

**Vale of Humility between Two Mountains of Conceit** <sup>[1]</sup>

**"Vale of Humility between Two Mountains of Conceit"**

by William S. Powell, 2006

"Vale of Humility between Two Mountains of Conceit" is a phrase describing North Carolina that originated from a speech given by [Mary Oates Spratt Van Landingham](#) <sup>[2]</sup> on 6 Mar. 1900. That day, she spoke on the "native literature" of North Carolina before the Mecklenburg Historical Society in [Charlotte](#) <sup>[3]</sup>. Referencing North Carolina's location between South Carolina and Virginia, Van Landingham said, "[Where there are mountains of conceit, there are apt to be valleys of humility](#)." The term has remained a source of tongue-in-cheek pride for North Carolinians.

**Additional Resources:**

Van Landingham, Mrs. John. "A State's Scant Literature: The Native Literature of North Carolina: Influences of the Past; Prospects for the Future."*Glowing Embers*. Charlotte, N.C.:The Observer Printing House. 1922. p. 30. <http://books.google.com/books?id=qgdUAAAAAYAAJ&lpg=PA24&ots=ZPUv-Lliyz&dq=%22The%20native%20literature%20of%20North%20Carolina%22%20landingham&pg=PP1#v=onepage&q&f=false> <sup>[5]</sup> (accessed August 16, 2012).

Hovis, George. *Vale of Humility: Plain Folk in Contemporary North Carolina Fiction*<sup>[6]</sup>. Charleston: University of South Carolina Press. 2007.

Powell, Lew. "Valleys of whatever, mountains of whatever" North Carolina Miscellany (blog). University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. October 1, 2010. <http://www.lib.unc.edu/blogs/ncm/index.php/2010/10/01/humility/> <sup>[7]</sup> (accessed August 16, 2012).

**Subjects:**

[Literature](#) <sup>[8]</sup>  
[N.C. Industrial Revolution \(1900-1929\)](#) <sup>[9]</sup>  
[Slogans, slang, and sayings](#) <sup>[10]</sup>

**Authors:**

[Powell, William S.](#) <sup>[11]</sup>

**Origin - location:**

[Charlotte](#) <sup>[12]</sup>

**From:**

[Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press.](#) <sup>[13]</sup>

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**Links**  
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