

of urban life, is usually the foundation of the most potential character among us.

These things being true, it is safe to say to "John," and all his companions in perplexity, about this: Unless you have very marked reasons for a change of calling, remain on the farm. As a rule, there are but two reasons which should influence the young farmer to abandon the plow; First, such physical weakness as unfits him for farm labor; second, the possession of a taste so clamorous, and an adaptation so evident for some other vocation as to make it a clear case. Having decided on these grounds that the case is a clear one, the country boy—supposing him to act in his own behalf—should seek the first opportunity to fit himself for his new work whatever it be, and then rely upon his thorough mastery of his calling, upon perfect integrity, upon a constantly widening intelligence and tireless industry, for a worthy success. But if nine tenths of the farmer's sons who have left, and wish to leave, the country for the towns, will examine themselves and their circumstances, they will find no good reason in either for the change of place and work. A foolish whim is usually the only motive—a vague and vealy desire to have light work, wear better clothes, enjoy jolly company, see new sights, and make money faster than farmers can make it. The matter of permanent taste and adaptation for city employments seldom has any weight in deciding the question.

A few hard facts may bring the truth home to our correspondent and those in a like situation. For example, no sensible young man would choose to surrender the certain comfort and competence of farm life for a city clerkship, unless he expected to rise some day from clerk to merchant; and none would care to become a merchant unless he felt tolerably sure of being a successful one—that is, one able to pay his debts. Now see what are the chances for such final success of the country boy who turns his back on his farm home and seek "a situation" as clerk in a great city. In the first place the positions are filled, and the probability is that our applicant will fail to get any sort of a foothold. Suppose, however that by means of influential friends he obtains a place. Then begins the long struggle for promotion, with the knowledge that not more than one clerk in twenty can possibly become a proprietor, on account of their great number and the natural limitations of trade. But even granting suc-

cess in this long competition, too, then we are met by the fact that only one merchant in twenty is finally successful—the other nineteen becoming bankrupts, and either falls back into the unfortunate fraternity of life-long clerks, or engaging in some other pursuit. With these facts before him, our correspondent can compute his chances of untimely mercantile emirance. No such risk attends the business to which he has been bred, and which he fully understands. If few great fortunes arise from agriculture, it also furnishes very few absolute failures. Its dignity as a pursuit is under-estimated, and too little pains taken to raise it socially to a higher level. But the tendency is just now in the right direction, and every farmer's boy who has a "fair chance" on the homestead, and no special call to another pursuit, should do what he can to ennoble farm-life by throwing into it the nobility of a worthy manhood—remembering that, after all, usefulness and not position, character and not appearance, are the true tests of success.



THE AMERICAN BEE HIVE.

The following is the description of the Bee-hive herewith illustrated, as supplied by the proprietors and patentees, Messrs. H. A. King & Co., 240 Broadway, New York:

In shape and depth of comb, the American Side-Opening Hive closely resembles the common box hive. In the engraving, the bottom-board, A, projects in front of the hive, making a convenient alighting-board, and being inclined, is kept clean by the bees during the working season. By removing the entrance-block, C, a large opening is made for brushing out litter in winter or early spring, and for living new swarms. By the use of the small slide, B, held in place by the same button, the entrance can be contracted, if necessary, to the admission of a single bee, thus effectually guarding a weak swarm from robbery, and the entrance may be closed entirely by making the notches *d, d*, in the slide, correspond with the pillars, C, C.