

have the advantage. Their muscle and bone is of even a greater average than their height. We have seen men handle with ease great masses of matter which those subjected from childhood to city influences could hardly move. There are, indeed, many employed about our wharves and express offices who have enormous muscular power, but most of these have spent their youthful days in the country? The fact, we believe, will be found to be that strength comes from the bracing air and exercise of country life.

Then, too, is it not a fact that the greater portion of the business of the city is done by those who have spent their early days in the country? There is a tendency in the city to produce nervousness, and lassitude, and weakness. And so the strong, burly lads who come to our town, generally manage to get hold of its business, and become the directors of its commerce.

But it is said in an article which we lately perused, that the city, in consequence of drainage and the other appliances of modern civilization, is healthier than the country. This statement, however, is confined to those who belong to the better classes, it being admitted that for the masses of the laboring and manufacturing classes, the city presents no such favorable circumstances. Then, too, it is affirmed that many children of the better classes would die were it not for the preservative influence of their superior comfort, and grow up sickly and dwarfed. There are, no doubt, many whom disease would carry off who may be nursed up to lead a fragile life, who would, in less favorable circumstances, die. We are glad of this, though some philosophers, as Herbert Spencer, think it a regrettable fact. We do not so much admire the strength and stature of our race, as to think it is not a most happy thing that civilization has become the healer and the preserver of the weak and fragile. Whatever reduces the average of mortality is a blessing which we thank God for, and trust that sanitary measures may be carried still further, to the reduction of the averages of death, and the lengthening of the term of human life.

The town, however, is the place for the development of mind. There those influences concentrate which lead to the acquisition of knowledge. Schools there are of superior order, and colleges there concentrate their light; and museums, and reading-rooms, and libraries, surround the people with the means of knowledge. Yet it is a fact that boys who have had but few opportunities in youth in the country, very often carry away the prizes of learning.