

HOUSEHOLD.

If we Would.

If we would but check the speaker
When he spoils his neighbor's name;
If we would but help the erring
Ere we utter words of blame;

Ah, the wrongs that might be rightened
If we would but see the way,
Ah, the pain that might be lightened
Every hour of every day,

Let us step outside the stronghold
Of our selfishness and pride,
Let us lift our fainting brothers,
Let us strengthen ere we chide;

Ah, how blessed—ah, how blessed
Earth would be if we'd but try
Thus to aid and right the weaker,
Thus to check each brother's sigh;

In each life, however lowly,
There are seeds of mighty good;
Still we shrink with soul's appeal
With a timid, 'If we could.'

The Farm and the Young People.

The absence of the young people strikes
one painfully in a farming community.
Family after family loses its boys and
girls as soon as they grow up, and the
parents seem to regard this state of things
as natural and to be expected.

Perhaps a century, or even a half century
ago there was reason for this at first sight
somewhat selfish proceeding on the part of
the young people. Implements were few
and hand labor heavy and slow of accom-
plishment. There was little to be made
from the farm, beyond a bare living.

Conditions are different to-day. Farm
implements reduce the necessity for hiring
numbers of men for the wife to lodge and
feed. Milk is sent to the nearest cream-
ery, and churning is no longer done at
home. Supplies of food are more easily ob-
tained and the endless drying of fruit and
putting away of vegetables has largely
ceased.

Even the attitude of the outsider toward
the farm has altered. The recent revival
of country life for city people is significant.
Numbers of people are moving from the

heat and confusion of the city multitude to
the spots where quiet remains. Abandoned
farms are being reclaimed and made de-
lightful homes. Living in a remote district
is no longer regarded as a frightful fate,
but rather a condition of happiness.

In spite of all this, young people on the
farm are slow to see that they neither need
to go away for a living or to find something
of interest to do. They still regard the
farm with something of the traditional idea
of its dullness and narrowness; but it is all
a mistake. The boy who goes to college
need not prepare himself for a life alto-
gether separate from his natural surround-
ings. He may take a course in agriculture
which will open his eyes to new methods,
the enriching of the soil chemically, the
adapting of crops to locality and climate,
the setting out of trees and raising improv-
ed products, and come back inspired to have
the model farm, with well-painted buildings,
new implements and attractive surround-
ings, and some specialty of stock, or chick-
ens, or fruit, which will make the old place
famous. There are many farms to-day
transformed from all that was careless, run-
down and poverty-stricken into smart beau-
tiful and valuable places, by the fresh enter-
prise of the farmer's son.

Why should the farmer not dress and live
like other people? Why should he sink
into an early middle age of indifference and
discouragement? Why should he not be in
his own way what is called in England a
'gentleman farmer?' Many a college man
to-day sees that the storm and stress of
business has little to offer him beyond eter-
nal routine and clerical pay, and is choosing
life on the farm, with its busy, interesting
summers, restful winters and splendid op-
portunities of development. The new vital-
ity put into the old places by such young
men gives results which far surpass expect-
ation.

Girls, too, are beginning to think that farm
life need not be the wearisome round their
mothers found it. They recognize that coun-
try life has much to offer that is charm-
ing. Given a year or two at school or col-
lege to widen the outlook, they come back
aglow with zeal for making the farm the
most attractive place to be found anywhere.
They brighten up the old house with a lit-
tle paint within and without; they re-cover
the furniture with clever fingers; they put
the new magazines on the table and step
respectfully over the old rag carpets which
fashion has declared beautiful. They find
all sorts of interesting things to do. Per-
haps they raise and sell flowers, or they
find pin money in a mushroom bed, or vio-
lets in a cold-frame, or they discover that
fancy eggs are marketable.

Interesting occupations and amusements
fill up the quiet days. They start a little
club, they take trips to the nearest town,
they are not afraid to invite their friends to
visit them, for they understand that with
straw rides, and picnics, and apple picking
and nutting, entertainment will never be
lacking.

The new generation is learning—slowly,
perhaps, but surely. One of these days the
exodus to the city will cease, and farm life
will be, if not all daisies and moonlight
nights and strawberries and cream, as one
might wish, yet so full of charm and inter-
est, that the young people will love it and
seek it.—Caroline Benedict Burrell, in the
'Congregationalist.'

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