

Whatever touches the country home, touches the life of the nation. The wealth of this country is made on the farms. The sheep of this country add three hundred million to the wealth of the country every year. While at the present time this subject has not become the talk of the streets yet it is the serious question of to day. What are the causes that render the city more attractive than formerly?

First.—Those who leave the country for the city find readier occupation. The building up of the cities has caused this. Scarcely any person that comes to the city fails to find employment. Formerly this was not so. Thousands that once came to the city had the utmost difficulty in obtaining a living.

Second.—The cities take more interest in the young men and young women that come to them from the country. There are many institutions that are open to assist, direct, and counsel, to say nothing of the churches, Sunday schools, Young Men's Christian Associations, libraries, and even-
ing schools, etc., that exist.

Third.—The cities are more attractive than formerly. During the last quarter of a century much attention has been paid to building. There is an increase, too, of theatres and other things that make the city a more attractive place than the country.

Fourth.—The building of the railroads has made intercourse between people more ready, and the people upon the farms become acquainted with people from the cities. There is less isolation than formerly. There is readier means of getting to the city, visits become lengthened, and the visitor becomes a resident.

Fifth.—It must be noted here that farm work has become harder than it was once. The farms have become worn out or deteriorated; in all this Eastern country they have been cultivated in a wasteful and extravagant

manner. The soil has not been replaced, consequently those who own farms know that they produce very little. One cannot live upon scenery. Then, again, the Western prairies are in opposition to these worn out farms. Corn and wheat can be raised very cheaply there, and the railroads facilitate their transportation eastward, so that another cause is added to the depreciation of farm lands of the East.

The question will be asked, What can be done to stem a movement which is to be deplored? We doubt whether it is in the power of Congress or legislation. Probably it is a movement that will go on for a quarter of a century. Then a reaction will come, serious clouds will arise. As the continued destruction of forests has occasioned these tremendous floods, so it will be seen that the depreciation of farm life will also lower the tone and character, moral and social. Hence, there will be made an effort to restore this balance which is now disturbed. Then there will be efforts to create a love for country life. The late movement to encourage patriotism will then have its parallel in encouraging love for country life. This movement may be begun now. First, there should be special efforts in the schools to show the pleasures and delights of life in the country, and the charms of natural objects. We must cultivate a love for the country. It is God's handiwork.

Then, again, there should be better schools in the country. One of the great attractions of the city is that its schools are far superior to those of the country. The poorest schools are in the country. This is a well known fact. The schools of the city have improved in some cases a thousand per cent. while the schools of the country have gone backward. Once the schools of the country were among the best; there was scarcely any difference in the price paid to