

the soil. The outdoor life is certainly, if not abused by overdoing it, the best means of obtaining health and strength, the pure air and wholesome exercise giving a good appetite, sound sleep and public dinner. I forget why it was given, but think it was in connection with the opening of our High School building. It was held in the Bennett House, and the Hon Edward Blake was present at it. There was a large, distinguished gathering. Among the toasts was—"The farmers of Darlington." This was responded to by Mr. Peter Werry, of Tyrone, and well he did it. He spoke to the point and gave a capital address. He laid great stress on the importance of a well educated yeomanry, and showed how important it was in every department of their work. I felt at the time proud of my Darlington friend and realized how much the High School course had done for him. Why should not the greater part of the rising generation of the farmers' sons emulate each other and strive to make themselves among the foremost people in the Dominion? They have the chance if they only utilize it. It has always been a wonder to me why more of them do not come to the surface in literary matters. If they would only give more of their time during the long winter evenings to the earnest study of some special lines, the grounds of which many of them get at school, they might become of greater use to themselves and to others. There is no reason that Canada might not become a second Scotland, where so many famous men have risen buoyant hope. It occurs to me that for all that makes for sensual enjoyment, in passing through this existence, as well as the opportunity to cultivate the higher side of our lives, it is far ahead of any thing else. I admit that there is no

place for the saggard—hard toil at certain seasons of the year lies before him, but then there are compensations. In this climate the long winters give them plenty of leisure to read and study, to visit friends and to attend meetings and gatherings of different kinds. There is no finer field for our growing youth to train and fit themselves for the great contest which lies before them all, if they only appreciate and take advantage of the vast possibilities that so conveniently surround them. In those days much is within their reach, our excellent schools affording the means whereby all may be educated up to a standard which will give them access to the widest realms of intellectual culture. Our high schools offer them first class subjects on which to feed their mental powers. I would strongly advise all parents who can manage it, to give their sons and daughters a full course at them both. The odd thing it seems to me is, where one lad only is selected from his brothers and sisters and gets this chance on the supposition that he is cleverer and will devote his energies to some other calling than that of his sire as if the farmer does not as well as the others require the best education he can get, to enable him to excel in it. I remember that on one occasion at a from the humblest surroundings to the highest stage of world-wide usefulness and fame. Are there not embryo Hugh Millers and Thomas Carlyles in the thousands of Canadian homes? I fear parents are too anxious to instil into the minds of their children, as the one great end, the acquisition of wealth, leaving out the higher aims that should actuate every one who has the ability to grow into a power for good in the higher region of intellectual life.

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