

class more purposeless than this. The same time spent in mastering some useful handicraft, even if it had no direct bearing on their future, would be incomparably more to the purpose. The discipline and business habits of a bank or merchant's office, even at a similar premium, could hardly fail to exercise a far more beneficial effect both on the present and future of the young man's life. For the latter, if his future life is to be spent across the Atlantic, as soon as it becomes apparent that schools and tutors will not be of much further benefit, he should be domiciled in some thoroughly respectable, and if possible some refined and cultivated, American family living in the country and occupied in farming. There are hundreds of such whose influence and interest and friendship would be for such stray lads of inestimable value, and who would gladly receive young English gentlemen into their homes at considerably less than one-half what is paid for the questionable privilege of a residence in an English farmhouse.

In the brighter days of British agriculture the Lothians and border counties used to be alive with young gentlemen, not only from England but from half the countries of Europe. In the corn exchange, for instance, at Haddington, on market days they used to form quite a prominent feature, hovering round the long rows of sober-clad Scotch farmers standing by their sample bags, and congregating in the hotels, unmistakable in the Bedford cords, yellow gaiters, shooting boots and bird's-eye ties which that type of youth thought it absolutely necessary to affect. In an atmosphere dim with tobacco smoke and reeking with whisky, amid the jingling of toddy tumblers, embryo landlords, Danish and Swedish counts, Hungarian barons, ex-undergraduates from Oxford and Cambridge, students from Cirencester, would be staking half-crowns and sovereigns on the Derby or the Boat Race, the Grand National or the Waterloo Cup, with the boisterous confidence of ignorance and youth. Of course within the limits of a short sketch one can only generalise, and cannot attempt to notice the various types of establishments where the science of farming or estate management is made an excuse for keeping a boarding-house—from the gentleman farmer's, where half-a-dozen gilded youth, for the consideration of £250 a-year enjoy the hunting and shooting so carefully advertised, to the unpretending occupant of a 200 acre farm in Fife, who receives as a boarder the son of the well-to-do Edinburgh or Glasgow tradesman, at £80 per annum. Much individual good doubtless exists in a system that it is almost impossible to regard as otherwise than a farce, speaking generally. Those who

possess either ability or interest sufficient to procure them eventually the management of any estate may safely be left to take care of their own educations, but as a mere lounge for the book-hating youth, or even for the future emigrant, a course more deleterious to shaky morals, more profitless, or more wasteful of money could hardly be devised.—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

FLAX GROWING.—In our columns Mr. R. Stratton stated how, by help of a local demand for flax-straw for paper-making, he grew a crop of flax, which, in 1880, produced £16 per acre; and again, in 1881, produced £17 per acre. It is said that the demand of the paper-makers is almost insatiable at £4 10s. per ton for the straw. This produce was upon poor, light land in the West of England. Now this is an incident well worth taking notice of; but yet, upon the recital of it, the following warning seems to be desirable, "First catch your paper-maker."—*London Agricultural Gazette.*

Advertisements.

Resolution of Provincial Board of Agriculture, 3rd March, 1882.

"No advertisements, except official notices from recognized Agricultural Societies, shall be inserted in the JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE in future, unless PREPAID at rate of 50 cents each insertion, for advertisements not exceeding ten lines, and five cents for each additional line."

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pd

March 6th, 1882.

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Bedford, N. S.
pd

17th February, 1882.

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