

A STORY AND COMMENTS.

A young man was very anxious to secure a piece of property which was just then for sale on very advantageous terms. He went to confer with a friend of his, who was a banker, about the matter, and to inquire whether it would be prudent to borrow the requisite sum and pay it in regular instalments. He thought he should be able to manage all but the first instalment. He was advised to borrow from the bank a sum enough larger than he wished to raise to cover the first payment, lay it strictly aside and then go ahead. "But," said his friend, "you must spend literally nothing. You must live off your place. You must make a box and drop in it all the money you receive." The young man and his wife went bravely to work to follow his advice. If it was necessary to dine off a head of bolted cabbage and salt, they did so and never grumbled. Every payment was promptly met. The egg money, and the butter money, and the corn and wheat money—all went into the payment box, and at the specified time the place was their's. There was an invisible wealth about such hard-earned possessions that common observers knew nothing of. On the very day of the last payment the young man presented himself before his friend with a smiling face and with the money in his hand. There were no rags to be seen, but his clothing was well covered with darning from head to foot. "You see I have followed your advice," he said, casting a glance over himself, "and my wife looks worse than I do. But we have earned the farm and now I know how to earn another."—*Cincinnati Times*.

The above touching narrative is doing regular service in our exchanges as a true story of the experience of a young man in agriculture, and the conclusion is that other young men are exhorted to do likewise. This being its manifest purpose, we cannot let it go unchecked, because it is, even if true, wholly inapplicable to the cases of the vast majority of the young men to whom it is held out as a precedent. We believe in exhorting young men to go forward and in urging them to take earnest hold for themselves of the problems of home and livelihood, but it is wrong to incite them by recitals of exceptional experiences.

In the first place, not one young man in a thousand who has to make a start for himself, can find a bank which will loan the full purchase price of a piece of property to anyone unless there be ample collateral security. This young man happened to have a friend who was a banker, and who lent the money as a friend and not as a banker. The implied advice would be, then, young men, go to your rich and generous friends, and get them to accommodate you to an extent beyond what is usual in business transactions. Of course, this advice is, generally, impracticable, because most young men cannot find such indulgent friends.

The banker's advice to the young man about the need of systematic economy and husbanding of every dollar which may be received, is excellent. This, coupled with the disposition to work, will accomplish wonders. We can believe almost any account of individual success by such methods, but it is not wise to draw general conclusions from occasional individual instances, because most young men, or old men either, do not possess the genius of self-denial or accumulation which is requisite to this manner of success. It is also true that since the productive industries of this country entered the area of low values which now prevails, a farm, which, year after year, gives a livelihood to the farmer and returns a surplus equivalent to the interest upon the value of the property, is better than the average of farms. Still more exceptional is the farm which will do both these things, and in addition yield an instalment of its purchase price. Of course it is done in certain cases, but such is not the rule. Sometimes a single crop will well nigh pay for the land on which it is grown, but such crops are like visits of the angels. No; a young man who starts out to pay for a farm which has a mortgage as large as the deed, will, in most cases, find his task like that of lifting himself by his bootstraps. It is hard enough to clear off a mortgage when a good part of the land is free, but this may, in some cases, be wisely undertaken. When it is more than this we should want to be very sure that there was a friend in the bank. Our position is then, concerning the fact described in the narrative, that it is impracticable as a rule, first, because it is impossible to get

the land in the way described; second, if any second could follow a primal impossibility, it would be impossible to keep it if it could be had.

We have now a lesson to read this successful young man. He did well to allude to the economy he and his wife had practiced to secure the end in view; and that his wife was worse off in point of apparel than was he, is only what is commonly the case when a true woman sets out, with womanly devotion, to aid her husband in his home-securing enterprises. But with this fact in mind, the young man concludes: "but I have earned the farm," etc. He was wrong and egotistical beyond measure. His weary and self-sacrificing wife had done fully as much as he had toward their mutual success, and his words should have been "We have earned the farm." Do not forget this fact, successful young men! When your devoted wives labor during the long daylight hours in the home and its attendant industries, the dairy and the poultry yard, and probably sit up half the night, while you are sleeping, toiling with tired fingers to give your worn garments a semblance of respectability, neglecting their own wardrobes that you may be saved from rags—never forget to say "We earned the farm."—*Pacific Rural Press*.

BOYS WANTED.

There are always boys enough in the market, but some of them are of little use. The kind that are always wanted are: 1. Honest; 2. Pure; 3. Intelligent; 4. Active; 5. Industrious; 6. Obedient; 7. Steady; 8. Obliging; 9. Polite; 10. Neat.

One thousand first-rate places are open for a thousand boys who come up to this standard.

Many of these places of trade and art are already filled by boys who lack some of the most important points, but they will soon be vacant. One has an office where the lad who has the situation is losing his first point. He likes to attend the drinking saloon and the theater; this costs more money than he can afford, but somehow he manages to be there frequently. His employers are quietly watching to learn how he gets so much spending money; they will soon discover a leak in the money-drawer, detect the dishonest boy, and his place will be ready for some one who is now getting ready for it by observing point No. 1 and being truthful in all his ways.

Some situations will soon be vacant because the boys have been poisoned by reading bad books, such as they would not dare to show their fathers and would be ashamed to have their mothers see. The impure thoughts suggested by these books will lead to vicious acts; the boys will be ruined, and their places must be filled. Who will be ready for one of these vacancies?

Distinguished lawyers, useful ministers, skillful physicians, successful merchants must all soon leave their places for somebody else to fill; one by one they are removed by death.

Mind your 10 points, boys; they will prepare you to step into vacancies in the front rank.

BRIDGE MATHEMATICS.—To estimate what a bridge will cost any city if it is done by contract: Take the highest figures presented by any engineer and multiply them by the length of the bridge in inches, point off two places, and then add enough to prosecute any one who has anything to do with handling the funds, and the result is—that the bridge is an obstruction to navigation.—*Detroit Free Press*.

"You bigoted nigger," said Sam to Pete. "Big-got-ed, what do you mean by dat?" asked Pete. "Why," replied Sam, "bigoted means you know too much for one nigger, and not enough for two."

RED used on a railway signifies danger, and says "stop." It is the same thing displayed on a man's nose.

A STORY FOR GOOD LITTLE GIRLS.

Mary was a good girl. She loved her dear brothers and sisters. I will tell you one nice thing she did. Her mother was very sick. She had to stay in her bed all night and all day. Mary's father told her one day, "Mary, your mother is too sick to leave her bed. You must be a mother to your little brothers and sisters." And Mary said, "Yes, pa-pa." So her father gave her money. He told her to buy bread and meat and see that all had enough to eat. Mary took the money. When her father had gone to his work she called her brothers and sisters to get-together. She said, "You like candy and cakes and dolls and ba-by rags. You shall have candy and cakes and dolls and ba-by rags." And the children cried, "Oh, that will be so nice!" Then Mary took some rye-meal and made some nice pud-ding. With the money her father had given her she bought candy and cakes and dolls and ba-by rags. The next day they had pud-ding for breakfast. For dinner they had pud-ding, they had pud-ding for supper. They had pud-ding three times a day for two weeks. When their mother got well they did not tease her for candy and cakes and dolls and ba-by rags. No, they behaved like good children. And when meal-time came they did not turn up their little noses at what was set before them, as I have seen some children do. They ate of what their dear mother offered them. Mary was complimented on her man-agement of children. Those children were never after-ward known to cry for rye-pudding.

HOW TO PREVENT DISEASES AMONG CHILDREN.

A correspondent of the *New York Times* says that he has followed a recommendation from a lady to vaporize a little carbolic acid daily in the heaters as a disinfectant and a preventive against contagious diseases, and the results have been most satisfactory: "I have a large school, and out of the whole number only two pupils have been sick with scarlet fever, and even these cases were indirect ones. In my own family, which consists of 14 children—fortunately not all my own—and five adults, not one has been afflicted with any malady, not even with a sore throat, for longer than a day or two. We certainly keep the house minutely clean, ventilate it thoroughly every day, and never heat the rooms above 66° Fah. During my 30 years' experience I have never seen the like."

We think it probable that the use of a small quantity of carbolic acid in the manner above mentioned may, in some cases, be beneficial. But if it were the golden rule in every family to keep the house minutely clean, ventilate it thoroughly every day, and never heat above 66° Fah., there would probably be little need of carbolic acid or any other drug.

CASTILE SOAP.—The reason that castile soap is so extensively advised by physicians is because of its purity and freedom from alkali. In the manufacture of castile soap, vegetable oil is used instead of animal fat, and great care is taken to avoid an excess of the soda; only enough being used to take up or neutralize the oil. This soap, therefore, is mild and gentle, and can be used on irritated surfaces or wounds, where common soap would give pain, perhaps occasion injury. The mottled sorts of castile soap are made by the addition of a small quantity of sulphate of iron—copperas. This copperas in solution is stirred into the soap while in a fluid state. At first the color is bluish, on exposure to the air it changes to a red. This soap was called "castile," for the reason that it was largely made in the province in Spain so called. The largest amount, however, comes from the south of France, and in Europe this variety of soap is more generally known by the name of Marseilles than castile.