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looked out of the window between each change of the long needle. Then she said this to a passenger in the chair near.

"You know I often think of the days when we pioneered—when I lived out in the wilds—when we got our mail once a year and we paid a dollar for every letter."

A sense of humor flashed across her face as she continued:

"One time we paid a dollar for a letter that happened to be a dun for a nephew in Toronto. Again we paid two dollars for two letters that were circulars. I remember we paid ten dollars for our letters that day." Then she added, thoughtfully, "We women faced much in those days but I was happy. I was so satisfied with my husband that nothing mattered."

When I heard her say this, I wished that every girl in this land could see that face and hear her speak—she is one of our nation's heroines. I do not know her name, but she is a heroine every inch of her. I heard her refer to her soldier boy over "at the front." Then when she stepped off the train in Winnipeg, a splendid big officer met her. She was the mother of men who wear the king's uniform—brave hearts do men inherit from women like this woman, who was so satisfied with her husband that nothing mattered.

A Secret

For a few months I have had a little secret that I have wanted to tell the girls in the country. I simply cannot keep it any longer. Last winter the girls from the agricultural college played basketball against the city girls in the city college. Of course when the country girls began they were reminded of cabbage heads, onions, carrots and so on, but those girls "played ball" and they played it well from the start. The city girls lost their vegetable vocabulary when they awakened to their defeat. I think no one was more interested in that season's basketball than I was. I wanted those agricultural girls to win. Finally the date came for the last game and this time the Agricultural boys attended to cheer the girls, and it was not long till the city girls decided to drop all reference to garden terms. That was some game and the Agricultural College girls came out first. That fine group of splendid girls won. I had to tell our girl readers. I simply thought it too good to keep.

Where Girls Grow

It is strange that there are so many books on woman's work, books for mothers, reams of material for the farm woman, but so little for the country girl, the girl who has no superior. I have searched through libraries and through book stores for material just for the country girl and thus far have found only one book written especially for the country girl. Girls in all other walks of life have books written for them. May this not be one reason that so many have joined what someone has called, "the funeral procession of the nation" cityward.

It is unsatisfied longings and aspirations that create discontent in their minds. The agricultural colleges have heard their cry and are fast fulfilling their desires and in a few years a great wide, wonderful life will be opened to them. They are catching the glimpse now through teachers and demonstrators that will mean a nation's salvation.

From the great rural reserve the initiating force of sane judgment and spiritual power shall reform every form of social poison. The rural environment fosters clear vision, clear ideals, clear moral strength.

Money spent on clothes ends in clothes. Money spent on good food, helpful pictures and inspiring books, education and music brings a long train of other valuable assets with it.

In my library of women's work I am astonished at the number of great leaders who were born in the country.

If a country prospers it is because the profession of agriculture is the backbone of the national life. In this book I find these questions concerning the country girl.

"And the daughter? While that ship comes slowly in that is to bring something comforting to her mother, while her father is giving the farm the benefit of his fast accumulating scientific

information and lessening the daily labor by up-to-date machinery, what is happening to the daughter? Is she having her share of content? Has she the chance to grow and fill full the possible round of her own personal development? Is the country girl happy on the farm? Or is she in her heart dissatisfied? Is she depressed? Is her face too old for her years? Is she round-shouldered and heavy of step? Is she listless, suspicious and sensitive? Or is she full of spirit and enthusiasm, a perfect dynamo of energy? Is she the life of the home with a word and a joke for everybody? Is she full of love and attention toward each member of the family, and endless in her devices for their comfort and entertainment? Is she a marvel at her work? Is she making the entire household happier for her being there?

This rural question is the most vital question concerning girls to-day. If the failure of the daughter's joy and usefulness threatens the farm home, then does the welfare of the country depend upon her. The farm will be weakened if it lacks the co-operation of the daughter. The happiness that comes through normal growth must be hers in order that she may fulfill her mission. The young woman on the farm must grow up with the idea that she is essential to the progress of country life, and therefore of the national life, and that a career is before her the same as that of her professional city sister. This purpose makes her life worth while.

Then has the daughter an opportunity to develop all her powers that Nature has given her? I asked some girls at the Agricultural College last year this question: "You have so much to work with here—does it make you discouraged about going home to do the work without all of these helps?"

"Oh no!" exclaimed one quickly, "I can hardly wait until I get home to make use of so many things that I have neglected. We learn to make our home helps here."

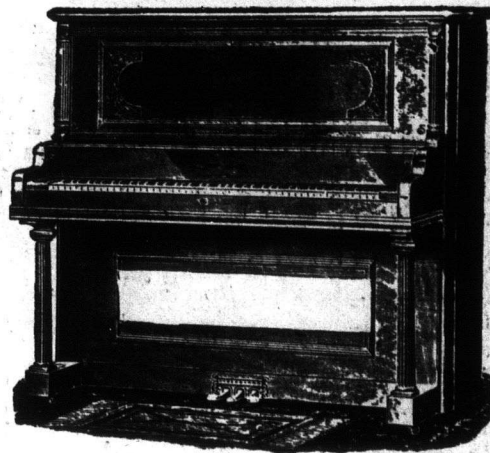
The girls all seemed eager to use their knowledge in their country homes. One girl who has made splendid record in winning prizes in butter making, said she was anxious to get home for she wears overalls all summer and saves her father a hired man. "Yes," her mother proudly added, "she goes around as soon as she reaches the farm and hugs and kisses every cow on the place. They are all her friends."

I am enthusiastic over this wonderful work of our agricultural colleges because I feel that they are solving the greatest problem of our girl life to-day. They are making the girl happy on the farm. The daughters in the homes of to-day are the home-makers of to-morrow; if they are estranged irrecoverably from the country home, what is to become of the rural community to-morrow?

The average girl on the farm is thoughtful, well balanced, dignified. "The quietness of the country permits of a greater spiritual and mental growth, with its abundance of life, plant and animal, which challenges the mind to discover its secrets," says one girl. She furthermore says: "The rocks and streams which call out to one for study and discovery, the beauties of the sunrise, the clouds, the sunset, the moonlight, and the far-off stars—these call to our spirits to penetrate their mystery and lift up our souls to those levels above the commonplace where we commune with the Maker; the hills and the wide expanses make us reverent and teach us to walk patiently; the clean, sweet air gives us health and strength of body and soul, and the freedom from restraining by formalities and conventionalities permits the development of a person in a sane and natural way."

I have known city girls to go to the country and speak in a patronizing manner to country girls and boys—those honest manly fellows who are clean all the way through. When I hear a city girl regard the country girl and boy with tolerant pity, I think, "My girl, the simplest things about Nature which you do not know would fill many a book."

One woman who has talked with many country girls says this: "I gain this impression—like a composite photograph, they reveal a personality of even-tempered voice, self control with a dynamic element of force that will compel a hearing from the outside world for they will be the life leaders of the future."



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