

**THE GREEN VALLEY
SCHOOL, A
PEDAGOGICAL STORY**

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The Green Valley School, a Pedagogical Story by C. W. G. Hyde

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The Green Valley School

A Pedagogical Story

BY

C. W. G. HYDE

Editor of School Education

16984

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To the

TEACHING PROFESSION

This book is affectionately inscribed

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PREFACE

The principal of the Green Valley School is still living. He has had a long and varied experience as teacher and has often been heard to say that if he were to begin a second life on earth, he would, in view of that experience, choose the schoolroom as a field in which to do service to humanity and win that satisfaction which is the reward of a congenial task well done.

The Green Valley School (names are of course changed) is the one school of all in which he has labored, whose memories are sweetest to him. One of his greatest pleasures is in the occasional tidings that come to him from his former pupils. It is still his privilege to meet some of them face to face.

Allie Harley has been something of a traveler. Eva Black's principal work is now in the championship of the woman's suffrage movement. A recent letter from her contains the following passages:

"What a flood of pleasant memories your letter evoked and how the tears spring to the once 'mischievous eyes' as I think of the dear old days. * * * How delighted I was when you would come to my seat and sit beside me a little while now and then. * * * It does, indeed, seem strange to think of Calvin Green (a son of Squire Green, a member of the school board interviewed by Dr. Wakely in Chapter X) as justice of the supreme court; Judge Boyd of the supreme court of ———— said to me that Judge Green writes the smoothest decisions of any judge of his acquaintance. * * * "

The picture of Mr. Harkins, county superintendent of schools in Anita county, is based on memories which linger in the mind of Rutledge Stockley. The old gentleman grew more pedantic and lost none of his geniality as the weight of years accumulated. He lived to a ripe old age.

Mr. Stockley makes an occasional visit to Green Valley and it has been a rare pleasure to him, five—ten—twenty years after the cessation of his work in the Green Valley School, to drop into Dan Loring's grocery store and talk with his old friend about the days and the people of long ago. Poor Dan! he no longer dispenses sugar and sunny smiles over the grocery counter. He has gone "the way of all flesh" and his son—Stockley's old pupil—succeeds him.

"The Green Valley School" is the true record of a real school. Its purpose will be accomplished if they who read it derive as much pleasure from its perusal as the author has experienced in committing the principal's narrative to paper and if, in addition to this, they are able to catch and utilize the spirit which animated Rutledge Stockley and rendered his administration of the Green Valley School a success.

CHAPTER I

THE NEW PRINCIPAL

* * * e'en as just a man
As e'er my conversation coped withal.—
—*Shakespeare.*

Two men were climbing the plank sidewalk that led from the main street of Green Valley to the white school house on the hill. One was thirty-six to forty years of age, rather richly dressed, whose clear eye and handsome face emphasized the aristocratic bearing which was evident in his voice and movements. The other, who was fifteen to twenty years younger, was slight and pale. He listened with deference to the earnest words addressed to him by his elder companion as they walked briskly up the hill.

"Mr. Stockley," said the elder man, "our correspondence has given me a very favorable impression of you, and I believe you are going to succeed."

"I shall do my best, Mr. Dow," replied Mr. Stockley, "and with the support you have promised me on the part of the board, I hardly see how I can fail if I

show ordinary tact and ability."

"You can count on help from me in any reasonable measure," returned Mr. Dow, "but you'll find some rough boys and some troublesome girls. The two Blazer boys are roughs; Eva Black and Allie Harley will have all the fun they can with the new teacher and Jim Wakeley will do whatever a sneak can do, to toss thorns into your path. But on the whole, you'll find the scholars well-disposed. Drop in and see me this evening, and we will talk things over."

Rutledge Stockley, the new teacher of the Green Valley School was a native of central New York who had migrated to Minnesota for mixed hygienic and commercial reasons. At the end of six months he took account of stock. There were but few dollars in his purse; he had not found a desirable business opening in St. Paul; and a severe bilious attack had reduced his flesh and strength.

At the suggestion of a friend he wrote to H. L. Dow, director of the Green Valley two-department school, applying for the principalship. Impressed with the manly tone of Stockley's letter and with the evident intelligence and refinement of the writer, Mr. Dow wired him to take the next train for Green Valley. This he did, arriving on the first day of the term at 10 a. m.—an hour after the usual time for opening the school.

Although in his conversation with Mr. Stockley, Mr. Dow expressed confidence in the ability of the former to conduct the school with success, he had some secret misgivings, for the would-be pedagogue was very pale and very gaunt (he was just rallying from the effects of his illness), and he was entirely destitute of experience as a teacher. For similar reasons