

Published periodically by the Pupils of the
BARON DE HIRSCH
AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.
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spondence to the Editor of the HIRSCH SCHOOL
JOURNAL, Woodbine, N. J.
Pupils and Alumni of the School are in-
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THE BLESSINGS OF THE BAREFOOT BOY.

By Leo Steckel, '02.

The barefoot boy receives many of the blessings of nature. The sun extends its full stream of light and heat on his brown face. The earth contributes to his endowment, sending forth early strawberries and fruit, which he finds on the hillsides. In sight and hearing he is richer than the millionaire.

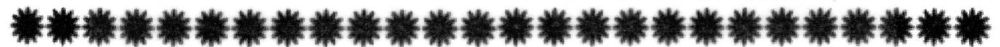
It is not from teachers or instructors, from books or schools that he acquires the knowledge of the wild bees' chase, the place and time of the wild flowers, how the robin feeds her young, where the whitest lilies grow, and where the clusters of wood grapes shine; it is nature that has revealed to him all these curious facts and places—and gives him a part of her joy.

June is the most pleasant month for the barefoot boy. He is then rich in flowers and trees, in birds and all kinds of insects; the brook laughs to his delight. The apples of the orchard are free to his taste.

He relishes more the bowl of bread and milk eaten on the old door-stone than the festal dainties which are eaten in the regal tent. The happy frogs keep up their choir. He is like a monarch full of pomp and joy.

He wanders through meadows and over brooks. The early morn finds him roaming in the freshness of dew. He bathes his feet

in the cool evening breeze. Yet these feet soon lose their freedom and are shod like a colt, to be fettered to the constant labor and toil of life, where each one shares in its joys and sorrows.



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