

wholesome development, happiness, and satisfactions. That is why I speak earnestly this afternoon on the importance of improving the conditions of rural life, that the children may be intelligent, capable, industrious, and full of good will.

BURIAL BEFORE DEATH.

In not a few instances unworthy motives impel parents to seek education as such for their children. Perhaps one of the most powerful of these is that education may deliver the boy from the need of working hard—give him a chance to escape hard labor. Any parent or any child who seeks education for that reason finds it a disappointment, a delusion and a snare—both as means and an end.

To seek to escape one's share of toil in life is really to waste one's powers, to wrap one's talents in the napkins or cerements of the tomb. It is burial before death. One purpose of education should be to develop the powers and train them into fitness for application to real, exhausting, telling hard work. One of the mischievous notions abroad is that the necessity for labor somehow was the consequence of man's fall; that as a punishment Adam was doomed to earn his bread by the sweat of his brow. No greater misfortune could befall a people than a general belief that labor is to be shunned, to be evaded, or to be looked down upon as a disgrace. I mean manual labor quite as much as intellectual toil. Conditions of rural life should be made so attractive that the boys will be impelled to work for sheer love of doing things, for the exhilaration and delight that come through the labor that increases "mastery for service."

Others seek education in the hope of finding a more genteel occupation than that of their fathers—something more genteel than farming. That habit of thought or motive regarding education should be corrected. The school should teach the children that there is no more satisfying and honorable calling than agriculture. But I would not stunt their ambition or benumb their powers by keeping them from knowing. Rather would I nourish them worthily by letting them learn that the real satisfying joys of life come from doing work with the hands and the mind and the spirit, indeed with the whole nature for the uplifting of the people of the locality.