

of mountain ministers are going off to school and returning with new ideas. These ideas sometimes bring grief to the godly parents whose very lives are embedded in a fixed belief but the new ideas are there to stay. We have seen experienced mountain preachers go away for a term or two of schooling because they had the inner consciousness that they lacked the information necessary to keep within hopeful distance of their own children.

The change in the religious thinking of the mountains is on the way. But in seeking to hasten the change the liberals or any other religious zealots, should not endeavor to undermine the fundamental religious faith of the mountain man, because at the present time it is the backbone of his social life. Couple a broader interpretation of the scriptures and harmony of denominational groups with the fervor and feelings of the man or woman from the mountains and you have created a spiritual force that will sweep the world.

#### *THIS MAGAZINE SHOULD LIVE*

*Mountain Life And Work* is finishing the first year of its existence with this issue. It has blazed a trail in mountain literature that should be kept open and used for the dissemination of facts and wholesome information about the Southern Highlands.

Berea College nearly fifty years ago began to plead the cause of this great neglected portion of the United States. Later, such apostles as Dr. John C. Campbell came to the mountains and then went back to the rest of the nation with the story of their wonderful discoveries. Their discoveries were of a different character from those that had been made by national leaders who sought the man-power of the mountains in time of war.

These great educators and propagators of Christianity were looking for minds to train and souls to save. They found a great population with the antecedents and national traditions of the proudest Scotch, Irish, English and Dutch inhabitants of the more enlightened parts of our country. Many well meaning though self-satisfied American citizens have considered cannon fodder in times of war the most promis-

ing attainment for the average mountaineer. It is but natural that such a conception should get abroad since feuds and vendettas in times of peace and sharp shooting in times of war were the principal channels of publicity open to the mountains. Practically every grand division of our country has had its "booms" and "wildcatting" except the mountains. Every region has had its press agents except the mountains. They have all had their great railroad openings except the mountains. They have all had their allurements that enticed the adventurous American youth who must either starve or turn his genius into prosperity. The mountains have been the seed bed for the rest of the nation. Illustrious sons and daughters of the Appalachian hills are to be found in every state in the Union, and in greater numbers in the newer states of the West. The notable movement that went on in the mountains for more than a century was an exodus. Only within the last fifth of a century has any migration at all been toward the mountains and yet they have a wonderful virile and sturdy stock. There are more than four millions of people in these mountains still. They are slowly going forward but too slowly for the good of the nation as a whole.

The mountains should have a press agent. A press agent that will tell the truth and be sure to tell it. The mountain country should not be ashamed of the truth. It is so electrified with romance and crowned with chivalry as to make its story the most fascinating reading of modern American life. The patience and hopeful expectation of the mountain women should be an inspiration to the girls of the rest of the country.

*Mountain Life and Work* has aspired to become a voice or a press agent for this great region. It has extended its feeble efforts over one year and now waits upon the verdict of the reading public for its further action. It has become necessary for the present editor who is giving up his work in the field of education for another connection to relinquish his title as EDITOR and take less responsible connection with the publication. He hopes to continue as

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