

**A Boy who Stuck to Farming.**

A writer in *Country Gentleman* says: When a boy from ten to fourteen years of age, I was taught to milk and do other "chores" night and morning, before and after school hours. My father was a farmer as well as a politician. He pastured his cattle upon the meadows after mowing, and in the late autumn and midwinter, when the ground was bare, all the heaps or ball of debris on the meadows and pasture were broken by using a man. Saturday was vacation from school, and I worked at scattering the debris on the pasture lands, being paid by my father ten cents a day for ten hours. I accumulated \$2, for which my father sold me a heifer calf, and bargained to keep it for me by my working half a day each week. This I did, and at the end of one year I exchanged my heifer with my father for two male calves. Almost every day after these calves were two weeks old I occupied my spare time in teaching them to work in the yoke—a small one, with two bows, which a friend made for me. At two months old they would "gee" and "haw" as well as old oxen. They were then turned to pasture until September. When my father was mowing the grass on his salt meadows, situated on the borders of Long Island Sound, these calves were taken and used to lead the heaviest cattle team over the meadows. Again, they were used in midwinter to lead the team in breaking in his two year-olds. As these calves or young steers grew up, I taught the next ox to let me ride him, while the off ox would come along in his place, and so I often drove my father's stock from the pasture to the barn-yard. So much for my early "choring" and team work.

After I was thirteen my father gave me a piece of ground each year, that I could plant and work on shares, and if I wanted help I had to give two days of my time to the hired man's one day. I grew just what my fancy and reading dictated, and from the proceeds I dressed as well as any of the boys of the present time. I always had some time to play, and time to read, and now look back with love and pleasant thoughts to the old farm, and the farm hand who taught me to use tools, to hold the plow and to bring the heel of my scythe so as to leave the swath clean and true. Once, when driving the ox team to the plow, I failed in keeping them in a straight line at the end of a furrow, but I danced for it when the plowman took the whip from my hands and laid it heavily over my back and legs. I always afterward drove the team out straight, and I have tried to drive it straight now over seventy years.

The remembrance of my own boyhood has always induced me to favor all items of encouragement to home on the farm, and I believe if it were more generally practiced we should have more good farmers and fewer broken-down merchants, or loafing, hanging on time serving clerks, ready for anything except manly, honorable labor and usefulness, belonging to the highest order of creation.

**Cattle vs. Grain.**

Never since Nebraska was a State has the demand for cattle been so great; every well-to-do farmer in the State wants a lot of feeders for his corn. The crop is immense and he can get more out of it by feeding it than any other way. The number of two-year olds in the State was insufficient to supply home demands, yet a large number have been sold to Illinois and Iowa farmers. Our farmers had cattle to sell, received good prices, and each of them is now nearly certain that there is more money in cattle than in wheat. We hope that each of them will—as fast as his circumstances will permit—make the change from grain to cattle. Keep your females to breed from; grade up well with thoroughbred bulls, sell your male animals to the large cattle grazers out west, when yearlings—especially those that are of good form. By the time your herd has reached one hundred head you will find that you have a better income than you can ever have from a 160 acre grain farm. The defective males—those not well proportioned—should be castrated and held as feeders and put in fine condition to ship at two years of age. Let us turn our wheat fields into clover and timothy, and fence enough of them at least for a good "night pasture," and then herd during the day and turn into the pasture at nightfall. The great states of Iowa and Illinois are to be, and are now to a great extent, the great cattle feeding country of America, and Nebraska, with its boundless grazing country, will be looked to for the same feeders. Farmers east of the Missouri have not the pasture upon which to raise young cattle. They are convenient to the markets, and can market their grain at reasonable prices, and can afford to buy their feeders.—*Nebraska Farmer.*

A young man who held a loaded pistol to his head, and threatened to blow his brains out unless the girl who had refused him would consent to have him, coolly told by the young lady he would have to blow some brains into his head first. He didn't blow.

**Corn and Hogs.**

Farmers are frequently at a loss to settle the question of the relative value of corn to cheap hogs, for the reason that the hogs are on hand and must be either prepared for market, or they must be kept and increased in number to eat the coming cheap crop of corn. It is easy to calculate what one is doing in hog feeding. If the hogs are the right breed, thrifty and hearty as they should be, every five and six tenths pounds of corn should add one pound to a hog. Or, a bushel of corn should produce ten pounds of pork. If they do not do this there is either a deficiency in the hogs, or bad management in feeding. Then if one bushel of corn represents ten pounds of pork, if pork be \$3 for 100 pounds the feeder will be getting 30 cents per bushel for his corn. If pork is \$4, he gets forty cents for his corn. But if the winter be cold, and the hog quarters bad, a bushel will not produce five pounds of pork, and in cold and muddy pens it is difficult to increase any, so that time and corn are thrown away. And too much of this kind of business is done in the west. Our hog pens for winter are not comfortable enough to enable the owner to get 10 cents a bushel for corn when feeding is done until late in the winter. Hogs must be fattened in September and October and turned off in November; very warm quarters must be prepared for them. There is no disputing this fact, and farmers must apply themselves to this business. Too much of the caloric of the bodies of hogs, horses and cattle is blown off in the winds which has to be supplied by rich food which should go to increasing fat, instead of expended in keeping up the warmth of the body.

When the sensational "Minister of the Gospel" is not on trial for murdering a girl whom he has ruined, or for attempting to poison his wife, or for running away with his wife's sister, or for deserting his children, or for breaking up his neighbor's home—when, in a word, he is not otherwise engaged, he seeks notoriety by endeavoring to check the tide of charity for Ireland which is sweeping over the entire civilized globe. His narrow intellect and his crab-apple heart are not capable of understanding or feeling that it is infamous to talk to a starving man of creed. Food is what he wants. Be he Protestant, Papist, Jew, Gentile, or Mohammedan, the proper way to treat a starving man is to feed him. When Chicago was in ashes the people of Ireland did not ask the cause of it, but sent their money, and plenty of it, to aid our houseless people. When yellow fever was devastating the South, the Catholics of the United States did not tell Memphis or New Orleans that they didn't deserve sympathy because they were Protestants and neglected their sewers. They gave assistance first of all. When the people of America—the enlightened Christian people—subscribe money for the relief of Ireland, they do so without inquiring into the creed of the people who are to receive the benefit of it. None but the narrow-minded bigots (and, thank Heaven, there are few of them) would say, like the sensational preacher, "These people deserve but little sympathy; they are Papists and whisky-drinkers." The first charge is true; but what of it? The second is not true; there is less whisky drunk in Ireland than in Illinois.—*Chicago News.*

**Senator Paddock.**

Of course the Democracy of Nebraska know that they cannot elect a Senator of their own political faith, and so they are free to express their preferences solely in the public interests. It is not surprising, therefore, to find them in favor of Senator Paddock, who has been untiring in his work for the State's best interests. A Washington correspondent of the *Omaha Herald* has this to say: It would surprise many of this gentleman's friends if they could be present in the Senate occasionally when he addresses that body. It is true the Senator does not make long speeches, but his remarks are always well delivered and receive careful attention. The other day for instance, when Senator Winchell moved to adjourn over from Thursday to Monday. The Senator was instantly upon his feet and in objecting thereto, he berated that dignified body soundly for their neglect of the public interest. He dwelt for several minutes upon the large amount of business awaiting their attention and was so effective that he carried a majority with him, and the Senate adjourned till next day. Senator Paddock commands the entire respect and esteem of brother Senators and if the Republicans have the selection they will make a grave error if they do not return him to a position which he fills in such an honorable and useful manner.

In a Connecticut district school a little boy, six years old, was seen to whisper, but denied doing so when reproved by the teacher. He was told to remain after school, when the teacher, trying to impress upon his youthful mind the sinfulness of not speaking the truth, asked him if they did not tell him in Sunday-school where all boys went who told falsehoods, choking with sobs, he said: "Yes, marm; it's a place where there is a fire, but I don't just remember the name of the town."

**The City Boy's Life.**

Not having much to do, I have taken to thinking much of late about the boys of our cities. For one who lives in the city, that is not a very strange thing to do; a good many boys are in sight as one walks about; you find them not only in the school-houses and the school-yards, but on the corners of the streets, and in the alleys and the vacant lots; and whenever a ball-match is about to begin in the Park, you see crowds of them faring eagerly that way.

Here and there you find boys at work: there are cash-boys and messenger-boys and office-boys and boot-blacks and garbage-boys,—some very honest and many little chaps, too, in that unpoetic branch of business. Indeed, there are quite a good many boys in every city who are hard at work ever day, helping to support themselves, and perhaps their mothers, too.

But, besides these boys who work, there are not a few who have a great deal of time on their hands. Some of the school boys study out of school, but most of them, I fear, do not; and these, especially the high school boys, have much the largest portion of their waking hours to spend either in play or in idleness, or in what is much worse than either play or idleness. Many of these are the sons of wealthy or well-to-do people; many others are children of the poor. They sleep eight hours of the twenty-four, and this part of their time is well improved; when they are asleep they are all very good boys. Then they are in school four and a-half or five hours; that makes, say thirteen hours; and they spend, perhaps, two hours at their meals, and on their way to and from school, making fifteen hours; and that leaves nine hours which those of them who do not study out of school have to spend in amusing themselves. One whole work-day in every week is a holiday, and that is devoted wholly to play or idleness. About thirteen weeks of every year are vacation weeks, and in these there is nothing at all to do. Now let us figure it up. One-quarter of the working time of every year is vacation time. Of the three-quarters left, one-sixth of three-quarters is one-eighth; a quarter added to an eighth is three-eighths. Of the five-eighths of the working time left, about three-fifths is spent in idleness or diversion, and three-fifths of five-eighths is three-eighths; this added to the three-eighths we had before makes three-fourths,—three-quarters of the working time of every year spent in fun or in idleness.

Even those boys who study an hour or two out of school, on school days, but who have no other work to do, have fully half of the working time of every year for their own amusement.

Now, I like to see boys playing; and I would deny myself a great many things rather than have my boys forced to work as constantly as I did, and with so little respite for fun as I had when I was a boy; but, after all, it seems to me that it is a grave question whether a boy who spends three-quarters, or even half, of the working time of every year in amusing himself is not carrying it a little too far; whether, indeed, such a life as this is the kind of life that a boy ought to be leading from his tenth to his eighteenth year; whether this is the best way for him to fit himself for the serious work of life.—*St. Nicholas for March.*

**Roll of Honor, Dist. No. 13.**

Columbus, for the week ending February 27th, 1880:  
*Gymnasium School.*—Libbie Coffee, Eva Monnett, Josie Senical, Alice Watkins, M. A. Watkins, Lois McGintie, Minnie Kramer, Sarah Mapes, Flora Compton, Lillian Smith, Fred Mullin, Earl Bingham, Ernest Slattery, Robbie Saley, P. J. Coleman, John Senical, Charles Compton, Charles Pearsall, Harry Worthington, Herbert Lawrence, Claude Coffee, Walter Davis.

**Roll of Honor.**

MONROE, Feb. 27, 1880.  
Celia Whaley, Adolphus Hollingshead, John Kinsey, Raymond Edmunds, James Kinsey, Royal Ennis, Bracy Edmunds, Argus Ennis, Ruth Mannington, Kate Edmunds, Edgar Ennis. SARAH FITZPATRICK, Teacher.

**Roll of Honor.**

In the course of our reading we should lay up in our minds a store of goodly thoughts in well-wrought words, which should be a living treasure of knowledge always with us, and from which at various times, and amidst all the shifting of circumstances, we might be sure of drawing some comfort, guidance and sympathy.

**Nebraska.**

Another evidence of the richness of the soil of Nebraska is found in the fact of the number and great growth of the native grasses, which afford the very best pasturage from early spring until the month of November. Those who have investigated the subject of the native grasses claim no fewer than one hundred and fifty species. Among other varieties the blue-joint grows everywhere in the State except on the low bottom lands. In ordinary seasons, and under favorable conditions its growth is from two and a half to four feet, and often on cultivated grounds it will grow to the height of seven and ten feet. On the up-lands, blue-joint grows in great abundance and is greatly relished by cattle. Buffalo grass now in the greatest quantity is found in the western half of the State. This, it is claimed, disappears before cultivation, but it is nature's provision of food for grain-eating animals during winter, when the animals are compelled to remain on the prairie, as it retains its nutriment all the year round. Among feed grasses that grow abundantly in the State are several varieties of bunch grass; and in the low lands a native blue-grass, and what is known as the spangle-top, which makes an excellent quality of hay.

It was a question among the first settlers of Nebraska whether fruit could be successfully grown in the State or not, but finding the wild fruits, such as plums, grapes, and gooseberries growing in abundance, it was thought that apple orchards might be cultivated with success. So reasoning, the earlier settlers in the eastern part of the State planted their orchards and their first plantings failed, but they persevered and the result has been a complete success. Nebraska fruits now compare favorably with the best produced in other states. In 1871 Nebraska had an exhibition at Richmond, Va., one hundred and forty-six varieties of apples, fifteen of peaches, thirteen of pears, one of plums, and one of grapes, and was awarded the first premium for the best collection of fruit among all the States. The fruits of Nebraska have been exhibited at Boston, Chicago and at the International Exhibition in 1876, the judges awarding prizes for eight varieties of pears, large, smooth and well colored, and for two hundred and sixty-three varieties of apples, the latter prize being for the unusually large number of finely grown varieties. Instead of orchards flourishing only in the eastern part of the State and near the Missouri river, they do well away out on the prairie wherever nature's conditions of growing fruit are observed.

The last legislature passed a bill giving the people of the State a chance to vote on their preference U. S. Senator, of course we are not foolish enough to believe that the legislature will pay much attention to the voice of the people when they come to vote on that subject. Senator Paddock the present incumbent should be returned by the people of the State, because he has proven himself competent and the right man for the place, he is careful about what he says and when he does speak, it is to the point and in as few words as possible. He is a hard worker and has done some good for Nebraska. He has the advantage of a new man in being familiar with the duties of his office.—*Pioneer Co. Call.*

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