

HOUSEHOLD.

Money-Making for Country Boys.

(By James Buckham.)

Most country boys have an idea that in order to make money for themselves they must get to the city, or at least to some large town, where there is more or less commercial activity. But, as a matter of fact, the city boy cannot command one-half the money-making opportunity of the country boy. Cities and large towns are very poor markets for anything but skilled labor, as everybody knows who has ever tried to find lucrative employment of a general character in them. Even if a boy has had some special industrial or mechanical training, so that he is entitled to be called an expert in his specialty, not one employer in a hundred will engage him, on account of his youth, as anything but an apprentice at a very low wage. The city is a poor place for a boy who has to make his own living; and it is an equally poor place for a boy who though not obliged to make his living, desires to use his spare time in earning a little money which he can call his own.

To boys of the latter class the country, however, offers unbounded resources; and it is a constant surprise and perplexity to me that lads with all these money-making opportunities at hand so seldom take advantage of them in any way. The country boy, as a rule, is always waiting and wishing for a chance to earn a penny, but he looks so far away for his chance that he walks right over a dozen without seeing them at all.

Let me give an instance in point. On one of my vacations I fell in with a country boy who was always, as his people said, 'fooling with tools.' He really had become quite expert at all kinds of small carpentering and tinkering, but no one supposed that it amounted to anything, practically—not even the boy himself. One day I heard this boy complaining that he never had a cent of his own, and didn't see as he ever should have one so long as he had to remain on a farm. This set me to thinking. I put myself in the boy's place and asked myself what I should do in like circumstances, and the result was that I hit on a plan by which that boy made twenty-five dollars before the close of the summer. It was this: I persuaded him to become the neighborhood tinker. Old Mrs. R., I remember, had said to me once that she did wish she could avoid the expense of having to send to the city for a carpenter, a glazier, a paper-hanger or a plumber every time she needed a 'little fix-in' done.' Yet there really seemed to be no person in the vicinity who knew enough about tools to mend a broken window sash or fix a pump that wouldn't draw. Here was my boy's grand opportunity—but he never saw it or supposed such a chance for making money was lying about, until I had the good luck to discover it and point it out to him. The last I heard from him he was in demand for miles around among the farmers and their wives, and was making so much money out of his 'tinkering' that he hopes to lay by enough to take him to college by and by.

This is only one instance, but it is a pretty good one to show what I mean by the large, free resources and opportunities of the country as compared with the city. The country is comparatively free from that curse of the city—intense and ruinous competition. If a boy is 'handy' in any way there are a hundred chances more for making money out of his talent in the country than in the city. His dexterity is in demand; he finds a ready market for his skill; whereas in the city there would be thousands who could do the same things better than he, and therefore would get all the patronage.

But suppose the boy has no special gift or knack, what chance is there for him in the country then? A far better chance, I claim, than the city boy has or can have. Any country boy who really wants to earn money can do it, only, of course, he must put energy and perseverance into his enterprise, whatever it is. The city boy may do all this, yet get no reward, because his chance of demand is so much more slender. But I never knew a country boy to expend honest effort without due reward.

Suppose the country boy wishes to make money by selling something. Let us see what he has at his command. In the first place he has all the resources of the soil.

No farmer is so land-poor, or, I trust, so stingy, that he will not allow his boy a piece of ground to cultivate, if the boy asks for it. Garden produce is always in demand and always brings good prices, and in these days of quick and cheap transportation no country boy is too far away from a commission merchant to make 'truck farming' profitable.

Then there is stock-raising on a small scale. The cosset lamb or calf, which the patient farmer's boy brings up by hand, almost always turns out to be an animal of superior condition that brings a good, round price in market. Poultry always yields a large profit, also, and requires a small investment.

The innumerable wild products of the country—the berries and fruits, the fish and game, the roots and herbs used in making medicine—all these have a market value and afford a ready means of revenue to the active and determined country boy. There are very few localities where the country storekeeper will not be glad to take all these products at a fair price and sell them again to the city merchant. But if the boy is a real financier he will ship his own goods to the city and keep the middleman's profit.

A boy that I know of has a private trout pond on his father's land. He made the pond by damming up a trout brook, where it crossed a little basin in the woods. The State Hatchery gives him 10,000 trout eggs a year, and by artificially hatching these he keeps his pond well stocked and sells about four hundred dollars' worth annually.

No country boy need complain that his resources for making money are not ample. Indeed, they are so abundant that if he sees them at all it must be a perplexity to him to know which to choose. Unceasing demand, unending resource—what two conditions could be more favorable to money-making than these? Yet if any producer or any laborer in the world enjoys these ideal economic conditions to the full, it is the average country boy.—'Congregationalist.'

The Food That Man Needs.

'As in the daily wear and tear of life a great deal of the substance of a man's body is used up, it is absolutely necessary that the repair of the body be carefully and systematically looked after,' writes Mrs. S. T. Rorer in the April 'Ladies Home Journal.' Then, too, man must create heat and force according to the climate in which he lives and the occupation he follows. A wise combination of food is, therefore, necessary to keep the body in working order. In cold weather we need a larger amount of carbonaceous foods—fats, sugars and starches—than we do in summer. In the hot climates and during the hot months fruit and green vegetables, containing the salts necessary to keep the blood in good condition, should be used freely. According to our method of living in this country we should take about two parts of repair food, such as meat, eggs, milk, cheese, or, in the vegetable kingdom, the old peas, beans, and lentils, to three parts of carbonaceous food, such as white bread, potatoes, rice, butter, cream and fats of all kinds. Then we must have a certain amount of bulky or watery vegetables, such as lettuce, spinach, cabbage, onions, and also the fruits. In making out a daily ration we should have at the beginning of the meal some light dish that may be taken slowly, to prepare the stomach for the food that is to follow, then a meat, or its equivalent. With beef, we should serve potatoes; with mutton, rice. With chickens, either rice or potatoes.'

Eat Cheese Daily.

A well-known medical authority says in a recent work, that cheese should be eaten at least once a day. 'It is the most valuable animal food obtainable,' he says, 'from two to three times as nutritious as the same money value of ordinary meat.'

Plan Carefully.

In building a house it is well, after planning the size as large as the means at disposal will allow, to consider the advisability of making some of the rooms a trifle smaller by cutting off a few inches here and there to enlarge a pantry or closet. One should always plan to save steps in the arrangement of table, dish pantry and sink, with reference

to the dining-room. The travelling over of ten feet extra each time in carrying dishes and food, aggregates perhaps twenty-eight miles of extra walking during the year, much of which might be saved by slight changes in the house planning.

Pretty Furnishings.

Beautiful accessories enliven the spirits. It is well known that a stimulus to work is cheerfulness.

'A merry heart goes all day long,
A sad heart tires in a mile.'

Pretty and artistic furnishings do not necessarily represent a large expense. Paint a few rolls of well-chosen wall paper and judicious taste in the selection of the really artistic, low-priced materials that can be bought in almost any dry goods shop, will transform the most unpromising interiors so as to satisfy even the eyes of a connoisseur.

Children's surroundings have a great deal to do with the forming of their characters. The refining influence of a pretty home, where all the work is done quietly and systematically is not lost upon them. The daughters of such a home are apt to grow up to be dainty and dignified, and it is not likely that the boys of such a household 'can be found anywhere but at home.'—N. Y. 'Observer.'

Selected Recipes.

Apple Snowball.—Take one cupful of boiled rice and spread on small cloths wrung out of hot water. Put one apple pared and cored in each one. Tie the cloth together and steam.

Orange Roly-Poly.—Make a light dough, the same as for apple dumplings, roll it out into a narrow, long sheet, about a quarter of an inch thick. Spread thickly over it peeled and sliced oranges, sprinkle with white sugar, scattered over all a large teaspoonful of grated orange peel, then roll it up, fold the edges well to keep the juices from running out, place in steamer and steam hard for an hour and three-quarters. Serve with lemon sauce.

Many housekeepers decline to have cabbage cooked in their kitchens because of the disagreeable odor with which the vegetable fills the house. If the servant would but obey the following directions this objection would be reduced to a minimum. In the first place, the saucepan should be the largest the 'menage' affords, and must contain enough water to entirely cover the cabbage. This saucepan must be placed on the hottest part of the range and the water be at a galloping boil before the cabbage is put in, and must be kept at a boil until the vegetable is done. Last of all, the lid must not be put on the saucepan during the whole process of cooking.

NORTHERN MESSENGER.

(To the Editor of the 'Northern Messenger'.)

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JAMES C. WOOD.

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