

WHY I AM GLAD I LIVE ON A FARM

by Lillie Elvina Granlie

Rolling hills, green and yellow fields, here and there a creek filled with sparkling water in the spring time; all this and more topped with lazy clouds in a delicate sea of blue -- that is the country ... my home! Do you wonder that I am so glad that I live on a farm!

It is the little things that make me radiantly happy! The circle of hills around our farm, trees planted in long rows, pastures of fragrant prairie land ... a flower garden to work in, the winding road leading to our mailbox, the beautiful sunset every evening and the joy of leisure hours to work at my trunk of my books -- all these contribute to that sublime happiness.

Who can know, unless they have tried it like I have, the wholesome, glorious joy of it all. I do not have to seek recreation in dancing or other amusements. They bore me compared to the great happiness I find in the best home in the world!

The very essence of cleanliness and joy of living prevails in the country. Health which is the shortest road to happiness is found there in abundance. Here we have room to enjoy beauty and grandeur of nature, room to express ourselves, and room to have prime and blissful solitude.

Who doesn't love to stand on the grassy hill tops with the cool wind blowing through her hair, the birds singing above and the wide open fields before her? How I have loved to halt my panting saddle horse on a

high precipice, gazing at the majestic wonder of it all, and that glorious "Monarch of all I survey" feeling surging through my heart!

I love to hear the wind blowing through the trees with that rustling contented sound.

But of all, it has always been my aim to get as much education as possible, but instruction in the branches I have always preferred: art and literature are more valuable to me than anything else.

Then there is the age-old example of Lincoln who became intelligent and successful through his own effort, though he was denied advanced schooling.

No matter how much we try to reach the goal set before us, even though we may have talent and genius, we cannot amount to much without persistent and patient work. One's work should be paramount to such an extent that nothing can draw us from it.

Rural children may be handicapped by not being able to take part in activities and clubs as they should -- football, basketball, tennis, golf and many others are means for health-building recreation. Then in rural homes, there are the 4H clubs or scouts to promote means of intellectual welfare. Though I have never had opportunities that I have wished for in joining 4H clubs, etc., I believe that every child should.

"Our characters are most important of all. Self control is honorable. We should rise above all in the highest possible means. We should not display our emotions such as fear, envy, etc., to others. We should never allow ourselves to make others unhappy through slander or gossip. Only ignorant people indulge in that."

Remember that if one knew every underlying cause that prompted one's actions, there would be no one to blame. Many times, I have sincerely wished that people would remember that fact. It would have saved many a reputation, mine included. Innocent people are often classified as thieves, as unscrupulous, and as low-minded as possible, merely through gossip. Those who criticize others are doing wrong themselves by overlooking the eighth commandment.

My own story, "Seventh Commandment," is based on my own intimate life. It reflects an experience that I will never forget. "We can all re-make ourselves into bettered forms by refusing to think and talk about unpleasant things in others. Be kind to everyone, because in every human heart is some secret, some hidden sorrow, something unspoken. We should rise above all in the highest possible attitude of mind, and overlook their actions toward us because they are caused by the influence of the psychological forces that have made their character and personalities what they are. If unpleasant thoughts are the result of someone's attitude toward us, it is still possible to renew our mental outlook with reference to them. By cultivating the acquaintance of people who have personality and intelligence, and who are refined and cultured, we need not fear any unkindness on the part of our acquaintances. A true friend needs to be kind to everyone else even to those who have hurt his feelings. Without self control, we cannot cultivate charming personalities."

"Only the stupid people sneer

The man who has an open mind --

Can understand the world's mistakes

And understanding them, being kind."

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