

# Sylvan Valley News

Our County—Its Progress and Prosperity the First Duty of a Local Paper.

J. J. MINER, Manager.

BREVARD, TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY, N. C., FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1907

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## TRANSYLVANIA LODGE

No. 143, K. of P.

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## Aunt Sally's Peddler.

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Aunt Sally Warner was a physiognomist. When a peddler offered her goods she looked him in the face instead of at his wares and usually told him to go on.

One day a peddler came by whom she looked in the face and said:

"You are the only honest peddler I have seen in ten years. You can bring me in six milk pans."

"But how do you know that I am honest?" queried the man, wondering if she was making game of him.

"By your looks."

All tin peddlers buy sheepskins. Aunt Sally had one nailed up on the barn door, and after a bit of chattering about the price she went out to get it, leaving the man on the piazza. When she returned the exchange was effected and the peddler departed. He thanked her for her compliments and confidence, and he was told to call again if he came that way. There was no ruction until about sundown. Then Aunt Sally discovered that silverware, cutlery and other things were missing. It had taken her about fifteen minutes to get the sheepskin, during which time the peddler was alone on the piazza. She figured it out in her own mind that no one else could have taken the stuff, and she vowed to have him pursued to the ends of the earth. Nevertheless when the hired man agreed with her and said it was a straight case she bristled up and replied:

"Jim Davis, you are a fool! That peddler never took 'em. I'll wager my life he's an honest man. Some one must have climbed into a window and robbed the house."

The hired man smiled pityingly and disdainfully, but had nothing further to say. That night, however, without a hint to Aunt Sally, he set a country constable on the trail. Next morning, without a word to him, the widow went to the village to consult the authorities. The justice of the peace and the prosecuting attorney agreed with the hired man. They pointed out the fact that it would have been utterly impossible for any one else to commit the crime. In her heart she thought so, too, but her reputation as a physiognomist was at stake, and she turned on them with:

"You are a couple of idiots to talk as you do. The peddler is as innocent as a babe. What you want to do is to look for a beetle-browed man with a straight nose and a weak chin."

They looked for the peddler instead, and they found him. He was brought back in tears. They didn't find the goods on him, but he almost confessed to the crime. He would have quite confessed but for Aunt Sally. She refused to prosecute. She insisted that he couldn't be guilty, and she wasn't going to have him bulldozed into making a confession. The fellow would have been discharged on the spot, so far as she was concerned, but the authorities had a suspicion that he was mixed up in another case, and it was decided to hold him for a few days. Aunt Sally went home with her jaw "set." She had said the peddler was honest. She had passed her word to stand by him. The fact that the hired man went around with a grin on his face angered her and made her more determined than ever. She slept not at all that night. She turned from side to side and made plans and perfected them.

During the next day Aunt Sally hunted out files from the tool box in the barn and made certain other preparations, and at night, as soon as the hired man went to bed, she hitched up a horse and drove into the village. She had passed the jail many times, and she reached it without being seen. So far as she knew there was only one prisoner there. She couldn't tell what cell he occupied, but she started a board against the wall and climbed up to one of the barred windows. It was summer, and the sash was raised. As she softly called out a prisoner came to the window, and she put the files in his hand and said:

"I am not the woman to leave an honest man to languish in prison. Get to work with these tools and make your way out of this."

"Woman, I'll never forget you!" whispered the man.

"No blarney, but make things hum." Aunt Sally returned home without

discovery. She got up with a smile on her face and a song in her heart, but that benign state didn't last long. First came a constable with the news that he had recovered the plunder. It had been found in the hay mow of the farmer's barn where the peddler had lodged the night of the robbery. He was followed by a messenger from the justice of the peace that the honest peddler had made a confession. A third party called to announce that a prisoner charged with horse stealing and lodged in jail the night before had filed off the bars of his cell and regained his liberty, leaving the files behind. There was one more announcement. It came from Jim Davis, the hired man. He had been down to the pasture to salt the sheep and came back to exclaim:

"Aunt Sally, some one stole our bay horse during last night! It was probably the fellow who broke out of jail!"

Aunt Sally went into her bedroom and sat down for an hour to think things over. At the end of that time she rose up and said to herself:

"I'll never give up that I was wrong, but I guess I'll devote more time to sewing carpet rags and putting up pickled peaches after this!"

M. QUAD.

Sad.



The poet kissed his watch goodby  
And sighed—"I'll have to work it,  
For, though I've jingled in my head,  
There are none in my pocket."  
—Harper's Weekly.

How's This?

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A Tragical Hairloom.

Carefully preserved at Slains castle, the Aberdeenshire seat of the Earl of Erroll, is a single playing card, which recalls a never to be forgotten tragedy. It is the nine of diamonds (hence called to this day "the curse of Scotland") on which the Duke of Cumberland wrote his order for the butchery of the brave highlanders who were taken prisoners at the fateful battle of Culloden.—London Woman's Life.

A Humane Appeal.

A humane citizen of Richmond, Ind., Mr. U. D. Williams, 107 West Main st., says: "I appeal to all persons with weak lungs to take Dr. King's New Discovery, the only remedy that has helped me and fully comes up to the proprietor's recommendation." It saves more lives than all other throat and lung remedies put together. Used as a cough and cold cure the world over. Cures asthma, bronchitis, croup, whooping cough, quinsy, hoarseness and phthisis, stops hemorrhages of the lungs and builds them up. Guaranteed at T. B. Allison's drug store—50c and \$1.00. Trial bottle free.

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