

see his boys become farmers can, by means of wise and careful training, usually carry his wish into effect.

Boys should be taught that farming is an *honorable occupation*. It is very true that the calling does not make the man, and that a man should not be respected because he follows one honest occupation or despised because he follows another. Character is what a man *is*, and cannot always be determined by reference to the kind of work which he performs. The farmer may be a gentleman or he can be a boor, he may build up a noble character or he may be a villain. He makes his own choice in these respects. Merely being a farmer will make him neither a good man nor a bad one. Still, farming is a business which does not open to its followers so many evil influences, and expose them to as many temptations, as some lines of business. It is the kind of labor which God directly marked out for man, and upon the cultivation of the soil the civilization and happiness of mankind must, in a great measure, depend. As far as occupation is concerned, the farmer has no occasion to "look up to" the merchant, manufacturer, or professional man. Clergymen and teachers are doing a work the value of which is beyond all price, and many boys will be called from the farm to fill the ranks of these professions. The ones whom God calls into these fields should not hesitate for a moment to obey. But before a boy leaves the farm to become a merchant, or to go to a city as a laborer, or to engage in business of any kind, he should very carefully consider the question whether there is any good prospect that he can do better than the thousands of those who have preceded him, and who have soon been led to repent that they ever left the farm.

The boys who are designed by their parents for farmers should be led to take an interest in their work. The skilful teacher leads his scholars along both rapidly and pleasantly when he gets them fully interested in their studies, but until he can do this their progress will be very slow. The boy who "don't care" about farming may be led to take an interest in it and choose it for his life-work. If the farmer would explain to him the way in which plants grow, and tell him why certain operations are performed at the particular times which he observes, and also furnish him with books and papers treating of these and of kindred subjects, he would soon find that the indifference had given way to earnest inquiry and deep interest.

Life on the farm must be made pleasant to the boys who are designed to follow the calling of their fathers. The young have a firm belief that life ought to yield a great deal of pleasure, and if things are unpleasant at home they will go elsewhere in hope of bettering their condition. This hope is often disappointed, yet the boys press on as though it were sure to be realized. The parent ought to strive to make his children so happy at home that they will prefer it to all other places. We do not mean that the child should always have his own way. Far from it. Parental authority ought to be firmly maintained. But the rule should be very gentle and the natural waywardness of youth should not cause the father to lose all patience with his boys. The average boy who is well treated is not as exacting as many people seem to imagine. He can be made contented with reasonable care and attention. We have already alluded to the necessity of furnishing him books and papers, and a pleasant room in which to spend his evenings. He should also be well clothed and furnished with what spending money he really needs. Coarse clothes can, and should, be worn while at work, but every farmer's boy should have good clothes in which he can go into company without being ridiculed or feeling that he is unsuitably dressed. He should be taught to respect himself and his occupation.