

LETTERS TO THE FARMER BOY.

No. 1.—You Can Have the Thing You Want—if You Only Want It Enough and Work for It in the Right Way.

My dear Young Friend: Of all the letters I receive from farm boys there is scarcely one which does not express a desire or wish for something. It is this wanting something which makes all try to do more and to get more. Those of us with the strongest desires, those of us who care most for the things which we have not, are those who try longest and work hardest to get them.

The boy who wants most to play a good game of ball is the one who plays ball most and tries hardest to win. The boy who wants most to win the prize for the best acre of corn in his county is likely to study most and work hardest to raise the best corn. The boy who wants most to lead his class at school is the boy who studies most and gives the most attention to his lessons.

The things about home which you want very much you go and get yourself. Those things you care less for you may ask some one to bring to you. Just in proportion as you want a thing are you willing to work for it.

You remember you have perhaps wanted a thing before now that proved a little hard to get and you readily gave it up. You didn't want that very much. Then there was something else that you have wanted so much you just wouldn't give it up. This thing you probably got, if the desire was a reasonable or just one. If you want a pig, a pony or a gun, you can and will get it, if you want it enough. How much must you want it? Just enough to earn the money to buy it, or to do that which is necessary to get it.

These things which you have wished for in your letters to me you can get, but to get them you must want them enough to get them for yourself. If you want much, if you want big things, you must be willing to work much, to do big things.

If a boy wants to grow 100 bushels of corn on an acre of land enough to learn how to enrich an acre by a liberal application of stable manure, by the plowing under of cowpeas or some other legume crops, and by deep and thorough plowing; if he wants to grow 100 bushels of corn on an acre enough to learn how to procure the best seed corn and how to plant, fertilize, and cultivate the crop, and then after learning how it is done is willing to do, and does do the work, he will succeed. If not this year, some year soon.

"But," you ask, "how am I to learn this?" There are just three ways in which to learn it, and all three must be used. First, you must study well the methods followed by those who have made a hundred bushels of corn on an acre. Second, you must obtain all the bulletins and other literature you can on corn growing, from your State Experiment Station and the United States Department of Agriculture and study them well; and, third, you must try, and try hard, yourself, to actually grow 100 bushels of corn on an acre.

Do these three things and do them with all your might, and you will succeed. If you don't do these things, you may succeed, but the chances are you will not.

A lot of boys have told me they wanted to raise good live stock. How much do you want to do this thing? If you want to raise good live stock

enough to study the breeds, types and grades of live stock so that you can judge animals intelligently; if you want to grow live stock enough to grow the feed for them and to study how to feed and care for them, if you want to grow live stock enough to study all these things hard, out of books, and are then willing to do the work necessary, you will raise good live stock; but unless you are willing to first learn how to do it, and then are willing to care and feed this live stock 365 days out of every year, you will not succeed. The price of success is first, hard study, and then more hard work.

I am delighted that so many of my young friends have said they wanted an education. We are glad of this because we know that an education pays. It pays in a happier and better life and it pays in dollars and cents. Everyone of you who wants it can get an education; but if you get it by your own exertions; if you earn the money necessary to go to school, you must want an education very, very much. You can get it and it will pay, but you must pay the price for it. If you want it enough to study when tired and worn out from work; if you want it enough to give up much play time and pleasure to hard study; if you want it enough to work hard to earn money and then give it up for books, board and to pay teachers; if you want it enough to struggle and work hard for a few years, you can get an education; but you can get it in no other way.

Before we get through with these letters we are going to take up these desires as expressed by our young friends, and tell them fully how others have obtained them and how they may do so if they want to hard enough.

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