



Conducted by "AGRICOLA."

Improving the Winter Evenings.

"Agricola" wants a word with the boys about the winter evenings which are now upon us. Improve them, young men, improve them! They are very precious. They may seem long to us, but they will soon slip away. They should not seem long to us. If they do, we are not improving them rightly. Time is always too short to the man, and even to the boy, who improves it as he ought to. Get good books, boys, and read them. You can pile up great heaps of knowledge bearing upon farm work if you only set about it rightly. Read carefully the agricultural papers. Take out of them what is good. Read first-class agricultural books, and read them carefully. Think of it, boys! Think of the opportunity which the long winter evenings bring to you! Suppose you only use one hour in an evening in adding to your store of knowledge with reference to the farm, you will surely get something good during that hour. In the three months of January, February, and March, there are more than seventy-five week evenings; seventy-five important things learned about the farm. Think of it, boys! This is what each of you can do. How much are these seventy-five things worth? Who is prepared to put a value upon them?

Don't Fail to Attend the Institutes.

Farmers, don't fail to attend the farmers' institutes. You can get much good there. For "Agricola" thus to remind many farmers of their duty with reference to this question may seem altogether superfluous, but this reminder is not intended for them. It is intended for those who do not go to the institutes at all, or who allow a frivolous pretext to keep them away. Go to the institutes! It pays. A man is likely to find more money

there, if he improves his time, than he will find at the market. We may be busy, so busy that we feel we cannot spare the day, but we should spare it. Our work can usually be deferred for a day, while that of the institute cannot. The institutes have been great educators in the past. They will doubtless prove greater educators in the future. The more intelligence becomes diffused, the more will be the light that will be brought to bear upon the institute work. Old as agriculture is, it is yet, in a sense, in its infancy. The improvements on present practice can scarcely be conjectured. Let us be careful, then, to get all the help we can from every quarter, or we cannot keep in the van of agricultural progress.

Look Out for the Machinery.

Look out for the machinery, farmers. If machinery and men are to last long and render good service, both must be well cared for. A man must be in good tone to render the best service, and an implement must be in good shape and in good preservation to remedy the same. Carelessness in the handling of farm machinery and tools is improvident. It is short-sighted. It is money losing. First-class farmers take every care of their implements; second-class farmers only take middling care of them; and third-class farmers are careless with them. Reader, to which class do you belong? "Agricola" is curious to know. Is it an unpardonable curiosity? Look, when you read this, and, see if you haven't left a plow out in the field, or a harrow. See if you did not forget a spade one night last November when you were out cleaning a water-furrow. Don't you remember, the cattle broke a panel in the fence in the next field, and you hurried away to look after the cattle, and forgot the spade? Go and get it, please; you will find it in the fence corner where you left it, with rust on both sides of it.