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Near the conclusion of *Pioneer in Tibet*, Douglas Wissing characterizes Albert Shelton as “a complex creature: a man who craved both adventure and

social esteem; a doctor who practiced medicine intermittently; a missionary who seldom preached; a devout family man who endangered himself and his family in a perilous post . . . a martial man with numerous guns who espoused a gospel of love, a zealous Christian who came to admire the spirituality of the Tibetans” (p. 214). The book has potential appeal for a broad spectrum of readers precisely because Wissing understands the significance of these contradictions.

At one level *Pioneer in Tibet* is simply a great adventure story.

Albert Shelton was born in 1875 in a working-class neighborhood in Indianapolis, Indiana—then a frontier town. His boyhood spanned the opening...

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