

RAISING UP A CHILD.

The clever modern mother has come to take anything but a boastful view of the precocious infant. Despite newspaper jokes, she has learned the truth of that old saw, "Forced fruits fall in flavor".

The place of children is the nursery, not the limelight; little ones who are allowed to emerge early from their seclusion are robbed of their rightful heritage of childish joys.

The child who is brought up in the city must of necessity see life at an early age. Its daily walks on the streets cannot but be an eye-opener to an observant youngster, while the more formal pleasure of dancing classes and matinees forestall grown-up joys in a way that is not always beneficial. Therefore, there is a growing belief in the country as the place to raise children.

There is the fresh age to be lived through, trying as it is, when boys and girls get "smarty." Mother often have themselves to blame that the dreaded freshness becomes constitutional rather than sporadic. The forced witty child becomes the bore of later years who thinks he was born to be a humorist.

In trying to avoid forcing, it will not to err on the side of ultra-exclusiveness. There is a mother of a charming debutante who cannot understand why her daughter is in close touch with the girls of her age. It is because the girl was brought up without young companions, was taught to dance by private tutors and was permitted to have girl chums.

It is a temptation to mothers to yield to persuasion of the overgrown, clever daughter to go with girls older than herself. The mature girl of fourteen sees no reason why she should not go to the dances of girls sixteen and seventeen, and often the mother weakly yields.

Leaving the health side out of the question, the social expediency is doubtful. The forced "sweet-sixteen" is an old story when other girls of her age are ready to come out. At twenty-five she is reckoned among the "has-beens." She cannot carry a certificate of birth on her ball gowns, and men judge only by the years she has "been around."

It is a sad thing not to have been a real girl or boy. Too many children nowadays are minuscule men and women from the cradle. Never to have hung on behind "butter-boxes," yelled through "prisoner's base," or jumped from the highest rafter in the hay-mow is to have lost the choicest memories of childhood. Grown-up jays have all the better flavor for not being tasted, too soon.

Forced mental fruits are even more apt to fall in flavor than the social hot bed plant. The budding genius rarely bursts into bloom and the best fruits of scholarship are often on the so-called stunted growths. Educators understand that each year a child is held back before seven means that much more progress later.

While keeping a girl in ignorance of life is to be deplored, forced moral growths are even less desirable. For this reason parents should know the books their children read and the plays they attend. A course of the modern-problem novel and play may do worse than effect the flavor of a girl's life. It may taint it at the heart.

Young people can even be forced physically. The body can be built up injudiciously. Girls especially have been sufferers for life because parents have not understood that gymnastics and physical culture should be guided and guarded.

Bryan on Way Home.

Pensacola, Fla., Feb. 9.—After delivering an address tonight at the court-house to a crowd of several thousand, Wm. J. Bryan left at 10 o'clock for his home in Lincoln, Neb.

MAY LYNCH GEORGIA NEGRO

Attacked Young Girl—Is Put in Jail by Posse.

Bainbridge, Ga., Feb. 9.—Excitement is intense here tonight over the attempt of Ike Jones, a negro, to criminally assault the 16-year-old daughter of Joe Spooner, in the western part of the county this morning. The negro was captured by a posse and placed in the town jail at Iron City, being later removed to the county jail at this place.

Many citizens of the section of the county where the crime was committed have come to Bainbridge and there are rumors of an attempt being made tonight to take the negro from the jail and lynch him. Miss Spooner identified the negro and he has also been identified as having attempted to assault the daughter of another white man in the same community several months ago.

Killed by His Own Gun.

Kinston, Feb. 10.—A telephone message was received in this city late yesterday evening from Fort Barnwell, stating that Mr. W. B. Pierce, ex-Representative from Craven county, who lives near the Le Noir county line, was found dead in his field yesterday morning. Later information brought to this city is to the effect that circumstances point to Mr. Pierce's being killed by his own gun and strongly supporting the theory that it was accidental.

The body was found on one side of a fence and the gun on the other side, the load having been discharged. It is thought that he had put his gun through the fence and when he started to crawl through the gun was discharged accidentally. The load of shot struck Mr. Pierce on the right side of the head just above the ear and carried away the top of the head. A portion of the brain was found 20 feet away and with it wadding corresponding to that used in Mr. Pierce's gun. No tracks were discovered in the vicinity of the shooting after a diligent search and though it is known Mr. Pierce's life had been threatened, the people in the section are reasonably sure in view of the surrounding circumstances that it was not a case of murder.

The body was found about a half mile from the home. Mr. Pierce was a well-to-do farmer of his section and highly esteemed. He represented Craven county in the General Assembly of 1899 and was prominent in county affairs.

Tries Laudanum Route.

Mebane, Feb. 10.—This afternoon about 2 o'clock Bunn Pope, a well known white man of this place, attempted to commit suicide by drinking laudanum. Pope had been drunk for some time and was yesterday discharged from the Southern Railway depot, where he had been employed for some time past. Today about dinner it is said that Pope told a young man of this place that he was tired of living and that he was going to kill himself and a short time later was found in the rear of a store here. Dr. Wells was immediately summoned and worked with him for several hours. He is now practically out of danger.

New Line to Cuba.

Jacksonville, Fla., Feb. 11.—Governor Gilchrist to day signed the charter of the American and West Indian Steamship Company and the line will be inaugurated at an early date, with regular sailings for both freight and passengers between Jacksonville and the Port of Cabarien, Cuba. Dr. Edwin Southers, president of the company, has called a meeting to be held here next Tuesday, when options on terminals will be closed.

AS RURAL LIFE SHOULD BE

Baltimore American.

President Roosevelt gets down into the furrow in his message to Congress transmitting the report of the County Life Commission. Here he is evidently happy and his views on the improvement of country conditions are least likely to arouse a controversy. The President has absolute confidence in the American farm and the American farmer, including the farmer's wife. He complains that the farmer does not magnify his calling and would have discussion of farm topics more general and wider associations among the representatives of grange interests. He points out that the process of organization in other industrial and economic callings has been carried to a far point, and exhorts the agriculturalist to emulate the co-operative system found in European countries.

The social side of country life, Mr. Roosevelt remarks, call for the development of social interests among country residents and in this connection he points to the sections of the report that lay emphasis on churches, schools and roads. He advocates extension of the Young Men's Christian Association work in rural communities. He evidently has in mind the three fold aspects of man, the physical, the social and the religious, and he is satisfied that by the development of these co-ordinately the material interests of the farmer would be advanced. He emphasizes the position taken by the report that the government, whether state or national, can only show the people how they may go about the tasks of organization and communication, with the best and quickest results.

The improvement of the system of agriculture is held to be the most important task to which the sentiment of rural communities can address itself. So he holds up the ideals of good farming by good farmers. He adds a warning to the effect that the great recent progress made by the cities is not the full measure of American civilization, which rests on the wholesomeness and attractiveness of life in the country. Mr. Roosevelt might have pointed to the return to the land, found in the recultivation of abandoned farms in New England, as evidence of a growing perception of the elements of superiority in the farm life over the conditions under which many farmers' sons have to work in cities.

The competition between city and country must be determined in the issue by the ability of the farmer to enter into the general channel of the country's development. So many questions are arising that border closely upon the farmer's vital interests; questions of wastage, of forestry, of transportation, of reclamation of inundated areas, of water front exploitation, of summer attractions for city residents. There can be no doubt but that such factors are gradually revolutionizing the conditions under which the farmer will carry on his vocation in the future.

Killed in a Quarrel.

Winston-Salem, Feb. 12.—Chas. Fodrell, the negro who shot and killed his wife last Friday evening, was convicted in Forsyth Superior Court this afternoon. The jury after deliberating forty-five minutes returned a verdict of murder in the first degree. The defendant was sentenced to be executed on Friday, April 30, between the hour of 11 and 1 o'clock.

At a sawmill in Surry county last night, Farvey Nester shot William Johnson three times, which resulted in his death today. Both parties are white and were intoxicated when the crime was committed.

Nester has not been arrested. He was the defendant in a big slauder suit in his county last year.

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