

A CONFUSION OF NAMES

Micanopy, July 12, 1912.

Editor Star: I will tell you to begin with that I am not writing out of any spirit of anger. But a copy of your paper of July 9th, 1912, in which you have a piece about "Dr. Lucius Montgomery of Micanopy," has been shown me.

I am Dr. Lucius Montgomery and the only man by that name in Micanopy or in the state. I practice medicine all over the state and out of the state, and your article is calculated to do me immense harm among people who have no way of knowing your mistake. I go everywhere needed in my automobile, but I have never taken a drink in Keating's or in any other saloon on this earth. My son, Dr. H. L. Montgomery, contracted the unfortunate habit of drinking while at Yale University. Notwithstanding at his graduation there in a class of 614 he stood third and the distinction is written in his diploma. He has been graduated from three of the best colleges in the United States; possibly the most thoroughly educated man in the South. Still whisky is seeming to be his ruin.

If you have need to mention his name in your paper again kindly make such correction as will not let injury attach to me. Very truly,

L. Montgomery.

The Star regrets the mistake. It was perfectly natural to make it. All the young man's friends the reporter met spoke of him as "Lucius," and his formal name was not in evidence until the receipt of the above letter.

No man who reads the above can help a pang of regret and a feeling of sympathy for Dr. Montgomery, who with hope and pride, and at the expense of thousands of dollars educated his son for a brilliant and useful career, and sees his plans wrecked, most probably to gratify the reckless gaits of a bunch of dissipated young college men.

The sentence passed on young Montgomery was not pronounced in a spirit of spite or vengeance. It was to protect the community, which is weary of being overridden and periled in life and limb by the pets of fortune. A man crushed under an over-speeding auto or torn with a bullet doesn't feel any better because steering wheel or trigger was controlled by a madman. It is the state's business to protect its citizens, and they will not be protected from insult and outrage by fines laid on those well able to pay them. Montgomery may deserve more a pleasant room in an asylum than a number in a bunk in the county's traveling prison, but a series of similar sentences for such offenses would materially decrease the number of insane men in the United States. The Star thinks Montgomery should serve his sentence to the last day, but it hopes it will improve his health of body and mind and that he will return to the practice of his profession a sane and sober man.