

*If We Had the Time.....Richard Burton.....*

If I had the time to find a place  
And sit me down full face to face  
With my better self that cannot show  
In my daily life that rushes so ;  
It might be then I would see my soul  
Was stumbling still toward the shining  
goal,  
I might be nerved by the thought  
sublime—

If I had the time !

If I had the time to let my heart  
Speak out and take in my life apart,  
To look about and to stretch a hand  
To a comrade quartered in no-luck  
land ;  
Ah, God ! If I might but just sit still  
And hear the note of the whip-poor-will,  
I think that my wish with God's would  
rhyme—

If I had the time !

If I had time to learn from you  
How much for comfort my word could do !  
And I told you then of my sudden will  
To kiss your feet when I did you ill !  
If the tears aback of the coldness feigned  
Could flow, and the wrong be quite ex-  
plained—

Brothers the souls of us all would chime,  
If we had the time !

### THE BEST TIME TO READ.

CHARLES F. RICHARDSON..... THE CHOICE OF BOOKS.

In the choice of the time for reading, as in that of the books to read, large liberty must be given to individual needs and habits. There is no hour of the twenty-four which may not, under certain circumstances, be profitably spent in reading. In lonely watches of a sleepless night ; in the precious hours of early morning ; in the busy forenoon, the leisurely afternoon, or in the long winter evenings ; whenever the time and inclination comes, that is your time for reading. If the inclination does not come with the time, if the mind

is weary, and the attention hard to fix, then it is better to lose that special time, so far as reading is concerned, and to take up something else. A much shorter time chosen under more favorable circumstances—if it is only five minutes in a busy day—will more than make up the loss. Everybody has some time to read, however much he may have to do. Many a woman has read to excellent purpose while mixing bread, or waiting for the meat to brown, or tending the baby—simply by reading a sentence when she could. Men have become well-read at the blacksmith's forge, or the printer's case, or behind the counter. No time is too short, and no occupation is too mean, to be made to pay tribute to a real desire for knowledge. I know of a woman who read *Paradise Lost*, and two or three other standard works, aloud to her husband in a single winter, while he was shaving, that being the only available time. "There is no business, no avocation whatever," says Wyttenback, "which will not permit a man, who has an inclination, to give a little time, every day, to the studies of his youth ;" and this truth is equally applicable to the studies taken up in middle life or old age. "While you stand deliberating which book your son shall read first, another boy has read both ; read anything five hours a day, and you will soon be learned ;" said Dr. Johnson. Five hours a day is a large amount of time, but five minutes a day, spent over good books, will give a man a great deal of knowledge worth having, before a year is out. It is the time thus spent that calls for more, to one's intellectual self, than all the rest of the day occupied in mere manual labor.

QUITE CORRECT.—He—"If you will give me just one kiss, I'll never ask for another."

She—"George, it is bad enough to tell a falsehood, without insulting me at the same time."—*Boston Transcript.*