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**QUIET CON'T**

"I love every inch of North Carolina's soil; but who will blame me for loving my mounta in region best? I love it best because it is my native land. To every man with a real heart beating in his breast, home is the dearest place on earth. And it is characteristic of every mountaineer to love his home. He loves his land. He lives close to Nature. He loves the wide, open spaces, and he refuses to be crowded."\*

This explains the closeness of the small community to Nature and God and those around him;--the love of the land and the surge of pride the farmer feels surveying his field of tassling corn waving gently in the cool breezes of the mountains; the feel of the ground beneath his feet; the rich, black soil running through his fingers;--the glory of Creation under the soft, quieting hand of God. How can you feel this surrounded by concrete and steel, skyscraping buildings, smoke and smog that obscures even the bare pinch of blue sky far above? (My own personal feeling, of course).

Small town and city, they're both America in its glory--some prefer one, others the other--who can say which is better,--but as Judge Alley said:

"...let me live among my native mountains, down where the limpid springs bubble and laugh at the foot of the hill, where I can see the multitude of craigs and pinnacles of our great mountain land; and where, in the hush of the bed-time hours, I can listen to the whispers of the zephyrs; where I can hear the hum of the insects, the songs of the birds, the murmur of the rivulets, the brawl of the brooks, the laughter of the cascades, the turmoil of the torrents, the crash of the cataracts, the roar of the tempests, the blast of the thunderbolts, and the prolonged echoes of their terrible explosions." \*

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\* Taken from Judge Alley's Random Thoughts and Musings of a Mountaineer. Printed with the permission of the author, to Edwina Summer before his death.

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