

ance of the rules of etiquette a high duty, involving nothing frivolous or unworthy of our attention. If, however, a selfish and egotistic motive urges us to become refined and polite in the society sense of the words, then we have made a sad mistake. We have mistaken the shadow for the substance. We have substituted an outward for an interior grace. The politeness which is based on selfishness will always bring dissatisfaction and disgust to those who practice it and those who behold the exhibition.

FORBEAR TO JUDGE.

How often do we read or hear of one's personal character being attacked! and we find ourselves believing the slander without ever stopping to think of the social position and standing of the slanderer. No matter how insignificant the man is who ridicules his neighbor, it will always be a stain on the party attacked. The slandered party may be a man of virtue and good standing in the community, and his accuser a low and unprincipled man; but public opinion will decide that the charge is a bold one, and is evidently true. How mean and low it is to speak ill of another! Often a man's reputation is attacked because he has attained a high position in society, and become wealthy and influential among his fellow beings. Oh, reputation! you are difficult to gain, but how easily lost! And when a good name is lost, we are thrown out of society into the depths of degradation, never, perhaps, to raise our heads to the level of our lost position.

How various are the characters of the people in this world! Some are ever ready to lend a helping hand, while others will dig deep into the history of their fellow beings, vainly endeavoring to find their vices, so that they can go forth and proclaim them to the world, hoping to gain favor by it. Investigations of such a nature should commence at home; then this world, in my humble opinion, would be pure and good.

A man with ever so little judgment and common-sense will ever be prepared to conceal his friend's vices, and, instead of exposing him, will endeavor to raise him higher in other's estimations by speaking of his virtue. If you cannot speak well of your fellow-beings, never speak ill of them; because there is no character so mean, low and unprincipled, as the character of a slanderer. Therefore I say, "Forbear to judge, for we are sinners all."

"IF I HAD LEISURE."

"If I had leisure I would repair that weak place in my fence," said a farmer. He had none, however, and while drinking cider with a neighbor the cows broke in and injured a prime piece of corn. He had leisure then to repair his fence, but it did not bring back his corn.

"If I had leisure," said a wheelwright last winter, "I would altar my stovepipe, for I know it is not safe." But he did not find time, and when the shop caught fire and burnt down he found leisure to build another.

"If I had leisure," said a mechanic, "I should have my work done in season." The man thinks his time has been all occupied, but he was not at work till after sunrise: he quit work at five o'clock, smoked a cigar after dinner, and spent two hours on the street talking nonsense with an idler.

"If I had leisure," said a merchant, "I would pay more attention to my accounts and try and collect my bills more promptly." The chance is, my friend, if you had leisure you would probably pay less attention to the matter than you do now. The thing lacking with hundreds of farmers who till the soil is not more leisure, but more resolution—the spirit to do it now. If the farmer who sees his fence in poor condition would only act at once, how much might be saved? It would prevent breachy cattle from creating quarrels among neighbors that in many cases terminate in lawsuits, which take nearly all they are both worth to pay the lawyers.

The fact is, farmers and mechanics have more leisure than they are aware of for the study and improvement of their minds. They have the long evening of winter in which they can post themselves upon all improvements of the day if they will only take ably conducted Magazine and read them with care. The farmer who fails to study his business, and then gets shaved, has nobody but himself to blame.

A MODERN (American) philosopher says that "A wise man keeps his own counsel; consequently has no jobs for strange lawyers." And in order that there may be no mistaking of cases, he adds further:—"When a man comes to know that he doesn't know everything, he then becomes wise."

THE oldest bet of which we have any authentic record is the alpha bet. It is also the safest.