AGRICULTURAL LIFE.

Some of the Reasons Why Boys Are Inclined to Leave Farms for Towns.

Correspondents of agricultural papers in various parts of the country report that an unusually large number of boys have left their farm homes during the past winter and present spring to seek employment in towns, or to engage in the business of transportation or mining. Many speak of this discontent of farmers' sons as alarming. Some refer to it as a calamity. A Vermont paper declares that most of the farms in that State will be worked by French-Canadians the present season. It states that not one boy in ten who were raised on farms intend to remain on them. They form their plans to leave before they have put on long pants. A Maine paper presents a worse condition of affairs. It states that hundreds of good farms within a few miles of manufacturing towns are offered for sale at about the cost of the buildings on them. They find no purchasers even at these prices, as there is no inclination on the part of young men to engage in farming.

In the West there is certainly a strong desire on the part of both young and old men to obtain farming land for nothing. They are willing to comply with the letter if not with the spirit of the homestead, pre-emption or timber-culture acts in order to acquire a title to a tract of farming land. How many of them will remain on the land to which they acquire a title remains to be seen. That many of them never have any more than a nominal residence on the land to which they set up a claim seems certain. It is also certain that men of means show little disposition to engage in farming as a business. They are convinced that it does not pay like other pursuits to which persons devote time and money. Many state that money invested in farm mortgages pays much better than that invested in farms. A very large number of wealthy farmers in all parts of the country have come to the conclusion that it is to their advantage to lease their places and to live on the rents obtained from tenants. They find it pleasanter as well as easier to live in a town.

That boys under these circumstances should think it is to their advantage to find some more promising occupation than farming is not surprising. They are only following the example set by their forefathers. All the conversation they hear is discouraging. In many cases they see the best farmers in the town leaving their places and going to a village to live. Their farms are occupied by tenants, who are generally foreigners. They do not find them to be companionable, and they desire pleasant and intelligent associates. The desire for pleasure as well as the hope of bettering their financial condition causes them to look for some other occupation than farming. Boys are not likely to be very enthusiastic about engaging in a business that is spoken lightly of by those who have been bred in it. Farmers' boys are not likely to know that there are discouragements in other pursuits. They look at the dark side of farming and the bright side of every thing else. They see the country at its worst and the city at its best. They are unacquainted with the confinement and miseries of the latter.

Other things have exerted an influence in causing boys to desire to leave farms. The demand for laborers has been reduced by the introduction of machinery. The raising of field crops has, in many sections, given place to dairying and meat productions, which requires a smaller number of men. Persons who own large farms study how to dispense with human labor as far as possible. As far as they can they substitute horses and machines for men, and then try and use wind and steam power in the place of draft animals. A man owning a large estate can no longer encourage his boys to remain on the old homestead by offering to divide it among them. They all know that in most parts of the country small farming does not pay as well as large farming. The smaller the farm the larger must be the relative amount expended in buildings and fences. A small farm requires about as many machines as a large one, and they can be employed but a small portion of the time. Observation shows that small farms are taxed higher than large ones in proportion to their size.

Then it must be remembered that the desire to engage in farming, stock-breeding, dairying and meat production is generally less strong with the young than with those of mature age. Youth likes the excitement of the city, but old age seeks the quiet of the country. At one period in the history of this country and England nearly every man who had prospered in business in a large town or by "following the sea" had an ambition to own a farm and occupy it. To be a country gentleman, with all the expression implied, was the crowning hope of life. Since the period of the civil war the desire to spend the later years of life in the country has been less strong for many reasons. No department of husbandry, except breeding fine stock, has been very profitable, and recently there has been small gains in that. The cities have become more attractive and productive of pleasure. On the other hand, country life offers fewer attractions. A large number of farms are occupied by a class of foreigners, who, though not objectionable as neighbors, contribute nothing to social pleasures. Taking all these things into consideration, it is not strange that boys are not strongly attached to farm life.—*Chicago Times.*

—A new theater curtain is made of canvas with a backing of spongy asbestos. It is kept wound on a roller in a trough of water beneath the stage.

SYSTEM IN WORK.

Why It Does Not Pay to Hire Cheap and Incompetent Farm Help.

No matter in what business we may be engaged, the saving of time is always more or less an object. On the farm, of course, this often is something more than an item at one time than at another. During the busy season of planting, cultivating and harvesting, every hour is of considerable importance, and it is especially necessary to economize time as much as possible.

One of the best means is to work by some system. The man who goes out to the barn in the morning, feeds his hogs, milks the cows, and then feeds the work teams, goes and gets his breakfast, and then has to wait until the teams get through eating before he can start out to work, is not economizing time. As well be obliged to come back to the house about the time he gets fairly started to feeding, in order to cut a sufficient supply of stove wood to cook breakfast. He is not working to the best advantage, and yet this is just what many farmers do one-third of the time, simply because they have no system. Many useless steps are taken requiring the loss of more or less time, for no other reason than a want of system with the work.

So far as possible, one task should follow another so that the least time will be lost in changing from one to the other, not only in doing the necessary chores about the place, morning and evening, but also in the field work does this apply. In changing from one field to another and from one kind of work to another, often much time is lost, and that, too, at a time when the work is very pressing. Then, often when there is much to be done, all seemingly necessary to be done at once, the mistake is too often made of making a start at too many things at once, rather than finishing up one task at a time, often losing considerable time changing from one to the other. Knowing what you want done and how, will often save considerable time. We often lose valuable time determining how we want the work done, and then in getting every thing ready, when by a little planning ahead an opportunity of doing the work much time could be saved. Much can be saved by preparing ahead, having, as nearly as possible, every thing in readiness, and then by adopting a regular system more time may still be saved. It is always an item to keep up with the work, and in order to do this, and at the same time keep as small an amount of extra help as possible, some system must be adopted and carried out.

Let us take the economy of labor as an example. In one sense skilled labor is not necessary on the farm, yet in another it is very important. The man whom you can direct to start to the plow field, who has skill or knowledge sufficient to determine for himself the best plan of plowing, to adjust his plow and the team so that good work can be done—for instance, if you want corn planted, you can tell him how you want it planted, and if he has a sufficient knowledge of his work to go ahead and do his work properly—is certainly worth more to the farmer than the man who can only follow, and who obliges you to be on hand to instruct him constantly. The idea that anybody will do on the farm if he has sufficient strength to do the work is an erroneous one. A knowledge of how work should be done, as well as the ability to perform it, is very necessary in farm help, and the man that is capable of going ahead with the farm work without your being obliged to show him all the details, is worth considerable more to the farmer who must depend more or less upon hired help, than the man not having the knowledge necessary to go ahead.

Plenty of men may be hired at low prices who can hold the lines and the handles of the plow, but this does not necessarily imply that they can drive a team or handle a plow so that good work can be done.

Because a man can dig or has strength to use a hoe is not proof that he can make a good garden, or properly clean the growing plants, and the difference between a man who can take hold and do good work, is worth considerable more either by the day or month, than the one who must be shown how. As a rule farm work is always pressing at this season. The farmer can not afford to loose much time; every thing must be pushed if the necessary work is done in good season. If help is hired it is done with the expectation that aid in keeping up with the work will be secured.

There is no benefit in hiring help at any time that is not sufficiently competent to make the employer a fair per cent. of profit for his labor; and on the farm this is fully as important as with any other class of work; and it is rare that a man without knowledge or experience in the line of work expected of him will be able to do this. As a general rule it will pay to secure help that is capable of doing the work, and usually this class of workmen is in sufficient demand to command fair prices, and it will be more profitable in the end to pay a fair price rather than accept cheaper but less competent help.—*N. J. Shepherd in Farm, Field and Stockman.*

—"Maw, how I perspire!" "Dear me, Clara, don't let me hear you use that vulgar expression again." "Do you want me to say 'sweat?'" "No, you wretched vulgarian; you must say you are 'bedewed with heat.' The first thing you know people will say we haven't got no style about us."—*Texas Siftings.*

GIRLS OF LONG AGO

Though Aged, They Are Still Young in the Faithful Lover's Memory.

The toast you have assigned me is one that touches a very tender chord in my heart. I have always felt sorry for the girls we left behind us. It seemed cruel at the time, but how could we help it? Circumstances were such that we couldn't possibly take them along—we had to leave them behind us. I think I promised three or four to come back for them in the spring or early autumn, but I was too busy for several years to attend to it, and after that—well, I was afraid my wife would not like it. I met one of the girls we left behind us in the street to-day. That is, I thought I did. The same soft, brown eyes; the same sweet, sunny smile.

"Is it possible," I said, "that I behold Miss Sally Jones?"

"That was my mother's name," she smiled, "before she was married. I am married now, and I have named my baby after ma."

Great heavens! The girl I left behind me was a grandmother!

I told the young lady who I was, and she said she had often heard her mother speak of me, one she used to know a great many years ago. Then I asked about the girls I used to know, and what had become of them. I found that some, alas, were dead. Others, who were married, wished they were dead. Some, who were widows, had lovers seeking for their hands. Others not yet widows, were seeking for divorces.

O, those seminary girls of long ago—how we did regret leaving them behind us—except one poor fellow who eloped with one of them. He has regretted all his life that he didn't leave her behind with the rest of them.

But we had to go and leave them. Fate beckoned us on. And, in some cases the faculty urged us to go. Were we to blame, then, for temporarily forgetting the dears—I mean the girls we left behind us? Why, some of us had to leave our trunks!

A rare collection of girls they were, gentlemen, as I recall them now. Tall, willowy girls; short, plump girls; black-eyed girls that made us blue, and blue-eyed girls that we were ready to take a black eye for any time; fair-complexioned girls, brown girls, Smith girls, girls with auburn hair, and girls who, not being able to match their own hair in Auburn, were compelled to buy it in Utica or Syracuse. In fact, there was almost every kind of girl then that there is now, except the tailor-made girl, who seems to be altogether a modern creation. Still, the latter has points in her favor. While the girl I so tenderly recall possessed virtue, beauty, intelligence and many engaging ways, I must admit that she somehow lacked the get-up—in fact, she hadn't the bustle of the girl of to-day.

No, brothers of the olden times, we must confess that in comparison with the tailor-made girl of to-day, the girl we left behind us had very little left behind her.

Still, we remember her with tenderness and respect, and let us all join in a bumper to the girls of long ago.—*D. K. E. Speech by Minor E. Griswold.*

BISHOP WILBERFORCE.

Some Readable Anecdotes of the Celebrated English Churchman.

He rather plumed himself on remembering faces, and justly so. One day, however, he received a somewhat rude shock. A Hampshire lout (I do not know a better word) appeared in a country church among the candidates. The Bishop felt sure he had confirmed him before." The lad opened his great, wide eyes and replied: "You be a liar." Wilberforce knew that this was only the ordinary way a clown knew how to deny what was not true. So he was told to kneel down, and he was confirmed. He was engaged in giving away prizes at a middle school. There there were master and mistress of unusually high qualifications. A speech was made in which the excellencies of the master were duly mentioned, but nothing said of the mistress. Some one reminded the speaker of the omission, so with ready tact he said: "Every one here knows that 'homo' includes woman. So what I said of the head master is equally applicable to the head mistress." In a village school he was giving a lesson on Jacob's ladder and the angels, and then invited any child present to ask a question, whereupon an ingenious lad asked how it was the angels wanted a ladder when they had wings. The questioner was a little non-plussed, but wanting to know what was floating in the children's brains he called up a little chap and said: "Tommy, can you explain that?" "I suppose," said the urchin, "cos they was a-moultin'." A little girl was found after church with her pet dog and cat perched up on a chair while she was solemnly reading her New Testament aloud. "Don't you know," said she, by way of explanation, "the bishop told us to preach the gospel to every creature? Isn't a dog or a cat a creature?" Some village children were observed by him making mud pies. "Well, my little men," said he, "and what are you doing there?" "We're making a church, sir." "O, a church, are you — but where's the parson?" "There ain't mud enough to make him, sir," said an urchin.

—Did you ever notice how inconsistent women are? Nothing touches them in such a tender spot as the suggestion of antiquity, and yet what do nine out of ten of the dear creatures say when they meet each other on the street? They say: "Why it's been an age since I saw you!"

DUSTING A ROOM.

A Branch of House-Work Which Requires Considerable Attention.

Although to many people the dusting of a room is a very easy matter, to do this work well requires both time and patience. There is no part of the house-work that is so often carelessly done, and there is no part that should be done so well. Some women who pose as excellent housewives are any thing but thorough when dusting; they seem to think the time wasted spent in this work, and consequently hurry through it as fast as possible. With a feather duster or a cloth they switch off the dust, going from one thing to another, until all the articles are gone over; then the door is closed and the room is supposed to be in the best of order. On entering later in the day they are surprised to find the furniture covered with dust, and they wonder where all the dust comes from. If they would think awhile, they would surely know that the dust they switched into the room is bound to settle somewhere, and, of course, the furniture will hold the largest share. There is an old saying that "whatever is worth doing is worth doing well," and in nothing is this more applicable than in dusting.

As a general duster the feather brush is not to be thought of, as it is only fit for the dusting of walls, over doors, pictures, etc., or any place that can not be conveniently reached with a cloth. It is not to be recommended for the face of pictures or mirrors, as it is apt to scratch the glass. A soft silk cloth makes a nice duster for mirrors and pictures, and for nice, highly polished furniture there is nothing nicer. Scrim makes a nice dusting-cloth, and old calico is used by many in preference to any thing else. A damp cloth is the best of all dusters, although many women will not use one on any account, claiming that it injures the polish on the furniture. This objection is absurd, for if the cloth is clean it will not harm the furniture in the least. To be sure it may remove the gloss, but this can easily be brought back when the surface of the wood is dry, by rubbing hard with a dry, soft cloth. The advantage of the damp duster is that instead of allowing the dust to fly about the room, it takes it all on the cloth, and thereby keeps it from settling anywhere else. Although this kind of dusting may not be generally adopted throughout the house, it should be rigidly observed in an invalids room, and not on any consideration should any other be adopted. When using the damp duster only go over a small space at one time; rinse the cloth well and often, and there will be no danger of injuring the woodwork of the furniture. It is the best to use a dry cloth for the piano, as the least dampness about this article of furniture the better for the tone of it. When using a dry cloth for dusting, shake out of the window frequently, and the dust will not gather so thickly on the cloth as to be shaken off and let fly about the room. A small paint brush is kept by many housewives for crevices and ledges, as it is almost impossible to get into these with a cloth. All ornaments should be dusted carefully, as the dust is apt to get into the crevices, and once in it is very difficult to dislodge. For the latter work a stiff toothbrush will be found to do the work as well as wished, and ought always to be kept for this purpose. Wash out the dust cloths once a week at the very least. Always have a separate cloth for the stove, and never use the duster for this purpose. Use the paint brush for the window-sashes and a soft cloth for the panes of glass. Of all things when dusting do not forget the curtains. If they are of lace or any of the tapestries they will collect dust very fast. Undo the loops at the sides, place the lower ends out of the window, and give the whole a good shaking. The shades ought to be taken down frequently and dusted their full length both inside and outside, or, if neglected, they will be soon unfit for use and no amount of dusting will do any good. To be sure, if they are white they can be laundried, but if colored there is no remedy for them. A room that is dusted frequently and dusted thoroughly will not need to be swept as often as one that is dusted carelessly.—*Boston Budget.*

—The names and locations of the navy yards in the United States are as follows: Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston, Mass.; Brooklyn Navy Yard, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Gosport Navy Yard, Norfolk, Va.; Kittery Navy Yard, Kittery, Me.; League Island Navy Yard, Philadelphia, Pa.; Mare Island Navy Yard, San Francisco, Cal.; New London Navy Yard, New London, Ct.; Pensacola Navy Yard, Pensacola, Fla.; Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D. C.

—A Cincinnati engineer was suspended from duty by an examing physician because of deafness, but as he claimed that his hearing was good while running his locomotive the doctor took a trip with him, and found that when riding on the moving engine the engineer could hear whispers that even the doctor's ear failed to catch. So he was reinstated.

—A new candle has been brought out which extinguishes itself in an hour. This it does by means of a tiny extinguisher of tin, which is fastened in the wax by wires, and which effectually performs its task. It is only necessary to remove this diminutive extinguisher when its work is done, and the candle is again ready to burn another hour.

—Let boys be instructed in all the designs of nature and they will be improved in morals, and learn to love animals instead of throwing stones at them.—*Oscar Wilde.*

THE FEMALE DENTIST.

A Profession in Which Several Women Have Achieved Gratifying Success.

It is said that the most successful dentist in London at present is a German Baroness, who is the cleverest tooth extractor in England. That is her branch of business, and a "dental surgeon" she calls herself, the other dentists sending their patients to her when extreme measures have to be taken. The female dentist is just beginning to appear over the professional horizon in this city, and I believe on the whole she is a success. A man I know lives in a boarding-house and tells me that a lone, unprotected female who sat opposite him at table greatly aroused his curiosity as to her occupation. She always started off bright and early after breakfast and never appeared until late dinner, but she never dropped the smallest hint of how she occupied the long hours between the two meals. She seemed to be successful at whatever she did, for she was always well dressed and seemed to have no anxieties of a sordid kind. He noted many times how large and powerful her hands and wrists were and puzzled himself greatly as to how she used them. She was always thoroughly up with all the news and gossip of the day, and was ready to talk with the utmost freedom on any such general topic, but the moment matters became in the smallest degree personal she promptly retired in her shell and pulled the shell in after her. Finally he happened in rather an out of the way part of the town to see her name in gilt letters on the edge of the window, as the doctors put up theirs, only after it it bore the letters, D. D. S., and then he knew how to account for her powerful wrists and her reticence. He enlarged on the German Baroness at dinner that night, and she looked up quickly, laughed and owned up. She confessed that he father had been a dentist and from her childhood she had maintained the greatest interest in the subject, so that her father taught her all he knew. After his death she went to Paris to study and now has been for two years working on such teeth in Gotham as are presented for her inspection. She said: "In the old heroic days of dentistry, when main force was used and anguish was the natural concomitant, women had neither the brawn nor the nerve for the work, but since the introduction of all sorts of machine apparatus milder methods and cocoine have so ameliorated the profession it is one women are eminently capable of filling, as well as the teeth. There are four or five female dentists in New York and most of them are doing a good business. A great many women prefer to come to us, and we are, I believe, peculiarly successful with children, because we understand better how to manage them. I love my profession and take the greatest pride and pleasure in it, and, more than that, I am making money in it."—*N. Y. Letter.*

GLADSTONE AS A BOY.

[illegible] of a [illegible] St. Louis Lady.

Mrs. Hughes, of 4616 Delmar avenue, knew the Right Hon. William E. Gladstone when he was a school boy. Looking at Mrs. Hughes to-day one can easily understand how the sturdy English stock insures bodily and mental vigor in the seventies. An American guess at the age of this well-preserved, strong-nerved, clear-minded lady would fall short by a dozen or fifteen years. It is more than sixty years since she was a school girl in Liverpool and Bill Gladstone was a rollicking youth.

"The Gladstones were merchants," said Mrs. Hughes, recalling something of the ex-Premier's boyhood as she knew it. "They lived in a fine part of Liverpool facing a park. I was a little girl of six or seven attending a girls' school some distance from my home. Bill Gladstone went to a boys' school not far from ours. Our paths crossed. Coming home from school we had to go along a way which the boys from the other school also went. They used to amuse themselves chasing us. We were afraid of them. I remember Bill Gladstone as one of the boys who used to do this. We would run as hard as we could. When he caught any of us he would toss us up over his shoulder or do something to scare us. There were other boys worse and some quieter than he was. I remember him as a boy of medium size, strong and full of spirits. He had a Scotch look about him. He was then thirteen or fourteen, perhaps. There wasn't any thing remarkable about him, and I should never have remembered about his running after us little girls and scaring us if he hadn't become so prominent afterwards.

"My people went away from Liverpool to Wales, and I was gone seven years," Mrs. Hughes continued. "When I came back Bill Gladstone was standing in some borough, I have forgotten just where, for Parliament. I remember people talked about it a great deal because he was so young. He could not have been much more than of age. I don't remember that he had studied for any profession. Perhaps he had come home from the university and entered the mercantile business in which the family was engaged. However that was I can't remember, but I know there was a good deal of talk about so young a man going to Parliament. But he was elected, and he went on being successful right along in politics. I came to this country in 1851, and as Mr. Gladstone became more and more prominent my memory would go back again and again to the time when he was Bill Gladstone, in Liverpool, amusing himself by chasing little girls going home from school, and tossing them in the air."—*St. Louis Globe-Democrat.*

CLAY FOR POTTERS.

How the Finest Quality Is Prepared in the Vicinity of St. Louis.

It is well known that the pots used by the glass-makers must necessarily be of the best material, but what that material is, or where it is found, is not generally known. A gentleman connected with one of the largest houses in the city dealing in glassware, who is also interested in the manufacture, said:

"For a long time no clay was found that equaled that found at Stourbridge, England, but now no glass-maker in this country need import any, for in the immediate vicinity of St. Louis a clay company produces from its mines an article fully equal in every respect to the English clay, and this is now in general use throughout the United States. The process of preparing it for use is most interesting.

"The clay is taken in carts from the mines to the works, and there shoveled through an opening in the wall directly into huge vats when it is dissolved in water. From that moment the cleansing process begins. This is the most important thing in the whole proceeding and for this reason the carts are not allowed to enter.

"Not only are the carts kept out, but strangers are rigidly excluded, and some influence is necessary to secure permission to visit the building. When one enters he is requested to clean his shoes very carefully, as the introduction of the most minute particles of dirt will injure the clay. Employes are required to wear wooden shoes while at work, for the sake of cleanliness, and they willingly comply, because leather shoes are soon destroyed, the nails being quickly destroyed by coming in contact with the clay. Iron will not stand the contact and brass is consequently used instead of iron in all the machinery which is touched by the clay while it is in a state of solution.

"Clay, when it is stirred up in water, will remain in solution for a long time, and the particles of sand, gravel or iron which may be in it will settle to the bottom of the liquid as it is carried from the large vats through sluices to the tanks where it is allowed to settle. As it passes through this sluice it is screened or run through a fine wire netting, and at this point it is constantly and carefully watched by two workmen.

"In the tanks it remains for about a week until the clay has settled to the bottom and the clear water is drawn off to be used again. The clay is then taken to the evaporating room and placed in shallow pans, the sides and bottoms of which are covered with coils of steam-pipe. A uniform temperature of seventy degrees is maintained as nearly as possible in the room. A large force of workmen turn the clay over and over with shovels until it is of the consistency of putty ready for the glass-ler's use.

"Thence it is taken to another room where is a powerful block-molding machine which presses it into a slab which is cut into blocks by a boy. He uses a sort of bow with a wire string, and as he cuts he stamps each block with the factory mark. Then in the drying-room they are baked slowly for five days, when they are ready for sale in that shape, or for reduction to powder, which is sold in barrels."—*N. Y. Mail and Express.*

A Century Under Water.

An interesting naval relic has just been placed upon the north terrace at Windsor Castle. Its history is recorded on a tablet affixed to the side of its mahogany mounting. The inscription is as follows: "This gun formed part of the armament of his majesty's ship Lutine, totally lost off the coast of Holland on the 9th of October, 1799. On the conclusion of peace the wreck, which contained a large treasure, was handed over by the Dutch Government to the corporation of Lloyd's, where there the treasure had been insured. The wreck was imbedded in sand in nine fathoms of water. In 1886 this gun was salved, having lain nearly one hundred years below the sea, and was presented to her majesty Queen Victoria, who was graciously pleased to accept it from the corporation of Lloyd's." The gun stands opposite an embrasure commanding the Dean's garden.—*N. Y. Star.*

—A new Senator, being told by a newspaper correspondent just what the Senate had done in executive session, exclaimed: "Why, we haven't been two hours out of executive session. How did you get hold of all this? Did a Senator tell you?" "No," said the correspondent. "An employe of the Senate?" persisted the Senator. "No," said the correspondent. "Well, then, how did you find it all out?" asked the Senator anxious with curiosity. "I'd like to tell you," said the correspondent, with a droll smile, "but I can't. Senators are so leaky."—*Philadelphia Record.*

—A gentleman who owns a plantation a few miles from the city, says there is a tree on his place that has a curious effect upon the axeman, and that five or six men at different times have attempted to fell it but failed. He says when it is struck with an axe a curious sound is heard, something like the singing of a rattlesnake, that completely unnerves the axeman, and he gives up the job. He doesn't pretend to say that the tree can't be cut down, but he knows that several attempts have been made which failed.—*New-Berne (N. C.) Journal.*

—The Indians of New York State enjoy 125,000 acres of land, distributed among eight reservations, though whites hold some of the land.