

LEISURE.

THE following thoughts have been thrown together only from a desire to call attention to one of the helps towards making life more easy, and more really useful, than it often proves to be for those who recognize no necessity to accept any leisure. No saying (good in itself) seems to us more misused than that of "its being better to wear out than rust out;" in these days nobody with any good stuff in him is likely to "rust out," but a great many "wear out," and in the process of "wearing," cloud many a home with irritable tempers, and cause goodness itself to be considered "a bore," because it is put in so unattractive a form. We do wish some one would start a "leisure society," and have the courage to recommend its use, instead of so many "early rising," and "late going to bed" societies. We really run a great risk of becoming ourselves, and certainly of producing a very irritable, worn, peevish-tempered generation, if not of losing that glory of the American matron, the handsome, genial woman of forty and more.

Let us not be misunderstood that we grudge time or energy to home duties, but only that among them should be counted leisure. After a time of leisure, with what spirit and good humor can we return to the inevitable drudgeries of housekeeping and collision with the rubs of life, and how much better will our duties be performed!

Leisure is not having a bit of knitting at hand to take up while talking is going on, or waiting for others to go out, in order to feel one is doing something; it is not snatching ten minutes to write to an old friend, nor is it stealing half an hour to read a book. It has a far more restful meaning than that, as may be seen by turning to the word in a dictionary of derivations.

Very few of those who are likely to read

this have such robust health and spirits as to be able to reach middle life without regretting misused strength, and if they look back, they find that it would have husbanded much useful power, spirits, and temper, had they not lived the whole of the working hours at a stretch.

When the time of emergency comes, a reserve of nerve and good temper will be found to repay them well for the effort it was to obtain a fair share of leisure. The very manner and look of a person who is not always "on the drive" has an inexplicable charm to those they meet in the daily routine of life, and we are sure that the feeling of ease, confidence, and repose which we experience in the society of some of our friends, can be traced much more to the calmness which a fair share of leisure brings, than to any very remarkable good fits in their character. Of those we seek to benefit, it is often thought that, because their position in the family is not that of the "bread-winner," their lives are little more than a holiday seasoned by some wholesome work. We contend for them that they should have their fair share of leisure.

A great deal of this constant hurry and overwork is the result of the love of excitement and the restlessness of the age; but we must not be drawn into this whirlpool of restlessness, nor must we join in a laugh against those who rightly claim some real leisure. Each person must decide for himself how best to obtain it; some may spend it in religious meditation or reading; some, if possible, out-of-doors; some in the lighter part of their favorite pursuit—literature, music, drawing, needlework; some in utter idleness; but to none should be denied the blessing of feeling, "For such a time I am my own master—I am at leisure."—*Selected.*

New Lamp Screen.

A NEW sort of lamp screen consists of a colored gauze square handkerchief, with two rows of narrow ribbon round the edge, and

each corner ornamented with gold acorns. The opening in the middle is fastened to a small brass and Muscovy glass frame, to prevent the gauze being scorched.