

VALUE OF THE "HIGHER EDUCATION" OF THE FARMER'S DAUGHTER.

BY MISS CLARA D. KELLER, SAN BERNARDINO, BEFORE COLTON, CAL., FARMERS' INSTITUTE.

It is still the old cry: "Shall we eat of the fruit of the tree of knowledge?" The answer of yesterday was "the fruit is for the few. Thinking is dangerous. For man in general, obedience and industry is all-sufficient. To teach the common man to think is to destroy his own peace of mind, and render society unstable."

And just as the elect regarded the man, so he in turn regarded the feminine portion of his little kingdom. It would upset all domestic tranquility should the good man's wife or daughter have even a weakness for reading. She should shun books; she were no housewife else. One could not possibly be given both to books and to biscuits. It was an established fact that a novel could be read only to the accompaniment of burning meat or a baby's crying. The ideal woman was not expected to be the intelligent friend and companion of her brothers or her husband. Matters of the house were her sole concern, and for these duties brains were a superfluous quantity. The girl was to be transformed into the thrifty housewife and devoted mother by intuition or inspiration—no especial training of either mind or heart being considered necessary. For the varied duties of home-making, practical experience under the supervision of the mother's eye was deemed sufficient.

This was all right in its way, provided the mother was a good housekeeper, but at best it led to no progress and was apt to be drudgery, pure and simple. For that greatest of all responsibilities—motherhood—a total absence of all training, of all knowledge, was rather a matter of pride. It was in effect giving over the training of children to a child. If you wished a beautiful statue, would you place the marble in the hands of any but the most skilled of sculptors? Yet the plastic soul of a little child is entrusted to the ignorant and unskilled to do with it what they will. For progress is slow and the yesterday lingers on into today.

So the common man and the common man's wife and daughter are not yet emancipated. The conservative still cry: "Be careful what you teach them! Do not rouse discontent and ambitions not to be gratified." They point back to the jolly farmer of the good old days—to the happy, rosy-cheeked lassies. Yes, they do seem comfortable, and so do the cabbages in their gardens, but see how quickly the farmer drops his jovial manner if the crop fails of if a mortgage begin to press, and how quickly the girl can lose her pretty color and go into perpetual mourning for some unworthy, faithless swain. A fair-weather happiness, but with no resource against the all too certain troubles of life. It is said that the larger proportion of inmates of insane asylums of the Middle west are farmers' wives. Is not that a significant fact?

Let us face the most serious objection that may be raised against a higher education for a farmer's daughter: It may make her dissatisfied with her home-life. Is dissatisfaction such a crime? Is it not rather a virtue so long as it leads to activity in bettering one's condition. To struggle against the inevitable is silly and useless, but to struggle with a possible end in view is to give an added interest

to life and is the source of more real happiness than is a calm, vegetable-like existence. Mr. Bryan says: "Contentment with one's lot is only a virtue when the person has done all within his power to improve his condition. To say that contentment regardless of one's situation is to be commended, is to bring an indictment against all progress. All development of body, of mind and of heart comes from the fact that one is dissatisfied with his present development. Contentment as it is preached by some, would have left the farmer ploughing with a crooked stick, if, in fact, it would not have stopped him before he began to plough at all. The desire for more knowledge is the beginning of progress."

Supposing it does make her unsuited for the old life. If she has in her new life discovered an opening for the future, more congenial work, it is a happy thing, not to be regretted.

But now let us consider what college training can do for the farmer's daughter. What it will do eventually will first of all depend on the character of the girl, herself, and in the second place it will depend on the kind of college she enters. It is true that some

her own inclinations, and then fill in those subjects which will best round out and tend to the development of an intelligent and broad-minded woman. The languages, literature, will save her from the insane asylum. "To turn from the petty troubles of the day to the thoughts of the masters, is to go from the noise of the street through the door of a cathedral. If you unlock these portals, no power on earth can take from you the key. The whole of your life must be spent in one's own company, and only the educated man is good company for himself."

The natural sciences will take her out of herself; broaden her mind with a sense of the complexity, dignity and mystery of the universe and teach the relative values of life. They give invaluable training in methods of work and have a direct influence on character, inculcating patience, exactitude, accuracy and deliberate judgment; and a thousand new and unselfish interests are added to life; for the stars, the birds, the flowers, the stones are with us always.

So we might take up any subject and show how, if earnestly pursued, its in-

by whose efforts she was lifted into a freer atmosphere or despise those who had not her opportunities? It will not be absolutely necessary to her happiness to have her own ideas, opinions, and point of view voiced by those about her. Life is many-sided and she is always glad to learn.

However, there is no question about it, she will be unhappy unless she goes to work to improve the conditions she finds uncongenial. And college has done little for her. Has it not given her the brains, the tact the social prestige to accomplish these needed reforms? Small results, disappointments, she will meet with, but encouragement and appreciation will not be lacking either. And the effort to accomplish some good will keep her sane and happy.

As for the home in particular, if it is a real home, she will realize for the first time its possibilities. It is her kingdom, to be made supremely happy or supremely miserable as she wills. She will not nag; she has too many interests in life. She will not work herself into a prematurely old woman, for she knows the sin of ill-health, and that it is only a selfish unselfishness that considers the present only. She will always be a pleasant companion, for all experience is grist to her mill. She will not find housework drudgery. How can she despise the fine art of cooking, when she realizes that good health, temper, good and evil deeds, attend upon it? So many of the household tasks become merely mechanical, leaving the brain free. You can sweep and dust, and do it well too, and all the time be mentally in Japan or South Africa. Washing dishes is not so bad if some one is wiping them and taking the other side of the question. She is full of schemes for curtailing unnecessary labor. Things are planned out—the active brain saves hands and feet in a hundred ways, and takes delight in the service. She attempts new things and her success is phenomenal. I have known college girls to marry knowing nothing of cooking, but armed with Mrs. Owen's cook book, in three months' time the husband was ready to acknowledge she was "equal to mother." Privately we think her much better!

When we ask the question, "Does it pay?" we will each answer according to our own ideas of the purpose of life. If we believe "There is an ideal manhood to which our human race must come. Every step which the individual may take is a step for humanity," then we will say, "Let the farmer's daughter have all the education she is capable of receiving."

"No stream from its source
Flows seaward, how lonely soever its
course,
But what some land is gladden'd. No
star ever rose
And set, without influence somewhere.
Who knows
What earth needs from earth's lowest
creature? No life
in its purpose and strong
in its strife—
And all life not be purer and stronger
thereby."

"Do you know, Horatio, that every boy has a chance to be president of the United States?"

Horatio (thoughtfully)—"Well, I'll sell my chance for 10 cents."



THOMAS CARSTENS.

Who has been bound over to the Superior Court on the charge of receiving cows stolen from Seattle residents.

The case has attracted widespread interest because of the prominence of the defendant. Carstens Bros. have built up a large meat packing business and both Tom and Ernest have attained a rare reputation for square dealing in all their transactions. Tom has personally bought cattle from the stockmen of Eastern Washington, Oregon and Idaho for a great many years, and although he always drives a sharp bargain, the old timers know that when he gives his word in agreement he will keep it. In view of the record and standing of this firm, it is not likely that they would enter into collusion with suburban cow thieves.

girls are not worth educating. But if the four years spent at college sends her back to her home restless, dissatisfied, a torment to her people and herself, she is the failure, not the education. Yet we cannot always know the result in advance and it is not fair to deprive all, simply because some may turn out unfortunately.

Much depends on the kind of college. The girl herself must be conscious of her needs and enter the one that can best supply them. A large institution affords opportunities for wider experiences and contact with best teachers. A college which offers large freedom of choice as to subjects is to be preferred.

What shall she study? Let her consider first of all her possible future and

fluence on character is direct and final.

But perhaps the greatest of all benefits that will come to the girl, will be from association with fellow-students. Morbidity, selfishness, extreme sensitiveness are at a discount, and a premium is placed on good nature, humor, and good fellowships with surprising results. Best of all are the opportunities given for the formation of real friendships.

But the final test of the real value of it all comes when the girl takes up her home-life again. Will she find her former friends and surroundings uncongenial? Her training has been such as to quicken her sympathies and imagination and enable her to enter into the lives of others, and do you think she is going to be critical of those