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Makers of the Future—The Boys and Girls of Today

JUST a few years from now the boys and girls of today will be men and women—the men and women whose privilege and duty it will be to lead in every line of work, to decide what shall be done and how it shall be done, to rule the State, to mold in large degree the future of this good land of ours forever afterward. Right now, too, these boys and girls are determining the kind of men and women they will be, are deciding whether they will do great things or small, whether they will do them well or ill, whether under their guidance the country shall become richer and fairer and happier, or be handed down to those "who in their turn shall follow them," a less desirable heritage than the fathers and mothers of today are giving them.

As to how they will decide, as to the future they will bring about, we have no fear and no question. The very thrill of worthy ambitions, the longing to do good work, to make all work noble and every life useful, is strong in the hearts of the young men and women of today. They are dreaming beautiful dreams and doing hard work to make these dreams reality. Bright, earnest, tender girls; strong, clean, purposeful boys,—these are the sort of boys and girls one finds on the farm today. The girl whose life holds no worthy purpose, the boy whose idea is to get through life as easily as possible, are the exceptions.

Opportunities they have, too, such as few generations of boys and girls have ever enjoyed. On the next page we are printing one farmer's lament that he can not share their lot. They are reaping the harvests sown, in days darker than they will ever know, by fathers and mothers whose courage never failed, who did not give up the task because it was hard. It is theirs to enjoy the fruits of these labors and to prepare themselves right now to do their work as well.

So we would make this a direct personal appeal to every boy and girl who reads these pages:

When you are a man, Farmer Boy, the farms in your neighborhood will be better farms; they will be cultivated better, and grow bigger crops; better live stock and more of it will be on them; there will be better buildings, better roads, more machinery, less hard physical work and greater demands for clear and accurate thinking. All this means that the farmer of that time will have to be a better farmer than those of today and this, in turn, means that right now, while you are a boy, if you

would be one of these good farmers, you must begin to prepare yourself for it. You must lose no chance to study, to acquire useful knowledge, to keep yourself strong in body and mind, to form good habits. If you do these things, the future is yours; if you do not, you will be swept aside by the march of progress, and be one of the "poor farmers," the "failures." What are you doing about it? Are you making the most of your school, of the practical training you get on the farm, of the books and papers you read? Have you ever thought about a college course—the short course in agriculture, at least—and about the fact that a farmer needs to prepare for his work just as does a lawyer or a doctor? If you begin your life-work poorly prepared, the blame will be largely your own, for on every side the doors of opportunity are open.

When you are a woman, Farmer Girl, the homes of the country may not be any dearer to those who share them, but they will be brighter, more beautiful, better furnished, equipped with a hundred conveniences of which your mother has never known. There will be less hard work in the housekeeping of those days, but there will be demanded of the housekeeper a wider range of knowledge, a capacity to

deal with problems which are now left entirely to the physician, or the teacher, or the legislator. All this means that you, too, must keep both body and soul clean and pure and strong, that you must train your hands and discipline your mind, so as to be ready for the duties that will be yours. If you are thus prepared, you will help to lift the whole race to a higher plane of living; if you are not, you will tend to hold it down. You are deciding right now which part you shall play.



MEMBERS OF THE GIBSON COUNTY, TENN., BOYS' CORN CLUB.

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