

THE SCHOOLMASTER IN THE COUNTRY.

THREE years of it! Three years as a country schoolmaster. Three winters of cold, dark mornings, of drifted roads, of paths to be broken with reluctant feet from the farmhouse on the hill to the little brick schoolhouse in the hollow. Three winters of stormy or of sleety days, when the old box stove would roar and vibrate with the fierce indraught made by the dozen maple blocks crammed into its great maw and the pipes reddening half way to the ceiling in the heat of their burning. Three winters of dreary, storm-bound evenings spent with a book or a writing-pad, while the farmer studied the local paper and his wife and daughter did mending or embroidery, and the silence was broken only by the clock and the crackling of the fire in the air-tight heater until, with the retiring of the women, a political discussion would begin, with little chance of ending before midnight.

But, then, the winters held more than stormy days and shut-in evenings. There were the mornings when the air was still and the sun was reflected in dazzling brilliance from the snow that sparkled cold and beautiful beneath the foot and everywhere over the broad fields as far as one could see, and when the horses dashed up to the schoolhouse white with the rime of their own breathing, prancing and champing as the sleighs discharged their freight of sturdy boys and rosy-faced little girls, so rolled up in hoods, and shawls and scarfs that the teacher would have to unpin them before they could help themselves. There were, too, the days when every seat was full and work was hard, but when the noon hour saw the whole brood of them roistering in the wild excitement of snow battles, when snow men were set to guard the schoolyard gates, and the steam of drying boots and mittens rose from within the fire-screens throughout all the busy afternoon. And then there were those other nights when the roads stretched out far and the sleigh track gleamed like polished steel under the cold glitter of a winter moon and the galaxy of stars never seen at any other time; nights when the runners of one's cutter would shriek and hiss on the frozen snow of the roadbed and the bells would only seem to accentuate the silence that was everywhere around so perfect. A firelight glowing or a night lamp dimly shining through a window as one drove along with loosened reins were the only distractions, and wonderful were the dreams in those silent night drives, returning after enjoying someone's hospitality somewhere.

And then the spring, with the smell of the fresh-ploughed land, followed by the almost overpowering odors from the orchards and, before school closed for the summer vacation, by the scent of new mown hay. The glad new life of all the young things on the farms, the birds, and the flowers and the little children just beginning their life in school—all seemed to make one feel the pulsing joy of living in a world of life.

The winter and the spring were good, but how can one tell of the autumns? The smell of the corn and turnip land, the sight of the well-tilled fallows and the dull gold of the stubble fields pervading the senses until the glory of the autumn woods in the purple haze of the fall made them dull to everything else. The crest of the hill above the school brought it all into view, and the shouts of the children rolling in the heaps of fallen leaves in the playground came up as from some place far away, and one choked back the strange emotion that made the throat ache and the eye grow moist as he looked and heard.

Three years of life among all this, three years of work and perhaps of growth, but at any rate, three years of happy memory.

M.H.V.C.

An old man who lived by a chasm
Fell over the edge in a spasm;
He lit on his head
Since then, it is said,
He stays in the house when he has 'em!—Ex.

ENGINEERING SOCIETY.

The first meeting of the Engineering Society for the Easter term took place in Dr. Ellis' lecture room on Wednesday, January 14, with the president in the chair. Considerable interest was manifested in the meeting from the fact that the paper of the day was to be presented by an Undergraduate, and later developments showed that that interest had not been misplaced.

Mr. J. C. Gardner, '03, who gave the paper, treated the "Erection of the Grand Trunk Railway Arch at Niagara" in a most interesting and instructive way, illustrating his remarks by a large number of excellent slides. Mr. Gardner gave a brief historical sketch of the earlier structures which spanned the gorge at the same point, pointing out the various alterations in them necessitated by the increase of traffic. He then dealt with the methods pursued in erecting the arch and the final testing of it after completion. Mr. Gardner also gave some additional slides showing the manner of erecting the upper highway arch bridge and also various glimpses of Niagara in winter.

Mr. A. E. Davison, on behalf of the Pin Committee, moved, seconded by Mr. W. J. Larkworthy, that the design symbolical of the University as well as of the School be adopted. The motion was carried. On the motion of Mr. C. G. Williams, the matter of material for the pin was left with the committee. Mr. B. B. Patten thought that the pin should be worn by Graduates only, and moved to that effect. Mr. J. W. Johnston had contrary views, and moved in amendment that the pin be worn by Undergraduates as well as by Graduates. Messrs. Burwash, Hamilton, Smith and Young contributed some further opinions on the subject. On the question being put to a vote, the amendment carried.

THEY DID NOT UNDERSTAND.

HE was a fine, strapping young fellow who got in at X—street and took one of the many empty seats in the car. Had anyone been noticing him they would have seen his brows suddenly contract and a soft oath escape his lips in a few minutes. She was a pretty dainty young lady who got in at L—street, and after a cheerful nod to him made a movement to take the only vacant seat beside him. But the inevitable fat lady, who had got in at the other end, showed extraordinary agility for one so encumbered, by sitting down first. In evident embarrassment he took off his hat and vainly tried to make room for her beside him. Everyone looked their surprise when the car jolted on and he kept his seat. She grabbed the strap and smiling down on him, kept on talking. She got out before there were any more vacant seats. The standing men eyed him curiously. The disdainful glances of the ladies he met with defiance. She had smiled when she said good-bye. How were they to know that he had managed to make her understand his predicament? And how were they to learn that it was at her suggestion he was the last passenger at the car sheds where he alighted and borrowed string from the conductor to mend in two places, "that blankety, blank, blank old suspender?"

ENIGMA.

There was a young lady from Lynn.
Who was so exceedingly thin,
That when she essayed
To drink lemonade
She slipped through the straw and fell in.—Ex.

A college student in rendering an account of his term's expenses inserted: "To charity, thirty dollars." His sire wrote back: "I fear charity covers a multitude of sins."—Ex.