



### MY WISH.

Whenever I see the evening star,  
Far up in the sky so blue,  
Then over my shoulder I look and wish—  
Shall I tell you I wish of you?

I count the stars till they've numbered  
seven.

And then to these chosen few  
I give the dearest wish of my heart—  
Shall I tell you I wish of you?

I wish all sorts of impossible things,  
Just as all foolish girls will do,  
And then as I think of that clear gray  
eye—  
Shall I tell you I wish of you?

I think as I look at the stars so bright,  
Of all that is good and true,  
And I think of that strangely bewildering  
smile—  
And then I wish of you.

Oh, what is my future going to be?  
Oh, what if my wish should come true?  
Ah, well, it is only God can direct,  
So again I'll wish of you.

ADELE V. RICHIE.

### THAT LITTLE BOY OF OURS.

I love to watch the gathering fowls,  
And hear the lowing kine,  
To start the morning-glory sprouts  
And train the columbine.  
I love to see the apple bloom—  
Acres of fragrant flowers—  
But what were all the joys without  
That little boy of ours?

I linger by the buzzing bee—  
And watch them boom along  
In tune with lilting orioles  
With silver throats of song.  
But what are echoes in the wood,  
Or in the leafy bowers?  
I hear a laughing baby voice—  
That little boy of ours.

The lambskins bleating on the green,  
Lost in the April fold,  
How tenderly I gather them  
Into the cheery fold,  
But when that baby voice I hear  
In chill or sunny hours,  
Then I'm the shepherd of a child—  
That little boy of ours.

And in my arms I gather him,  
I fold him to my heart,  
And kiss the baby forehead white.  
Where sunny ringlets part;  
And all the happy farmer's pride—  
The crops, and bees, and flowers—  
Are all forgotten while I kiss  
That little boy of ours!

J. A. COLL.

### WHY BOYS LEAVE THE FARM.

Roy Morris in F & H for Feb 1 asks  
why boys leave the farm. I am a farmer  
boy myself and speak  
from experience. It has  
been my observation  
that too many farm-  
ers use their boys like  
a horse or a piece of  
machinery. They put  
the boy to work in the  
field before he is big  
enough to reach the  
plow handles, and  
drive him around at  
everything, until finally, before he  
reaches his 20th year, he is a stunted,  
round-shouldered, worked-out old man.  
How can a boy entertain anything but  
dislike for farm life under such condi-  
tions? A farmer boy's isolation from so-  
ciety is another thing that tends to  
drive him from the farm. Farmers as  
a rule are too independent and too  
much engrossed with their own affairs  
to care anything for society, so the  
boy is kept away from that recreation,  
and even at home he has no papers or  
books to read, as so many farmers  
think they know too much to learn  
anything from papers. There are other  
boys that leave the farm because they  
are ambitious to enter some business or  
profession. I do not believe it is right  
to try to keep such boys on the farm.  
They are generally of the stuff of which  
our great men are made.—[Hawkeye  
Hank.]

Some farmers laugh at book farming,  
as they call it. The way their fathers  
did is good enough for them. But the  
observer will see a great difference be-  
tween their farm and the so-called  
"book farmer's." This is one thing that

takes the boys from the farm. They  
have no books and papers to read, and  
no time to read them if they had a well-  
stocked library at their disposal. It  
is nothing but the old-fashioned farm-  
ing or drudgery from morning till night.  
I know a farming district where one  
winter they had a literary society, and  
the young people took the chance and  
learned a good deal, and when spring  
came some were in favor of continuing  
the society, but the old farmers shook  
their heads and said that "the boys  
wouldn't have time to attend, that they  
wanted them to work instead of such  
tomfoolery." These same farmers won-  
der why the boys will persist in leav-  
ing the farm.—[Alter Egg.]

### SHORT TALKS.

**Limitations**—We are not qualified to  
judge others. We know not their mo-  
tives, nor the limitation of man's in-  
heritance and where, at a just, equal  
basis, life begins anew on its own  
path of responsibility. If this natural  
life were all, well and truthfully could  
I say, "Ah, creation, what a sin!" Off  
through force of circumstances we are  
forced to do heavy labor that our very  
construction proves is not ours. It is  
easy to give advice, but what does it  
all amount to? What can we accomplish  
if we lack or are deficient in the neces-  
sary qualities? We cannot climb out of  
these creative spheres, but lack or  
weakness in these qualities creates an  
interference that prevents us from  
grasping the necessary ideas that lead  
to the step from which to attain suc-  
cess.—[Senis.]

**Fun Enough**—Bachelor, I do not  
blame that girl for not staying single  
just to accommodate you. I suppose  
she had fun enough and then when she  
saw someone she liked better than she  
did you, she would not wait behind  
with you any longer. Remember, all  
girls are not deceitful.—[Truro.]

Dear girls, have any of you a "laugh"  
which doesn't suit the family? Well, I  
have. Instead of its being a sweet lit-  
tle giggle, it's one mighty roar; which  
I'm told is very unbecoming to a young  
lady. Please tell me how to bring it  
down a pitch or two.—[Phoebe, Utah.]

I agree with A Young Maid in regard  
to speaking of old maids and bachelors,  
for we don't know whether we will be  
one or not.—[Wild Cowboy.]

While our good actions are liable to  
be forgotten by the people, yet our bad  
deeds seem to linger in the minds of  
some, regardless of what we afterward  
do.—[Pa Smarty.]

For amusement our young people  
learn dialogs, recitations, etc. We find  
very much enjoyment in the practice,  
and when we get several in readiness,  
we give an entertainment. We are now  
learning a play, Timothy Delano's  
Courtship.—[Jenny Lind.]

It should be the one thought of the  
young husband or wife only to see the  
better nature of the other and in that  
way help to overcome each other's  
faults. Keep up your courtship even as  
you grow older and you will feel young  
by it.—[Illinois Cousin.]

**Right?**—Here is a little experience of  
my own. While away on a visit last  
summer, I met a young man and en-  
tertained him a few evenings. On the  
evening before I came home he said  
one or two things which I thought en-  
tirely out of place, and I became angry,  
using some pretty hot words, which I  
saw hurt him very much. I knew I  
should not have said it, but was too  
proud or hateful, if you wish, to apolo-  
gize. But after I came home I wrote  
him an apology and received a very  
kind note in return. Now, did he think  
me immodest? Say, Bachelor, did I do  
right?—[Leta.]

**Stepmothers**—With regard to step-  
daughter's inquiry, I would say women  
suffer themselves to become step-  
mothers for different reasons. First,  
selfishness, not caring for the welfare  
of their stepchildren so a home and de-  
sired marriage are obtained for them-  
selves. I think this class as rare as the  
unnatural own mother, as almost every  
stepmother takes some interest in and  
desires to promote the welfare of her  
husband's children. Still there are a  
few of this kind. Second, kindness and  
sympathy. A woman is moved by a  
man's loneliness and the destitution of

motherless children, and resolves to  
supply the needs of both, and takes up-  
on herself a burden which, notwith-  
standing the willingness of the spirit,  
the flesh is unable to bear. Third, ig-  
norance of the trials and responsibil-  
ities assumed until too late. But step-  
daughters, granting that you have had  
occasion to complain, may I not remind  
you of the old adage, "A half a loaf is  
better than none." It is the greatest  
misfortune that can befall a family of  
children to lose a good father or  
mother, still it is the fate of some, and  
although the home can never be again  
to them what it has been or all it was,  
is it not well that someone comes in  
and does all that it is possible to do?  
Should not the stepmother have credit  
for all the good she does do, and not be  
too severely criticised for her faults?  
For even own mothers are not perfect.  
[E. M. H.]

**More Vivacity**—Water Lily, you  
seem to have brought the house down  
on you for loving your teacher; but  
never mind, that is all  
right, as all school children  
should love their teachers,  
and it is only natural that  
the teacher should love his  
or her pupils, otherwise a  
teacher has no business in  
the school room, he should be  
"leaning on a hoe." As to  
the term fast as often used  
in the Council and as ap-  
plied to girls who are of a  
lively and good natured dis-  
position, I think it is a mis-  
nomer. Because a girl is full of vivacity  
and is not afraid to look at or smile  
when meeting a gentleman friend, is no  
evidence that she is on the road to de-  
gradation. The girl of this disposition,  
coupled with a certain amount of  
modesty, is the one sought after by  
nine out of every ten men who want a  
real helpmeet. But having "fellers" at  
14 is quite another matter. No girl  
should have a beau until she is at least  
20, as most girls are not matured  
enough before this age to know what  
they are about, as one said to the writ-  
er when he was a kid of 20, trying to  
persuade her to marry him. Plow Boy,  
your idea is very good, but it reminds



me of a certain matter. I have many,  
many thanks to give you for what your  
Vegetable Compound has done for me.  
After first confinement I was sick for  
nine years with prolapsus of the womb,  
had pain in left side, in small of back;  
a great deal of headache, palpitation  
of heart and leucorrhoea. I felt so  
weak and tired that I could not do my  
work. I became pregnant again and  
took your Compound all through, and  
now have a sweet baby girl. I never  
before had such an easy time during  
labor, and I feel it was due to Lydia  
E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. I  
am now able to do my work and feel  
better than I have for years. I cannot  
thank you enough.—Mrs. Ed. En-  
linger, Devine, Tex.

## A Happy Mother's Gratitude

[LETTER TO MRS. PINKHAM NO. 36,785]

"DEAR MRS. PINKHAM—I have many,  
many thanks to give you for what your  
Vegetable Compound has done for me.  
After first confinement I was sick for  
nine years with prolapsus of the womb,  
had pain in left side, in small of back;  
a great deal of headache, palpitation  
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better than I have for years. I cannot  
thank you enough.—Mrs. Ed. En-  
linger, Devine, Tex.

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ham's Vegetable Compound, Blood  
Purifier and Liver Pills and feel won-  
derfully strengthened. Before using  
your remedies I was in a terrible state;  
felt like fainting every little while. I  
thought I must surely die. But now,  
thanks to your remedies, those feel-  
ings are all gone."—Mrs. EMILIE  
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MICH.

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