

evenings. This is perhaps all that masters personally could accomplish; but they could use means and influence otherwise to provide for the mental improvement of their domestics. They could get courses of popular lectures delivered in their neighbourhood, specially adapted to farm-servants. These could be got easily in most neighbourhoods, at little expense, in this age of philanthropy and self-sacrifice; and this method of acquiring information is so easy, so agreeable, and withal so attractive, that it would be almost certain of success, if judiciously gone about. Masters should not only combine to get such lectures started, but should personally encourage their servants to attend them; and when once these lectures were fairly set a-going, they would pave the way for the next thing which we have to propose to servants themselves, viz., their forming themselves into mutual instruction classes, or connecting themselves with such as may already be in existence in their neighbourhoods. This implies a higher degree of effort and intelligence on the part of servants, than simply attending and listening to popular lectures provided for them by others. Here they would have to furnish the entertainment for themselves. One might read a short essay prepared by himself on some useful and interesting topic, others might discuss the different aspects of the subject, and all might arrive at juster conceptions regarding it. If this system would be less attractive to the very ignorant than the former, it would be found even more profitable to the more advanced, as by it correct ideas would be more indelibly fixed in the mind—information, so to speak, would be *assimilated*.

II.—The second thing proposed for consideration was, the carelessness of servants for their masters' interests. This evil is bitterly complained of by those who have more immediately to do with servants, and forms one of the greatest obstacles, at the present day, to the economical practice of agriculture. The servant sometimes does not, from sheer ignorance, fully understand his master's interests (more especially if any sudden emergency occur, he will sometimes be at his wit's end), but far oftener *he does not care for them*. He knows that by avoiding any gross dereliction of duty, his wages will be secured to him