



St. Dunstan's

Red and White

College Quarterly

March, 1915

CHARLOTTETOWN . . . P. E. ISLAND

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Agriculture in our Common Schools

Shall Agriculture be given a major place in our common-school curriculum or not? It is the opinion of many that, since Agriculture is our chief industry, and since farming will be the occupation of the greater part of our population—the subject should receive much attention in our schools.

Before it is permitted to further crowd our already over-crowded course of study it should be of very great importance; before it shares the time devoted to fundamental study itself. If our present course—made a little more classical—cannot supply the primary qualifications of this profession as it does for others, then we will gladly devote more space in the curriculum and time in the schoolroom to the introduction of a subject or subjects which will meet the requirements.

The qualifications of a good farmer are probity, knowledge of the business and diligence in prosecuting it. These qualifications are the fruits of a good education, in the fullest sense of the term. Let us consider how each of these three qualities are acquired. First probity is the result of normal education. Secondly the knowledge of farming is a professional training by itself—and this is better obtained in colleges specially devoted to that line of instruction. We have agricultural colleges which train men for farming, as the medical colleges educate men for physicians—why should we not have a medical course in our schools? It is just as logical to say that we cannot have good doctors without medical training in the common schools as to assert that we need agricultural training in our common schools in order to have good farmers.

The third deals with discipline. No better discipline of the youthful mind has yet been devised than that furnished by the classical course.

But some may ask—what is the practical value of latin, greek, or grammar to the farmer? The answer is obvious. Apart from the benefit which these school subjects are to him in common with other men, it is

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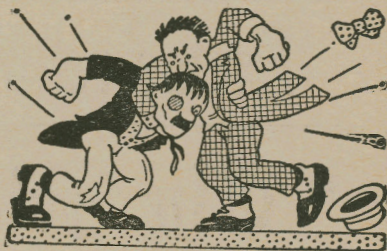
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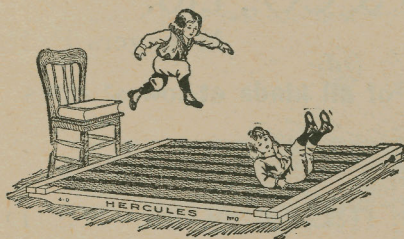
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A bloom of perfect grace ;
Of formless stone a sculptor carves
The beauty of a face.

From gaunt bare trees the leaves come forth
In tender lovely green ;
Out of the darkness of the earth
Comes gold's alluring sheen.

Thus, out of life's dark hours, will come
The bloom of heavenly peace ;
Carved by the sculptor pain, our souls
In loveliness increase.

The barren years will know a spring—
Our hopes be newly born—
Dreams, buried in our hearts, will know
A Resurrection Morn.

—Lucy Gertrude Clarkin