

VILLAGE LIFE.

How comes it that life in a village is so generally held to be slow, dull and uninteresting? How is it that the villager himself longs for any occasion to pay a visit to the nearest city in order, as the expression is, to see some stir? No one will pretend that noise and bustle constitute enjoyment, or that the activity of our fellow-beings can for any great length of time afford pleasure to those who have no further share in that activity than that of spectators. Certainly a city offers much more than a village in the way of sights, concerts, for example, or lectures, &c.; we do not mention the circus, because no average denizen of the country ever fails to make an appearance there, let the difficulties and expense of the journey be what they may. But yet only a small fraction of city people can afford to indulge in even a few of the many attractions daily offered to them, and we think that no greater fraction of village people can be said to be in a position for a like indulgence. The cause, then, of the proverbial village dullness lies deeper than this, and we propose to offer a few suggestions as to its real location.

We begin with the seemingly startling announcement that inhabitants of city or town find time as slow and burdensome as those of the smallest hamlet. The complaint of having nothing to do, or rather of having nothing which one cares to do, is universal, and is called forth either by pure indolence, or by the unmanly feeling that all work is better than one's own. Thus the soldier envies the sailor, the carpenter the blacksmith, the school master the doctor, and so on to the end. Yet could all the changes, so ardently desired, be effected, there would not be one jot more of satisfaction or enjoyment. The division of society into classes is, in many respects, unjust and disagreeable, but in respect of work, is indispensable. Work, be it of the humblest kind, can bring with it no dishonor, if it be well and conscientiously done. It, of course, a man systematically decries his own employment, the world will naturally form its estimate on his own. If a man skulks and hides, is afraid to be seen in his proper sphere, and blushes and stammers when so caught, what other opinion can outsiders have than that he must be engaged in some ignominious occupation? But why, in the name of all common sense, does a man feel called on to satisfy, or to give explanations as to what he may be doing to any person or persons except those who are immediately concerned? Will he curry favor or patronage? Is a foolish sneer or a haughty stare so very dreadful? Of what moment can the opinions of any one be to the man who is faithfully performing his allotted task? Merit dwells not so much in the work to be done as in the manner of its performance. The business of legislation may be, and is, great, but that does not detract at all from the honesty and usefulness of chimney-sweeping. Indeed, the world is pretty well agreed that, of the two, legislators could be much better dispensed with than chimney-sweepers. Let no one be ashamed of the burden laid upon him in this life. It is a cowardly, a dishonest, a degrading feeling, and can find place in no noble heart.

The habit, also, of looking for recreation and amusement outside of one's self is altogether too general. Every man should cheerfully accept his surroundings and endeavor to make the best and most of them. For this purpose, there are very few places in Ontario destitute of means and appliances. This is an age of cheap literature. For one dollar may be purchased three or four of the greatest writers' works. Mechanics' Institutes place within reach of every one whole libraries for a trifling sum. People, consequently, cannot do better than to cultivate habits of reading. It is impossible to say too much in praise of books. They are friends that never weary, that never grow cold. They are the magic lantern which shows us all lands, all nations. They make us acquainted with both prince and pauper. They increase cheerfulness by holding up the joys of others, and diminish grief and sadness by distracting our attention to the grief and sadness of others. Too little use, moreover, is made of the means in our possession for

enjoying life. Silly distinctions divide the smallest village into absurd classes. Why are such and such persons to be considered superior to others? On account of greater moral or mental endowments? Not at all, but because one party has some extra dollars more than the other. The result of this is foolish pride on the one hand, and of equally foolish dejection on the other, and a great loss of happiness to both. No place presents greater facilities for social intercourse than a village, but in no place is there less. Hence comes that narrowness of mind, that ridiculous aping of fine manners with some, and that embarrassed and clumsy demeanor of others. This state of things is unpardonable in a village where people have grown up together from childhood. In a city circumstances are different; there neighbors and characters are not so easily recognized.

We would not, however, be content simply to point out flaws, and accordingly we shall make a suggestion which seems to us likely to counteract much of what we have been complaining. Let a room be opened, in connection with the Mechanics' Institute, for a couple of hours on two or three nights of each week, where all and any may meet. The time could be pleasantly and profitably spent in good games, for example, checkers and chess. The requisite outlay would be very small and if all vanity, pride and uncharitableness of heart be left at home, we venture to assert that village life need not seem slow, dull and uninteresting.

SPRINGHILL.

From Our Own Correspondent.

During the storm on Monday, lightning struck a tree in Mr. Jas. Lloyd's bush within ten rods of the school-house. It gave the teacher and pupils a light shock. Mr. John Hogan, who was setting posts, was knocked down; nothing serious resulted.

The village carpenters were seen striking for King Station on Monday morning carrying tools and carpet sacks. On account of the cold snap lately, they deemed it wise to take their overcoats along. We supposed they were going to the Salvation Barracks, Aurora.

Two of our village sports went to Bail's lake to fish, on Monday afternoon. They returned with a fisherman's luck.

The apple trees in this section are very full of blossoms this spring.

THE LIBERAL did not reach here until Saturday evening last week. Many were the lamentations on account of it. It is hoped it will not occur again. One man was heard to remark that he would as leave lose his dinner as the LIBERAL on Friday morning.

Come one, come all to the cricket match on Saturday June 7th between the Maple and King clubs. Wickets pitched at 1 p. m. sharp.

The following is the standing obtained by the pupils of S. S. No. 2 King, for the month of May:

SENIOR IV—Maximum 530. Lloyd Herbert, 423; Lloyd M. 418.

JUNIOR IV—Max. 490. Quinlan, Jos., 378; McKellar, Katie, 350; Lloyd, Earnest, 346.

SENIOR III—Max. 490. Thompson, J., 371; Ross, Eddie, 347; Curtis, Jas., 321.

JUNIOR III, Div 1—Max. 480. Ross, Lillie, 336; Ball, Sisley, 305; Brown, Katie, 273; McBride, Edith, 247; McCake, Willie, 216; Stokes, Wm., 210.

JUNIOR III, Div. 2—Max. 420. Thompson, Nellie, 275; Stewart, Robt., 229; Stewart, Anthony, 167.

SENIOR II—Max. 350. McCake, Thos. 205; Farran, Albert, 193; Winter, Minnie, 190; Kightley, Walter, 181; Irvine, Bertha, 128.

JUNIOR II—Max. 250. Stewart, Fan., 222; Hall, Victor, 218; Stewart, Maud, 213; Lloyd, Melville, 187; Curtis, F., 185; Hogan, P., 182; Irvine, Eddie, 176; Brown, Archie, 175.

Average attendance of school during May was 50.

LASKAY.

From Our Own Correspondent.

The crops in this locality are very promising, and have every appearance of an abundant harvest.

Mr. Henry Gordon of this village has been seriously ill for the past two weeks; we are glad to learn that he is now fast recovering.

Mr. E. J. Davis is progressing very rapidly with the tannery. He is going to raise on Friday, 6th inst.; no doubt there will be an exciting time in Kinghorn.

Your valuable paper did not reach our little village until Monday. Every one was anxious to know what was in THE LIBERAL this week. I think before long your paper will reach every family in Laskay, and then borrowing will stop.

The masons are at work putting a stone foundation under Mr. W. Bowes' house.

Mr. Watson & Sons of this place have so much carpentering work to do that they cannot tell at which place to start first.

Mr. W. Dunning, a respected resident of this place, is suffering from cancer and is not likely to recover. He was preacher in the Presbyterian Church for twenty one years; his absence from the church leaves a vacancy that is hard to fill. Mr. Dunning has the sympathy of this neighborhood.

If You Want Bargains Come and get them at **THE CHEAP CASH HOUSE!** Our stock is well assorted with goods of first-class quality at **AWAY-DOWN** Prices. Best value in the country. Immense bargains in Dry Goods, Clothing, Hats, Gent's Furnishings, Grockery, Wall Paper, &c. Terms strictly cash or trade and one price. **SNEATH & GRENNAN, Richmond Hill.** Noted for the best goods At the Lowest Prices.

Queen's Birthday AT THE CONCRETE!

All parties who attend the Grand Spring Exhibition at Richmond Hill on the 24th of May, will find it to their advantage to visit the

CONCRETE HOUSE!

so deservedly noted for the BEST GOODS at the CHEAPEST RATES, and inspect the MAGNIFICENT STOCK

Staple and Fancy Dry Goods, Millinery, Mantles, Felt Hats, Straw Hats, Helmets, Groceries, Hardware, &c.

COMPLETE STOCK. BOTTOM PRICES.

No trouble to show the Goods. Polite attendance to Customers.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

WM. ATKINSON.

THE FIRE PROOF! PRINTS,

Spring Goods arriving daily, including a large and varied assortment of

PRINTS,

Purchased before the additional duty came into effect.

Cretonnes, Sheetings, Cottonades, Shirtings, and a Magnificent Stock of

TWEEDS, WORSTED COATINGS, &c.,

which, for Variety, Style and Lowness of Price, cannot be excelled.

ISAAC CROSBY.

PEOPLE'S STORE!

Just arrived, another stock of

WALL PAPER.

Call and see it. The second for the season. 25 per cent. less than Toronto prices. Mixed Paints, Brushes of all sizes, Boiled Oil, Raw Oil, and all Painter's Material, White Lead, Low in Price.

IMMENSE STOCK OF FURNITURE. GROCERIES, FLOUR AND FEED.

P. G. SAVAGE.

