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## THE HESPERIAN

(HESPERIAN STUDENT.)

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### EDITORIAL NOTES.

JUST how and why the alleged poem appeared in the last issue, is a mystery. The authors of it intended to read it to some friends, and it was far from their wish that it should ever be seen in cold print. The verses escaped the eye of the editor until he saw them for the first time in the paper as it was sent out. What is done can not be undone; but we hope the readers will remember that there was no deliberate intention to impose upon their good nature. As a rule, poetry is not numbered among the many failings of the present editorial board.

AND still the agricultural and the religious newspapers continue to struggle with the perplexing problem of "How to keep the boys on the farm." There is apparent reason for the discussion; for one often sees farm-boys that no sooner reach years of discretion than they begin to wish for a different life, and no sooner find themselves at liberty than they strive to attain the object of their early wish. Indeed, among the families of native American farmers, such instances seem to be in the majority.

Americans, as a race, and especially those accustomed to breathe the country air, are well endowed with energy and ambition. The energy is without doubt an advantage: the ambition, according to its direction, may be fortunate or unfortunate. We find that among the early Norwegians and other peoples of the old days, one of the chief forms of rivalry was as to the quantity of brandy an individual could dispose of; and among certain classes of Americans, there are, of course, tendencies that those on a higher plane are no more inclined to praise. Ambition may, and often does, cause a youth to aim at leadership in the dare-devil achievements so lauded in the American dime novel. But it is a question whether such a youth would succeed even on a farm. He seems to be a person of no use to his kind; and, apparently heartless as this doctrine is, it may be better, both for himself and for others, to permit him to choose his own method of disposing of himself. He is likely to choose the speediest way.

But such boys are not in the majority in farming communities. In general, the boys are inspired by the vast possibilities that our nation offers in the way of greater wealth, success, and distinction than can possibly be gained on the farm. It is these youths that we see, a little later, begin by learning a trade or entering business in some humble capacity; or, if they are so fortunate as not to be altogether without means, we see them working upward and bringing credit to themselves in some good college or university. And any newspaper, any magazine, any congressional record, or any report of the proceedings of learned bodies, will tell what these boys are doing in later life. The greatest of our nation's writers, scientists, and statesmen came from the country; and they came as soon as they could.

The farm is a good place in which to develop. Country air, country food, and wholesome exercise bring boys to robust, energetic youth. Then comes the choice; and we can see no reason for interfering with native fitness or inclination. If the youth is of the right turn, there are strong chances that he will succeed, whether he goes or stays. If he stays, he is almost certain to lead a happy and prosperous life. And what more can anyone desire or attain than prosperity and happiness? If the youth goes the chances are still in his favor; the only difference is, that he has a broader field to till.