

HOW TO KEEP THE BOYS AT HOME.

"Arthur," a farmer's boy in New Hampshire, writes to the *New England Farmer* a very sensible letter; showing how farmers may make farm-life pleasant to the children, and thus prevent the desertion of the country for the city, so generally complained of now-a-days. "Arthur" writes:

"Mr. Editor: I have been reading for some time past the articles in different journals in relation to young men leaving the farm for the city.

"Boys have complained of 'hard work and poor pay,' want of society, and of the fact that the city chaps were getting all the best and prettiest of their lady friends to leave the country to grace city residences. Men have complained of their boys taking no interest in the work, of their wanting to spend their evenings away from home, and continually wishing there was no such thing as work

"Well who wonders at all this? I don't. Perhaps I am prejudiced in this matter, being only a boy myself, yet having lived a part of my life with my eyes open, and being willing to see a thing or two, I have noticed this: Where you see a home looking pleasant, house neatly painted, the roadside kept free from brush, the walls or fences in perfect order, fruit trees and vines in profusion, good stables and stock, and the house room, not excepting the sitting room and parlor, open at least once a week, there you will find contentment in the form of boys and girls. Boys, who, when visited by their city cousins are not ashamed to visit every nook and corner of the premises, from cellar to attic, field, garden and pasture, for fear of their friends seeing something out of order; and when their cousins shall have gone are not wishing that they, too, lived in the city, that they might do so and so, and look so and so. For, didn't they have as good a pony to drive as Cousin Fred? Didn't their sisters appear just as free and smart and intelligent as their cousins? They have no idea of leaving the farm, or if they have, it is soon dispelled by hearing 'Katie' or 'Nellie' playing and singing one of their favorite songs; or by going to the book or paper shelf and finding that the article in which they are so interested is yet unfinished.

"Perhaps it is wholly out of place for me to give advice to old farmers. But if advice is good, what matters it where it comes from?

"If your sons are discontented look your premises all over. Do they see the inside of your parlor twice in the year, except when you have company? If not, ask them to invite a few friends to spend the evening with them, and let them learn the use of it. Do you take anything but a political paper? and doesn't that come in your name? But instead of one, take two or more, and let these all come in the name of your children. Let each one have his or her paper or magazine. Did you say you couldn't afford it? How much will they all cost? Let's see. One agricultural weekly; say \$2.50; one monthly, \$1.50; 'Our Young Folks,' \$2; and keep your political paper, if you choose, which is perhaps \$2; in all \$8 per year, sixty-seven cents per month, or a trifle over two cents per day. Excuse me, sir, but don't you chew, or smoke or drink that amount?

"Have your sons an article upon the farm which they can call their own, except the hoes and the shovels which you have worn down too small for your own use? If not, then get them new tools of size according to their capacity, and require them to be cleaned every time they are used, under the penalty of going back to the old tools. Let 'Tom' have a colt, 'Billy' a pair of steers and 'Sammy' a little flock of sheep; or let them choose, as their inclinations may direct. Let them have something to call their own, that they will be proud to own. Are any of them musically inclined? Buy them an accordeon or a flute, and do not fret and scold every time you hear them practicing. Give them a piece of land to cultivate in their names, and allow them to work it in regular work-hours, and not compel them to do so in their lawful play time. Present them with books, which will have a tendency to raise the farmer's calling in their estimation. Purchase a few tools with which they can make their own sleds or repair a broken implement.

"As I am seated at my desk, I have before me books suited to all tastes—biographies, histories, philosophies, volumes of poems, agricultural works, &c. At a table near by I find six or seven different weekly papers, a daily, and three monthly magazines. You ask, 'do you find time to read them all through?' No, I do not; but I do find time to read the best article in each, and that is all I care to read. In my shop I can find tools enough to make almost any wooden implement to be found on the farm."

FARMERS' WIVES.

The reading of essays by the ladies is one of the exercises which give life and interest to the meetings of the Springfield (Vt.) Farmers' Club. From one of the essays by Mrs. Daniel Rice, published in the *Vermont Farmer*, the following paragraphs are copied:

Did you ever think of the amount of thought requisite to plan three meals a day for 365 days in succession? To prepare enough and not too much, and for those living at a distance from the village, to remember that the stock of flour, sugar, tea, etc., is replenished in due time? Do you ever think of the multitude of her cares and duties? She must rise early to prepare breakfast or oversee it. Perhaps there are children to wash, dress, and feed, or to get ready for school with their dinners. There is baking, sweeping, dusting, making beds, lunch for the men, may be—dinner and supper to be made ready at the proper time—the washing, starching, folding and ironing of clothes—the care of milk, including the making of butter and cheese—and the inevitable washing of dishes. In autumn there is the additional work of picking, preserving, canning of fruit, drying apples, boiling cider, making apple sauce, with the still more unpleasant task which falls to her lot at butchering time. Then there is haying, harvesting, sheep-shearing, etc., when more help is needed, bringing an increase of her labors. Twice a year comes housecleaning. By the way, of all the foes a housekeeper has to contend with, dirt is the greatest. She may gain a complete victory and think to repose upon her laurels after her semi-annual engagements—but it is only temporary. The enemy soon returns, and even daily skirmishes does not keep it at bay.

There is the mending too. Sewing machines are great blessings, but they can't set in a pitch or darn the stockings. I do not mention these things by way of complaining of woman's lot in general, or asking for her any rights which she does not possess. I don't know as there is any remedy in the present state of the world. It seems to be one of the evils of life which must be borne as we bear other ills—but what I do ask is a due appreciation of the important part that woman acts, and a concession that her labors, mental and physical, are as great, all things considered, as those of the other sex. Women are not so childish that a little sympathy now and then or acknowledgment of their efforts and sacrifices make them imagine their case worse than it is. I tell you, men and husbands, "It does good like a medicine," and many a poor, crushed, broken-down wife and mother is dying for want of it.

SOCIAL SCIENCE AND THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN.

* * * * In British India, a Miss Carpenter, the daughter of a distinguished English Unitarian minister, after giving up years of her time to the ragged schools of England, was the means of instituting Reformatory Schools for girls, based on the principle that juvenile criminals should not be punished, but reformed. Not satisfied with her success in these efforts, she has been led by a spirit of earnest philanthropy to visit British India on an errand of mercy to her own sex, so radical that it probably has had something to do with the hesitation of Mr. Adderley as to whether females were not intended to be allowed to vote in the other great British Provinces. It seems that the Rev. Mr. Dall, an American Unitarian missionary in Calcutta, called the attention of Miss Carpenter to the degraded condition of the female sex throughout India. The philanthropic and energetic lady thereupon contrived to initiate measures both in Bengal and in Calcutta that promise to do much to elevate her sex in India, although no

doubt giving infinite trouble and perplexity to scores of under colonial secretaries and officers connected with the Indian Department. Taking with her letters to the highest authorities, her labors favored by the British Association of Social Science, and having entered India with the ridicule, if not the abuse of the public papers, she was soon received with the highest distinction by the Governor General and the British and native authorities generally, and became, indeed, for several weeks, a guest at the government palace at Calcutta, addressing the assembled heads of British India on her plans for the elevation of the female sex. The wisdom and moderation of her proposals, together with the vast extent of their application, has attracted to them and to her much attention. The seclusion of women, their ignorance and degradation, far worse than the harem life of the Turks; their early marriages, often at six and eight years of age, or sooner; their still more miserable privations through remaining life, if surviving the man or boy to whom they are affianced—all render their condition most wretched, and the efforts to elevate them most difficult.

Miss Carpenter proposed to separate the education of females from any attempts whatever to alter their religion, so that the natives most bitter against the last might not oppose this more general work of instruction. Many of the native princes and gentry have listened with much interest to her plans. She proposes the establishment of female normal schools and a system of medical education for females, more especially as medical men are not permitted to attend female patients. She has called into existence a Social Science Association in India, which promises to be of the utmost utility. Free schools have already been established by her in Calcutta, and efforts are being made for prison reform. At the last meeting of the Educational Section of the American Association of Social Science, a resolution of congratulation was passed and sent to the corresponding body in England, at the head of which Lord Brougham stands, congratulating them upon Miss Carpenter's labor and success. It is quite clear, from all these occurrences, that a remarkable movement for the elevation of woman is going on all around the globe, from the oldest regions of civilization to the most modern, and so distracting to British statesmen that they have to take time to reflect whether or not they intend to allow women to vote in their latest attempt at statesmanship, "The Kingdom of Canada."—[*Gold Hill News*].

HOW RAIN FALLS.—Where does the rain come from? You answer "from the clouds." But where does the clouds come from? You may think the cold wind blows them over you; but if it blows clouds over you from somewhere else, it also blows them from over you to other places. The fact is, the water of the clouds is just as much over you on a clear day, as on a cloudy or rainy day. On a fair day, when no clouds are seen, the water is divided up into such small particles, that it does not obstruct the sun's light, and so you see no clouds or water. A change of temperature in the atmosphere, as when a warmer and colder current of air meet, causes the small particles of water to unite in pairs, and the pairs unit, and these quadruple drops unite, and so on until hundreds or thousands of the small, invisible particles unite in one. It is thus that clouds gather into a clear sky. When enough drops unit to make one too heavy to float in the air, it begins to fall. It meets and unites with many others in falling, and often, so many unite, that great rain drops are formed. Each large drop is made up of thousands, perhaps millions, of the small drops floating in the unseen air in a clear day.—[*American Agriculturist*].

THE initial velocity of shot is measured by having the discharged ball pass through two open frames, one near the gun and one forty feet distant, each strung with fine copper wires connected with a galvanic battery, and so arranged that the cutting of the wires in the first frame by the ball sets in motion an electric clock, while the cutting of those in the second stops it. The dial is so minutely graduated as to show just how many thousandths of a second are occupied by the ball in passing the forty feet between the frames.

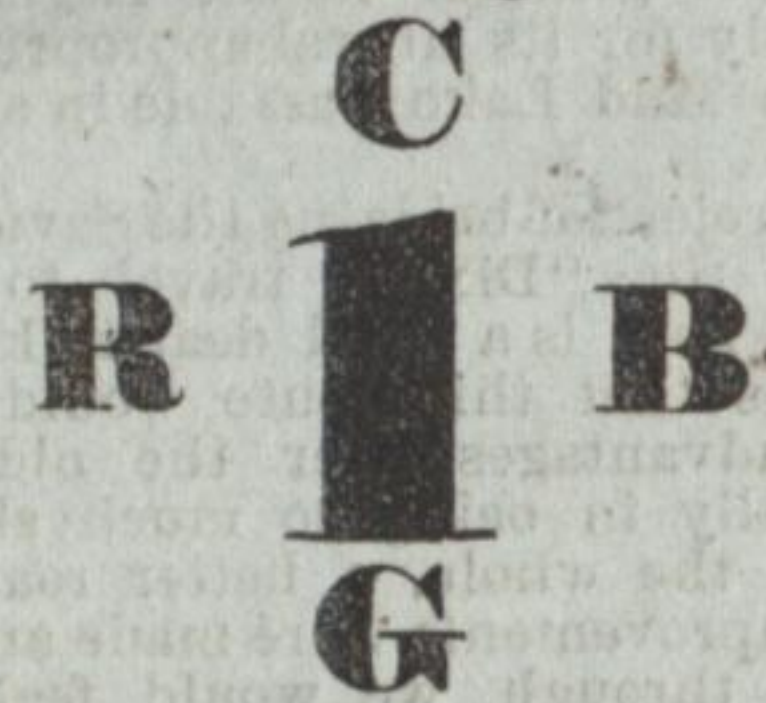
A STEAM GUN CARRIAGE, invented at St. Louis and built at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, has been tested on the Hudson river, in the presence of Admiral Farragut and various army and navy officers. The carriage when tested, bore a 15-inch gun, and is in appearance similar to that now in use. Under it are the gun slides, and between and attached is a steam cylinder by a simple fastening of cross head and piston rod to the carriage. The latter, with the gun, can, by the application of steam to the piston, be removed in either direction with ease and rapidity; that is, the gun is run out by steam, then fired and recoils on the same pressure. One man only is required to work it. It is also loaded by steam in a rapid and simple manner. On the trial, solid shots were fired with charges of from thirty-five to fifty pounds of powder, to the entire satisfaction of the Admiral and other officers. This carriage is intended for broadside and was mounted on a large screw to test it. To work a 15-inch gun in casemate in the ordinary way would require forty men. By this plan four men only are needed, besides the time required to discharge each shot is lessened at least one half.—[*Gold Hill News*].

E. C. C. KELLOGG, of Hartford, the inventor of the "lever" gun, has just invented an alarm night-bell for druggists, physicians' etc., which can also be used as a burglar alarm. By an arrangement of clock-work, when the door-bell is pulled an alarm is set off in the room of the sleeper, and the gas turned on and lighted instantly and without fail.

MR. BRIGHT in one of his late speeches, said that one half of Scotland is owned by twelve persons, and one half of England is owned by one hundred and fifty. Thus the people are nobody and a few individuals everybody. No wonder the aristocracy fight so desperately against any popular movement.

R. T. ROSS. C. R. BARRATT

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