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AND SOUTHERN FARM GAZETTE

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Open the Door of Knowledge to the Farm Boy

OUR readers will recall that last week, in an editorial note, we stated that a country teacher had written us that he had tried to organize a corn club in his district, but not a farmer would allow his son an acre of ground for the work. This week, on another page, we are publishing an extract from a letter from a progressive Louisiana

places for men and women boys and girls to live and develop, and get the most and best out of life.
Corn and clover, pigs and poultry, all these are great crops, and we want to make them bigger and better; but greater than all else are the farm boys and girls. If these are neglected, all the others will have



A BOY WHO IS USING HIS HEAD AS WELL AS HIS HANDS
Sherman Hall, of Arkansas, Preparing His Club Acre of Corn

farmer, who says he has no boy of his own, but that a little boy lives with him, and he wishes to enroll him, that he may learn whatever is to be learned from the work.

Here is a contrast we may well ponder. On the one hand we have a whole community so indifferent or so prejudiced that it is unwilling to enlist its boys in a progressive movement—nay, even goes so far as to refuse to let them enlist. On the other, we have a man, unblessed by a son of his own, who nevertheless is anxious that the boy intrusted to his care shall learn all that is to be learned about corn-raising and progressive farming. On the one hand we have farmers who have shut the door of knowledge and hope to their sons; have shown them only the dark, hard side of farm life, and are preparing them in the surest of all ways to leave the farm the moment they are old enough. On the other, a boy is being taught how to mix the labor of his head with the labor of his hands; that farming is a great, complicated, complex business, requiring for the greatest success the keenest thought and most diligent study, and that when given these it is a business that affords the most satisfying returns. It goes without saying that a boy so taught will have a strong incentive to stay on the farm, to help make it and his community better

been in vain. Men who think right, whatever they may be themselves, would, above all else, have their sons grow into strong and good men. Not merely mentally and physically strong, but strong for the right, strong for material and spiritual progress, strong for all things that make for the betterment of human life and happiness; not merely negatively good, but good for something.

With the poet, we believe that

"Full many a gem of purest ray serene
The dark, unfathomed caves of ocean
bear;"

that we have among us many "a mute, inglorious Milton." How many of us have heard it said of personal acquaintances: "If he had only had an education, what a wonderful man, what a leader of men, he would have been!"

It is a crime, and there are few greater, to deny the light of knowledge to the developing boy or girl. Open the door of knowledge and of hope, and open it wide; put your boy in the corn club and the pig club; encourage him to read and to study; show him the value of labor-saving ideas and methods; show him, in a word, that brains and farming will mix, and that the mixture is good. When you have done this, you will have helped to light the path of a soul, and there is no bigger or better job in life

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