

JUNE 5, 1913

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

1043

"What ignorance! I thought you were taught natural history, and if you were not, nearly every youngster would know a daisy."

Just here let me whisper it, friends, that the reason some teachers don't attend the Institute is that the Institute is supposed to have a lot to do with cooking and household economy, and such things wherein a great many teachers fall short, and I think they do not come because they are afraid to show their ignorance. Some have said to me when I have asked them to get up a paper, "Oh, I couldn't do it, especially if so-and-so is to be there. She has been a teacher you know." Well, that is all right so far. We have had many excellent papers from teachers, and hope for others, but, at the same time, I know of teachers who could do the literary part all right if they only knew the practical part, and the woman who has not the "book learning" may be full of practical ideas if she could only explain herself.

In some cases the meetings are held in the afternoons when teachers cannot go, but in others they are held in the evenings, and, in some cases, on Saturdays for the convenience of the teacher and the girls at school. At one meeting lately our teacher stretched a point, and kept a few minutes off the scholars at recess, and half an hour at noon, and let them out at three and came to the meeting late, which was better than not coming at all. I don't think the trustees would say a word to a teacher if she did that several times in this year, especially trustees who know what benefits accrue from the Institute.

Once in "The Farmer's Advocate," quite a long while ago, Junia gave us a talk on school teachers. She said the poor things had often to leave home when quite young and take up onerous duties and stand a lot of criticism, which is true, and she begged of the farmers' wives to take a motherly interest in the new teachers and invite them to their homes, which was also right, and she also said a lot about taking them in to board and all that, but she was like Arthur Hawkes, she forgot the other side. She did not say, "Now girls, when you go off to your new school, and some kind lady takes you into her house to board and uses you well, see that you do a daughter's part by her; see that you do not cause her any extra work or anxiety that you can avoid, for farmers' wives have lots to do; and don't be running to parties four nights in the week and coming in at all hours, keeping the poor woman awake, wondering what Tom, Dick or Harry you are with. For remember she knows their reputation better than you do."

It is strange, isn't it? that some teachers, who hold aloof from the farmer and his wife and daughter, because of their lack of education, have no objection whatever to going out with the farmer's son, especially if he has a fine horse and buggy at his disposal. But often it is the gay and giddy kind who do that, and very often they marry the son and settle down as useless housekeepers, and show their lack of education in practical matters. But there are other kinds, and the kind I like to see is the girl who is not spoiled by education; the girl who is not ashamed to do physical work when needed, and is not afraid of it either; the girl who, when she comes home from school or for holidays, is out to see the colts and the calves, or takes an interest in the garden; the girl who can "bake and brew, and cook and stew," and make her own clothes, or turn her hand to anything when needed. Such a girl, in my estimation, shows her education.

It has been a false idea in the old land and in this one too, that education unfits one for work, or that those who have money don't need to work. What we want is educated workers, people who will give this old world a hoist along, and make it the better for their being in it. I don't believe in "Blessed be drudgery," but I do believe in "Blessed is work." I believe, as Count Tolstoi did, that if we did physical labor one-half of the day and took the other half for educational and recreational purposes, life would be ideal. I have never had teachers to board, but I have had lots to visit me,

and one who came last summer (a teacher of Domestic Science) I am going to describe:

A SUMMER GIRL.

A lassie came to visit us
From far across the sea,
And stayed awhile in Canada
Where we delight to be.

She was not just the general sort
Of summer girl, you know,
And did not see in every man
A sort of summer beau.

Her head was screwed the proper way
And tightly fixed in place,
Her brain was where it ought to be,
And comely was her face.

Her thoughts were as a maiden's chaste,
Surpassing fresh and fair,
Her mind was stored with useful lore,
And coal-black was her hair.

She was not like the ordinary run
Of summer girls from town,
But often worked out in the sun
So that she might get brown.

She hoed the turnips in the field
And helped to rake the hay,
And many a busy hour did spend
On many a summer day.

She gathered fruit, and gathered eggs,
And helped to shell the peas,
She always helped to milk the cows,
And other jobs like these.

She led the horses to the field
And rode upon their backs,
She lectured in our Institute
And told us many facts.

Of how to do this thing, or that,
Of how to brew and bake,
Of how to cook in paper bags,
And ice a fancy cake.

Of course she took some rest between
And many an hour did pass
Just lying mong'st the pretty flowers
Or out upon the grass.

But summer went, and so did she,
And we were left to mourn,
And now another summer's come
We hope, she will return.

But if you don't, Oh summer girl,
We hope you'll get your due,
And may you often think of us
As we will think of you.
Grey Co., Ont. GREYBIRD.

[This is an interesting subject, and it has been dealt with in an interesting manner. Has anyone else anything to say about it? What about the teacher's side of the story?]

Ceres.

By Bliss Carman.

I am the daughter of earth and sun;
In the dusk I dream, in the wind I run.

I touch the fields with a greening fire,
And the yellow harvest is my desire.

When over hill comes the silver rain,
I spring with joy of the springing grain.

The farm land loves me, the acres know
Promise and fragrance where I go.

Over the furrows I wave my hand,
And gladness walks through the plenteous land.

In all the valleys at golden morn
My garments sweep with the rustling corn.

The laughing meadows from hill to sea
For a thousand years have been glad of me.

When foamheads break in the surging
rye,
I race with billow against the sky.

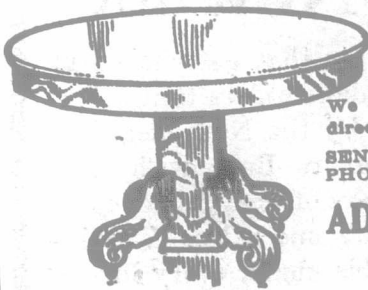
Lifting the song of the mother kind,
And the scarlet poppies troop behind.

Then when the far-spent rivers croon
To the rising shield of the harvest moon,

With all the good well won from harm,
I come at last to the reaper's arm—

I sink to the ground, my senses dim,
And I give my life for a gift to him.

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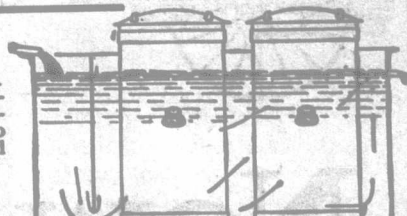
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