

The Family and the Farm.

Children Gone.
Sometimes, when the day grows dusky,
And the stars begin to come,
When the children from their playing
Come singing and laughing home,
I think, with a sudden sorrow,
As they press through the open door,
Of the faces of the children
That we never shall see here more.

Children in snow-white casquets,
Laid away to their rest,
Their still hands lying folded
Over the pulseless breast!
Children who came and tarried
As only it were for a night,
And passed, at the break of the morning,
On a journey far out of sight;
On a long and lonely journey,
Where we could not help or hold,
For we saw but the glowing eyelids,
The fading of locks of gold,
And knew that now was but silence
Where once had been prattle and song,
And only a chill and a shadow
Where was sunshine the whole day long.

Away from our care and caresses,
"God knows where they are," we say,
And we know that they tarry behind them
Only a little way.
For we, too, haste in our journey,
And we know it will not be long
Till we come to the city eternal,
The rest and rapture of song.
Yet oft, when the sun is setting
In unspeakable splendor of light,
Or the day grows dim and dusky,
And the shadows stretch into night,
When the children, tired with their playing,
Come in through the open door,
I think of the dear, dear children
Who never will come any more.

—Little Corporal.

Faith in Farming.

The sight of a new barn eighty feet long by fifty in width, built in the most substantial manner, and with all the appliances for handling and storing crops easily, and for making manure on a large scale, is an indication of that faith which is so often wanting upon the farm. There is a man who believes in improved husbandry, and is willing to invest ten thousand dollars, or full half of his capital, in a good barn. He has no doubt that he can so manage his farm and barn as to get back the interest on all the money invested in it. In his view the barn is worth more to him than the same amount of money invested in bank stock, or in government bonds. This kind of faith is still the exception among farmers. Very few live up to the light they have, and are willing to invest their money when they have every reason to believe it will pay well. They know very well the efficiency of well-made yard manures, and feel the need of more of them every year. Yet they hesitate about putting a cellar under the barn, or building sheds and hovels around the yard, for the purpose of sheltering the manure, and the men while they are at work upon the compost heaps in stormy weather. They have much and need enough to learn its great value, and yet they hesitate about using labor enough to keep a large stock always on hand. Few intelligent men doubt the great waste of feeding cattle at the stock in the winter, and yet they do not provide the necessary barn room or sheds to protect the animals and save the soiling of the fodder. They follow the old wasteful methods mainly, because custom has made them easy. It is conceded by all who have tried them, that we have new varieties of potatoes more prolific than the old, much less liable to rot, and of fair quality for the table. And yet the mass of farmers cling to the old, in spite of the rot, because they have a well-established reputation in the markets, and sell well when they can be raised. They hesitate to buy seedlings that have been thoroughly tested and are fully indorsed by our best horticulturists. This want of faith is the reason, mainly, why agriculture does not improve more rapidly, and why other callings are crowded with adventurers at the expense of the farm. The merchant makes ventures, whoever he sees a good opportunity, not only investing all his spare capital, but often all that he is worth, in a single enterprise. The ventures of the farmer would never be so largely and suddenly lucrative as those of the merchant sometimes prove to be, but then he runs no such risks. It is safe to make ventures in barn cellars, and in the very great enlargement of the manure heap, in underdraining, in lime and clover, in improved tools and stock, and in new varieties of fruits and vegetables. We should show by our investments that we have faith in our business, and that we expect to make a living by it, and get handsome returns for our capital. This done, our young men will quit measuring ribbons and tape, and go to measuring land and working it. Let us have faith.—*American Agriculturist.*

Brave John Maynard.

John was well known as a sturdy, intelligent and God-fearing pilot, on Lake Erie. He had charge of a steamer from Detroit to Buffalo, one summer after another. At that time the steamers seldom carried boats.

Smoke was seen ascending from below, and the captain called out:

"Simpson, go down and see what that smoke is."

Simpson came up with his face as pale as ashes, and said:

"Captain, the ship is on fire!"

"Fire! fire! fire!" instantly responded in all directions.

All hands were called up. Buckets of water were dashed upon the flames, but in vain. There were large quantities of resin and tar on board, and it was useless to try to save the ship.

The passengers rushed forward, and inquired of the pilot:

"How far are we from land?"

"Seven miles."

"How long before we reach it?"

"Three quarters of an hour at our present rate of steam."

"Is there any danger?"

"Danger enough here—see the smoke bursting out! Go forward, if you would save your lives!"

Passengers and crew, men, women and children, crowded to the forward part of the ship. John Maynard stood at the post. The flames burst forth in a sheet of fire; clouds of smoke arose; the captain cried out through his trumpet:

"John Maynard!"

"Ay, ay, sir!" responded the brave tar.

"How does she head?"

"Southeast by east, sir."

"Head her southeast, and run her on shore. Nearer, yet nearer, she approached the shore. Again the captain cried out, 'John Maynard!'"

The response came feebly, "Ay, ay, sir."

"Can you hold on five minutes longer, John?"

"By God's help I will!"

The old man's hair was scorched from the scalp; one hand was disabled, and his teeth were set, but he stood firm as a rock. He beached the ship—every man, woman and child were saved, and John Maynard dropped overboard, and his spirit took its flight to God.

He sacrificed his life to save the life of others. Noble John Maynard! It is worth a greater effort to save a man from moral ruin!—*J. B. Gough.*

When to buy a Farm.

Very few persons seem to know that the months of June and July are the best in the year in which to look for or purchase a farm. At this season one can judge whether the land can or cannot produce good crops; for if it is rich, the waving grass and grain will be an ocular demonstration of the fact; and if there is, according to the stereotyped assertion, an abundance of choice fruit, it can be seen at this time to the best advantage. The low lands will show whether they are really dry enough for pastures in summer, and the upland its capacity for withstanding a drought. If there are any musquitos at this time, they will generally make their appearance known at this time, if ever, and by observing the children in the neighborhood one can determine whether the locality is healthy or otherwise.

Summer is also a good time to view the never-falling spring and trout-pond near by, and a draught from the one and a lunch from the other are attractions which those who possess them seldom fail to bestow upon those who are likely to become purchasers. Even the weeds on a farm will assist a man in determining its value; for if nothing but stunted ragweed and five-finger are to be seen, then the land may be set down as poor indeed; but if burdock and catnip abound, it shows strength to produce crops of a higher order.

The pasture and meadow, orchard and garden, all show what the area and what may be expected of them in these months; but earlier or later the aspect of things may change. In the spring the trees may not have shown leaves, flowers or fruit; the roads are muddy, if ever; and the distance from the farm to the railroad station appears to be much greater than it actually is, especially to a stranger. In autumn the leaves are turning yellow, the grain has been gathered, the fruits are all gone; still the air is fresh and the landscape glowing with autumnal tints; but the valuable products of a farm are mainly out of sight, being stored in the barn or in the proprietor's pocket.

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