

chance, the indulgence of obscene stories, and all the other crookedness inherent in night running, the moral degradation is more deplorable than the physical strain.

The whole thing in the shape in which it exists is wrong. Who is to blame, and how is it to be corrected? The appeal must be made to the parents to correct the growing tendency to running about at night. It is one of the very worst things for the physical and moral welfare of our youth. Bad habits are learned. Morals are debauched; character is compromised. Parents and guardians should, therefore, give this matter their serious attention. Home must be made attractive to the young. Furnish them rational and pleasant means of amusement. Make the social atmosphere, the intelligence, the fun of home so pleasant and desirable that the children will prefer them to running away from home every night.

Going Back to School.

A merry tramp of the feet—
Just hear the sweet vibration!
The children over all the land
Have had a long vacation;
And back again they haste to take
In school the dear old places,
To measure out the days by rule,
With fair, unshadowed faces.

What! September already? and time for school to begin again? How the summer days have flown by! Can't somebody find a way to clog the wheels of time so that they will turn more slowly, at least during vacation time?

Good-by, green fields and mountain breezes and seaside pleasures! our city boys and girls must come back to their homes. And the country boys and girls must take their books, too; but they will be the more fortunate ones, some of us think, for their way to the school-house will lead them

Along the quiet country roads
By purple asters bordered,
while their city cousins must troop
along noisy, crowded streets.

But whether in city or village or country, we hope you've all had a joyous vacation, and that the coming school days will be both busy and merry.

We older people like to watch
Our little lads and lasses,
As sturdily they set to work
In sober ranks and classes.
Such happy brows are overbent
To con the pictured pages,
Such earnest wills are wrestling with
The story of the ages.

—It is not the gift, but the giving,
which is most precious and helpful.
It is not the succor, but the sympathy
and intelligence and gentle humanity
with which it is offered, that cheers
the very soul of the poor and the
weary and the dying.

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