

## OUR BOYS AND GIRLS.

A writer in the December number of the *Educational Monthly* says:—The dislike of or want of taste for manual labour among boys, and the preference for other employments rather than domestic work on the part of our girls, is now bringing before the community a very serious problem, felt chiefly, we suppose, in our cities and towns, but doubtless extending also to the country districts. An anxious father or mother comes to the teacher with the question, "What shall I do with my son?" and sometimes with the enquiry, "What is my daughter best fitted for?"

The boys must be clerks, agents, travellers, and to make it possible to reach such a high elevation they enter stores and wisely begin at the foot of the ladder; or they must enter a profession, no matter if the father be a labourer—for what father is not a labourer of some sort? And the girls, the poor girls, whose "rights" and "duties" are so much talked about they must wait in stores, be shorthand reporters or typewriters, keep books, or even spend long wearisome hours and days in the impure air of a knitting or other factory, a tailor's shop or some such crowded place, quite irrespective of home surroundings, fitness for work, or training for future usefulness.

The general effect of this state of affairs has now become very apparent. It is difficult to obtain a situation for a boy; it is still more difficult for families of limited means who can only employ one domestic to find that very necessary help.

In the remarks which follow are recognized no other "class distinctions" than those which nature and Providence have established. It would be obviously unfair and unwise to infer that such positions as have been named are not desirable ways in which boys may be trained for obtaining a livelihood, or that girls do not fill the places referred to with credit and efficiency. The evil lies not in the kind of work, but in the overcrowding in certain employments, to the utter neglect of others equally respectable, important and honourable, for the saying of the father is not yet worn out, "Handsome is that handsome does."

### WORK FOR BOYS.

In the list of work suitable for boys the occupation of a farmer, "a tiller of the soil," in all its various branches and modifications, must stand pre-eminently first as the oldest, the most independent, the most health-giving, its surroundings fresh and sweet, the one in which some leisure for reading can always be secured, and in which a man of ability may rise to almost any position in the service of his country. Say not—It is hard work. Yes, the work is hard. Did our readers ever know or hear of anything being gained that was worth the having without exertion or, if you prefer it, hard work.

Some of the boys in every family should be farmers; if the father be a farmer, so much the better for the son, but if not, educate your boy and send him to the country. Do not fear to let him begin at the beginning; his education will be of special service there.

We place next on the list for boys a good honest trade. Builders of all kinds, masons, bricklayers, carpenters, plumbers, blacksmiths, tinmiths, machinists, engineers, skilled workmen of every description are (happily in this land) always in request. Send your healthy, well-developed sons to such employments. The enterprising and clever among them will rise. If the will or ability be there they can become master builders, and all the others can earn a competency with reasonably short hours and good wages. In such employments, equally with that of the agriculturist, education is of special value. If your son's training at school has unfitted him for work of this kind then there is something wrong either in the home or at the school. Do not cherish the mistaken idea that your son must not follow in his father's footsteps, at his father's work. If he has enjoyed better educational advantages it is better for him, and for the work he will do; intelligent educated workmen are, and always will be, a power in the land. Nature's gentlemen are never degraded by active work, while a rough man will be rough and rude anywhere.

### THE PROFESSIONS.

Again, if you are able to educate your son, if his tastes lie in that direction and his abilities warrant the attempt, let him go on to fit himself for professional life—ever honourable in the hands of good men. In this direction great care must be exercised; there should be few second-class clergymen, teachers, lawyers or medical men. Do not, unless compelled by necessities circumstances, let your son go to swell the crowd of dry goods clerks. Only a very limited number should engage in this work, and these, for the good of all concerned, should be boys of a certain kind of ability and adaptability, who will be able to rise to positions of trust in the wholesale trade, or have the charge of clerks (young women always) in a department of the retail business. The vocations for boys which are always thronged are not the artisan employments in which, under fair conditions, the industrious man succeeds, but there are too many speculators, insurance agents, travellers, bookkeepers and clerks, and indolent, inefficient professional men.

For the farmer there is unbounded wealth of land to cultivate and much variety of employment; for the artisan class there is room everywhere, and in professional life there is always room at the "top." Why then should parents fear that young women are taking the places their sons should occupy when there is such an unbounded field before them? And now we venture to say a few words upon the delicate question of employment for girls.

### WORK FOR GIRLS.

In homes of moderate means where there are one or two daughters who are old enough, the work of the household should be done by them. No training is more healthful, useful or necessary; but in order to encourage and afford partial independence, an allowance equal at least to the wages of a good servant should be made to them. This sum should be paid with regularity and generosity. It will be found to amount in most cases to more than is received by young ladies who keep books or copy letters. This arrangement will secure comfort and economy; assist and relieve the mother of all except the supervision, and add greatly to the completeness of home life. Speaking generally, no work can be done more becoming.

In not a few cases, however, it is necessary that the daughters of the house should add to the income of the family or become

self-supporting. No work for young ladies is more suitable, honourable, or useful than teaching. To be a properly qualified teacher means natural aptness to teach, and much steady hard work to obtain the necessary standard of qualification; but it also implies more, far more than these, not simply enough education to reach a certain standard, but culture, refinement, and above all, tact and good sense. And our country will never be safe until we cease to turn out teachers by machine-examination, and aim at securing high natural qualifications combined with culture and refinement.

Many young ladies will devote themselves to bookkeeping (and do it well) or to writing or copying, or they will attend in stores, and excel in such work; but in all cases it is absolutely necessary that great care be taken to preserve the self-respect and modesty of our daughters—these are above all price, and must not be trifled with. In stores they should, when at all possible, have a department to themselves, under proper and mature supervision. In offices they should always be by themselves, not in a corner among general and frequently noisy and mixed office work. Influences adverse to the growth of the crowning flower of womanhood should be securely banished. With such safeguards young ladies will discharge with much acceptance and efficiency the duties in these and many other employments requiring lightness of touch and accuracy in detail.

Again, in cases where natural disposition and liking point in that direction, no employment can be placed higher than that of the trained nurse, new in Canada, but greatly in demand, and for the well being of society, difficult to over-estimate. For information regarding the training schools of our country, our readers are referred to an article on the subject in the May number of this magazine.

### DOMESTIC SERVICE.

There remains still a large class of girls in our cities and towns, the children of hard working fathers and mothers, who cannot secure more than a limited education, and who from surrounding circumstances cannot hope to be able to fill positions such as have been indicated, but who, nevertheless, form an important, influential and eminently useful class of the community, and one whom all the others can ill afford to do without. This class of girls must, while still young, go out to earn money, and they crowd in troops into factories of all sorts chiefly because in these employments they can be at home when the day's work is over, and as it were more independent than if they were living in what is called domestic service. The scarcity of domestic help is an evil, but it is not the only evil caused by this state of matters. Such girls are underfed, poorly clothed, and utterly unfitted both by training and physical power to take their places as heads of families, as in the natural course of events they must soon do. The untidy, ill-managed home which can be seen any winter day is ample proof of this; but sad to say that is only a small part of the evil.

Now, where lies the blame? Who is responsible? Is the public education of the country at fault? Are we trying to educate all up to the same level? Are passing examinations and never-ending promotions held up before the young rather than doing their duty? Is being smart and answering well and getting on, held up before our children rather than the fear of God and the fifth commandment? Or does the fault lie in the home training, and is Bible study ignored—both at home and at school? Are heads of families doing their duty? We ask in all seriousness a number of questions which can only be answered by the mistress of a house where domestic help is required.

### TREATMENT OF SERVANTS.

Can you blame the girl who has a home for wishing to go there when the day's work is over? Are you making your home as attractive to your maid as it should be? Has she a clean, comfortable room that she can call her own with all necessary appointments? Do you speak freely to her and ask her about her friends at home? Do you encourage her to confide in you and tell you of her joys and sorrows? Do you try to make her understand that her presence is necessary to the comfort of the house? Do you expect her to do all the work or only what she can reasonably manage? Do you help her or see that she is helped? Has she time to sit down a little every day or only at her meals? Has she nice clean table linen for her own use? Does she know that in ordinary circumstances she will have an afternoon out every week? Do you invite her to lay aside a part of her earnings every month? Do you encourage her to mend her clothes and show her how to do it? Do you take for granted that she will like to read a little, and see that she has proper books? These are only a few of the points that might be touched, and it frequently happens that one or all of the advantages and privileges named are abused; but as a rule if we were able to answer the questions in the affirmative and set ourselves to devise means to remedy some of the evils a better state of matters would ultimately prevail. Domestic servants will be esteemed and respected and they will learn to respect themselves. Parents of all ranks in life, teachers of all degrees, the Education Department and those in authority must work together, and when all is done it may take a generation or two to effect a change. But it will come.

And now let us repeat, our sons must not become effeminate and seek for sheltered, easy work; let them strike out and aim at what is manly and honourable. Let it never be said that they are crowded out by girls. The employments suitable to both are in the main essentially different. Let a large number of our daughters be encouraged to stay at home and help their mothers. For those who must earn money, and who are educated with that end in view, let proper provision be made to secure good work under suitable surroundings and conditions. Let all the members of the community strive to make domestic service honourable, inviting and desirable. "Let us look not every man on his own things, but also on the things of others."

Dr. Kenealy, who acted for the Tichborne claimant as legal counsel, left a family of several children and a snug fortune. An American relative now claims the money, and the new claimant is said to have good chances.

A St. Paul man, who has a well-stocked fish pond, has tamed a big trout so that it comes at his call, eats from his hand, and shows its delight by jumping out of the water and turning in the air with very plain manifestations of joy.

## Pugilism, and What Prominent Men Say About It.

1. What in your opinion is the reason for the great interest in pugilism and pugilists taken by the American and English people?

2. What is the moral effect of it upon our young men?

3. Do you think that boxing is a proper part of the physical training of young men? If not, what would you substitute for it?

The following extracts from the answers received will be printed to-morrow:—

REV. ROBERT COLLYER.

1. Your first question misleads. You should have said "the great interest in pugilism and pugilism taken by some people in England and America," and the answer to that would be:—Because such people nourish brutal instincts like those of the old Romans, overlaid by a thin veneer of civility, and the modern pugilist takes the place to them of the ancient gladiator.

2. Brutal only, and that continually.

3. I think the art of boxing may be so well guarded as to do no harm to the boxer; and then it may be a good thing some day to be able to trounce a brute soundly right then and there for insulting a woman or for cruelty to a child. I have more than once wished I could use my fists as well as I can use my tongue.

GEORGE WILLIAM CURTIS.

1. I suppose that the savage is not yet wholly worked out of the blood.

2. As an exhibition, altogether debasing.

3. As an exercise with gloves, I think it admirable.

GEORGE W. CABLE.

1. All men are apt to be overfond of power and supremacy, and to show a keen interest in contests for it. But Britons and Americans do not believe in killing men, except such as are enemies of mankind, nor even beasts unnecessarily, except as wild game. Pugilism is on a very low key, a competitive test of physical strength, skill and endurance, and of a certain courage, fortitude and tenacity.

2. The moral effect cannot but be bad. Not only does it put the lowest physical and the lowest mental graces foremost and exalt the idea of supremacy by force, but it is a test and display of skill in the infliction of ferocious cruelty.

3. Boxing, even as a mere exercise, suggests always and only the methods of force, cruelty and violence, offensive and defensive. Any skillful gymnastic trainer can find forms of exercise to supply its place.

RICHARD K. FOX.

1. Pugilism greatly interests Englishmen and Americans because it involves courage, skill and manliness, and because it is a form of contention which does away with weapons, depends upon individual qualities, and is regulated by honorable and equitable rules.

2. Its moral effect is distinctly good. Young men who become familiar with the pugilistic code are slow to quarrel, always forbearing, capable of great self-restraint, and inured to patience, accuracy and prompt decision. Per contra, vicious and immoral habits, debauchery of all kinds, and a reckless manner of life must all be abandoned by the young man who would excel as an amateur pugilist.

3. I consider boxing an essential part of every young man's physical training, above all in an English-speaking country. It is the physical expression of contestant individuality, and goes further to burnish up the virile habit than any other gymnastic exercise I know.

JOSIAH QUINCY, OF BOSTON.

1. The survival in them of ancestral savagery.

2. Bad, so far as it has any.

3. Yes, and an excellent form of exercise.

DR. WM. A. HAMMOND.

1. I am of the opinion that the great interest in pugilism and pugilists taken by the American and English people is inherent, and is due to hereditary transmission from ancestors who always within the historic period have taken pleasure in rough sports and in personal combats.

2. The moral effect of pugilism on our young men is, I think, upon the whole, good.

It has very much the same effect as a battle upon those who witness it or read descriptions of the courage, endurance and skill of the combatants. The question is to whether the battle is a righteous one or not is never taken into consideration any more than it is with those refined, intelligent, educated and religious people who witness prizefights or who read descriptions of them.

I have known several excellent clergymen and many other virtuous men who, while in cold blood condemning prizefighting as a barbarity, nevertheless read the detailed descriptions of them published in the daily press, and who rejoiced or were chagrined as the champion of the country was victorious or was defeated.

I do not think that any young man of good character and virtuous qualities could be made worse by witnessing a prizefight, provided it was fairly conducted.

3. Boxing should constitute a part of the physical training of young men.

It is from every consideration, if a choice is to be made, preferable to fencing. It affords better exercise for the muscles of the body, requires quite as much skill, and brings many of the higher qualities of the mind into quite as great a degree of activity. Moreover, a man always has his fists ready to defend himself from the assaults or to attack those whom he thinks have justly incurred his resentment.

COL. T. W. HIGGINSON.

1. This may be true of the English people, a race of much coarser fibre than our own, and in many respects, in my judgment, behind us in real civilization; but I have yet to be satisfied that it is true on any large scale among sober and orderly Americans. It is certain the prominence given to the details of prize-fighting in some newspapers, otherwise admirably conducted, is exceedingly abhorrent to many men as well as to nearly all women. But so far as this interest exists, it is partly due to respect for courage or for anything that passes for courage, and partly to the same untamed brutality which enjoys dog-fighting or cock-fighting. In England it is further re-enforced by the habits of an artificial and base society, which is always greedy for some novelty, whether it be a new prizefighter or "Buffalo Bill."

What is the boasted courage of that ring? To stand up a few hours, not to be, at the worst, knocked down violently a dozen times, with almost an absolute certainty that neither life nor limb will be seriously endangered, and that the same combatants may give another exhibition, uninjured, a

week or two later. There is not a skirraish in battle—nay, there is scarcely a drunken brawl between Western cowboys—that is not a matter of more serious danger. Gunpowder is an enemy which makes small account of Queensberry rules, and he who fights where that weapon is used fights in earnest. The bloodiest prizefight is but a sham fight in comparison; it has the brutality of war without its seriousness; it does not even train men for war. If I were recruiting a company or a regiment, as in 1862, I should rather enlist ten sober, steady young men from Mr. Baldwin's Christian Union or Father Scully's Gymnasium than twenty professional pugilism, and any man of actual experience would say the same.

2. I think that "the moral effect of it upon our young men" is not merely brutalizing, but utterly misleading, making them look for examples of courage in the wrong direction.

3. In spite of all this, I regard this as "a proper part of the training of young men." This is because it is one of the best forms of physical training. In a world still somewhat brutal, it is worth a man's while, even for the sake of others, to have some notion how to defend himself even without weapons. Nor is there any more necessary connection between boxing lessons and prize-fighting than between a domestic game of cards and the gambling saloon.

FROM ANTHONY COMSTOCK.

1. Those who find delight in pugilistic sport are, in my judgment, largely in the minority. They frequent these places for the excitement and what they can make by gambling upon the results. I do not regard those who sneak into prize fights under the cover of night to witness these criminal proceedings as representing any decent element in society. They may have money and position, but they cannot fairly be said to represent any decent portion of the community. They represent themselves.

2. Brutalizing.

2. Yes, if it is not carried to extremes and does not lead to the brutal exhibitions which have disgraced this country and England during the past few years.

JAMES BARTON, THE HISTORIAN.

1. The recent revival of interest in prize-fights may be a recreation against overculture in special directions, which tend to effeminacy and the diminution of the human animal. We have one Emerson, and possibly that necessitates one Sullivan, although it was Emerson himself who said that the first condition of a successful life is to be a good animal. It is true these noted pugilists are not good animals. There are plenty of men in Harvard University who are far better animals than Sullivan or Killrain, and would better stand any fair test of manhood than they.

2. I hope you young men are not such fools as to get any harm from reading about the pummeling which these good-natured giants bestow upon one another for the public amusement. The worst effect seems to arise from the betting on the results. Probably, however, that is confined to a comparatively small class of men who derive a precarious livelihood from it, and idle persons like the Prince of Wales. That Prince is, *ex-officio*, a relic of barbarism, and his patronizing of Sullivan is an indication that the whole thing is absolute, as he is himself.

3. I see no objection to it, if young men have a taste for it. Some of the most eminent men of recent times found both pleasure and advantage in it in the days of their youth. Anything is better than namby-pamby weakness.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

*Religious Herald*: It is one thing to depict a useful life and quite another to live it.

Once a cardinal always a cardinal is the rule in the Catholic Church; even the Pope is powerless to disrate him.

California has sent seven solid trainloads of raisins, each train composed of twenty cars, thus far this season.

One who is contented with what he has done will never become famous for what he will do. He has lain down to die.

A law has been passed in Waldeck, Germany, forbidding the granting of a marriage license to a person addicted to the liquor habit.

Jim Waldron, living near Arcadia, Ill., is having a cage 30 by 40 built on his farm, and intends to engage in the business of raising wildcats.

A new style of carving knife has been invented which works on the plan of scissors. If it can find the joint in the leg of a duck we'll agree to buy one and join the church.

An old sea captain thinks that he has a good answer for the question, "Where do sea birds obtain fresh drinking water?" He says that he has often seen birds far from land that could furnish water flying around and under storm-clouds drinking the drops of water as they fell, and chattering like ducks in a pond on a hot day. They will smell a rain squall 100 miles away and fly for it with tremendous speed.

President Carnot is said to have sent assurances to Berlin that while he is President no French Government will be allowed to adopt a warlike policy.

It takes sixteen days for a Laplander to marry the girl of his choice, but after he has got her the mother-in-law can approach his house only at the peril of his life.

A Minnesota prophet said that there was "ground for earthquakes January 1st and January 10th." Of course there was. There is always ground for earthquakes, and there ought to be a hole in the ground for the crank who makes foolish predictions.

The London firemen are about to be uniformed for duty in asbestos cloth, a material which has already been adopted by the Paris fire brigade with satisfactory results. Equipped in this incombustible apparel, the fireman is practically master of the flames.

It's rare to see a man mowing on the ice, but such a sight was possible the other day at Mount Vernon, Me. After a swamp froze up, enough grass remained above the ice to warrant a thrifty farmer cutting it and drawing it home for bedding for his horses.

Miss Kitty C. Wilkins, the horse queen of Idaho, is somewhat tall, with a high forehead, regular features and rather light hair, being somewhat of a blonde. Her eyes are dark and her manners very charming. Altogether she impresses one as a very intelligent young lady of about 28. She owns nearly 800 horses.

## My Own Canadian Home.

BY E. G. NELSON.

Though other skies may be as bright,  
And other lands as fair;  
Though charms of other climes invite  
My wandering footsteps there,  
Yet there is one, the peer of all  
Beneath bright heaven's dome:  
Of thee I sing, O happy land,  
My own Canadian home.

Thy lakes and rivers, as "the voice  
Of many waters" raise  
To Him who planned their vast extent  
A symphony of praise.  
Thy mountain peaks o'erlook the clouds—  
They pierce the azure skies—  
They bid thy sons be strong and true—  
To great achievements rise.

A noble heritage is ours,  
So grand and fair and free;  
A fertile land where he who toils  
Shall well rewarded be,  
And he who joys in nature's charms,  
Exulting, here may view  
Scenes of enchantment strangely fair,  
Sublime in form and hue.

Shall not the race that tread thy plains,  
Spurn all that would enslave?  
Or they who battle with thy tides,  
Shall not that race be brave?  
Shall not Niagara's mighty voice  
Inspire to actions high?  
Twere easy such a land to love,  
Or for her glory die.

And doubt not should the foe man's hand  
Be armed to strike at thee,  
The trumpet call throughout the land  
Need scarce repeated be!  
As bravely as on Queenston's Heights,  
Or in Lundy's Lane,  
Thy sons will battle for thy rights  
And freedom's cause maintain.

Did kindly heaven afford to me  
The choice where I would dwell,  
Fair Canada, that choice should be  
The land I love so well.  
I love thy hills and valleys wide,  
Thy water's flash and foam;  
May God in love o'er thee preside.  
My own Canadian home!

ST. JOHN, N. B., 1887.

## Paris in the Sixteenth Century.

Some curious documents just found in the archives of the Paris prefecture of police throw an interesting and instructive light on the manner in which the streets of Paris were guarded during the night in the sixteenth century. To begin with, there were stringent rules to the effect that each house should only have one door and should be regularly inhabited. This being the case, it was a comparatively easy task to order that the dwellers in the different houses should in turn keep an eye on what was going on in their respective streets. They were not compelled to tramp up and down the pavement like the modern policemen; the authorities were satisfied if they looked through their windows and watched all that was going on below. If the slightest cry was raised they opened their windows and rang their bells until their neighbours followed suit. The alarm spread from street to street, and soon all the bells in Paris were ringing, the windows were lit up, and the inhabitants, armed to the teeth, sallied forth, barring the road to the malefactors, who were almost always arrested. I need hardly explain that the Paris of those days was lilliputian in comparison with what it is now; but what an uncomfortable way they had of keeping the peace in the sixteenth century! The remedy was positively worse than the disease, for it was hard that the inhabitants of one street should be awakened out of their first sleep because the dwellers in a remote avenue imagined that something wrong was going on. One would fancy that in some quarter or another some noise at least must have been made every night. The slumbers of the Parisians generally must often have been woefully curtailed, not to speak of the volunteer watchman for whom "all night sittings" were a stern reality.

## Papal Influence.

The great powers seem to be desirous of making friends with the Pope. The Pope is without an army, but there is no part of the civilized world in which he does not sway an extraordinary influence. France has been exerting herself to make friends with his Holiness, while the Duke of Norfolk has been carrying flattering messages from Queen Victoria to the Pope and from the Pope to the Queen. Every now and then Bismarck makes a move in the direction of conciliating the Vatican, and altogether the amount of deference paid to the head of the Roman Catholic church is worthy of remark. As far as Irish politics are concerned, it is apparent that the Vatican is not anxious to interfere to any marked degree as between the priests and the people. To do so would be certain to provoke general discontent, if not to weaken the hold of the church upon the people. The church has a way of trying to stem the tide of a movement, and then, when it finds that it is impossible to stem it, of turning about and allowing itself to be carried along. In Ireland the priests are so committed to the Nationalist movement that it would be a difficult matter to tear them away from it. They are full of patriotism, and in helping on the fight for home rule believe that they are serving both their God and their country. It is not to be wondered at that the Nationalist idea has taken such a strong hold on the minds of the people when they see their spiritual leaders keeping so well to the front. As has been well said, there is no indication that the Vatican is anxious to come to the front to pull the Tory chestnuts out of the Irish fire.

It is reported that Prince Bismarck, feeling the approaches of old age, has selected Count Hatzfeldt as his successor.

It is estimated that 750,000 people were drowned and 3,000,000 left homeless by the overflow of the Yellow River in China.

The friction between the Vatican and Quirinal is very great, and all hopes of an amicable understanding are abandoned.

The Nihilist Tschernoff and several other prisoners, charged with an attempt on the Czar's life, have been condemned to death.

The report issued to the shareholders of the gambling banks at Monaco informs them that there were seventy-six suicides during the past season.

In two London churches actors have been invited to read the lessons for several successive Sundays lately with great satisfaction to the audiences.

Our live stock shipping trade last year was fairly satisfactory. For the most part good prices were obtained and casualties in transportation were not above the average. The export of cattle reached upwards of 65,000 head, the greatest number ever known. Sheep, however, showed a great falling off from recent annual exportations, the total being 35,000, or the smallest number on record since 1878.