



Night For Adventures.

BY VICTOR STARBUCK.

Sometimes when fragrant summer dusk comes in with scent of rose and musk

And scatters from their sable husk the stars like yellow grain,
Oh, then the ancient longing comes that lures me like a roll of drums
To follow where the cricket strums his banjo in the lane.

And when the August moon comes up and like a shallow, silver cup
Pours out upon the fields and roads her amber-colored beams,
A leafy whisper mounts and calls from out the forest's moss-grown halls
To leave the city's somber walls and take the road o' dreams.

A call that bids me rise and strip, and, naked all from toe to lip,
To wander where the dewdrops drip from off the silent trees,
And where the hairy spiders spin their nets of silver, fragile-thin,
And out to where the fields begin, like down upon the breeze.

Into a silver pool to plunge, and like a great trout wheel and lunge
Among the lily-bonnets and the stars reflected there;
With face upturned to lie afloat, with moonbeams rippling round my throat,
And from the slimy grasses plait a chaplet for my hair.

Then, leaping from my rustic bath, to take some winding meadow-path;
Across the fields of aftermath to run with flying feet,
And feel the dewdrop-weighted grass that bends beneath me as I pass,
Where solemn trees in shadowy mass beyond the highway meet.

And, plunging deep within the woods, among the leaf-hung solitudes
Where scarce one timid star intrudes into the breathless gloom,
Go leaping down some fern-hid way to scare the rabbits in their play,
And see the owl, a phantom gray, drift by on silent plume.

—“Poetry” Magazine.

More From the School for Rural Leadership, O. A. C., Guelph.

THE Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine reporter regrets very much that a verbatim report of President Reynolds' address delivered before the School for Rural Leadership at the O. A. C., Guelph, on July 28th, was not available. This time, our readers must take instead, reluctantly as they are given, the scattered notes jotted down upon that occasion in the lecture-hall. These notes may serve, however, to convey the ideas of the speaker to those who were not privileged to attend the Rural Community School, and to recall them to those who were so privileged.

Rural Problems. Lecture III.

IN beginning President Reynolds briefly outlined his two preceding addresses, recalling that he had expressed the conviction that the increasing dominance of the town, or “town-mindedness,” even in the feelings and point of view of rural people, had not been altogether good, and that we should attempt to restore the balance between country and town, and to make country thought and country people of more consequence in Canada. He wished to make it clear that what he had said was no accusation against classes or individuals. Someone

has said, he remarked, that you can't characterize a whole nation. Neither can you characterize a whole class. We cannot arraign the capitalists, as individuals. If we had been born in their class we should likely be doing the things they do. Had we been born in the labor class, with the years behind the “labor” point of view, imposed by history and circumstance, we should probably feel just as the people in that class feel. In his last lecture he had tried to present the farmers' point of view, which had led to the political revolt of last year. He had dealt also with facts, conditions and systems, not presenting an argument but a point of view. No class can point to another and say “Thou art the man!” The farmers, in permitting the drift of things in Canada, are as guilty as anyone else. They voted for protection. Look what an opportunity they had in 1911! Moreover (with a smile) the speaker knew a few farmers who have speculated in town lots and so contributed to that system which has redounded against country life. He knew also, farmers who have encouraged their children to leave the farm by disparaging their own occupation and way of living. Such men as these sometimes send their boys to the Agricultural College and expect the teachers there to undo the mischief they have done. It is impossible to blot out the mischief done during the impressionable years of childhood by giving a wrong point of view.

Farmers have also been responsible for the drift away from the country by failing to give the children enough opportunities, educational and otherwise. If country life would be what we would have it, we must supply an equal degree of mental and moral training. Why should the boy and girl intended for a profession get a University education, and the boy or girl for the farm be satisfied with a public school education? Parents often lavish on the bright boy the means of education for a profession, and deny the less bright one any chance. “A little

Last winter another student came to President Reynolds and asked to be excused from school for a few days, as he wanted to go the city to buy a tractor for his farm. That boy of twenty years of age went up to Winnipeg and bought a \$2,000 tractor. He will stay on the farm.

Unfortunately, in Ontario that degree of responsibility has not been granted to young men and women as freely and as early. In Manitoba the College is not criticized for educating “away” from the farm. The College itself is not doing any better than the O. A. C.; the difference is in the degree of responsibility given to young people in that Province. “Here is a text for you, as you go back to your people in the country,” said the speaker: “Present to parents the idea that as the children get older and become deserving of opportunity and responsibility they be given increasing responsibility,—that the father and mother gradually relinquish responsibility to the bright boy and girl. There is too much conservatism, too much clinging to reins of power, too much lack of confidence in the boys and girls.”

A question thrown in at this juncture by one of the audience precipitated a lively discussion on the subject of young people leaving the farm, and the idea was brought out that the bright young man and woman will not be mendicants and supplicants at their father's purse. They must be reasonably independent if they are to be contented on the farm.

Taking part in the discussion, President Reynolds said, “I consider that withholding opportunity of outlook from young people is largely a cause of their abandoning country for city life. Isn't it a humiliation for a young man or woman to have to say, ‘I'm going to town; may I have a quarter?’” For the last four years, (if he might be personal) he had been giving his own boys a monthly allowance, and requiring the younger of them to give strict account of how the money is

“Everybody thought the boy would be an absolute failure—and he was.” If you withhold confidence you prevent self-confidence.

Returning to his subject, the speaker said he believed the solution of this question, viz., the overpowering dominance of the town and city versus the weakening of the country, will be to secure some sort of organic union between town and country interests. Personally he thought this very difficult to do, because any place of over 25,000 population is necessarily antagonistic in its interests to country life. A town of that kind begins to harbor a number of people whose intention it is to prey upon the productiveness of the country, to live by their wits and by the work of others. So long as such people find harborage there is no hope of remedy.

The solution of all this, and of depopulation of the country, the speaker thought, lies in re-building, if possible, small country towns and villages. A few weeks ago he was in a small village whose chief industry is a canning factory. It affords the means for disposing of specialized products raised on the surrounding farms. A town of that sort does establish the right relation between town and country. The people there know the inter-dependence between town and country. They know that if the products on the farms fail, their own income will fail. The trouble with large cities is that they are so far removed from the country. We must accomplish the rehabilitation of the country town, for example, go back 40 years ago to that feature. There should be a deliberate purpose and intent against too much concentration in large cities. Such cities try to pull away the factories from the small places. We need a deliberate and definite campaign. We need to create a feeling against too large cities, which are unwieldy and uncivilized. We want to create a feeling for the open country and the small town. Why should we boast that Canada has so many large cities? We have grown too far that way.

Another thing that has drawn boys and girls away from the farm is ambition for wealth, place, larger opportunities. What is the remedy?

On our commissions for public welfare how often do you see country opinion recognized. It's a habit, you see, to overlook it. Now, the experiment in the Legislative Halls of Ontario should prove there is some excellence in the country, some public spirit. If this Government of farmers succeeds, what a demonstration of the modicum of wisdom to be found in the country! If the people in that country see the country recognized on public commissions they will see as great opportunities in the country as in the town. We want, as rural leaders, to give to the country mind a fair measure of self-confidence. (1) Belief of the people in themselves. (“I mean that the rural experience is invaluable in development of the individual powers. The rural person is of as much importance as person in the city.”)

Question from one of the audience “Are not most of the important people in the cities country born?”

Answer: “Yes—but most of them have adopted the town attitude.”

Continuing: The development of class consciousness, as shown in the choice of farmers to represent rural constituencies is not enough. There must be no ignoring of country people on public commissions.

There must be capable leadership in the country. In this the country minister and school teacher can help. They belong to the country, but how often do they not belong, in spirit and sympathy! How often do their wives not



A Perennial Border.

education is enough for you,” they say, “you are to remain on the farm.” There is a better way than that. Last spring the Province of Alberta began building three or four agricultural schools (placed in various centres of the Province, and provided with “residence” boarding houses) in which were to be taught agriculture and domestic science. Alberta was looking for teachers to man these schools, and a request was made to Prof. Reynolds that he secure these teachers at a salary of \$3,000. The position was offered to three students, and was declined. They were going back to the country to start farming, they said; they saw something better on their own farms.

spent, so that advice can be given in case it is not being expended wisely. The boys are thus acquiring experience and skill in handling money. They managed to buy \$750 in war bonds, most of the amount having been earned by themselves by outside endeavor, they would not have thought of buying the bonds had they not acquired the business habit. As a contrast to this throwing of responsibility upon young people President Reynolds cited an instance in which a man whose son was to attend the Agricultural College brought the youth all the way from England, paid his expenses ahead for him and transacted all possible business for him.