

"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 alter my stove-pipe, for I know it is not safe." But he did not find time, and when his 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, to do now. If the farmer who sees his fence in a poor condition would only act at once, how much might be saved. It would prevent breechy cattle 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 study and the improvement of their minds. They have the long evenings of winter, in which they can post themselves up on all the improvements of the day, if they will take ably conducted agricultural journals and read them with care. The farmer who fails to study his business and then gets shaved, has none but himself to blame.—Cor. N. E. Farmer.

'Tis midnight, and the setting sun
Is rising in the wide, wide West.
The rapid rivers slowly run.
The frog is on his downy nest;
The pensive ghost and sportive cow
Hilarious hop from bough to bough.

To take stains out of mattresses, apply a paste of soft soap and starch over the spots, and wash it in with a damp sponge; if not clean at first, put on another paste, and repeat this until the spots disappear.

The Journal of Chemistry says: Hot alum water is a recent suggestion as an insecticide. It will destroy red and black ants, cockroaches, spiders, chmiz bugs, and all the crawling pests which infest our houses. Take two pounds of alum and dissolve it in three or four quarts of boiling water, let it stand on the fire till the alum disappears, then apply it with a brush, while nearly boiling hot, to every joint and crevice in your closets.

A LADY correspondent of Mow's Rural New Yorker says: I take good, thick paper, cut three-cornered, and double it in the shape of a funnel, fill with dirt, and planting a seed in each one, bury it in a box filled with earth. The seeds will soon germinate. When the plants are ready to remove to the flower-bed, lift the paper out and plant it like roots. The paper will soon rot and the plants will never wilt. I transplanted nasturtiums in this way with perfect success.

Most housekeepers have felt the need of a receipt for mending knives, or rather for fastening knives and forks to their handles. The following mixture is recommended for this purpose in the Scientific American: Mix together one pound of resin and eight ounces of sulphur, and keep it either in bars or reduced to powder; mix one part of this powder with half a part of iron filings, fine sand, or brick dust, and the cavity of the handle is to be filled with this mixture.

A QUESTION FOR EGG PHILOSOPHERS—About a year ago an egg was shown to the editor of the Groton Journal—a perfect egg, shell and all, about an inch in diameter, which was formed within the yolk of a good-sized hen's egg. A similar one has recently been shown to the editor of the Norfolk (O.) Reflector, who pronounced it "a curiosity certainly." And in the Encyclopaedia Americana, published in 1835, it is said:—"It happens not very rarely that a small egg is found within one of common size." Now the question is, first, how the smaller came within the larger? (the king's question of "how got the apple within the dumpling?") and second, how the shell of the smaller could possibly form within the larger.

A PATENT RAT-TRAP.—The local editor of the Burlington (Iowa) Hawkeye says a man has invented a patent rat-trap that does not require any bait, and will fetch a rat every time it reaches for him. It operates on the principle of a stomach-pump—the inventor is a "retired physician, the sands of whose life have nearly," &c.—and the trap is placed at the mouth of the rat hole. When it is wound up and the suction begins the rat comes. He may hold on to the ground with his teeth, and hump his back and paw dirt, and weep, and yell for the police all he wants, he comes out of that hole backward, is dragged into a back compartment, where a steel glove drags his hide off and lays it aside for a kid glove manufacturer, while the carcass is pushed into a little furnace and incinerated.

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