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E. D. Smith & Son, Limited

Winona

(NURSERYMEN)

ESTABLISHED 1882

Ontario

exclusion of contemplation. One of these days the two will meet: We will get from the East what it has to give; the East will get from us what we have to give;—and both will take a stride forward. It is not true, the thing Kipling sang—

"For East is East, and West is West, And never the twain shall meet."

In this very city I know people who are being profoundly influenced right now by the best that the East has to give. There are similar groups and individuals in many places, and the leaven will spread. We will accept the best the Orient has to give, while holding to the best we ourselves have, as, indeed, why should we not? We must gain, however the gain come.

I was much interested the other day in reading an account of an interview which one of those ubiquitous magazine folk had with the novelist, Robert W. Chambers, at his beautiful farm home at the foot of the Catskills,—for although novel-writing is Mr. Chambers' profession, farming is his pet diversion. He was quite get-at-able, it appeared, and quite ready to talk, and, drifting from one thing to another, he finally came to the subject of life-work. "If possible," he said, "a man should get his daily bread through the thing, he enjoys doing. A man's hobby should be his profession, then he is going to do good work. You have got to enjoy writing to write well, you have got to enjoy farming to make any sort of an agriculturist."

It seemed to me when I read that, that Mr. Chambers had voiced what a great many people ought to know. Take farming for instance: We hear a great deal about "keeping" the boys and girls on the farm, but, as it looks to me, we should use commonsense about the matter. If a boy evinces real talent and liking for farming, then by all means put it in his way to stay at it. It, on the other hand, he shows decided gifts or liking for something else, then why, in the name of all that is fair, should he be "kept" on the farm? It is absolutely true that one can only do well what one likes to do and has an aptitude for. And it is just as true that the

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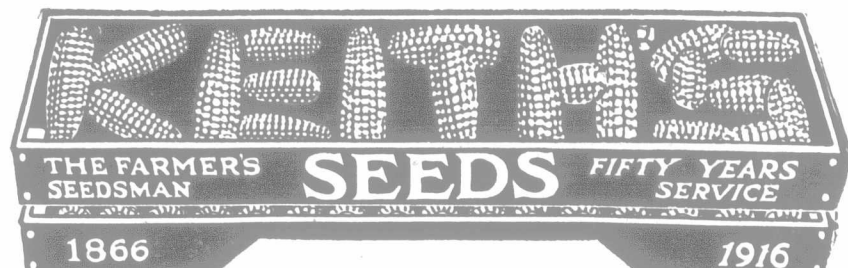
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No. 2 or 3 (No. 1 for purity)	\$13.00 to 14.00
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When writing mention The Farmer's Advocate

only sure way to be happy in this world is to have congenial work.

At the same time there is much truth in the often repeated assertion that boys and girls are being "educated away from the farm." There are great opportunities for an interesting life in agriculture, and it is too bad that numbers of boys and girls, who might be successful and happy on farms, drift away to become very indifferent something-elses in towns and cities.

The sensible proceeding would seem to be: (1) To make all farm life just as attractive as possible,—not to lay a trap for boys and girls, but simply because the dignity and significance of agriculture, and the happiness of the people in the homes, demand that it be made so. (2) To give agriculture, properly taught, a fair share in every school curriculum—city or country—but only a fair share. The curriculum should be broad enough to give every boy and girl a chance to know what he or she is good for. If it be farming, "well and good"; if it be law, or medicine, or carpentering, or preaching, or machine-work, then also, well and good.

To say to "keep" anyone anywhere, irrespective of what he is good for, savours of slavery of the worst kind. If Abraham Lincoln had been "kept" at rail-splitting, the world would never have known Abraham Lincoln. He would have lived his days a disgruntled, in sufficiently satisfied man, restless because of undeveloped powers, a chained giant, and America would have been a vast loser.

Still the War drags on. Sick of it—you, and I, and everybody, here and over the seas! But there is a star in the sky that tells that the end is nearer than the beginning.

Some time ago David Lloyd George, that Wonder-man of Europe, said, "At the end of this war we shall either be vassals of the German military caste, or we shall have broken with militarism forever." The end is approaching, and we now know that we shall not be vassals of the German military caste. May the kind Fates grant that the second alternative shall prove true—that we shall have broken with militarism forever.

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