

THE FARMER'S BOY

Our chain gangs and other penal institutions in North Carolina depend largely for their population on improperly trained farmer-boys. Are you, Brother Farmer, doing your part in raising convict timber to smooth the highways for you in your old age?

The nature of the man is in a large measure determined by the training given the boy. And here rises another point for your serious consideration: the mistakes you make in training your boy must be overcome, if at all, by the man you make of him and it will be the hardest task of his life. You see, the rest of us, as well as you and the boy, are deeply concerned about the kind of man he is to be. For remember the "Farmer's Boy" represents the largest class of boys.

Taking the country as a whole, farmer's boys perhaps are about equal to all the other boys put together. In this State, however, where there are no large cities the sons of agriculturists outnumber other male citizens two to one. You observe then that this class of boys is to have the greatest share in the future control of the State. This of course with all deference to his lovely sister who has equal voting power with him and who is supposed to be just as well trained as he.

They will do most of the voting. They will make the laws, directly or otherwise. He and she will step forward and take the reins of government, or say who shall do so. (Supposing that "He" embraces "she" we will now drop the feminine pronoun and proceed as before with the understanding that a goodly number of the farmers "boys" are girls, and any system of training not planned for both would be a failure for either.) He is to determine what kind of churches and schools we shall have, if any. So we are all anxious to know, dear sir, what kind of citizen you are going to make of your child. Is he lively? Well, he ought to be. Do you not want a corpse or a mummy do you?

You can't move your car without a spark and sparks don't come from dead batteries. When you go to ride you want everything in perfect working order with a cool head, clear eye and steady hand to direct the wonderful mechanical energy properly. You would not think of starting your car without someone to steer and control it would you? Surely not: neither would you buy a colt and turn him out for the neighbors to train according to their several fancies. But do you know under whose influence your boy spends a great part of his time? Many a boy has been ruined because his father failed to take personal interest in his boy's education, hopes and aspirations and offer help in working out the good ones and discarding the bad ones. The boy is

often discouraged by such cool treatment and naturally turns to someone else for the sympathetic companionship his nature craves. In the majority of cases this move ends in trouble for the boy, sorrow for the parents, expense for the state and the blackening of a soul for eternity. Those who are easiest found and whose language, habits, and general deportment are most attractive to the average boy when he chooses his own way are usually unfit for the task of training our future citizenry. You have what you believe to be a thoroughly competent driver for your son's horse, why not use as good judgment in regard to the mental and physical welfare of the boy in which dwells the immortal soul of your son or daughter?

When you have properly reared him to the age of accountability, have taught him proper respect for age and divinity have instilled into his mind and heart the laws of the Great

or concerning his masterpiece; then it is well enough for you and he to join together for his life work, basing your judgment on the general characteristics of the child. His inclination and general adaptability. It is poor judgment to decide that because a child is bright, intelligent and apt in studies he ought to prepare for a profession such as law, medicine or the ministry.

I would like to know where the idea came from that the professions must be taken by all the bright children and that any sort of a fool would do for a farmer. If there is any trade or profession on earth that requires a sounder mind or better judgment than good farming this writer would like to know what it is.

Your farmer boy or girl needs just as much schooling, just as intensive training as the child who is to prepare and other calling. The Ministerial and student does not study Hebrew, Greek and Latin or the other dead

languages for the purpose of remembering them. Never having occasion to use them he soon forgets them, but the very mastering of them has exercised, broadened and strengthened his mind so that he is better able to handle a difficult situation than his brother of as great mentality but less training. So with the farmer. I once saw an old farmer with probably sixty

years experience waste time, lose money and damage a crop by mixing lime and stable manure.

This would never happen under the mer. Money spent in sending the boy to a school where experienced men teach the principles of agriculture is a cheaper method than turning him loose training. So with the farmer. I once saw an old farmer with probably sixty

Give your boy the best education possible founded on Christian principles, which is his right and your reasonable service, even though you may never die rich. Your child and the community will both be better off if he starts at twenty-five with good training, a will to work, and nothing else, than either would be if he were given a good farm or large fortune

management of a well educated farmer with an exaggerated idea of his own importance coupled with improper training. A wholesome respect for religion, age, honest labor, and thrift, are among the first lessons he should learn at home. Don't let him get the fool idea that he is too good to work for he isn't. DANIEL ROBINSON LEE.

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