

What is lost mentally is gained physically, and while in cities we often find cultivated minds in weak bodies, in the country we see a harmonious development of all the hidden powers ; body keeping pace with mind, and mind with body. Also, what seems to be a mental loss, is not really so, because the pupil, by out-door farm work, is coming continually in close contact with Nature, and Nature is said to be the best teacher.

At the age of 18, I found myself in charge of a school of about sixty summer and winter pupils, with an average attendance of about thirty-two, ranging from the ages of four years up to eighteen. The number of classes each day amounted to about thirty, from the alphabet class up to the class preparing for entrance to high schools. You will at once see how difficult it is for the teacher to keep all at profitable employment, conduct a class and keep order ; and you will be surprised to hear that many of the pupils during the year, so restrained their tongues, that for twenty-five or thirty weeks they did not speak a word to a fellow-pupil in class-hours. I took into that school, as the sceptre of authority, the rawhide ; but I found it was only on rare occasions I had to use it. I found it a better plan to make the pupils responsible for their own actions, and train them to habits of self-government.

The school-house was built in the midst of a clay plain, with a large platform in front, about four feet above the level of the ground, on which the children could play in the spring of the year when floods of water inundated the land. There were no sidewalks there, my city friends, but pupils and teacher through mud or water had to plod their way. My boarding-house was about half a mile from the school-house, and rather than wade through the mud, I thought I would contrive another plan. I tried to float a log on one of the open ditches which skirted the way, but as I was not a skilled *logician*, the log rolled, and its rider was several times cast into the flowing stream. Next, a raft was constructed, but one of the timbers being water-soaked, it was, consequently, heavier than the opposite one, and difficult to steer, yet it behaved fairly well until it carried me to the deepest part, and then with a lurch launched me in the deep. I am sure the pupils had many similar experiences.

But you must not imagine that life for us was nothing but a vale of tears. Picture in your minds, the abatement of the waters and the appearance of the dry land, the singing of the spring birds, the ripening of the strawberries, the pupils and teacher playing **baseball** ; school girls gathering May-flowers to adorn the teacher's desk, or playing "mouse-through-the-woods" during the hours of recreation, and, during school hours, busily and happily learning to fight the battles of life, and you have a clear application of the proverb : "After the clouds, cometh sunshine."

The life of a country teacher, who earnestly strives to do his duty, is, on