

Influence of the Outdoor Life Upon Character

By HON. GROVER CLEVELAND.



The wholesome sentiments which spring from country life are being overwhelmed by the ambitions and tendencies that flow out from our great cities. Few have the hardihood to withstand the swirl and rush of city life, or to remain indifferent to the promises of sudden wealth and the excitement of speculation in a metropolis, where immense fortunes are made and lost in a single day.

I believe that we must set ourselves against the fallacy that a city life is the easier and the most productive of happiness.

The strong love of outdoor recreation, unfortunately, is not possessed by every one; yet nature has made it a law that every one is in need, mentally and physically, of relaxation in the open air. And in these times of dollar-chasing, many of the most vital necessities of a normal human life are being neglected.

It is not true that the higher agencies which have been especially effective in the refinement of human nature have their life and influence from rural surroundings? In my experience I have found that impressions which a man receives who walks by the brookside or in the forest or by the seashore make him a better man and a better citizen. They lift him above the worries of business and teach him of a power greater than human power.

It is unquestionably true that nearness to nature has an elevating influence upon heart and character. Nature is a school of all the harder virtues. What, for instance, can impart a more effective lesson in patience than a day's fishing for the whimsical black bass?

As I have said on a previous occasion, the real worth and genuineness of the human heart are measured best by its readiness to submit to the influences of nature, and to appreciate the goodness of the Supreme Power who is its Creator. THIS IS THE CENTRAL POINT OF MY PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE.

We need more of those old-fashioned conscientious folk who adhere to the simple way of living and who believe that every fortune should be earned honestly and fairly by the man who gets it.

Happiness a Product of Soul Thoughts

By DR. NEWELL DWIGHT HILLIS.

The realm of the soul Thought is king. Over this invisible empire the intellect stretches its sceptre and is absolute monarch. The best of reason and the edicts thereof go out into the uttermost ends of the soul's life. But so marvelous is the influence of thought upon man's character and career that many other images must be invoked for setting forth the scope of the intellect. The reason is a loom that weaves all these rich silken textures named epics, poems and arguments. The reason is a husbandman that sows all the years with the shocks and sheaves of ambition and achievement. The reason is a river that digs its own channel and floats all the argosies of hope. The intellect is a sculptor that carves the character into beauty and symmetry; reason is an architect that builds the temple where love and faith and hope have their home and abiding place. From time to time the ideals are held out by God to allure man upward their own glorious heights, but in that vision hour it is Reason that takes her staff in hand and goes toiling up the hills of difficulty to the sunlit heights and the temple where perfect beauty and perfect faith have their haunts and their home. Wonderful the achievements of the intellect! There is nothing that reason has not done; there is little that reason cannot do.

In hours of storm blessed is the man who knows the way to a door opening upon a winter's fire and a warm, levelled room. But there is no castle that shelters fleeing soldiers, no city of refuge for fugitives, no mansion whose doors of friendship stand open by day and night that can do for the body what the intellect can do for the soul. When John Ruskin was old and broken in health and criticized by a multitude who misunderstood him he took refuge in his thoughts. He tells us that his chief hours of happiness were in the night. When all others slept he recalled the 40 chapters of the Bible that his mother taught him before he was seven years of age. Brooding on these great truths of God's love and law, happiness stole into his heart; then those demons named Fear and Worry fled away, just as bats and things of the night flee into the caves and holes of the ground when the sun stands upon the horizon. Gentle thoughts healed his heart wounds; the memory of past goodness and former blessings shed a gentle radiance upon his dark spirit. The child has a very slender past, so God gives the boy the future in which he can entertain and range over all the continent of to-morrow. The old man also has a narrow future, and through thought God gives him to entertain over the wide continent of the past while he lives in his golden yesterdays. O wonderful treasure vouchsafed to troubled men!

The Military Idea and Woman

By DR. EMIL G. HIRSCH.

The military idea, which among the earliest civilized nations caused war gods and warriors to be so absorbingly worshiped that female children, because of the unfitness of the sex for war services, were destroyed at their birth, is in the last analysis the reason why man has not granted, and still refuses to grant, to woman the right to vote on matters of public policy.

But is the military state the ideal state or government? Most certainly it is not. Ask women—thinking and sympathetic and noble-minded women—that they think of war's horrors. They shrink instinctively. No congress or parliament of modern enlightened women ever would vote to engage in wars of conquest, though they would ever be willing to lay down their lives in defense of their homes and loved ones.

Only by giving the ballot to woman can the voice of the people ever be made the voice of God. Woman stands for purity. Man stands for just so much purity as woman has been able to make him stand for.

Woman certainly is entitled to a share in the uplifting and purifying processes that are now attracting the attention of the best and noblest of the human race, and which will be the special problems that this generation will have to solve.

ANOTHER WESTERN CANADA RECORD.

The Way in Which a Swan River Farmer Became Wealthy.

Swan River, Manitoba, Nov. 21, 1906. Two weeks ago we gave an account of the prosperity of a farmer in Western Canada, and this week we reproduce another.

"I have been asked regarding this year's work on my farm, and I here-with willingly submit the following statement:—Three years ago I purchased an improved farm of 186 acres on Section 9, Township 36, Range 27 west of the First Meridian—two miles from the town of Swan River.

"This year I cropped 12 1/2 acres of land during this year (1906), 80 acres in wheat, 30 acres in oats, and 12 1/2 acres in barley.

"The cost of putting in and taking off this crop this season is as follows: Cash paid for blue stone.....\$ 15.00 Cash paid for binder twine..... 35.00 Cash paid for hired help..... 125.00 Cash paid for threshing..... 175.00

Total.....\$ 240.00

"Receipts for the year as follows:—80 acres of wheat (yielded 30 bushels per acre)—Total.....2,400 bu.

30 acres of oats (yielded 42 1/2 bushels per acre)—Total.....1,200 "

1 1/2 stacks of oats in sheaf..... 200 "

12 1/2 acres barley (48 bu. per acre)..... 600 "

Crop potatoes..... 390 "

Hay, tons..... 15 "

Sold.....

1,168 bu. wheat at 62c.....\$ 724.16

1,232 bu. wheat in granary at 62c..... 763.84

300 bu. barley at 85c..... 105.00

200 bu. barley in granary at 25c..... 105.00

1,200 bu. oats in granary at 25c..... 300.00

100 bu. potatoes at 30c..... 30.00

200 bu. potatoes in root house at 30c..... 60.00

1 stack of oats in sheaf for feed..... 50.00

15 tons of hay at \$3.00..... 45.00

Garden roots and vegetables..... 30.00

Total.....\$ 2,123.00

Cost of above, besides my own labor..... 240.50

Balance.....\$1,872.50

I have in all 125 acres for crop next year, including 10 acres cleared and broken this season.

Total Assets.....

186 acres land, with house, stable and outbuildings.....\$5,000.00

Implements..... 600.00

4 head of horses, and harness..... 800.00

15 head of cattle..... 275.00

20 pigs..... 200.00

Receipts of this season's crop..... 1,872.00

Total.....\$5,747.50

Liabilities are..... 1,000.00

Total assets.....\$7,747.50

I have made the above amount by farming in Manitoba. I think it has paid. This is my standing to-day. I am a single man, a Canadian, and 26 years of age.

For particulars how to secure low railway rates to the free homesteads of Western Canada apply to any Canadian Government agent.

Benefit of Modern Machinery. It is estimated by the department of agriculture that last year's crop was produced and gathered at a saving of \$655,000,000 over what would have been the cost of raising an equal crop 50 years ago. This saving was accomplished by the use of modern agricultural machines.—Farm Machinery.

Strength Exceeding. "My new cook says she lived once with you, and that she was sure you could give her a strong recommendation."

"Strong! I should say so! She broke the peace, my husband's spirit and the kitchen range."—Baltimore American.

Blessed is the man who has found his work; let him ask no other blessings. Know thy work and do it; and work at it like Hercules. One monster there is in the world—the idle man.—Carlyle.

Peccolus Brazilian Ant.

In Brazil there is a large ant which is regarded by the natives as good to eat, when roasted—a delicacy as choice, indeed, as snails are rated by the French. Sometimes they dress the tiny creatures up the little dolls, and put them in boxes to sell to tourists as a Brazilian curiosity.

Horse Was Fastidious. A cookery caddy who had just fixed his horse's nosebag, turned to the driver of a broken-down motor 'bus close by and shouted out: "Now, then, clear off with your oil box, 'cos the smell of it spoils my 'orse's luncheon."—Tit-Bits.

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I have lived to know that the great secret of human happiness is this: Never suffer your energies, to stagnate.—Dr. Adam Clarke.

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