

# THE Grange Visitor

ISSUED

MONTHLY

BY THE EXECUTIVE

Michigan State



COMMITTEE OF THE

Grange, P. of H.

VOL. 1.

SCHOOLCRAFT, NOVEMBER, 1875.

No. 8.

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RICH'D MOORE,	Clinton " St. Johns.
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THE VISITOR is issued monthly by order of the Executive Committee, under the supervision of the Master and Secretary of the State Grange. It is sent to the Master and Secretary of each Grange, and it should be read in open Grange at the first meeting after it is received, for the information of members. The subscription price of the VISITOR is 40 cents per annum.

We shall adhere to Grange principles, and require the money with the order.

The last page will be devoted to advertisements, of interest to Patrons, at the following rates:

One column 1 month,	\$12.00
Half " " "	7.00
Quarter " " "	4.00
One-eighth " " "	2.50

On advertisements ordered for three months, a discount of ten per cent. will be made.

On advertisements ordered for six months, a discount of twenty per cent. will be made.

On advertisements ordered for 12 months, a discount of thirty per cent. will be made.

Send money in registered letter, by postoffice money order, or draft, and direct all communications to J. T. Cobb, Schoolcraft, Mich.

The State Grange meets at Lansing, in the hall of the House of Representatives Tuesday, Dec. 14th, at 2 P. M.

## National Grange.

There are some who take the ground that the National Grange is a useless appendage to our organization. They say it costs too much and accomplishes little. They forget that the whole movement originated with the National Grange, and through its efforts was spread over the country.—Without its expenditure of money in extending the work to all parts of our land, there would be no grange at all, or only a small and insufficient association, similar to those which have heretofore risen and fallen in isolated districts. Having built up the vast fabric now known as the Order of Patrons of Husbandry—its services in their behalf being unquestionable—it remains for us to determine whether it is not just as necessary to the continued prosperity of the Order as it was to its inauguration and steady progress.

It may be possible that state granges can now keep alive the spirit in their respective districts, but it is an untried experiment with our organization, and all experiments with other agricultural societies lead us to believe that it would be a very disastrous experiment. The only object of the Order is co-operation—but if co-operation is to stop with state or subordinate granges, then our object will never be accomplished. Suppose though, the subordinate granges should continue to exist, what utility could there be in such individualized strength? We might count largely in numbers, but we could never aggregate for any useful purpose the strength thus represented. Agriculturists would be, as much as ever, isolated and ready to fall victims in detail to their enemies.

Heavy expenses have been necessary heretofore, but they have been principally incurred for purposes of organization. In 1874, 11,941 granges were organized, entailing much larger outlays than will ever again be requisite. Year by year the expenditures for enrolling and supplying new granges will grow less, and the machinery of the Order will become more compact and work more smoothly. It will, presently, not be necessary to hold so frequent meetings of the National Grange, thus reducing expenses there, some \$15,000; articles for new granges will not be required, lopping off thus some \$3,000; clerks in the secretary's office will be fewer, saving in this item about \$4,000, and so on through many other particulars.

Many of these expenses, however, are not chargeable to the cost of carrying on the grange, any more than the money paid for a cargo of coffee, which should be afterwards sold, could be charged any such way. For printing books, etc., the National Grange expends much money, but through the vast contracts which the demand enables it to make, it gets work done at far less expense than state or subordinate granges could have their several proportions separately done, and as those for whom the books are printed pay for them, the expenses for this object should not be charged to the cost of running the National Grange. Under this head we class the 260,000 manuals; 196,071 song-books; the copyright on the same; 34,400 record books; 20,260 roll-books; 294,200 constitutions; 74,300 parliamentary guides, published in 1874, and costing in the aggregate over \$50,000. The granges can stop this expenditure if they choose, by ceasing to call for the articles, but if they would simply transfer the business to state granges, there would be no saving, but really a great loss, for a large job is done much cheaper by printers than a small one.

Thus, when we analyze the expenditures for 1875, about which the most has been said, we find that more than \$50,000 has been expended for books, which the grange could not have gotten by any other means at so little cost; over \$30,000 for supplies required by new granges, which it is reasonable to presume, were obtained cheaper through the National Grange than they could be through any organization representing a less constituency; \$15,000 and over were donated to state granges; upwards of \$3,500 were loaned to Nebraska; clerks in the secretary's office—the most of them made necessary by reason of the large number of granges being organized—were paid over \$8,000; officers (7) were paid about \$2,000; their expenses amounted to about \$4,000; over \$11,000 for blanks, circulars, tracts, etc., and about \$12,000 for the meeting of the National Grange. This makes a total of upwards of \$142,000. None of the officers get extravagant pay, and when we have worked up all the material for new granges, it is probable that few of them will be employed or paid salaries. It is impossible to organize an army or keep it up without expense, and the only wonder is that it has cost so little. We favor strict

economy, but we are opposed to any change which shall not give us equal efficiency, whatever money it may save. We believe that in time the National Grange will use its means to better purpose than heretofore; that it will constitute itself a vast co-operative concern, buying and selling cheaply for cash to thousands of subordinates. Until such use is made of its power and money, there will always be more or less complaints, for expenditures will appear to be without recompense.—*Weekly Grange.*

**From Ohio State Agent's Department.**

We talk of the Grange system of trading. Have we really a reliable system? Or is what we have merely a theory, as yet unreduced to form?

Let us calmly think over this matter, and if we are not doing business on sound business principles, put ourselves right at once.

Our theories are all right. No one will gainsay the statement that the consumer has a right to reach the producer by the shortest and cheapest road. But, it is equally true that the producer has not only a right to reach the consumer, but that he must find a market or cease to produce goods.

All we do, or propose doing, is to give him this market, in our own way, and that way is going directly to him and taking his products off his hands, allowing him to make a fair profit, but dispensing with the use of the go-between middleman, agent, or jobber, so as to retain ourselves the money that is paid for selling the goods.

But, the goods must not only be sold, but in most instances, the manufacturer must be able to calculate how many of a given article he may safely make, in order that he may buy raw material, and labor on as good terms as other manufacturers who base their calculations on the old system which they have practically reduced to a certainty.

Hence, we must do something that will give our manufacturers a basis on which to cast their calculations, and having given them this basis, we must stand by them, just the same as we stood in the place of their special agents. It will never do to have it come to pass that men whom we have induced to yield to our fair arrangements shall fail to reap the legitimate rewards of their concessions to us, in as good or better profits than others get who refuse to hear us.

Then make up your minds what articles and how many of each kind you will want, and give your Purchasing Agent statements on which they may safely make contracts.—*American Patron.*

—There are at this date over 24,000 Granges in the United States, with a membership of about one million and a half. Missouri, Indiana and Iowa have each over 2,000 Granges, and Kentucky over 1,600.

—The *Farmer's Friend*, (Penn.) promises soon to give particulars concerning the proposed centennial encampment for the Order in Philadelphia.

**Master's Department.**

J. J. WOODMAN, PAW PAW.

The wives, of Masters elected to the State Grange, are members of that body, and entitled to mileage and per diem. No election is necessary in their case.

**NATIONAL GRANGE.**

**First Day--Morning Session.**

LOUISVILLE, KY.,  
Wednesday, Nov. 17, 1875 }

The National Grange assembled in annual session in the parlors of the Galt House, and was opened in form in the sixth degree at 10:35 o'clock A. M., Worthy Master Dudley W. Adams in the chair.

Bro. Moore, Md., moved that a Committee on Credentials be appointed, with instructions to report at once, that a correct list of voting members might be prepared.

The Worthy Master announced the following as the Committee on Credentials:

- Bro. Woodman, Mich., Sister Hudson, Kansas,
- Sister Jones, Ark., Bro. Grosh, D. C.,
- Bro. Allen, Mo.

Bro. Moore, Md., moved that the Grange take a recess of one hour to enable the Committee on Credentials to report; but withdrew it to allow Bro. Smith, Ga., to offer the following:

"Resolved, That the Secretary be added to the Committee on Credentials;" which was adopted.

The Grange then took a recess. The Grange was called to order at 12:30 P. M.

Bro. Woodman presented the following report:

"The Committee on Credentials have examined the credentials of members, and find the following members entitled to vote in this body:

- Master,.....Dudley W. Adams.
- Overser,.....Thomas Taylor.
- Lecturer,.....T. A. Thompson.
- Steward,.....A. J. Vaughan.
- Assistant Steward,.....
- Chaplain,.....Rev. A. B. Grosh.
- Treasurer,.....F. M. McDowell.
- Secretary,.....O. H. Kelley.
- Gate-keeper,.....O. Dinwiddie.
- Ceres,.....Mrs. D. W. Adams.
- Pomona,.....Mrs. Thos. Taylor.
- Flora,.....Mrs. J. T. Moore.
- Lady Assistant Steward,.....Miss C. A. Hall.

*Executive Committee.*—William Saunders, D. Wyatt Aiken, E. R. Shankland, John T. Jones, Dudley T. Chase.

*Members.*—W. H. Chambers, Mrs. John T. Jones, Harvey Godard, Mrs. Harvey Godard, E. Q. Tenney, Mrs. E. Q. Tenney, E. B. Crew, Mrs. E. B. Crew, John J. Rosa, Mrs. John J. Rosa, E. F. Wardlaw, Mrs. B. F. Wardlaw, T. J. Smith, Mrs. T. J. Smith, Alonzo Golder, A. B. Smedley, Mrs. A. B. Smedley, Henley James, Mrs. Henley James, M. E. Hudson, M. D. Davie, Mrs. M. D. Davie, H. W. L. Lewis, Nelson Ham, Mrs. Nelson Ham, Jos. T. Moore, Joseph P. Felton, Mrs. Joseph P. Felton, J. J. Woodman, Mrs. J. J. Woodman, Samuel E. Adams, Mrs. Samuel Adams, W. L. Hemingway, Mrs. W. L. Hemingway, T. R. Allen, Mrs. T. R. Allen, Brigham Reed, Mrs. Dudley T. Chase, Mortimer Whitehead, Mrs. Mortimer Whitehead, Geo. D. Hinkley, Mrs. Geo. D. Hinkley, Columbus Mills, Mrs. Columbus Mills, S. H. Ellis, Mrs. S. H. Ellis, D. B. Manger, Mrs. D. W. Aiken, Wm. Maxwell, Mrs. Wm. Maxwell, Wm. W. Lang, E. P. Colton, Mrs. E. P. Colton, J. W. White, B. M. Kitchen, Mrs. B. M. Kitchen, John Cochrane.

"The committee find the credentials of Bro. J. V. Webster, of California, in proper form, but his seat in this body is contested by Bro. Hamilton. The credentials and protest

are herewith submitted to the Grange without recommendation.

(Signed.)

J. J. WOODMAN, Ch'f.

Which report was on motion adopted. Bro. Davie, Worthy Master of the State Grange of Kentucky, in behalf of that body and of the Patrons of the State, welcomed the National Grange as follows:

"Worthy Master, Brothers and Sisters, Members of the National Grange:

"With open arms Kentucky greets you, Welcome! As the spokesman of one hundred thousand good and true members of our Order in this State, as the representative of one million three hundred thousand Kentuckians and the one hundred and fifty thousand people of this beautiful and flourishing city of Louisville, I now ask you to feel at home among us. No ceremony is needed here, and in their name I extend to you a most cordial and hearty welcome.

"We all feel grateful to your Locating Committee, and thank your distinguished members here assembled from every State in our Union, for having chosen this central city of our nation for the permanent headquarters of the National Grange. We are proud to have among us a body which we know to be conservative in its character, prudent in its counsels, liberal in its sentiments, wise in its judgments, and laborious in its endeavors to promote the welfare of the human family. Your actions while here assembled will be watched with the most anxious solicitude by millions of people throughout the length and breadth of our common country, whose troubles and burdens are now almost too heavy to be borne. They hope and believe that you will establish a system of education, so much needed by the agriculturists of our land, and will fix plans by which equal justice can be given to all industries, and which will cause moneyed monopolists hereafter to cease oppressing the laboring classes among us. Let us go forward then, here at this pivotal point of our nation, and work harmoniously for the good of the order, striving to build it up in its usefulness; not with a view to injure any industry in the land, but to promote them all by establishing rules of justice and right by which all men and industries can be guided. Then will the world rightfully view our objects, while wisdom controls our counsels.

"Once more, Worthy Master; once more, brothers; once more, sisters, from the North, from the South, from the East, from the West, I bid you welcome to this our permanent resting-place."

The address of Bro. Davie was responded to on behalf of the National Grange by Worthy Master Adams, as follows:

"Dear Brother:

"The National Grange is gratified at the very cordial welcome just extended to them, and in their behalf allow me to say that it is rendered all the more agreeable by coming from a brother we all so highly esteem.

"In selecting Louisville as the home of the Grange our committee did wisely and well. Its location is central to the nation, central to the great

agricultural interests we represent, and lies on the banks of a beautiful river on the border of the two great sections we are doing so much to unite in fraternal bonds.

"It is also a beautiful city, in a genial climate, and inhabited by a people noted for their hospitality, and more in harmony with our movement than any other city in the land.

"Brothers, we are proud to day that our Grange has a home in the grand old State of Kentucky. We mean to have and hold an abiding interest on Kentucky soil, and shelter ourselves under theegis of Kentucky's fame.

"Away down the long vista of years before us, when our Order is crystallized and embalmed in the hearts of all its members, when the Grange in every agricultural neighborhood becomes as much a matter of course as the school-house, may it not be that this beautiful city by the river shall become the Mecca of all good agriculturalists."

The Worthy Master then delivered his annual address as follows:

*Patrons:*

"Time flies! One brush of his wings, a deepened wrinkle on the brow, another thread of silver in the locks, and a year is gone to take its place in the great army of the past.

"The grim, unerring archer has sped his shafts, striking down alike the high and low, and given their names and deeds to history.

"Yet of the fraternal band which met at Georgetown, at St. Louis, at Charleston, not one has received the deadly shaft, and we meet to day with unbroken and augmented ranks to labor in this glorious cause.

"A few familiar and beloved faces we miss from their accustomed places, having been delegated to other fields of usefulness.

"In their stead are new forms, strange to our sight, but properly recognized as laborers in the same field, and we cordially extend to them a fraternal welcome, and will hold them with a Patron's 'grip.'

"Not only are we pleased to note our old ranks full, but delighted to extend them, and incorporate in our fraternal band, the husbandman and matron who have cleared new fields and sown seed on new ground. With one accord our voices greet the representatives of Delaware and Connecticut; our hands grasp, our hearts welcome them.

"By this advent of new members will be brought new ideas and fresh thought, and in the work before us we expect of them the enthusiasm of recruits combined with the steadiness of veterans.

"Since our last meeting our order has added another year to its eventful existence. It has received the criticisms alike of friend and foe. It has stood like a rock against the buffetings of enemies, and is now looked upon more and more as the bulwark of its friends. It to-day is stronger in numbers, more compact in organization, richer in experience, and lies nearer our hearts than ever before—Over two thousand subordinate Granges have been organized, and two more states have put on our armor

and advanced to the front to do valiant battle for the good cause.

"In some localities Granges have from various causes languished and died.

"Sometimes the material of which they were composed was too weak to live, and sometimes had from congenial occupations no interest in common with our purposes.

"Sometimes Granges were too close together, and, like forest-trees planted too thickly, the strong overshadowed and smothered the weak; but, like the forests, this close planting forced the survivors to a taller, straighter growth, and their branches stretch out and cover the whole ground. Some Granges complain of a want of interest among the members and a thin attendance at the meetings; while others, and by far the larger portion, announce a continued interest.—

In those cases where a poor attendance is complained of it is universally the case that the officers of the Grange do not provide for interesting and instructive exercises. It can not be expected of members to attend regularly when nothing of interest is transpiring; but wherever officers make the meetings attractive the attendance is always good. I beg leave to call once more the attention of the National Grange to this most important matter of laying down some plan or plans by means of which subordinate Granges may be able to amuse and instruct members so as to make the meetings full, and thus keep their present membership and largely increase it.

"The work of the last year has been done under the constitution as amended at St. Louis, and in the main it seems to be more satisfactory than before; but in a few points experience has shown that some further change is necessary, and further action to remove ambiguities.

"In this connection permit me to call your attention to the composition of the State Grange.

"Under the old constitution Masters of subordinate Granges and their wives, who were Matrons, were members, and Past Masters and their wives were honorary members, eligible to office, but not entitled to vote.

"In many of the States this made a body too large to do business, and too expensive for the means at the command of the State Grange treasury.

"In changing the constitution to its present form, the National Grange had mainly in view the reducing the number of paid voting members of the State Grange? but inadvertently the law was so worded as to cut off all Past Masters and their wives from even honorary membership, and of course from eligibility to office.

"This appears to be a very unfortunate mistake, for it places many of our best, most experienced and faithful members where we can not avail ourselves of their services. It is eminently proper that when a person ceases to be a Master of a subordinate Grange thenceforth he should have no vote in a State Grange, but that the voting members should be the last choice of the subordinate Granges; yet it seems good policy that the direct representatives of the subordinate Granges should be allowed to retain the offi-

cial services of such Past Masters as have proved able and true.

"The last line of the same section is such as to create doubt in the minds of many members, and some have construed this to mean that any Master of a subordinate Grange, or his wife who is not a delegate is not a member of the State Grange in any sense, and hence ineligible to office. The ambiguity should be removed by proper amendment.

"In regard to District Granges some difference of interpretation has arisen concerning the three fourth-degree members who may be elected to the District Granges. Some states have provided for the election of three members each year, some for the election of three members each quarter, and under such an interpretation they may provide for the election of three members every week or day in the year, thus absolutely endangering the very existence of the subordinate Granges by swallowing them up in the County Grange, and at the same time making the County Granges so cumbersome as to be valueless and impractical, like the State Grange under the old law.

"If the present wording of the law is really capable of two interpretations, it should be relieved of all ambiguity.

"There is one feature of our law which has caused some comment by the press and others, they claiming that all forth-degree members should be eligible to all offices in State and National Granges, thus carrying the presumption that all fourth degree members are not thus eligible.

"The fact is, each member is equally eligible; but our law very judiciously provides that before he can hold any office in the State Grange he must receive the highest possible endorsement from his own neighbors who know him best, by being elected to the highest office of his subordinate Grange.

This places it out of the power of a State Grange to elect to an office in the State Grange a plausible, good talker who could not be elected Gate-keeper at home where he was better known.

"Our law also very properly provides that before any member can hold office in the National Grange he must receive the highest possible indorsement in his own State Grange; and thus indorsed by his own state, and not till then, can the National Grange place him in a position of trust. It is a most judicious measure of safety, as it gives the State Granges in advance the power to say which of their members shall not hold office in the National Grange. This provision is eminently wise, cautious, and conservative, and will always secure men for office who have shown that they possess the confidence of those who know them best.

"Some also claim that the higher degrees should be accessible to all who will pay a certain fee of membership, thus selling for money to the rich what is now reserved as a reward for long service from rich and poor alike.

"In obedience to a resolution of the National Grange the offices of the order have been removed from Washington and located in the city of Louisville.

"The location may now be consider-

ed permanent, for certainly it is appropriate that the headquarters of a great agricultural organization should be located in the center of the great agricultural district of our country. Being thus established, it seems to be eminently proper and wise that this great order should have a habitation as well as a name.

"The inquiry is often made, of what use is a great fund in the National Grange? And there seems to be a sort of undefinable dread lest some accident should happen to our accumulated treasure. I would therefore most heartily recommend that the sum now invested in United States bonds be used for the erection or purchase of such a building in this city as shall be consistent with the convenience and dignity of the greatest secret society in the world.

"It will thus form a center to which all Patrons can look as the result of their contributions, and be an example of solid strength that State and Subordinate Granges will do well to emulate.

"Did the National and each State and subordinate Grange now own and occupy suitable buildings, it would in itself be almost a sure guaranty of permanence.

"It shows wonderful vitality in our Granges that so many have survived and prospered without any fixed or suitable habitation, but holding their meetings in school-houses or any other building that might be temporarily attainable.

"I have yet to learn of the first failure of a Grange which owned and occupied a convenient, comfortable, and well-appointed hall.

"No subordinate Grange should be for a moment satisfied with its situation until it owns a hall fully furnished with all the conveniences of a Grange-room, including musical instruments and a well-selected library. Such Granges never die; but, rooted in the affections of their members, they will bestow rich blessings on agriculture long after their founders have crossed the dark river.

"The question of co-operation in which our members have so deep an interest has received much and careful thought from the Executive Committee of the National Grange, and they will have ready a report which is believed to embody the essence of what the world has discovered of co-operative principles and practice; and they have endeavored to adapt it to our present wants. This will be submitted to you at an early day.

"Regarding transportation and a sound currency our members are deeply interested. My own views on these questions have been so fully given in former messages, I need not trouble you with their reiteration further, than to say that the convictions before expressed are only deepened and strengthened by each passing year.

"The loan which the National Grange offered the State Granges has only been called for by a minority of the States, the balance having allowed it to remain in our fiscal agency subject to their call, thus showing an ability on the part of most State Granges to carry on their work on their regular revenue. That the revenue of State

Granges is ample for all expenses is shown by the very handsome balances in some of the state treasuries after meeting all the necessary expenses.—Indiana and Ohio are notable examples of good financial management, both having plethoric treasuries, the former especially containing over \$20,000. Such cases are cheering to all good Patrons, and bright examples of thrift and economy, which public bodies and private individuals should emulate.

"The few topics I have here touched upon are but a little of what will demand your attention. Assembled as we are from every portion of our great republic, we necessarily represent every phase of American agriculture. It will tax to the utmost your wisdom and prudence to legislate that none be oppressed or none wronged.

"The relation of National, State, and subordinate Granges to each other is one of the utmost delicacy, and should be so handled that the utmost confidence and fraternal good feeling shall be preserved between them, for thus only can our grand edifice maintain its strength and symmetry.

"The laws regulating their connection should be characterized by a spirit of kindness and forbearance, and executed with even-handed justice. Thus shall we beget in all Patrons such an affection for our order that they will rally around our altar and defend it from every attack.

"And now, Patrons, in addressing ourselves to the work before us, let us realize that we are the representatives of the greatest secret society in the world, and the greatest subordinate interest of the nation.

"Let us remember that the welfare of the millions may be affected by our slightest deviation from the true path, and, thus remembering, let our councils be characterized by wisdom, calmness, justice and love, and may the work done here make us stronger as an order, more prosperous as producers, dearer friends, and better citizens."

MISSOURI.—The executive committee of the Missouri State Grange met in St. Louis, Nov. 2d. Present, Judge R. Q. Roach, chairman; Col. Childs, of Jackson County; Col. McLelland, of Lafayette County; Dr. Frazer, of Ralls County; Capt. Price, of St. Louis. Also, T. R. Allen, master, and Col. A. M. Coffey, Secretary of State Grange. The committee is composed of earnest workers and men of brains, and now that the season for real work in the grange is at hand, they may be relied upon to help "put the house in order." We hope to see every grange in the State in line for a forward march during the winter.—The committee has an eye to economy, and whatever opinions or fears the granges may have, we feel safe in assuring them that every dollar of the grange money will be judiciously handled by them, for the best interests of the Order at large in the State.—*St. Louis Journal of Agriculture.*

We regret that several communications set up for this number, must lie over for want of room. Our Dec. number will be one of interest to members.

## Secretary's Department.

J. T. COBB, - - - - SCHOOLCRAFT.

Officers and members of Subordinate Granges in corresponding with this office, will please always give the Number of their Grange.

[From th Son of the Soil.]

### Lines to our Brothers and Sisters of the South.

BY MRS. ELLEN WILLIAMS,  
Sec'y Storm Grange No. 419, Wayne Co., Iowa.

Here's a kindly greeting, brothers—take my hand;

And for thee, dear, noble sisters, kind and true,  
In the deep recesses of my heart there rests  
A softer, gentler feeling there for you.

May these two links of friendship never dim,  
Which binds the North to thine own sunny land;

But may we look with trusting faith to Him  
Who holds us in the hollow of His hand.

May kindly interchange be ever ours,  
Prompted by the precepts of fraternal love,  
Till the Great Master doth the welcome give  
Which bids us enter the grange above.

May social joys each heart with love expand;  
All bitter thoughts be burned with the dead;  
And may the lovelight of our Order be,  
Like a halo, round this nation spread.

Here's a kindly greeting, brothers—take my hand;

And for thee, dear noble sisters, kind and true,  
In the deep recesses of my heart there rests  
A softer, gentler feeling there for you.

### A Trip to Louisville.

GALT HOUSE, Louisville,  
November 20th, 1875.

As my date shows, I find myself in attendance for the second time at a session of the National Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry. Closing my office at 10:30 a. m. yesterday, at eleven a. m. to-day I was listening to the debate of the representatives of the several States in Council assembled. In addition to the officers of the National Grange and the Masters and their wives from the States and Territories, we found Bro. Shankland, of the National Executive Committee, and his wife, and some twenty-five Patrons in attendance, not of the body proper, who, like myself, have dropped in to stay for a day or a week as their business will permit. Of this number we shall follow our first impulse and just make mention of Sister Garetson, the worthy Lecturer of the Iowa State Grange. The fact that she holds so important an office in the great State of Iowa, is evidence of a clear head and earnest purpose, which our worthy Sister, by the courtesy of the National Grange, had an opportunity of demonstrating to our satisfaction before that body while we were in attendance. She is a good speaker, convincing in manner, clear and forcible in argument, and honors the official position to which the Patrons of Iowa have called her.

We do not know that any other Sisters were present not directly connected with the National Grange. Several State Agents and members of State Executive Committees were of the number present.

Of State Secretaries we found Bro. W. A. Armstrong, of New York, who, by his connection with the famous Farmers' Club of Elmira, and as editor of the *Husbandman*, is rapidly

acquiring with farmers a National reputation; and also W. W. Miller, from Castalia, Ohio. From the brief acquaintance had with these gentlemen, we are satisfied that the business pertaining to the office of Secretary in these States is in good hands.

We missed in the well-filled parlors of the Galt House, where the National Grange is holding its session, the grave and venerable face of Wm. Saunders, one of the founders of the Order. We understand he was detained in Washington on some business connected with the Centennial.

One half or more of the masters present we had met at St. Louis two years ago, and we renewed the brief acquaintance then formed with much satisfaction.

The lady members of the National Grange put in their appearance at this session I think in greater numbers than at any previous meeting.

Preliminary matters seem to have been disposed of, and the Grange, through its Committees, has settled down to business.

Petitions for changes in the Constitution, and for various other purposes, are flowing in quite freely.

To the demand for a reduction of salaries and a rigid economy in the administration of the business of the National Grange, the members all seem disposed to give heed. In proof of this, with little debate, the annual salary of the Master of the National Grange was reduced from \$2,000 to \$1,500; that of Secretary, from \$2500 to \$2,000; that of Treasurer, from \$1000 to \$600. The Executive Committee are to be paid a per diem of \$5, instead of a salary as heretofore.

These men very well know that to undertake to adapt the laws of the Order to the caprice of the hasty and inconsiderate would only work injury to the cause, and they will "make haste slowly" in changing the fundamental law.

Understanding fully the situation, and comprehending their responsibility, and the importance of their legislation at this session, the demands of subordinate Granges and County Councils and all petitions will be carefully considered and acted upon by the body as the "good of the Order" shall seem to its members to require. There can be no doubt but some action will be had at this session upon the disposition, by division in some manner, of a large amount of the funds in the National Treasury, among the several States. The demand for such distribution has been general, and under the loan resolution, adopted at the last session, \$23,850 has been paid to ten States that complied with its conditions. Some States were unable to comply with the conditions of the loan, and others, like Michigan, did not apply. A pro rata distribution will probably supercede the loan project of the last session.

By special order, the election of officers was set down for half-past ten on Tuesday the 25th inst. There seemed very little canvassing among the members, and no one seemed at all confident as to who were to be the lucky men and women.

I had determined to leave at 2:40 p. m. on Tuesday for home, as I felt that

I could not spare another day from office work at home. Soon after the time designated for the election, E. P. Colton, W. M., of Vermont State Grange, and Miss C. A. Hall, L. A. S., of the National Grange, were appointed tellers, and as the Clerk called the roll of voting members, each came forward to the middle of the room and deposited a vote in a ballot-box.

The first ballot for Master took a wide range—ten members receiving votes. D. W. Adams, the present Worthy Master, received 28 of the 73 votes cast; Chambers, of Alabama, 13; Aiken, of South Carolina, 8, and Jones, of Arkansas, 7; others less. A second and third ballot was had; Adams, holding his own, Chambers and Aiken gaining from the scattering vote, and Jones gaining but one vote.

The Grange took a recess for dinner, and I took a street-car for the depot—a mile and a half away.

At 7:10 the next morning I was in Kalamazoo. By a paper received from Bro. Woodman, next day, I find John T. Jones, of Arkansas, was elected Master on the tenth ballot. J. J. Woodman, of Michigan, was elected Overseer on the third ballot. A. B. Smedly, of Iowa, was elected Lecturer. A. J. Vaughn, of Tennessee, Steward. M. Whitehead, of New Jersey, Assistant Steward. S. H. Ellis, of Ohio, Chaplain. F. M. McDowell, of New York, Treasurer. O. H. Kelley, Secretary, and O. Dinwiddie, of Indiana, Gate Keeper. Mrs. J. F. Jones, wife of the Master elect, was elected Ceres. The election of the other lady officers was postponed until the next day, and we have had no proceedings since.

Of this number, four old officers are re-elected.

Our stay at Louisville, though comparatively short, was very satisfactory. The cordial and fraternal character of the intercourse between members of the Order, without regard to locality or official position, was to us a very gratifying assurance of true brotherhood, and served to increase our confidence in the perpetuity of the Order.

In the December number we shall give farther proceedings of the National Grange.

A few Granges have consolidated in our State, but the requirements of Article 16, By-Laws of National Grange, have not always been complied with. After the required permit has been received from the Master of the State Grange, and a vote taken by the Granges proposing to consolidate, the completeness of the work seems to be lost sight of.

Will Secretaries of consolidated Granges please look over their papers and see if they do not find a blank which should be returned to this office.

Please examine the Article referred to, and if you have not complied with all its requirements, please attend to it, as it is very desirable that the action of Granges in so important a matter be strictly in accordance with the law.

—A writer in the *Prairie Farmer* says that his grange is in favor of paying a salary instead of a commission to purchasing agents. We believe such is the general feeling.

## Delegates to the State Grange.

As promised in the October number of the *Visioner*, we sent to the Master of the first Grange organized in each county and to the Master living at or nearest the county seat, blank certificates for a return to this office of the Masters elected to the State Grange.

A month has elapsed, and we are both surprised and disappointed that the list we print in this issue is so incomplete. Will the Chairman or Secretary of the Convention in counties which do not appear in this list, send me at once, the names and P. O. address of the Masters elected from their several counties. It ought to have appeared in this number complete.

Counties have reported as follows:

*Allegan*—L. C. Gilbert, Moline, No. 248; Albert Stegeman, Allegan, No. 53; W. H. McCormick, Fennville, No. 461.

*Berrien*—Wm. Haslett, Buchanan, No. 40; Thos. Marrs, Berrien Center, No. 14; Thos. Mason, Lake, No. 84; T. T. King, Sodus, 123.

*Calhoun*—Edward White, Bedford, No. 65; Silas E. Woodworth, No. 85; D. P. Hatch, Homer, No. 200.

*Cass*—Thos. Odell, Porter No. 427; Gaylord Corey, Silver Creek No. 176.

*Grand Traverse*—Solomon Franklin, Old Mission, No. 468.

*Hillsdale*—H. D. Peasell, Allen, No. 78; O. H. Gorsuch, Lickby's Corners, No. 274; Albert Kenyon, Adams, No. 286; C. Fink, Cambria, No. 74.

*Ingham*—S. E. Jeffers, Cedar, No. 235; H. H. Bruerton, Stockbridge, No. 7; R. E. Trowbridge, Capkell, No. 540.

*Jackson*—John F. Drew, Rives Valley, No. 344; D. L. Jacobs, Star, No. 288; G. R. Culver, Columbia, No. 208.

*Kalamazoo*—E. T. Lovell, Climax, No. 72; C. Bonfey, Eureka, No. 11; Wm. N. Woodard, Cooper, No. 62; R. E. James, Arcada, No. 21.

*Lake*—F. M. Carroll, Pleasant Plains, No. 534.

*Lenawee*—W. L. G. Mason, Morenci, No. 280; J. H. Barker, Macon, No. 167; J. B. Stephenson, Springville, No. 279.

*Livingston*—Ryal Barnum, Unadilla, No. 6; E. Waite, Tyrone, No. 116.

*Manistee*—James McDermoid, Pleasanton, No. 557.

*Mecosta*—William Ladner, Laurel, No. 474.

*Monroe*—Herman Bristol, Bedford, No. 502; A. J. Briggs, Whiteford, No. 492.

*Muskegon*—John G. Reasey, Allumina, No. 585.

*Midland*—D. A. Hare, Ingersoll, No. 603.

*Ocona*—W. F. Lewis, Sylvan, No. 393; Elb. Comstock, Weare, No. 409.

*Oscoda*—W. O. Smith, Crapo, No. 363.

*St. Joseph*—J. S. Richards, Constantine, No. 236; Wm. B. Langley, Centerville, No. 76; J. W. Parker, Sturgis, No. 332.

*Saginaw*—John Gridley, Birch Run, No. 574; Jacob M. Wiltse, Leslie, No. 599.

*Sanilac*—John Sheldon, Hope, No. 482; Geo. Smith, Amadore, No. 490.

*Shiawassee*—A. F. Place, Lainsburg, No. 228; J. D. Williams, Star, No. 300; M. W. Willoughby, Hazel Green, No. 252.

*Tuscola*—Thos. W. Briggs, Water-

town, No. 523; E. S. Gibbs, Caro, No. 525; Augustus Greenfield, Columbia, No. 582.

*Wayne*—Geo. C. Gordon, Redford, No. 367; Wm. DeYoe, Center, No. 298. The following counties have not sent in their reports as requested:

Antrim, Barry, Bay, Benzie, Branch Charlevoix, Clare, Clinton, Eaton, Genesee, Gratiot, Huron, Ionia, Isabella, Kent, Lapeer, Leelanaw, Macomb, Mason, Montcalm, Newago, Oakland, Ottawa, St. Clair, Van Buren, Washtenaw.

As several complaints have reached us within the last month, that money remitted to H. I. Allen, manager of the Prairie Club Agency, Schoolcraft, had not been accounted for by the receipt of papers sent for or otherwise, and that the said Allen failed to make satisfactory explanation of the matter when written to concerning it, we take this, our earliest opportunity to call the attention of Patrons to this matter.

Mr. Allen is an old resident and has done business in this place for many years, and when he obtained my name, that of S. F. Brown, Past Master of the State Grange, and M. R. Cobb, Cashier of the First National Bank of Schoolcraft, as references, he could have got, for the asking, the name of any man in the village for this purpose. I am annoyed and mortified at the state of the case, and have only this comfort—that Mr. Allen is not and never was a Patron.

WE received the following letter in October and have not replied to it for obvious reasons:

*“Secretary State Grange, Schoolcraft: DEAR BROTHER:—The Master of this Grange has never received, neither has the Secretary, anything pertaining to the last Session of the Michigan State Grange. We would like the Proceedings.”*

To the brother sending this brief letter without date or signature, we would say that we sent, as soon as published, a copy of Proceedings to every Secretary in the State, and as we still have a hundred copies, more or less, in our office, we shall take pleasure in forwarding copies on application, to any good Brother or Sister of the Order.

WE would again call attention to the Grand Encampment project, set on foot by our Pennsylvania brothers. It seems to us that the enterprise is well worthy of the immediate attention of the subordinate Granges throughout the country. In taking the lead in this matter, we must remember that Pennsylvania and New Jersey Patrons are acting for the good of the membership at a distance, quite as much as on their own account. It appears to us that the months of the Centennial may be counted on to advance, strengthen and compact our Order by the opportunity that event will afford for acquaintance, for comparison of opinions and experience on business matters, and for a general interchange of views between members from all parts of the country. We hope to hear of some Michigan Granges that have taken stock in the Centennial Encampment.

In one of the early numbers of the VISITOR we recommended Masters and Secretaries to keep a *file* of this sheet for reference. From some letters we receive we conclude that if a *file* is kept, that reference is not often made. Now, brothers, before writing us, asking some question, just consider for a moment whether the information you seek has not at some time reached you through the VISITOR. If you write us we shall answer you all the same; but if this hint is regarded, it will save us some work, I am sure—Keep a file of the VISITOR.

THE firm of Montgomery, Ward & Co., whose advertisement has appeared continuously in the VISITOR, have, from a small beginning, grown to mammoth proportions. This fact alone is good evidence that in their dealing with Patrons a fair and honorable course has been pursued. The official position and standing of their references affords a guarantee of its good character. Their offer to allow an examination of their goods in the Express Office on all orders sent C. O. D., and a return of the goods, without charge to the Patron ordering, if not found satisfactory, makes it perfectly safe to order from them.

WE have received several letters of inquiry from Patrons, supposing that if they knew just how to go to work they could borrow some of the surplus of the National Grange treasury. This is a mistake. The action of the National Grange last winter, looking to a return of money to the States, was in the nature of a loan to the several States of an amount equal to \$2.50 for each of the Granges in the State.

### State Agent's Department.

N. CHILSON, - - BATTLE CREEK.

WE have completed arrangements by which half-fare rates are secured on the Michigan Central and Chicago & Lake Huron Railroads for all Patrons who may wish to attend the State Grange at Lansing. The arrangements will cover the week of December commencing the 13th. To secure half fare tickets the C & L. H. R. R. require that members shall have a certificate from the Secretary of the State Grange to show to the ticket agent at the station from which they start. Secretary Cobb will send such certificates, on application, to the Secretaries of Granges, that any member may have the benefit of this reduction. We have not been able to make any arrangement for special rates with other railroads, but we advise all our friends who wish to attend the session to secure these certificates as we may yet make arrangements that will make them available as a return ticket on all other roads.

WE would call attention to a communication from N. D. Wetmore, of New Orleans, State Agent of Louisiana, in relation to sugar, Molasses, etc., which will be found in a confidential circular sent out by us to Secretaries of subordinate Granges.

### OYSTERS.

WE are prepared to furnish the best brand of Oysters at 25 cents per can when ordered by the case; the purchaser in all cases to pay charges from Detroit. Granges wishing oysters for feasts, parties, or any public doings, will make quite a saving by ordering through this agency.

### MCCLENTON'S IMPROVED STAR FEED CUTTER.

WE can furnish this feed cutter to Patrons at 25 per cent off the prices named in the following price list:

No. 1, 7 inch knife, hand power, \$22  
No. 2, 9 inch knife, hand power, 26  
No. 3, 11 inch knife, hand power, 30  
No. 4, 13 inch knife, horse power, 40  
No. 5, 15 inch knife, horse power, 50

WE would advise ordering No. 2 for hand power and No 4 or 5 for horse power.

### CHALLENGE FEED CUTTER.

George W. Green, of Brooklyn, Jackson Co., Mich., offers the Challenge Feed Cutter to Patrons for \$22.50; retail price, \$30.00. This feed cutter is recommended by Hon. J. J. Woodman, Master State Grange; also M. Miles, Supt. Farm Department of Michigan Agricultural College, and others.

All orders should be sent to N. Chilson, State Purchasing Agent.

### BOB SLEIGHS AND CUTTERS.

WE are prepared to furnish Bob Sleighs and Cutters to the Order at low rates.

### Lecturer's Department.

C. L. WHITNEY, - - - MUSKOGON.

### Election of Officers.

There is not another meeting of the Grange in the whole year of such vital importance to the growth of the Order, as that of the annual election of officers. The last regular meeting in December, in each year, is the time for the annual election of officers, and that time is near at hand and to many will be past before another issue of THE VISITOR. A word to all need not be said in vain.

In our travels and visiting this year, we have observed that a large share of the ills abroad in the Grange are due directly or indirectly to an indiscreet selection of officers. These have often been aggravated and increased by the refusal of the membership to give that prompt, hearty and *patronly* support due those in official position.

Let us, then, not repeat the errors of the past, but make them lessons preparatory to our future action. Let each member of our Order carefully, in mind, review the duties of each officer in the Grange, bearing in mind that each one has responsibilities and cares, and that each is a post of honor. Let us each remember too, that the future well being of the organization for the ensuing year, as single growers, or a great whole, depends much upon those whom we shall select to act as our servants, in the work.

In general, let no one be thought

of, or at least named for official position whose heart is not wholly in the work and thoroughly imbued with the noble principles of the Order, and whose hands and tongue are not ready to do valiantly in the defense of principle and truth, and the correction of error and wrong.

Every officer elect should be chosen, not for wealth position or popularity, but because of peculiar fitness for the duty assigned him or her, and a known devotedness to the best interests intrusted to his care; not elected because they want place, but because the membership in true wisdom judge them competent, earnest and faithful patrons, known for their fidelity to the obligation and to the interests of members, as well as a living Faith in the principles they profess, an ardent Hope in the success of the purposes of our order, and Sure Charity towards all men. With such thoughts directing our actions and ballots in the selection of officers, followed by a hearty and earnest support, who can foretell the onward progress, for the ensuing year, to the Grange.

All officers should possess certain general qualifications, yet each should have a special fitness for the place he or she is to occupy. While all should be intellectually capable, great readers, &c., yet each should have those peculiar powers that but fit him for a given place.

Two men, both intellectual and studious, the one would make a good *presiding officer* but not a good Secretary, while the other would be an efficient Secretary but fail as a Master. One person would, with great dignity and effect, give soul to the lectures of the Chaplain or Lecturer, while another would act as truly a dignified manner act as Steward, Asst Steward, or Gate Keeper.

Be as careful in the selection of Overseer as Master, in Gate Keeper as Lecturer, and in choosing the lady officers forget not your duty to them and the Grange. Only regular and prompt attendants should be honored by position in the offices of a Grange.

None should be allowed to receive votes for official position who are in arrears for dues, nor should they be allowed to vote until such arrears are duly paid up.

All selections should be by ballot, and a majority of all the votes cast are necessary to a choice. Notice of the time of election should be given at a previous meeting, so that all the members may be present.

Informal ballots are not in order, but all ballots are formal and elect the candidate having the majority of all the votes.

Only 4th degree members in good standing can be elected to office or vote, and only in their own Grange. A Grange should never forget its dignity by electing a member to office for the mere honor of office, as is sometimes done.

Let us in our elections prepare for a year of progress, and remember that "whatever is worth doing at all, is worth doing well."

"P. P. C." is a little volume interesting to every Patron anxious to learn

his duty. The *Patron's Pocket Companion*, by Past Worthy State Lecturer J. A. Cramer, of Kansas, is indeed a valuable book for our Order, a work long needed. The first part is devoted to the Constitution of the Order, By-Laws and Rulings complete of the National Grange, and the decisions of the Court of Appeals. The second division is the only manual of *Grange Trials* and the forms and practices needed in them, we have ever seen, and for this alone the volume is indispensable. Part third is a full digest of Parliamentary rules adapted to Grange use; and while we may differ somewhat with the author, yet we commend this part of the work heartily. Every Master should have it. Part fourth has the beautiful Installation and Burial services of the Order, and a copious alphabetically-arranged Index of all. When we first read the book over we regretted that its publication had not been deferred until the meetings of the National and State Granges this fall, and then the new rulings placed in it; but such changes are anticipated by the author in supplying blank pages for memoranda of changes that may be made. The whole work is neatly executed at the publishing house of R. W. Carroll & Co., Cincinnati, whom we thank for having rendered us and our Order much signal service.

State Secretary Cobb keeps the "P. P. C." for sale; see his price list.

### Communications.

The County Convention of Patrons of St. Joseph Co., met in the hall of Centerville Grange on the 26th ult., and was organized by the election of Wm. B. Langley, Chairman, and W. G. Leland, Secy. A Committee on Credentials was appointed, and after their report was made and adopted the convention adjourned till 1 p. m. When the convention again came to order, the County was districted and J. W. Parker, Master of No. 332, J. L. Richards, Master of No. 236, and W. B. Langley, Master of No. 76, were elected Representatives, and were authorized to appoint substitutes if unable to attend the State Grange in person.

The following resolutions were offered, discussed and adopted:

By Wm. Hull, of Centerville Grange.  
*Resolved*, That the fundamental laws of the State and National Grange should be so amended as to give to all fourth degree members the right to vote direct for every office in the organization.

By Henry Collins, of Oakwood.  
*Resolved*, That the fundamental laws of the Order should be so amended that no member shall be entitled to any place by virtue of holding any other position.

By Wm. B. Langley, of Centerville.  
*Resolved*, That all officers of the State and National Grange be elected annually.

By N. Russel, of Bur Oak Grange.  
WHEREAS, The *Era and Northern Granger* in the issue of Oct. 21, 1875, in an article entitled "A New Departure" recommending the cutting loose from all connection with the State and National Granges, the dropping of our

Ritual, and making the Order an open organization;

AND WHEREAS, We believe that all needed reforms will be granted by our representatives, when sought in a legitimate way; therefore,

*Resolved*, That we condemn any such movement as ill-advised, hasty, subversive of that discipline and regard of official authority necessary to render any organization effective, and having a direct tendency to dissolve and scatter our Order.

*Resolved*, That while we shall labor in every legitimate way to place our Order on a foundation that shall work the greatest good to the greatest number, we discountenance any and every attempt at rebellion against our Constitution, Laws and legally constituted authority.

By A. P. Shepardson, Corey Grange.  
*Resolved*, That we instruct our delegates to inform the State Grange that St. Joseph County wishes all degrees above the fourth abolished.

Moved that a copy of the proceedings of the convention be sent to the *GRANGE VISITOR* and *Era and Northern Granger* for publication. Carried. The convention then adjourned *sine die*.

W. G. LELAND, Secy.  
Three Rivers, Nov. 1, 1875.

KALAMAZOO, Oct. 26th, 1875.

The Kalamazoo County Convention after electing Representatives to the State Grange, unanimously adopted the following preamble and resolutions, as reported by its committee:

WHEREAS, We believe that all degrees and offices that are out of the reach of the masses of our Order, are fruitful sources of discord, and contrary to the genius of the American mind, and are of themselves wrong; therefore,

*Resolved*, That we are in favor of abolishing all degrees above the 4th.

*Resolved*, That we are unalterably opposed to having any offices within the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, but what each and every member of the fraternity shall be eligible to.

*Resolved*, That we desire and ask our State Master to use his influence and all honorable means in his power at the next session of the National Grange to have the laws of the Order so changed as to satisfy our wishes as herein expressed.

*Resolved*, That we will support any plan, that the National Grange will adopt, that will enable the members of the Order to get a confidential crop report, at least, once a month.

*Resolved*, That we, delegates assembled in County Convention, of Kalamazoo County, would hereby express our loyalty to the principles of our Order and to the officers thereof, and in asking for these changes we only ask what we justly claim belongs to each and every individual Grange of our fraternity.

C. L. KING,  
R. A. INGERSOLL, } Com.  
M. COX,

Moved and carried that the Secretary furnish a copy of the proceedings of the Convention to the *GRANGE VISITOR* for publication.

E. T. LOVELL,  
G. A. DOUGLASS, Sec. }  
Chairman.

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### REFERENCES.

DUDLEY W. ADAMS, Master National Grange.  
O. H. KELLEY, Secretary National Grange.  
E. R. SHANKLAND, Ex. Com. Nat. Grange.  
R. H. THOMAS, Sec. Penna. State Grange.  
W. W. MILLER, Sec. Ohio State Grange.  
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