

merly, but save the afternoon of each day for mental and social improvement.

33. Give your children a good education, physically, intellectually, morally and socially.

34. Take an interest in all improvements that have a bearing on agriculture.

35. Use machinery and horse-power, where possible, instead of your own muscles.

36. In all you do, endeavor to get hold of the long end of the lever, instead of the short one, if you would work to advantage.

#### ONE CAUSE OF DRAUGHTS AND FRESHETS.

It is plain to every observer, that our country is now more subject to droughts than it was twenty or thirty years ago. Within the last five years, we have suffered in this respect seriously. The loss to the farming community, and through it the whole population, has been many millions of dollars. If they continue for several years more, in frequent succession, there is reason to fear that the "hard times" will pass away very slowly. Is there any natural cause for droughts, or are they sent on us solely as special visitations of Providence for our national sins. We would not speak lightly of such visitations, but we are inclined to think that our sufferings in this particular may be traced chiefly to our own bad management. The wide destruction of our forests doubtless has something to do with the production of droughts, and of these destructive floods or "freshets" which are becoming alarmingly frequent.

If the country is widely denuded of its trees, the land is more exposed to the burning rays of the sun, and to the winds which cause a very rapid evaporation. Then, too, forest trees are so many pumps to suck up moisture from the depths of the earth, and to diffuse it through their leaves into all the surrounding atmosphere. From thence it falls upon the surface of the ground. Perhaps some of our readers have amused themselves with making estimates of the amount of water evaporated from the leaves of a single tree, and then of a large forest, in a single day. To one who has never thought about it, the subject is one of great interest. All readers of history know that many of the rivers and streams of the Old World, which once were wide and deep have now shrunk into much smaller dimensions; from what can cause any one tell, if not that the hills and mountains are now almost entirely bereft of trees? Droughts prevail all over the Eastern continent, with increased severity; and scientific and observing men everywhere proclaim that this is owing chiefly to the cause of which we now speak.

Valleys and low-lands, and fertile plains, should of course be cleared of trees, and devoted to farms and gardens; but at least the rocky hills and mountains should not be shorn of their leafy honors. Let the trees stand sacred from the desolating axe, all along our heights, to break the fury of storms, and to condense and bring down the useful vapors of the clouds upon our fields, and into our springs and streams. It is high time that the government began to move in this matter, either regulating the destruction of our old forests, or encourag-

ing the growth of new. We believe that some wholesome laws touching this matter, would both secure our posterity a good supply of lumber, and a good degree of exception from droughts.

All that individuals can do in this matter, is to preserve their own forest land in just proportion, and by underdraining, thus deepening the soil and giving a porous, spongy character, render the land capable of absorbing and retaining as large a quantity as possible of the water that fall upon it, instead of allowing a large portion to flow off, as is now generally the case. Our Legislature might we think, with great propriety remit the taxes for 20 years on all land devoted to high forest, (not low woods for charcoal and hoop poles,) and tax land which might, but does not carry a good growth of high or low woods, at rate its value would warrant if properly improved.

#### BORROWING AND LENDING.

MR. EDITOR:—The practice of borrowing and lending may be well enough, sometimes—in fact, may be necessary, in some cases; but they should both be kept within bounds, and under proper regulations. This practice, I suppose, is nearly as old as the creation. Society could not well subsist if neighbors were not disposed to accommodate one another in this way. Let a man's business or wealth be what it may, he cannot be so independent, as at no time to stand in need of borrowing. Unforeseen accidents may happen at such a time, and in such manner, as to make it impossible for him to purchase the thing he immediately wants. The thing may not be for sale anywhere in the neighborhood, so that he is obliged to borrow, or stop the work.

But this practice may be carried too far. It may be carried so far as to be prejudicial both to the borrower and the lender. It ought to be kept under such limitations as to be mutually beneficial. "The borrower," says Solomon, "is a servant to the lender." This is sometimes the case. But it more frequently happens, that the lender is a servant to the borrower, and is obliged to serve him, not only in lending him what he wants to borrow, but in running after the things which have not been returned. If the borrower sets out with the determination to live by borrowing, without any intention of returning, or repaying in kind, his intention will soon be discovered, and he will find it impossible to borrow of any who are not slaves to his wishes. So, too, if he habitually neglects to return what he has borrowed, he will find that the lender will not endure the servitude of running after things which have not been returned.

They who lend household articles or mechanics' tools, or implements of husbandry, generally expect to receive their own again unharmed—the very thing, where it can be done; where this cannot be done, something equivalent. But if they find that what is lent is lost, or forgotten or broken, or wilfully retained, they will soon grow weary of obliging in this way; more especially if they be ill-treated when they go after and ask for what belongs to them. The longer a thing has been lent, the more