun or Winchester, which is a part of their dress. As we enter the cabin we find a one room--log cabin similar to the one Abe lived in when a boy, for we are not progressive in the mountains and they think what was good enough for their father is good enough for their boy.

The mountaineer is a mountaineer but every mountaineer is not a moonshiner. Among the reasons they give for distilling their corn whisky is that grain is hard to transport through the mountains and that the government owes them nothing and they owe the government nothing and they reject any interference from an outsider or furnisher as we are called, for one of the mountain laws is "Mind your own business."

Ask the mountaineer as to the time of day and he will point to the sun marks on the cabin door. We also see the spinning wheel, the shuttle loom and candle mould for we are in the Land of Yesterday. Some of the boys work in the lumber camps on the Tennessee side of the mountain while others content themselves by raising small crops of sugar cane, tobacco and corn on the cleared ground around the cabin.

Christmas is a great day in fact it is the only day in their social calendar as it includes the Fourth of July, Thanksgiving and New Years, and a wedding is usually postponed until this day and thus becomes a part of the celebration. The honeymoon is never after the wedding but always before from the time when the father of the girl stops the boy on the trail and says "Reckon you all better tote some logs down yere for a cabin until ole man and his ole woman are

ready to occupy it just after Christmas. It is often better to tie the grom to a pine tree away from the moonshine jug until the time comes to tie him to the girl then she'll take care of him in mountain style. For music we have the fiddle and the banjo and it doesn't take much music to start the Virginia reel or square dance. Eating bear meat before an old Yule log is where the old man of the mountains shines in all his glory. There are no doctors within 20 to 40 miles and no undertakers so the body of the dead must be buried within 12 hours after death. As that is too short notice for their kin folks they hold an anniversary of a death six, nine or twelve months after, at which the funeral sermon is preached; it is also a big feast day with them and then follows what we would call a family reunion in the north.

The men will go off among the trees and the same questions which came up in the Lincoln-Douglas debate are still problems for the mountaineer. The sheriff is a much greater man (in the mountains) than the president. It takes two presidents to make one sheriff. The mountain preacher is given the title of the Man from There for the message he brings is the word of God and God is there--somewhere beyond the skies. There are no neighbors in the mountains as the cabins are from one to three and four miles apart, so every gathering of the people is more or less a social occasion with them. The Ninety and Nine is the mountain hymn. The ninety and nine safely lay in the shelter of the fold--But the angels echoed around the throne Rejoice for the Lord brings back his own. As I look back across the valleys along the mountain trails I can see again Dave and Steve and Sal and Nell desperate? ignorant? No let us rather lay our hand on their shoulder in a friendly sort of way, for they are our brothers and sisters of the hills. Diamonds in the rough. And as the sun sets beyond the Cumberland ridge and the mountain day is done the old woman of the cabin is right smart glad to meet up with you all again and we are more content to dwell in our house by the side of the road for the mountaineer needs not so much a vision of the great world outside of the mountains as a greater vision of his world and what God requires of Man.

It has been reported that some one is making the rounds alleging that contributions be made for Mountain Bell and his work. No one is authorized to collect money. If any feel like giving to this cause, money left at the Commercial office will be handed to Mountain Bell.

### SERVICES AT CONFLUENCE.

Next Saturday, April 19th, Rev. J. Brady will go to Confluence, where he will hold services in Coughenour's hall at 9:00 o'clock in the morning.

### SOMERSET TOWN COUNCIL.

By a vote of four to two Somerset Town Council refused to co-operate with the Civic Club in a general clean-up day, which citizens have scheduled for May 8th. The vote was taken on a written request for two teams and wagons to be used in removing garbage, approved by Burgess Frank M. Forney. The teams, it is claimed would cost not more than eight dollars.

Council's action has caused a storm of protest and it is said that reconsideration will be demanded at the next meeting of the council on May 8th.

The following voted against the civic club's proposition: William H. Kantner, Howard R. Boose, M. Varner and Walter L. Morrison. Councilmen Clarence E. Pyle and Ross R. Scott cast the affirmative votes.

Some members of council said the municipality has no money available to appropriate to Civic Club, while others expressed the opinion that the club women (and nearly all the members are women) are becoming entirely too active in civic affairs and should confine themselves more to domestic duties.

### LOCAL AND GENERAL SCHOOL NEWS.

The Parent-Teachers' Association held its first meeting in the High School building on Friday evening. It is to be regretted that so few of the patrons were in attendance. Meetings of this nature should excite more interest on their part for no parent is so busy but that he could give at least one evening a month to think and plan for the welfare of his children.

The program was opened by a piano solo, by Sanford Weinstein. The adoption of the minutes of the previous meeting, was followed by the admission of several new members. After a selection by the High School Glee Club, Rev. Goughnour read a paper on "The Moral Training of Children in the Home." Rev. Goughnour said, in part, that the church and home have been neglectful of their duties hitherto. The community has better schools than it deserves. The home is most responsible for the morals of children. The church, school, and state are also responsible but moral training must begin in the home. When parenthood has been lightly regarded, there has been a degraded civilization. Training is of a two-fold nature, a repression of the bad, and an encouragement of the good. Evil manifestations are not always the result of evil, but of misdirection. True morality is the doing of good, not the shunning of evil. Repression must not be too severe. Spare the rod and use some brains. We should encourage pleasurable activity, confidence, truthfulness, unselfishness, and self-respect. Good habits are as easy to form as bad ones.

In the general discussion that followed, Mr. Cohen said that the school must step in to remedy cases where the home is unable to help. The Ninety and Nine is the mountain hymn. The ninety and nine safely lay in the shelter of the fold--But the angels echoed around the throne Rejoice for the Lord brings back his own. As I look back across the valleys along the mountain trails I can see again Dave and Steve and Sal and Nell desperate? ignorant? No let us rather lay our hand on their shoulder in a friendly sort of way, for they are our brothers and sisters of the hills. Diamonds in the rough. And as the sun sets beyond the Cumberland ridge and the mountain day is done the old woman of the cabin is right smart glad to meet up with you all again and we are more content to dwell in our house by the side of the road for the mountaineer needs not so much a vision of the great world outside of the mountains as a greater vision of his world and what God requires of Man.

Prof. Kretschman said that the child should be taught absolute obedience first.

After the reading of the proposed constitution and by-laws, a discussion arose as to the purpose of the organization, whether the meetings should be held solely for the discussion of school problem or whether the Association should become an active body, supplementing the work of the School Board and the teachers.

Several lines of action were suggested and it is likely that some of these will be taken up in the near future.

Similar organizations in other towns have succeeded in stopping the sale of cigarettes to minors, aided in enforcing attendance and securing punctuality, and have been of great assistance in relieving conditions in the less fortunate homes, problems which have always been rather perplexing to the school authorities.

All those who believe in the child, in the conservation of his strength, and the development of his body, mind, and morals, should come and take an active part in these meetings.

THE FIRST MONTESSORI SCHOOL IN AMERICA.

In the past, Tonesdale has been known as the home of one of the greatest filtration plants in the world, supplying Philadelphia with water. In the future it may become famous as the seat of the first American school buildings, erected to house pupils under the Montessori method of instruction. While still an experiment, the adventure in education is producing results that far exceed the expectations of its founders. Mrs. J. Scott Anderson, the directress of the school, has spent some time in Rome under the instruction of Dr. Montessori and is a thoroughly capable woman. The boys and girls, from three to six years old, are learning to read, write, and figure, in less time than one could well believe, were it not for the evidence of their accomplishments. One of the basic principles of the Montessori method is to attract rather than compel a response. Instead of "hammering in" knowledge, the idea is to draw it out. The word "don't" is never used in this school. All corrections are positive in their nature. The children soon learn to love the "toys" that are teaching them things of value. A daily record is kept of each child's progress, noting the date on which, this or that of the tests was chosen. If, at the end of several weeks, the child has not chosen to do some of the tasks, an effort is made to attract, never to compel, the child to the ones neglected.

Thus far, eighteen children have been under training and their records show remarkable progress in nearly

every case. Already the school is besieged by petitions from parents and it looks as if greater provision must be made or children turned away.

To the observer, the Montessori method seems to be the common sense way of developing well-rounded children and well-rounded children are the well-rounded men and women of tomorrow.

Mrs. Jerome Countryman living at the edge of town died last Thursday April 10th at the age of 78 years 7 mos. and 2 days. She had been ailing for several years but she passed away rather unexpectedly. She was the daughter of the late Frederick P. Walker, of Summit township. She belonged to a family of sixteen sons and daughters, the majority of whom predeceased her to the world beyond.

On the 25th of December 1855 she was married to Jerome Countryman, the late Rev. Wm. Conrade, of Berlin performing the ceremony. Four children were born to this union, two sons and two daughters. The sons, Charles and Norman died some years ago, the daughters are Mrs. F. C. Youkin, of Rockwood and Mrs. Conrad Bonheimer, of near Meyersdale. The deceased is survived also by her aged husband, by three brothers, Messers Justus and Frederick F. Walker, of Summit township, and by two sisters, Mrs. Dianna Countryman of Oklahoma and Mrs. Belinda McKenzie of Nebraska, and also by four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Mrs. Countryman was a member of Hay's Reformed church, Brothersville township where her remains were laid to rest last Saturday afternoon. The funeral services were conducted by Rev. Dr. Truxal of Meyersdale, who had been ministering unto her in spiritual things and Rev. H. W. Vlant, her pastor. Mr. Conrad Bonheimer, the son-in-law, with his family has been living with the aged people and Mr. Countryman will continue to make his home with them.

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THE MOOSE BANQUET.

Don't overlook the fact that the Moose banquet and ball will be held tomorrow night, (Friday, April 18th,) at their home in the Appel & Glessner building. Preparation has been made to accommodate a large crowd, and nothing has been left undone that will add to the comfort and enjoyment of their guests. The local lodge of Moose are royal entertainers and the committee in charge of the affair have gone the limit for this occasion. There will be good music for the dancers and plenty of "eatings" for the hungry. If you are from Missouri spend an evening with the Moose herd and you will be convinced that they are adepts in the art of sociability and high class entertainers. Follow the crowd. The last trolley car will leave for Salisbury at 11:45 P. M. Tickets can be had at the hall.

### FOR BUSINESS MEN ONLY.

One of our local merchants received a letter of inquiry from Confluence concerning an ad. which appeared in The Commercial and later sold a nice bill of goods to the inquirer. The merchant heartily believes in advertising in The Commercial. Most business men know the value of The Commercial ads; others are gradually catching on.

### PARTY AT SHAW MINES.

Mr. and Mrs. James Thomas gave a very pleasant surprise party in honor of the former's sister, Miss Nora Thomas' birthday, at their home at Keystone Mines, Friday evening of last week. A delightful evening was spent by all present.

### BIRTHDAY PARTY.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Miller, entertained about thirty little friends of their sons, Cedric and Paul, on Monday evening at their home on Meyers avenue, in honor of their birthdays, Cedric's being Monday and Paul's on Thursday. A delicious supper was served and a pleasant evening spent by all present in playing games. Later they were taken to the Rex Theatre which was very much enjoyed. May they have many more happy birthdays.

### PARENT - TEACHER MEETING.

Rev. H. L. Goughnour Reads Strong Paper--The Moral Training of Children in the Home.

#### THE MORAL TRAINING OF CHILDREN IN THE HOME.

is transformed into a rebel. Taken all in all the method of repression is the inferior one and the one that should be used less often. It would be well to apply more generally Abe Martin's homely paraphrase, "Spare the rod and use more brains!"

The primary and positive method of training the child in morals is the development of the good inherent within his being. And it may be well to pause to assert that the good is there. It is present in his make-up in more abundance than the evil. The reason more of it is not called into expression is that we place him in a bad environment and use poor methods in his training. The method of developing the good is more difficult than the method of repressing the evil; but it is also more safe and more sure. It avoids most of the dangers attendant upon repression and best secures the results that are so anxiously sought by the parent and teacher. The first step is to actually convince the child that you always have his welfare at heart--that you are unconditionally his friend. To do this it is necessary to wisely imagine yourself in his world and help him to supply his needs. The joyousness of the child-nature must ever be encouraged. It is also supremely important that he be kept employed, and mainly employed with such activities as he enjoys. When you have gained the child's complete confidence, by supplying these fundamental needs, then your appeal to his better nature will be an appeal of power, and even the word of restraint will be kindly received. The next step is a firm determination, consistently carried out, that the positive method shall always receive the primary emphasis. The value of truth will always be emphasized above the awfulness of a lie. The beauty of unselfishness will be depended upon to overcome a too-strong guarding of self-interest. Appeals will be made to self-respect more than to hatred and to the esteem of others rather than to same. Love of parents and love of God rather than the fear of either will be advanced as motives of conduct. When occasions arise for the natural exercise of such virtues as self-denial, patience in disappointment, self-control in exciting and painful situations, and all such, their beauty and nobility will always be highly extolled. In these and every conceivable other way the positive side of life will receive the primary emphasis.

The first thing to be asserted about the method of repression is that it is inferior to the method of developing the good. It is the easier phase of the task of moral training, and for that reason is used very much too exclusively. It seems to be thought that the one thing needful is to recognize the wild shoot instantly when it appears and apply the pruning knife at once. The theory is that the sap will then naturally flow into the fruit-bearing branches. But the danger in applying this method is that the dresser of this human plant shall fail to discriminate between the good and evil shoots. Often there are evil manifestations that do not spring from evil impulses. The child's anger, falsehoods, selfishness, jealousies, cruelties and tyrannies are not always the result of evil. Often they are the result of ignorance. The child must be instructed. Often they are the result of uncontrolled energy. It is better to direct the energy than to knock all energy out of the child. Of course, the child is not perfect. At times there is manifestation of actual evil. Such manifestation must be promptly and firmly checked. For it is partly through external repression that the child learns moral distinctions and develops self-control. But it is well to always give the child the benefit of the doubt and to take the attitude of the teacher more often than that of the tyrant.

There are three other specific dangers to be guarded against in employing the method of repression in training the child. The first of these is that the child shall come to look upon morality too exclusively in a negative light. True morality is primarily positive, the doing of the good rather than the evasion of the evil. Of course, the evil must be overcome, but the best way to overcome it is to supplant it with the good. That goodness has been considered to consist mainly in freedom from evil, has been one of the chief defects of most Christian nurture. The second danger in repression is that it shall be too severe. No amount of repression can restrain a healthy child's activities. His energies cannot be bottled up. It is just here that the break often comes between parents and children. Being forbidden to do the things they must do, they practise them in secret. Thus they learn secrecy and deceit. The demand for bodily exercise on the part of the child simply must be provided for, and its normal activities dare not be throttled. The third danger in repression is that it shall be too strict. Account for it as we may, it is a peculiarity of human beings that they do not like to appear as patterns of virtue. This may appear to be reprehensible, but it is a fact that must be reckoned with. The rudeness in boys, and sometimes girls, is oftentimes nothing more than a safeguard against being classed with the superlatively good. And I am not sure that this trait is entirely bad. It is more often than anything else a protest against our negative conceptions of child morality. Where positive and sympathetic instruction is given, it rarely results that the child

### ATTENDED FUNERAL.

Mr. and Mrs. John Stacer, Mrs. Mary E. McKenzie and Miss Emma Weber, attended the funeral of their cousin, Mrs. John W. Walsh, which took place in Cumberland, on Monday morning. Mrs. Walsh was a niece of Mrs. Anna Weber and was well known here as she frequently visited her aunt. Mrs. Mary Hannan, Mrs. John Ryan, John P. Kelley and son, John, also attended the funeral.