

THE SPIRIT OF THE PRESENT  
(Continued from Page Two)

Of building for the future. Farm and shop  
In perfect bond of amity  
agreed  
That learning, skill in arts and industry  
Should be presented to their children's minds.  
And so, by generous gifts of land endowed,  
Her first step guided straight by clear-eyed men,  
Our Alma Mater came to aid the State.

The State had chosen wealth to be her goal.  
She piled up heaps of golden corn and grain  
To overtop the hills. She tended flocks  
And herds along the placid Platte.  
She made  
Her busy cities, too, and said with pride.

"These have I built, through diligence, on bluff  
And plain. In this accomplishment I find  
My joy, my life. Now all I ask is years  
In which I may enjoy these pleasures for  
My goal is reached and I am well content."

Yet when the cries of men, oppressed by Spain,  
Rang in her ears, she sprang at once to aid.

She sent not merely of her wealth but more—  
She gave her sons as ransom, freeing thus  
That weaker nation from the tyrant's grasp.

And oft, to stricken ones she sent quick help  
To match their need, if born of water, wind  
Or fire. Though swift to act when cities, states  
Or nations called, she did not heed the cries  
Of multitudes who struggled in the dark.

She scanned the world for huge philanthropies,  
But failed to see her children's sufferings.  
While thus the state was waxing rich and strong,  
Our Alma Mater toiled with equal zeal.

Her aim was speculation, knowledge, thought,  
Pursuing which she loosed her bond with state.  
And thus from mutual helpfulness at first  
The State and School drew wide apart.

At last  
The one saw only wealth as worthy end  
Of life; the other lived for mind alone.

Indeed, to such a gap the difference grew.  
That only clinking gold came from the State  
Where once had flowed close sympathy and love.

Some scholar, wiser than the rest discerned  
A moving force outside his cell which books

Did not explain. He heard a busy hum  
Which Aristotle failed to note. He said,

"There's something here of interest. Let us see  
The nature of the thing and analyze

To find out its meaning, what it is and how  
It works." And from his search he learned that life

Has more to tell than musty toms. He saw  
In men the living thought interred in books,

And went with joy to learn of man from man.  
The State, surprised to see herself held up

To open gaze, declared that School should keep  
To books, her province; leave to State those things

She had. But when she learned from good advice  
That men of letters understood her heart

E'en better than herself, she welcomed them.  
Then when they told her how to till the soil,

And showed right ways of choosing grain to plant,  
And learned through long experiment which feeds

Were best to give her cattle and her flocks,  
She saw the use of learning and she sent

Her children in still greater numbers that  
They too should know the secret of the soil

And strike a right all Nature's symphonies  
Of corn, and cattle, wheat, sweet fruit and grass.

They learned not only grains and cattle there,  
But how to throw a span of steel across

The treacherous stream, how spin the spider's thread  
Of wire and sent along its voices, light

And force. And some e'en saw that Government  
Was likewise studied, much in self-same way;

That History had secrets which might aid  
In solving vexing problems of the State.

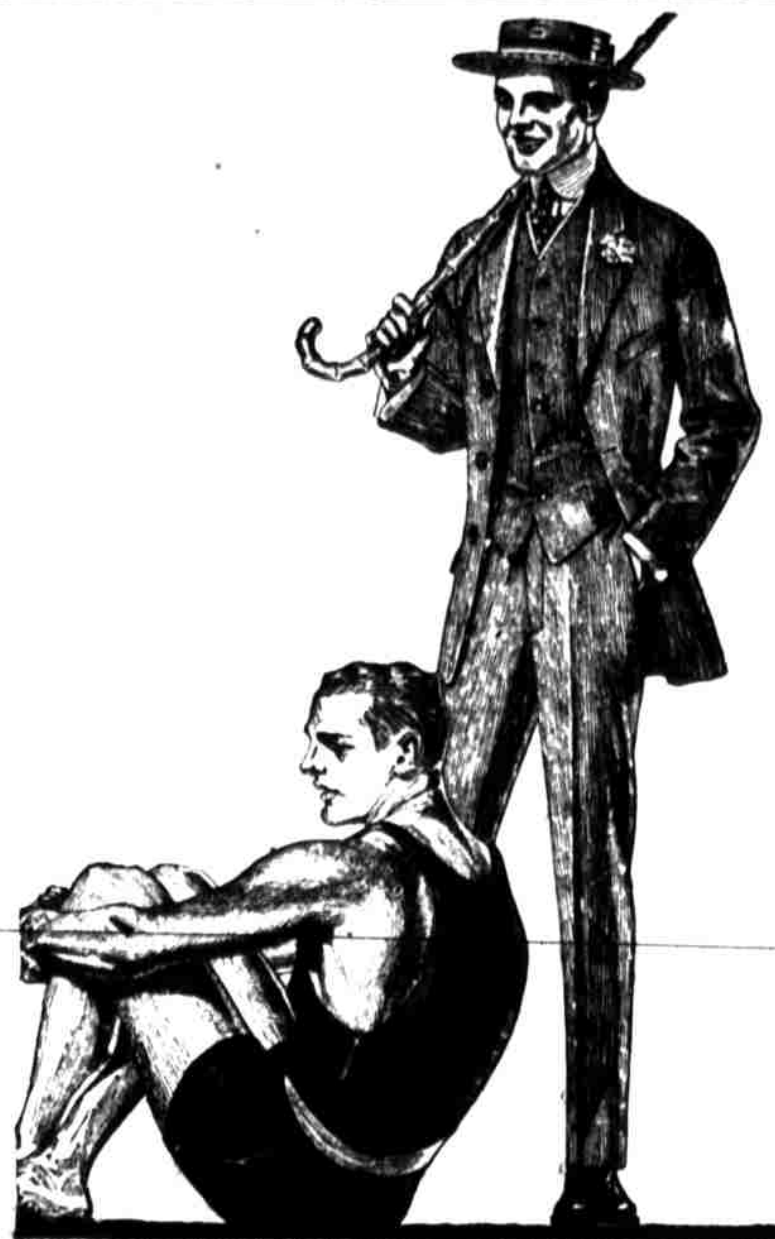
So, on returning to their homes and work,  
They held in mind the things they heard in school.

And when they wished increased returns of grain  
The Alma Mater showed them how to plant,

And what to plant and when to sow and reap.  
She built their bridges, laid their roads and all

Was done with large increase of State's great wealth.

(Continued on Page 4.)



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