

While we are glad to know that there are many farm homes to which the above picture does not apply, yet it has its counterparts here there and every where all over the land. And sure we are, that if boys are to be kept on the farm, there must be more effort put forth to render life there pleasant and attractive. A constant round of monotonous, unrelieved drudgery is making hundreds of country lads long for the time when relieved of parental control, free to go where and do what they will, their first step in a career of independence will be to abandon farm life and strike out for themselves in some other line of things.

To remedy this evil let some attention be paid to the ornamental and beautiful, both in-doors and out of doors. Even a log house may be made home-like and attractive by the exercise of neatness and taste. Multitudes of commodious houses built of better materials, are desolate as barns for want of a few embellishments within and without, that would cost but little time and less money. Paint, whitewash, wall paper, carpets, rugs, some fancy articles, a well-hung picture here and there, a few good periodicals and books, a musical instrument of some kind; shade trees, grass plot, flower beds, climbing roses and other creepers, neat fences and nice gravel walks;—what is there to hinder any thrifty, energetic farmer from having these things about him? Generally speaking, nothing except his own contempt for them. In some cases the struggle to get the place paid for, stocked, and furnished with implements, forbids much launching out in the directions indicated, but it is no rare thing for people who think themselves too poor to indulge in matters of taste and refinement, to spend in tobacco and whiskey what, combined with a little well directed effort, would completely revolutionize their surroundings, and make home what it should ever be, a charming spot.

Boys are often overworked, and nothing more effectually destroys youthful energy than this, in accordance with the old proverb, "all work and no play, makes Jack a dull boy." All young animals were meant by the Creator to indulge more or less in sportiveness, and relaxation is necessary for the highest well-being of both young and old. Be considerate and rea-

sonable, you that are fathers, and do not expect your sons to be always on the go. Nothing will be lost in the long run by giving them a little time to themselves, and letting them have an occasional holiday. They will work with more cheerfulness and energy if stimulated by such indulgences.

Boys should have something they can call their own,—a bit of land to till on their own account, a calf, colt, or some sheep to raise, or some regular allowance made them, to cultivate the feeling of independence and self-reliance. In short boy-nature should be studied and wisely managed. Thought, plan, and even sacrifice on the part of parents will be required if they are to be so brought up as to cling to the old homestead, and choose, for its own sake and in preference to other avocations, life on the farm. Is not the object one of sufficient importance to demand attention and repay endeavour? The young man who forsakes the farm to try his luck in the city plunges into a sea of uncertainty, a scene of temptation, and a whirl of excitement. He may go through it all unscathed, but the danger is that he will fall a prey to evil influences, and have cause for unceasing regret that he ever turned his back upon the country and the farm.

NINTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE OF VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA, 1868.

There appear to be twenty-nine Agricultural Societies in the Colony of Victoria (formerly known as Australia Felix) in connection with the Board of Agriculture. The public grant in aid to these Societies amounted last year to £4500 sterling, exclusive of £1000 for premiums and experiments, and £750 to meet the expenses of the Board. The Societies hold annual exhibitions, which are, on the whole, very creditable to so young a Province, hitherto more noted for gold-seeking than agricultural pursuits. Premiums, varying from £5 to £20 each, are given in the different departments of live stock, in which great improvements have recently been effected. Liberal prizes are likewise awarded to grain, vegetables, implements, and machines. Special encouragement has been given to grape culture, with very satisfactory results, and large