RESPONSIBILITY OF FARMERS' SONS AND DAUGHTERS.

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There is at present a wide-spread feeling of apprehension among those living in the rural districts, who have given the subject any considerable thought, because of the tendency of the young people to leave the farm.

They Leave the Farm.

It is not strange then, that the cry of alarm has gone out from these homes of intelligent and well-to-do farmers whose sons and daughters are becoming so fascinated with the exciting influences that center around large cities, that they thoughtlessly surrender those broad fields and rich acres and let the fire go out forever on the hearthstone of so many ancestral homes. That this is true, we have only to notice the many substantial farm homes throughout the country that are now owned or occupied by our foreign population who, with thrift and economy are individually reaping the benefits attained by our ancestors only after long years of hardship and privation, and which ought to be appreciated by their posterity as a legacy worthy of preservation. Those to the “manor born” carelessly fling away their birth-right to seek some more exalted profession, or join the vast horde of drifting, idle young men who throng the cities in search of something he considers more remunerative, more genteel, or more agreeable, but which too often ends in disappointment and failure. Our daughters, too, grow discontented and pine at the dullness and monotony of country life, and await anxiously a favorable opportunity to find a home in the city, as an aspiration to social advantages or intellectual culture.

Advantages of Farm Life.

While this ambition for wider limitations is commendable, and to an earnest, progressive spirit is not an unnatural desire, yet to those who cherish a deep love for the farm and prefer its retirement and independence to the depleting and exciting life of city, such an ambition may not be entirely satisfactory.

While we do not expect or desire that all our boys remain upon the farm, we would have them realize that the advantages of country life are far superior to that of the majority of those who live in large cities or villages. Their chances for true happiness are better because they can spend what they can afford to with greater advantage, without regard to social strife or individual extravagance.
But we so often look upon life from a wrong standpoint, and see the brightness and glitter of success without appreciating our present opportunities. We believe, however, that great possibilities await the country, and the time is not far distant when, to become a land holder in this fair domain, will be one of the chief objects of man’s ambition.

A Nation’s Generosity.

Strange, that as we write these lines we catch the echo of our German “helper,” who, busy with her work is singing in her clear voice, that old familiar refrain we used to sing in our girlhood, years ago:

“Then come along, come along and make no delay, Come from every nation, come from every way, Our lands are broad enough, don’t be alarmed, For Uncle Sam is rich enough to give us all a farm.”

As we listen we cannot hold in disfavor the extreme generosity that the people of the United States have accorded to other nations, who wish a home within her borders, yet we would do well to remember the scriptural lesson wherein we are taught to first provide for the members of our own household before we extend unlimited generosity to others. There are thousands of unoccupied acres that await the coming of sturdy men to open up their rich resources, that are vastly more accessible to cultivation than were these, our present homes, to the early pioneers. Let those who seek our shores be willing to commence at the lower round in the ladder, and sheltered beneath the banner of stripes and stars, learn through the English language, and in the public schools, the requirements and principles essential to good citizenship, before they assume to cast the ballot for the ruling of the people of our government.

Dignity of Farming.

One of the primary causes that makes farm life so distasteful to the young, is the lack of appreciation of farming as a business among those who are engaged in its pursuits. Popular opinion has long prevailed among some classes that farming ranked among the lowest of industries, and that no one followed it as a vocation who was capable of gaining a livelihood elsewhere, or pursued it only as a stepping stone to some other position, and so predominate has this idea become fixed in some instances that farmers themselves underestimate their true significance, and drift along contentedly in their old ways and methods, uneducated and unprepared to meet other industries at least half way. Dr. Johnson has well said that “He who feels his business below him will surely fall below it.”

Numberless inventions in labor saving machinery have taken away much of the old-time drudgery of farm life. Books, agricultural papers, Farmers’ Institutes, and Experiment Stations have all lent their valuable aid, and today there is no valid reason why the farmer should not be the equal of any class, if he educates himself properly and improves the many avenues open to his advancement. But he who reads but little and isolates himself and family from all social, political or religious gatherings, is sure to develop morbid sensibilities and dwarf the best feelings of his nature.

Today the business world fully realizes that “Upon the prosperity of agriculture depends the success and support of all other industries,” and the progressive farmer is held in high esteem, for skillful, intelligent labor has placed the seal of dignity upon it, and its future possibilities are such that if rightly used shall crown the farmer “The true monarch of the world, the fairest type of man’s achievement.”
Our Great Men.

The world owes much to the farm aside from its material prosperity, of which it will always and ever continue to be the guaranty. Fully three-fourths of the great men whose names adorn the pages of history, were not only poor boys, but were farmers' sons, and learned their first best lessons of life and the world, around the rude fireside of the humble farm home, and devoted their boyhood and industry, decision of character, and dignity of soul, he arose in the full strength of mature manhood, to occupy the highest position in the power of the people of this government to bestow, and the intense earnestness of his life, so cruelly sacrificed, bore at the feet of the Master, the broken shackles of three million slaves.

Our own Washington was always a farmer at heart, for, declining a third

FARM HOME OF MR. AND MRS. J. G. CARR.

young manhood to farm labor. True in after years their genius, philanthropy, or learning had led them into other channels of usefulness, but most of them have been free to acknowledge that the most pleasant recollections of their lives or the period of greatest benefit to them in the way of shaping their character and mode of thought, were associated with the farm.

The life of our immortal Lincoln furnishes an inspiring illustration. He came from a most humble and obscure origin, yet by his persistent in-
term as president, he retired to his home at Mt. Vernon and enjoyed the pleasures of rural life. It may have been at this time that he wrote "The life of a husbandman is of all others the most delightful. It is honorable, it is amusing, and with judicious management it is profitable."

The World's Progress.

What wonderful advancement of mankind has taken place since these words were written more than a century ago!

We are living in an age teeming with new inventions and advanced
ideas—an age of steam and electricity. The marvelous progress in modern science has penetrated the hidden mysteries of the universe as never before in the history of the world, and revolutionized the sphere of every human activity. The steam engine, the electric telegraph, the telephone, the phonograph, photography, X rays, and the sewing machine, are the transforming genii of this wonderful age; even the restless waves of old ocean are being harnessed and will soon furnish the motive power for the manufacturing industries of the world.

Universities and colleges have opened wide their doors for the admittance of both sexes. "Cast out the bond-woman, she shall be free," is sounded throughout the land, and generous minded men bow their heads in approval. Cities are stretching out toward the country, and the country is taking on the refinement and conveniences of the city; innumerable subtle cords reach out and bind the two together with a thousand varied but inseparable interests.

The End is Not Yet.

These and many equally marvelous things in science and evolution mark the present century as one of phenomenal progress, yet science has not exhausted its researches or gained the acme of life's prophetic dream. The closing years of the nineteenth century bears along with its increased intelligence, intricate problems and far-reaching questions, that none but candid, cultured minds can hope to grapple. Never in the history of our national affairs was there a more imperative call for high-minded, self-reliant Christian men and women than now, and we would voice the prayer of Dr. Holland, when he said:

"Oh! give us men; a time like this demands
Great hearts, strong minds, true faith
and ready hands.

Men whom the lust of office cannot kill;
Men whom the lust of office cannot buy;
Men who love honor; men who will not lie;
Men who can stand before a demagogue
And dam his treacherous flatteries without winking;
Strong men, sun-crowned, to live above the fog
In public duty and in private thinking;
For when the rabble in their time-worn creeds,
Their large profession and their little deeds,
Mingle in worldly strife, lo! freedom weeps,
Wrong rules the world, and waiting justice sleeps."

Where shall we hope to find such men as these if not in our country homes, where good influences predominate, where air and sunlight untrammeled, give strength and vigor to the body, and that sweetness and serenity of the mind which comes to us in our highest moments, and which are best obtained beneath a clear sky amid the simplicity and quietness of nature, and from thence we must chiefly recruit the energies of a race that is rapidly exhausting its strength and vitality amid the rush and excitement of smoky cities.

Our Boys and Girls.

We discuss in our farmers' meetings, "Unjust taxation" and other economic questions, with becoming tenacity. We rehearse the oft-repeated lesson of "Balanced Rations for Cows," "Care and Exercise of Breeding Animals," but how we shall best equip our boys and girls that they may meet effectually the great responsibilities that must shortly rest upon them is only a secondary matter. Permit me to use the words of our lamented Professor Blaisdell, who once said in a very valuable address
before the Wisconsin Agricultural Society:—"Yes, farmers of the commonwealth, we need a splendid breed of farmers to enrich with the valuable contributions of their distinguishing qualities, the citizenship of our beloved State, and it is more needful that you look to this in your annual gatherings, than to the methods by which you may have a splendid breed of horses, or improve the stock of Jersey cattle." A recent statistician informs us that in New York City, for example, of the recognized successful men, including bankers, railroad presidents, large manufacturers, vessel owners, doctors, ministers, etc., ninety-six out of every one hundred spent the first twenty years of their life on farms or in small villages.

The Country Boy.

It would seem by this that country boys with their habits of industry and frugality are the controlling power in the majority of successful enterprises of the world today. This should furnish encouragement for the four millions of young in our country at the present time, who ought to possess a strong desire to win a prize in the battle of life. Never was there a more golden opportunity or so equal a chance to gain the highest round in the ladder of success as now, for the poorest boy may become the richest man, or win the highest honors. Young men, there are indeed grand opportunities before you, but he who hopes to win a prize must prepare himself for the race and not enter handicapped, for knowledge, perseverance and concentrated effort is what counts in the world today.

Do we as parents think seriously and with the earnestness that the thought demands, that the destiny of the whole world must soon be given over to the youth and little children of the present, and they become the great and learned men and women of the future, on whom shall rest the burden of the nation’s life for weal or woe? We fear that few of us realize how important and great a work there is to do, to mould and shape their characters that they become strong, self-reliant men and women, able to perform well their part in life’s great unplayed drama.

Benefits of Education.

Education is the golden key which unlocks the portals of the intellectual storehouse, and this alone must solve the problem of their future usefulness or greatness, for, said Webster, "Education is that series of instruction and discipline which is intended to enlighten the understanding, correct the temper, and the manner and the habits of youth, and fit them for usefulness in their future station." Such a training as this cannot fail to give noble aims and a high sense of personal honor, keen perception, strong brain, and sinewy muscles—all of which must be gotten by some stern process of discipline other than that gained in places of vice where men do congregate, or by loitering on the village streets watching the vast procession going by.

What Shall We Teach.

Whether this essential education can be best obtained at the university, agricultural or common school, must depend largely upon the ability or choice of pursuit. But this problem we do not attempt to discuss; however the following advertisement which is said to have appeared in the London Times may furnish some suggestions: "Education. Wanted by a father, a school where his son may receive an education to fit him for a manly and useful life without any humbug as to notions dead and buried thousands of years ago. Address, A., stating terms, etc." In the education of the period no different curriculum is required for girls; they need the same strong elements of character, they enjoy the same advantages of the class-room,
and have an equal chance with man- 
hood. But to this should also be 
added a thorough and practical train-
ing in the science of housekeeping 
that will make her as successful in 
the kitchen as in the school room, or 
learned profession. She should know 
how to cook properly and scientific-
ally, how to do the family marketing 
profitably, how to sweep, dust, wash 
and iron, and be taught and expected 
to share in the responsibilities of 
home making, for in whatever path 
of life she may choose to enter, the 
home sentiment will be the strongest 
and home-making the prime object 
of her life.

"Home and Mother."

The value of a good, well directed 
home is inestimable, and the refin-
ing influences that center around the 
inmates give strength and tenor to 
the character just as decisive strokes 
or soft delicate shadings of the 
artist's brush give tone and expression 
to a beautiful picture. The nation's 
welfare rests with the mothers and 
daughters of today, for, said Emerson, 
"The test of civilization is not the 
size of cities, not the crops, but the 
kind of men the country turns out, 
and the kind of men the country 
turns out will ever depend mainly 
upon the kind of women the country 
breeds; for the moral man is formed 
at the knees of his mother." Therefore, 
what we need most of all are 
good homes and good mothers—mo-
thers who are themselves examples 
of truthfulness, chastity and courage, 
and have an abiding sense of the 
great responsibility committed to her 
care.

"O! wondrous power, how little un-
derstood!

Instructed to a mother's mind alone— 
To fashion genius from the soul for 
good."

Woman's Influence.

Woman has proven herself capable 
of filling with dignity and honor, all 
the various positions she has chosen 
to occupy, socially, mentally, and 
physically, but it is in the home 
where she shall win her highest and 
noblest achievements. In the present 
day she is so occupied in outside af-
fairs that she is thought by some to 
be losing somewhat of the charm of 
her influence as wife and mother, but 
once assure her that danger threatens 
her household and awaken her con-
science thoroughly, and she will sacri-
fice herself if need be, in the defense 
and protection of her home, and those 
she loves, and instinctively will say 
"My every day life, my drudging 
tasks are important and necessary, 
and if rightly done are dignified and 
glorified. I will henceforth put into 
all my plans and acts the angel-aim 
and the angel-peace." Then shall 
the true "new woman" come forth 
with renewed splendor and power, 
and devote herself to the training of 
her children for the use and service 
of the world which they are born 
into. She will teach them reverence 
for the Supreme Being, for no man 
is truly great that does not recognize 
a divine power. She shall teach them 
the love of home and all the Chris-
tian virtues that underlie, like the 
ocean bed, the foundation of every 
true and noble life. She shall train 
them early in habits of industry and 
economy, for they must not be idle 
or drift, yet they shall know the law 
of moderation. Honesty, accuracy 
and punctuality shall be their code 
of business conduct. They shall owe 
no man anything except to love one 
another and bear each others' bur-
dens.

A Happy Result.

Then peace and prosperity shall 
flow from her dwelling like the 
waves of a mighty river rolling on-
ward to the ocean whose purifying 
waters shall cleanse the earth of her 
infirmities and heal the troubled 
spirits of the nation; for her sons 
and her daughters shall go forth with 
disciplined characters, thoroughly 
equipped to meet the responsibilities
of their chosen niche in life with the best that God has given them of mind and soul, and fill our empty places as we verge on old age, with integrity and purity, and, with their fresher and stronger intellect, become the controlling authority in our honored government, and a powerful influence for the elevation of mankind.

"O boys and girls of every State, Be true and noble, strong and great; Humanity with all its fears, With all its hopes of future years, Is hanging breathless on thy fate. Our hearts, our hopes, our prayers, our tears, Our faith triumphant o'er our fears, Are all with thee, are all with thee."

OUR COMMON SCHOOLS.

PROF. J. T. HEALY, Milton Junction, Wis.

PROF. J. T. HEALY.

Writing, in a word, the rudiments of knowledge, there was little attention given to education principles, much less to buildings and facilities, and least of all to the character or moral training of the young. Parents gave but little interest to studies, teachers or buildings; children found less attraction and more repulsion in the school building and apparatus; confusion rather than system or grades prevailed; antagonism existed between the teacher and pupil; words rather than things were taught; a feat of memorizing paragraph after paragraph and holding to rigid and mechanical routine were marked features of our early school; all of which as we now view our educational system were serious defects in a system which aims to attain the truest and most profitable kind of an education for our people.

Horace Mann's Idea.

The evolution from this chaotic condition of things to a now visible school structure still far from perfect, required an educational reformer who dared point out defects, suggest remedies, and adopt plans, despite the bitter opposition of the schoolmaster of the old routine. Horace Mann became the advocate of the new educational doctrine. Says Os-