

THE CAROLINA FARMER



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One Dollar a Year.

“Men and Women Wanted”

President Charles S. Barrett.

The greatest assets of this country are not its mighty commerce, its wonderful acreage or its gold mines. Supreme above all these rise the assets of manhood and womanhood. And the boy and girl of to-day, too often snubbed and too seldom studied, are the men and women of tomorrow.

I speak advisedly when I say that never in the history of the republic have opportunities been vaster or more plentiful than they are in this year of our Lord, 1912. I know it is popular to say that the “trusts” and commercialism have stifled competition and muzzled opportunity.

The statement is only a half truth. I have been from one end of the country to the other. I have visited every state. I have studied conditions in practically every city of importance. I have observed above and below the surface in every line of trade and industry.

And, as a result, I am convinced that the loudest cry today is for men and women—not just men and women, but men and women with trained ability and character. Across the front of every vocation of moment, they ought to erect in big letters the sign: “MEN AND WOMEN WANTED.” It would be the absolute truth, provided the men and women were properly equipped to answer the advertisement.

Do not treat your boy or your girl simply as a private possession, to be worked in the fields when you need help, to be yanked out of school in their most receptive years in order that you may squeeze a little money out of the land. Money won in this way is the dearest bought imaginable. Money, won at the expense of the men and women of to-morrow, is blood-money. Not only will the parents themselves pay for it some day, but the penalty will also be visited upon the republic in a weakened citizenship, whether of husbands or wives or mothers.

The old fool adage runs “children should be seen and not heard.” It’s a lie. They should be both seen and heard. Seen with the eye of loving, self-sacrificing intelligence, heard with the ear with faculties keen enough to catch the tramp of posterity, as well as the patter of today. Unless we follow this course, we fail in the duties, not only of parenthood, but equally of common American citizenship.