

# THE Grange Visitor

ISSUED

MONTHLY

BY THE **EXECUTIVE**  
Michigan State



**COMMITTEE** OF THE  
Grange, P. of H.

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## THE GRANGE VISITOR,

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J. T. COBB, } Publishing Committee.

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### RATES OF ADVERTISING:

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A Square is one inch in space, column width.

It is not the purpose of the Executive Committee in continuing the publication of the VISITOR, by direction of the State Grange, to deviate from the course first marked out in February last, which was to furnish the most direct, complete and cheapest medium of communication between the officers and members of the Order throughout the State.

We hope Masters and Secretaries will not fail to call the attention of members to every matter of general interest, which appears in the VISITOR.

Communications on any subject, calculated to promote the good of the Order, are solicited.

For Grange Supplies kept by the Secretary, see "LIST OF SUPPLIES" on eighth page.

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Support the Visitor by subscribing.

### GENERAL NOTICE.

The Sixth paragraph of Section 6, Article 7, By-Laws State Grange, makes it my duty to report and publish in the VISITOR a list of Granges by NUMBERS entitled to Representation in County or District Conventions to be held on the 16th of October, 1877, as appears by Reports and payment of dues on my Books. This list is made up to the 20th day of September, 1877. And Granges that by Reports or payment of dues become entitled to Representation after this date and before the meeting of the Convention will be furnished with a certificate showing that fact.

ALLEGAN, 5 Rep.—Nos. 37, 53, 154, 238, 248, 271, 296, 338, 339, 364, 390, 407, 461, 520.  
ANTHIM, 1 Rep.—No. 470.  
BARRY, 3 Rep.—Nos. 38, 55, 103, 127, 128, 144, 145, 173, 243, 256, 264, 424, 425, 472.  
BAY, 1 Rep.—Nos. 597, 614.  
BENZIE, 1 Rep.—No. 381.  
BERRIEN, 3 Rep.—Nos. 9, 13, 14, 40, 41, 43, 46, 80, 81, 84, 87, 104, 122, 194, 382.  
BRANCH, 3 Rep.—Nos. 86, 88, 91, 94, 97, 136, 137, 152, 217, 234, 261, 332, 400.  
CALHOUN, 2 Rep.—Nos. 65, 83, 85, 96, 101, 129, 130, 143, 200, 292.  
CASS, 1 Rep.—Nos. 42, 47, 125, 162, 176, 177, 427.  
CLINTON, 2 Rep.—Nos. 140, 202, 226, 317, 342, 343, 358, 370, 439, 459, 487, 505.  
ELTON, 2 Rep.—Nos. 67, 134, 197, 260, 301, 315, 359, 360, 619, 625.  
GENESSEE, 1 Rep.—Nos. 118, 386, 387.  
GRAND TRAVERSE, 1 Rep.—Nos. 379, 468, 624.  
GRATIOT, 2 Rep.—Nos. 307, 309, 391, 394, 514, 521, 529, 553, 583.  
HILLSDALE, 3 Rep.—Nos. 74, 77, 78, 106, 107, 108, 133, 181, 182, 251, 269, 273, 274, 285, 286, 568.  
HURON, 1 Rep.—No. 601.  
INGHAM, 2 Rep.—Nos. 7, 115, 189, 241, 262, 265, 287, 289, 323, 378, 540, 613.  
IONIA, 3 Rep.—Nos. 153, 163, 174, 175, 186, 187, 190, 192, 270, 272, 281, 302, 325, 422, 429, 430, 490.  
JACKSON, 2 Rep.—Nos. 2, 45, 155, 208, 227, 288, 321, 344.  
KALAMAZOO, 2 Rep.—Nos. 3, 8, 11, 16, 18, 20, 21, 24, 49, 61, 72, 171.  
KENT, 5 Rep.—Nos. 19, 25, 31, 33, 39, 63, 64, 73, 102, 110, 113, 170, 219, 220, 221, 222, 316, 337, 348, 349, 350, 353, 428, 479, 563, 564.  
LAKE, 1 Rep.—Nos. 534, 579.  
LAPPEER, 2 Rep.—Nos. 246, 448, 455, 466, 478, 522, 533, 549, 592.  
LELANAW, 1 Rep.—Nos. 374, 375, 380.  
LENAWEE, 3 Rep.—Nos. 166, 167, 212, 213, 276, 278, 279, 280, 293, 383, 384, 438, 576.  
LIVINGSTON, 1 Rep.—Nos. 6, 17, 57, 79, 90, 336.  
MACOMB, 1 Rep.—Nos. 282, 334, 403, 414, 623.  
MANISTEE, 1 Rep.—Nos. 556, 557, 558, 559, 580, 581.  
MASON, 1 Rep.—Nos. 415, 418, 499, 539, 567.  
MECOSTA, 1 Rep.—Nos. 362, 474, 475, 517, 518.  
MONROE, 1 Rep.—Nos. 446, 471, 492, 509.  
MONTCALM, 1 Rep.—Nos. 318, 436, 437, 440, 441, 542.  
MUSKEGON, 1 Rep.—Nos. 372, 373, 376.  
MIDLAND, 1 Rep.—No. 603.  
NEWAGO, 1 Rep.—Nos. 494, 495, 511, 544, 545.  
OCEANA, 1 Rep.—Nos. 393, 401, 406, 497, 600, 630.  
OAKLAND, 3 Rep.—Nos. 141, 245, 253, 259, 267, 283, 323, 328, 335, 395, 406, 443, 452.  
OTTAWA, 1 Rep.—Nos. 30, 112, 313, 421, 458.  
OSCEOLA, 1 Rep.—Nos. 363, 518, 570, 620, 628, 629.  
ST. CLAIR, 2 Rep.—Nos. 404, 450, 462, 463, 480, 481, 491, 504, 528.

ST. JOSEPH, 3 Rep.—Nos. 22, 76, 178, 179, 199, 236, 237, 266, 291, 303, 304, 333, 350.  
SAGINAW, 1 Rep.—Nos. 326, 464, 574, 591, 599, 611.  
SANTLAC, 1 Rep.—Nos. 417, 482, 566.  
SHIAWASSE, 1 Rep.—Nos. 160, 228, 229, 252, 297, 388, 606.  
TUSCOLA, 1 Rep.—Nos. 513, 537, 548, 562, 582, 589, 593.  
VAN BUREN, 5 Rep.—Nos. 10, 23, 26, 32, 36, 60, 82, 89, 157, 158, 159, 178, 218, 230, 346, 355, 465, 485, 610.  
WASHTENAW, 2 Rep.—Nos. 52, 56, 59, 68, 69, 92, 239, 253, 351, 399, 476, 631.  
WAYNE, 2 Rep.—Nos. 232, 263, 298, 331, 367, 368, 389, 618, 622.  
WEXFORD, 1 Rep.—Nos. 632, 633.

J. T. COBB,

Secretary Michigan State Grange.

### The Michigan Wheat Crop.

The following article in regard to the wheat crop of this State, is from the pen of Hon. C. G. Luce, of Branch County. It is a careful estimate by an experienced observer:

Where we are to sell our wheat and what prices we ought to get for it, are important questions that present themselves to the minds of all wheat growers at the present time. Great talkers and small talkers, great writers and little writers have been engaged in trying to shed light upon these grave subjects. No one absolutely knows much about it yet, still there are landmarks that may help some of us in arriving at a correct opinion. One thing is as certain as taxes and the grave, and that is, that every legitimate interest in the country, and especially in the northwest, will be promoted by the farmers receiving a good round price for their wheat this year. Another thing seems to be equally true, and that is, the fingers of the speculators itch and burn to get hold of the crop or as much of it as possible at a low price. For this purpose a concerted effort has been made to depress the markets. These speculators have had access to all the great daily papers. They have written themselves tired, and talked themselves hoarse about the immense crop of the year 1877. With the same purpose they have sold short for future delivery away below the price of wheat on the spot. That these short sellers have met with nothing but loss so far I rejoice to hear.

Now, with regard to the crop; we had a good large one of superior quality of wheat. There is no doubt about this, yet I believe the quantity has been over estimated, I am sure that it has been in our own state. Circumstances have been such that I have been called to travel over three-fourths of the older settled and some of the newly settled counties of the state within the past month. I have everywhere paid special attention to the wheat crop; have talked with many hundred farmers from various parts of many of the counties and have seen an estimate of the wheat crop of the several wheat growing states, going the rounds of the papers, wherein the crop is estimated at thirty-one millions of bushels. Last year, by actual returns, made it a little over sixteen millions. Facts within my knowledge convinces me that the estimate for this year is too high by seven or eight million bushels. I suppose that an average crop is not far from twenty million bushels. This year the important wheat growing countries of

Berrien, Cass, St. Joseph, Branch, Hillsdale, Lenawee, Jackson, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, Van Buren, and Allegan, have taken together no more than an average crop. These 11 counties as a usual crop produce nearly 9 millions of the 20 millions raised in the state. Of these counties five have less than an average, three more and three just about an average. Conceding to the balance of the state 33 per cent in addition to an average crop it would give a total of less than 24 millions of bushels.

It is fair to state here that the cause of a light crop in some of the counties named above was damage done by the Hessian fly. There are no better wheat countries in the State than Kalamazoo and St. Joseph, but in these counties the ravages of the fly were such that the crop is away below an average. Of the counties favored with good crops, Ionia, Ingham, a good part of Livingston, Washtenaw, Eaton, and part of Barry seem to me to stand at the head, although I can not speak of the northeasterly counties from actual observation.

Kent, Montcalm, Gratiot and some other counties not named have good crops, but in all these good-crop sections there were a good many fields of light wheat. Some were sowed too early and some too late, and in some cases the farming was too poorly done to secure a heavy return. One-third of the farmers in these most favored sections did not secure more than a usual crop.

Taking into consideration these things I am fully convinced that the estimate of 33 per cent increase for a little more than half of the state is a liberal one. Next spring returns will show it. I do not forget that Michigan is only one of eight or nine heavy wheat producing states. I am not a prophet, yet I am most thoroughly convinced that the situation is such the wide world over that we can get at least \$150 per bushel at the lake ports of Detroit and Toledo for every bushel of wheat we have to sell if we only will. As I said at the commencement the speculators will get hold of the crop at a low price if they can. Some men are compelled to sell. Those who can hold should do so, in their own interest and in the interest of those who are less fortunate.

A little more holding back and the market would ere this have reached the figures indicated. The farmers of the Northwest hold the key to the situation. Will they use it to their own advantage? They may, or they may surrender it to others; which shall we do? We ought to receive the benefit which the situation gives us. At harvest time the old crop was all gone, both out of the farmer's bins and out of the markets of the world. The high prices of June called out the last bushel. The California crop is light. Europe wants an unusual amount. I am aware that predicting the future price of grains is a hazardous business, still I do predict that we can yet get the dollar and a half at our lake ports if we manage well.

Gilead, Mich., Sept. 15, 1877.

J. T. COBB, Secretary.—Last month I promised to give you the result, in our Grange, of the visit by a committee of wide-awake Sisters upon the carless members. The report of the committee promised well, and the result was better even than we anticipated. Our Hall at the last meeting was pretty well filled up. Members were out who had not been before, some of them for months. Of course those who had been absent at many meetings did not enter into the spirit of the meeting as those do who punctually attend. But the increased attendance gave us much encouragement. Brothers and Sisters, keep on doing so, it will do you good, and so too. We have one family of husband and wife who have been absent from the meeting but two or three times since the organization of the Grange. They live 43 miles from the hall. The Brother said at a late meeting of the Grange that he had been here sometimes when it was stormy, also when it was cold and when it was hot, but always went home feeling paid for his trouble. To other Granges permit me to say, go and do likewise. Appoint a Committee of active ladies, and if like our Committee, they happen to be good looking, all the better. Let them visit the lazy members. If there is any life left they will arouse it. C.

See new advertisement of O. R. Ingersoll, also Brother Hawley of Burr Oak, on the 8th page.

## Correspondence.

HOME, September 15th, 1877.

Worthy Secretary Cobb:

Perhaps you are tired, and your readers annoyed, at being constantly reminded of the bad habits that prevail among farmers. It would be much more pleasant to be able to approve all that is done by my own class, and if it was only desirable to make myself pleasant and agreeable, I know very well how the lightning-rod men, the organ men, and the patent-medicine men managed to do it. But I promised to be truthful and frank, and must look at things as they are, and speak of them as they exist. In this letter I have something to say about the bad habit of allowing foul and noxious weeds to grow and mature their seeds annually in the garden, in the plowed fields, in the meadows, pastures, wood lots, in the fence corners, and in the road sides; everywhere, in short, where they can find a vacant spot of earth for a lodgment. Like the drops of water in the Ocean, or the grains of sand on the Sea-shore—they are innumerable. They are to-day contesting the title to every clear acre of land in the State with a vigor and persistency unknown in the courts. They are a constant and exorbitant tax on the labor of the husbandman, and a perpetual menace to every seed that he plants or sows. They have taken possession of many farms in the older States, and hold them unquestioned, and incumber every farm in Michigan to some extent. The grand annual harvest of foul seeds are now mature or rapidly maturing, and being distributed by the winds and by other means constantly operating, whether perceptible or where there is earth, rain and sunshine. There may be thoughtless, credulous persons that suppose that weeds spring spontaneously from the earth when seeds are absent, and that efforts to destroy them are useless. For the benefit of such persons, it may be said that natural laws are not repealed or evaded for the benefit of foul weeds. Each weed comes from its parent seed and each seed produces its kind, and all weeds can be destroyed by thorough effectual work. Simply take away their tops or leaves and they die, and trouble us no more. The smaller the weeds the easier it is to kill them, and the sooner they are destroyed the less liable are they to mature seed. Some are so hardy and tenacious of life that more than to cripple may be required, but the man that goes at it with a will is sure to succeed in the end.

The common thistle is very easily destroyed, not one should be allowed to perfect its seed; and yet it is a very common nuisance. Tons of them are allowed to stand and disfigure the fields and the road-sides, obstruct the growth of the grass, prevent animals from getting what there is, the sheep run among them and their wool is injured by the thorns that break off in it and remain to punish the owner if he handles either sheep or wool; and worse than all the ripened seed floats in the wind to lodge, annoy, and curse his more tidy and thrifty neighbors with constant work to keep their fields clean. The notorious pest—the Canada thistle—that is so difficult to eradicate when it gets full possession, is allowed to increase and spread with an indifference that is criminal, when a little effort now would effectually check its spread, and if persevered in, eventually drive it from the State. If the tops are all cut at the surface of the ground once each month—by the owner of the land—they will not put in an appearance long, as everyone can easily test if he has the pest on his farm, and be convinced. Shall we not take warning and all go to work together and in earnest, to destroy every foul weed that cumber our farms, that taxes our industry, that diminishes our income, and that remains a standing reproach to good husbandry?

If we all put our shoulders to the wheel and work together faithfully in this direction, the financial results will soon be adequate and perceptible, and it is not easy to see that any one can feel injured by it. Yours, truly,

ALONZO SESSIONS.

HOWELL, August 25, 1877.

Worthy Secretary, Cobb.—The Patrons of Livingstone County met in Howell, August 7th, at 10 o'clock. A regular meeting of the County Council occurring at that time. The Hall was literally packed with the good brothers and sisters of the County; lively, earnest workers in our cause. At noon, they, with a large crowd repaired to the Fair grounds where, with a good dinner, good singing, and last but not least, a good address from Bro. Moore, the time passed too quickly away. It was altogether a very enjoyable affair, and we feel that we cannot speak too highly of Bro. Moore, as a lecturer. His speech was highly eulogized in our County paper.

Fraternally Yours, MRS. W. K. SEXTON, Secretary.

OFFICE OF LENAWEE CO., GRANGE.

Worthy Secretary.—Thinking perhaps, that at this late day even, our brethren throughout the State, would be interested in the action taken at the Lenawee County Grange held in Raisin on the 29th day of May, we herewith send you a copy of the Resolutions adopted at that time, and which were forwarded by the Secretary to each Subordinate Grange in the County.

TAXATION AND THE GRANGE.

"The following resolutions were adopted by the Vallejo Grange, California, January 13, 1877, and commended to the attention of the Granges generally:

Recognizing the necessity of a united and immediate action on the part of all desirous of correcting the evils which are affecting us so seriously, and believing that individual prosperity is dependent upon that which promotes the welfare of the body politic, we earnestly invite the co-operation, not only of the Patrons of Husbandry, but every true citizen and lover of justice. Our purpose is to secure proper representation which will bring about legislative action and reformation, covering the entire field that has been and is so productive of injury as to render this action for self-preservation imperative. Among the prominent grievances we seek to correct and relieve are:

First—That of unequal and excessive taxation.

Second—Congressional and legislative donations of immense tracts of land and millions of the public money to corporations and individuals, granting in addition special rights and privileges, creating classes and social conditions at variance with the spirit of our institutions and a republican form of government.

Third—Compelling the manufacturing and agricultural interests and capital employed in developing the country to bear the burdens of government, by exempting from taxation foreign banking capital and money invested in bonds and mortgages.

Fourth—The want of economy and consideration of the public welfare in every department of State and Federal service, in creating sinecures, continuing excessive salaries and exorbitant fees to officials of every grade.

Fifth—The unjust and iniquitous use of the ballot-box, which is prostituted for partisan purposes.

We are therefore resolved that henceforth our individual and united efforts shall tend toward correcting the evils complained of, BY NOMINATING AND SUPPORTING for office such men only as are COMPETENT and HONEST, NON-PARTISAN, yet loyal to their constituents, men who are PLEASED IN SERVING RATHER THAN DECEIVING THE PEOPLE—who recognize the necessity of guarding safely the elective franchise, surrounding it with safeguards in the way of qualifications which will render its exercise impossible by those not directly interested in the results they were called upon to decide."

Now Brothers and Sisters don't be frightened, the above is not "Politics in the Grange," it is a proposition to manifest a little of the God given common sense, with which every honest Patriot is endowed to a greater or less degree. A proposition to exercise the right of every American citizen, and repudiate taxation unless as the inseparable companion of a *quick and fair representation*. We have no axe to grind, unless it be one with which to clear the fields for labor in the Grange, and no hobby to ride, unless the riding can be of some benefit to our Order. But, Oh, that we could speak in the ear of every Patron, whether in this or other States, in tones that would startle them out of their napping. Awake! shake off the spell of these vampires—have confidence in each other! co-operate! combine! and put men where you are to be represented, who will represent you.

Truly and Fraternaly,

LOWELL, Sept. 3, 1877.

Bro. J. T. Cobb.—Enclosed find my Crop Report. I have waited for Reports from Subordinate Granges, but they come slowly. It is hard to get farmers to take hold of the real business which is of the greatest importance to them. These Crop Reports with Blanks furnished, ought not to be so hard to get.

But we must watch and work and wait, And leave the rest to coming fate, Be our progress fast or slow, One thing certain, we do know, That some progress we have made, Since Grange foundations broad were laid, And that time will do things well, If we can only wait a spell.

Fraternally Yours,

J. C. ENGLISH.

WISCONSIN.—Granges that have been dormant more than a year, resume their standing by the payment of their dues for the present year.

## Master's Department.

J. J. WOODMAN, - - - PAW PAW

### Membership Fees.

I call the attention of Masters and Officers of Subordinate Granges to the following

DECISION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE STATE GRANGE.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the State Grange, held at the Morton House, in Grand Rapids, September 12th, 1877, the following decisions were made in a case before them of charges against the Master of a Subordinate Grange, and the officers and members of the Grange, "for receiving members into the Grange in violation of Article 6th of the Constitution," which reads as follows: "The minimum fee for initiation into the Subordinate Grange shall be, for men five dollars and for women two dollars."

1st. It is evident that the National Grange intended to make the initiation fees of candidates to membership in the Order, uniform in Subordinate Granges; or at least to prevent one Grange from reducing the fee, and bidding for candidates, to the injury of other Granges, by fixing the "minimum fee" which a Grange could charge, in the constitution of the Order.

2nd. If any doubt could possibly have arisen in regard to the intent and meaning of Article 6th of the Constitution, they certainly must have been removed by the following decisions, subsequently made by authority.

#### PARLIAMENTARY GUIDE.

Decision 13.—"No person can be admitted to membership free."

Decision 14.—"The entire membership fee must accompany the petition and cannot be divided among the several degrees."

Decision 15.—"A Grange cannot vote back to a member any portion of the membership fee."

Decision 41.—"If an applicant is balloted for whose fee does not accompany the petition and is elected, the election is illegal and the degree should not be conferred; if rejected, the rejection is illegal and the applicant may apply again at any time."

Decision 70.—"The Master should not allow a ballot to be taken on the application of a person who from any cause is ineligible to membership. But if such person has been balloted for and elected, the master has no right to initiate him, and would by so doing, render himself liable to expulsion for having violated the laws he was obligated to enforce and obey."

#### AMENDMENTS AND ADDITIONS TO PARLIAMENTARY GUIDE.

Decision 51.—"The Master of a Subordinate Grange should not sign an order to draw money from the treasury of his Grange, unless he approves the same."

Decision 54.—"The Master of a Subordinate Grange should decide a motion out of order, when it is plainly in violation of the Constitution, rules and regulations of the National, State, or Subordinate Grange."

3rd. As every member of a Grange is pledged to support the Constitution and Rules of the Order, and every member is solemnly obligated, "to support the Constitution of the National Grange, and to inculcate a strict obedience to all laws and edicts emanating from the proper authority," it must be conceded that any attempt to evade this clear provision of the Constitution, either directly or indirectly, so as to admit a candidate to membership without the payment of the full fee before initiation; or to appropriate funds from the treasury to refund any portion of the fee after initiation, would be not only a violation of the Constitution but of the obligation itself.

### Election of Delegates to the State Grange.

As will be seen by the General Notice published in another column, the County Conventions, for electing delegates to the State Grange, will be held in the several Counties, on Tuesday, the 16th day of October next.

As this is a matter in which every Grange in the State is interested, I will make the following recommendations, in order to secure uniformity of action, and to prevent misunderstanding.

1st. That the Subordinate Granges take action without delay, to elect Delegates to the County Conventions.

2nd. That, unless the last County Convention fixed the place for holding this Convention, or a majority of the Masters in the County sign a call for holding it at some other place and cause a copy to be served upon the Masters of all the Granges in the County at least ten days prior to the time of holding the same, the Convention will be held at the county seat.

3d. That the Master of the Grange at or nearest to the county seat, or his legal representative, be requested to provide a place for holding the Convention, and make all necessary preparations for the same.

4th. That the Convention assemble at 10 o'clock A. M., and balloting for Representatives commence at 1 o'clock P. M.

5th. That when 1-5 of the Granges represented in a County Convention demand it, the Convention shall proceed to district the county before an election is held.

6th. That a certificate of election, signed by the President and Secretary of the Convention, be given to each Representative elected; and full returns of the election, with the names and post-office address of each member elected, be made forthwith to the Secretary of the State Grange.

7th. That the Convention provide for filling vacancies that may occur from the inability of any of the Representatives to attend the State Grange—either by electing alternates or empowering Representative to appoint substitutes.

Granges that are more than two quarters in arrears for dues will not be entitled to representation, in the Convention, or in the State Grange. Hence it is of the utmost importance that the payment of dues to the State Grange, by delinquent Granges, be made without delay. Let every

Grange be represented, and full delegations sent to the State Grange.

The following are the amended By-Laws of the State Grange, in relation to membership.

#### ARTICLE III—MEMBERS.

SECTION 1. The members of the Michigan State Grange shall consist of the Masters of the Subordinate Granges and their wives, who are Matrons, who shall be chosen in proportion to one Master to every five Subordinate Granges, or major part thereof, in the County. These members shall be elected by ballot by a convention to be held on the third Tuesday of October of each year, at the county seat of each county; *Provided*, the place of meeting was not fixed elsewhere by a vote of the last preceding annual convention; that each Subordinate Grange shall have four delegates to said County Convention, said delegates to be chosen from the Fourth Degree members of said Subordinate Grange to represent said Subordinate Grange in said County Convention. The Convention may elect alternates, or empower delegates to appoint substitutes from among the Masters of the county.

SEC. 2. Past Masters of Subordinate Granges and their wives, who are Matrons, shall be considered as honorary members, and shall be eligible to office but not entitled to vote.

SEC. 3. Each Delegate and Officer attending the State Grange shall receive mileage at the rate of two cents per mile for the distance traveled in going and returning by the nearest traveled route, and \$1.50 per diem for the time actually spent at the Grange. The Master and Secretary of the State Grange shall give such delegate an order for the amount on the Treasurer of the State Grange, which shall be paid at the close of the session.

### Crop and other Reports.

In compliance with instructions from the State Grange, blanks have been furnished Subordinate Granges for Reports in relation to Crops and the general condition of the Order. These Blanks are to be filled by the Lecturers of the Subordinate Granges, and forwarded to the Lecturer of the County Grange or Council, where such an organization exists, otherwise to the Secretary of the State Grange. The reports which have been already received, and are now on file in the office of the Secretary of the State Grange, are very complete, and creditable; and clearly indicate the practicability of the enterprise, if *Subordinate Granges* are prompt in making the reports.

I would recommend that each Subordinate Grange devote one meeting in each quarter, to the discussion of the condition of the growing crops, acreage, yield per acre, quality, surplus for market, &c., &c., and thus enable the Lecturer of the Grange to make up an accurate report. One of the most interesting Grange meetings that I have attended in a long time was for this purpose. Every farmer present could tell all about his own, and his neighbor's crops. The subject opened up a new field for thought and discussion; and the meeting was lively and interesting.

Each item was taken up separately, and after discussion, and exchanging views, the blank was filled by vote of the Grange. Patrons, this work is yours, and for your benefit; and whether it succeeds or fails, will depend entirely upon the interest you take in it.

The Secretary of the State Grange will publish a synopsis of the Reports at the close of each quarter, in the VISITOR. The first will be compiled for the next number, and all reports for the present quarter should be made up and forwarded without delay.

## THE GRANGE VISITOR.

SCHOOLCRAFT, SEPT., 1877.

## 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.

## BLANKS.

Blanks that are sent *free* from this office on application are:

Blank Quarterly Reports of Secretaries of Subordinate Granges.  
Blank Quarterly Reports of Secretaries of Pomona Granges.  
Blank application for organizing Pomona Granges.  
Blank applications for Membership in Pomona Granges.  
Blank Bonds of Secretary and Treasurer.  
Blank Election Reports of Sub. Granges.  
Blank Certificates of Election to County Convention.  
Blank Certificates of Representatives elected to the State Grange.  
Blanks for Consolidation of Granges.  
Blank Application for Certificate of Dimit.  
Blank Plaster Orders.  
Blank Certificate of Incorporation.

## Executive Committee Meeting at Grand Rapids.

## Plaster.

A called meeting of the Executive Committee of the State Grange was held at Grand Rapids on the 11th and 12th of September. Several business matters of importance were disposed of before the Plaster question was reached.

This great interest which has engrossed so much attention for the last three years was calmly considered in all its bearings before final action was taken.

With the experience of the past year of *actual business* fresh in our minds, we did not feel in renewing an arrangement with Messrs. Day & Taylor, that we were taking *chances*. One year ago our move was a *venture*, now it is a business transaction that has a basis of facts, figures and experience on which to securely rest.

The Patrons of Michigan done nobly last year. In all we then said and done in relation to this business, we felt sure we were working to promote their true interests. Nothing has since occurred to alter that opinion.

I apprehend that the experience of the last year has brought us to understand each other better. Manufacturers have learned that we are willing to pay for a thing what it is worth if we happen to want it, and no more, and that we can and will stick together when our true interests demand it, which is simply saying that Michigan Patrons have some business capacity as well as honesty.

With our success, in attaining our object, and its universal recognition on the part of Manufacturers, the bitterness of feeling which was engendered is fast subsiding.

We recall these words found in our "Declaration of Purposes." "We wage no aggressive warfare against any other interest whatever. For our business interests, we desire to bring producers and consumers, farm-

ers and manufacturers into the most direct and friendly relations possible."

Let us now go forward and do our own business in our own way. Make up your orders for Plaster and send them to me as before. Secretaries will soon be furnished with blanks for that purpose. Day & Taylor, with more experience and *time* for preparation, are now prepared to furnish the Order with pure plaster very much below the price paid them last year.

We shall spare no effort to secure the best freight rates, and to some points we can guarantee that rates will be less than was paid last year.

## Important to Subordinate Granges.

"Subordinate Granges that are more than two quarters in arrears for dues to the State Grange are not entitled to representation therein, neither can they take part in the election of representatives to the State Grange."

By this ruling, Granges that have not made their report to this office for the quarter ending March 31st, 1877, will not be entitled to send delegates to participate in the election of Representatives to the State Grange.

I have sent by card to Secretaries of delinquent Granges such statement of account as will indicate what *must* be done to secure representation in the County Convention, and also a statement of the financial condition, on the 20th inst., of each Subordinate Grange *not square on my books* at that date. I hope these delinquent reports will be promptly made, and the dues remitted.

In several instances an additional representative from a County will be secured by a single Grange making report and payment of dues for one quarter.

A full representation in County Conventions is desirable, and as I am anxious to give those dilatory Granges, whose numbers are not in the published list, every possible chance, I shall send a certificate of *qualification* to all Grange Secretaries that, by making reports and payment of dues before the 16th of October, secure representation in the County Convention.

## The Visitor.

We want at least 1000 new subscribers at Ten Cents each for the VISITOR to January 1st, 1878. The November No. will give some of the Proceedings of the National Grange which meets at Cincinnati in Nov., and the December No. will give the Address of the Worthy Master, and the Annual Report of the Executive Committee, Treasurer, Secretary and State Agent. This number alone will be worth the ten cents which we ask you to pay for four months.—Masters and Secretaries please attend to this matter, and send us the names of those who are not subscribers, because they have not been solicited. Remember this business will not take care of itself, and we appeal to you.

## Postal Cards

Are cheap. I mention this as some people don't seem to have found it out. I mean those who get the Secretary of their Grange to write and say they have not had their paper for a month or two.

When we get an edition from the printer the directing is done to 600 offices right through from page one of our Mailing Book to the end, and if you don't get your VISITOR before the 1st of the month following its publication, notify us by *postal card* at once of that fact and another copy will be sent forthwith. That will be better than complaining and won't cost much more either.

## Receipts.

From some correspondence I conclude that Secretaries have not always kept Receipts for dues so as to be able to show payment for every quarter since the organization of their Grange.

As the receipts issued from this office are of convenient shape, I would suggest that all such be kept in a common envelope, filed "Receipts for Fees and Dues." Don't let them lie around loose in your tin box. Statements of account will be rendered when desired by Granges where a balance is shown against them, and I shall very cheerfully correct any mistakes that may be made to appear by a comparison of accounts.

## Where From.

There has been a standing request in the first column, fourth page of the VISITOR for two years that has been overlooked by more than 100 Brothers who read the VISITOR. By that neglect some letters I get are never answered, or if answered subject me to a loss of time before I can do so, that, in a warm day is a little annoying.

In writing on Grange business always give the *number* of your Grange and it will keep me in a much better humor.

## Crop Reports.

I have received a few Crop Reports, really but a small proportion of the blanks sent out have been returned. All received before the 12th of October will be compiled and published in the October VISITOR.

Masters of Granges are requested to call the subject up at their next meeting, and see to it, that a report be made if that duty HAS NOT already been discharged.

Granges delinquent in reports from Secretaries for quarter ending March 31st, 1877:

Nos. 4, 5, 28, 44, 48, 50, 62, 70, 75, 95, 111, 114, 126, 135, 138, 142, 146, 147, 156, 168, 180, 183, 191, 198, 203, 204, 206, 207, 209, 211, 214, 223, 225, 233, 244, 247, 249, 250, 255, 268, 273, 275, 295, 297, 302, 308, 319, 320, 330, 340, 347, 356, 371, 377, 385, 402, 409, 410, 411, 412, 418, 430, 431, 444, 445, 447, 449, 469, 473, 486, 4, 8, 496, 498, 500, 501, 502, 508, 509, 510, 523, 530, 531, 538, 542, 551, 552, 560, 561, 565, 567, 575, 585, 587, 596, 598, 604, 605, 607, 612, 617.

This list does not include those dormant Granges that have not reported

for a year or more, of which there are quite a number, who seem practically dead, though they have not formally surrendered their charter.

### Lecturer's Department.

C. L. WHITNEY, - - - MUSKOGON.

#### IN THE FIELD.

We have had the pleasure of meeting with four County or District Granges since our last issue. Had we time to write, much valuable information derived from these visits could be given in these or other columns that would redound to the interests of the Order, and the advancement and welfare of the farmer. But time and space forbids more than a general mention of these meetings.

From a meeting of Patrons at Reed City where we met our Worthy Master of the State Grange who addressed the farmers to a good purpose, we went to Ionia and delivered ourself up to the Sheriff of Ionia County, for the night. Think of it, your State Lecture in jail. But the Assistant and lady Assistant Stewards of the State Grange delivered as on the day following to go to the County Grange at Orleans Hall where we met many old friends, and where during the session were discussed important interests of the farmers of the locality in the varieties of wheat to be sown. The claims of the Clawson being ably presented and defended from the attack of the Miller's Association. Resolutions were passed in favor of the Clawson, and to send samples of it, and other varieties to Dr. Kedzie, of Agricultural College for analysis. Arrangements for marketing wheat were discussed, and plans for carrying them into effect considered. Ionia County Grange has already done a good work, and every Patron in the County helping would soon become a great power for good in that County, and united with other counties secure to the Order of the State advantages, the most sanguine have not dared to hope for. The next day found us at Rockford, where were convened the Kent County Grange. They too had considered the question of the Clawson wheat and with similar conclusions to Ionia County Grange. We found this Grange equally earnest and active in the good work, laboring faithfully to advance the great interests of the Order.

There was to have been a Grove Pic-Nic and address on this day to which all were invited, but a much needed rain caused a change of plans, and with willing hearts the Patrons and friends filled the Hall at Rockford to partake of a sumptuous dinner, and listen to our address. Seldom have we found a more attentive audience.

On the next week we met with the Berrien Pomona Grange at the new Hall, of Mt. Tabor Grange. This is the first Pomona Grange formed in the State, and has fully demonstrated the efficacy of the County organization. It has set on foot a successful co-operative Store which has twice made a dividend, and in seven months past done business to the amount of

\$21,000. It has awakened an interest in all parts of the County—stirring up the weak and dormant, and now is about putting into operation a Commission house in Chicago to do business for the Order, an enterprise that every Patron in the west is interested in. More of this in another number.

The needs of a *weekly paper* was talked here, and every Grange in the State should discuss this and have the matter presented in due form at the next State Grange meeting. How many Patrons will take and pay for a WEEKLY PAPER at \$1.00 per year?

The dedication of the Mt. Tabor Hall was made the special Order of 10 a. m. Wednesday the 29th, and large as the Hall was, it was full to overflowing. Every thing considered, this is the best Hall we have dedicated. Proud indeed ought the members to be of their efforts. Is the Grange interest dying out in localities where such Pomona Granges exist, and such Halls are built by the Order? On Saturday following we met our own, the "Western Pomona Grange," No. 19, at Berlin, and had a good meeting. The next meeting is to be at Ravenna, on the 4th of October. Kent County Grange meets at Byron, on the 3rd of October. Berrien, at Bainbridge, on the 2nd Tuesday of October. Newago County Patrons have a Pic-Nic at Croton, on the 27th of Sept., and Osceola Patrons, on the 2d day of the County Fair at Evert, Oct. 10th.

#### A Compost Heap.

It is one test of a good farmer that he prizes manure. A man may make money from his farm and be wasteful of fertilizers, but he is not a good farmer, for he is constantly running his land into debt. The following suggestions may help some farmer to obtain a load of excellent manure, each year, without cost, besides putting out of the way a large amount of refuse matter, that would otherwise tend to contaminate the air and generate disease.

Place a box, holding from thirty to forty bushels, a few yards from the back kitchen door, to be used as a receptacle for the large class of substances that appear in every house and yard, for which there seems no other appropriate place. The list is a long one and need not be enumerated. When a mass of weeds is piled in a garden, or the paths are hoed out, add this rubbish to the heap. Enough earth and ashes will usually find their way there to absorb all noxious odors, but if they do not, they may be easily supplied. This is certainly a better way to dispose of family slops, than to throw them on the ground to fester and putrify in the hot sun, poisoning the air with their malarious odors.—*Husbandman.*

—Floral Grange, No. 366, has a membership of 160, and have never dismissed or suspended a member for non-payment of dues, or other cause. All who have ever joined still retain their membership, except a few who were granted dimitts by reason of removing from the neighborhood.

—The Michigan State Grange will meet (probably at Lansing) Tuesday, December 11th, at 10 o'clock A. M.

### State Agent's Department.

J. H. GARDNER, - - - CENTREVILLE.

Salt is now 85c per barrel in car load lots of 80 barrels, and best fine salt in bulk is \$4.50 per ton. I am receiving and forwarding orders now, almost every day for it; and Masters should advise their Granges that now is the time to get it on as it is a very low price, and will probably be higher before long. Decided results in the increase of wheat are reported where it has been applied in the fall, either before sowing or soon after; in some instances nearly doubling the yield of grain and improving its quality and appearance. It might be well to give it a trial by sowing a part of a field and note carefully the effect. Refuse salt is scarce at the works and nearly as high priced as the best.

I can furnish good team harness with hip straps for \$26.00; and a nice nickel plated single harness for \$20.00 and all kinds of harness at proportional prices.

Don't forget to order for your wives a new ten foot ash extension table for \$6.50 or a walnut for \$7.50; and also remember that a good sewing machine with four drawers, drop leaf and box cover, which can be removed out of the way in working, is offered for \$25.00; or a full cabinet case for \$35.00; and a plain table for \$18.00. These are shuttle machines and make the lock stitch.

Linseed Oil by the barrel is 52c a gallon for raw and 55 for boiled; white lead \$9.75 per cwt. Kerosene, Michigan test, 25cts. I am now purchasing goods extensively and am able to fill all orders at short notice by the piece at cost in any desired quantity.

Groceries, and boots and shoes in stock, of the best quality of goods at low prices; send on your orders for anything you need, not forgetting to send along money to pay as you go. State on what road and in what way you want goods forwarded. Write name and post office plain, where you want letters sent and where you want goods shipped. This will avoid errors and save time and worry because you don't get an answer on the following day.

The "question box," usually kept on the lecturer's desk, we have often found to aid greatly in making pleasant meetings. In it the members can at any time drop questions and suggestions that perhaps contain much that is of value, and besides the quiet members and the sisters who cannot be persuaded to "speak out in meeting" can thus have an opportunity of doing something in the work. The questions are read off by the lecturer, at a suitable time. Some are submitted to the Grange, discussed and decided. Others are given to the committees to work upon and report at a future meeting. Sometimes a brother or a sister is appointed to consider the question and write an article upon it. The questions do not all refer to farming, but to Grange work, home life, etc.

## Ladies' Department.

### What Makes a Woman.

Not courtly dress nor queenly air;  
 Not jeweled hand, complexion fair;  
 Not graceful form nor lofty tread;  
 Not paint, nor curls, nor splendid head  
 Not pearly teeth, nor sparkling eyes;  
 Not Voice that nightingale outvies;  
 Not breath as sweet as eglantine;  
 Not gaudy gems or fabrics fine;  
 Not all the stores of fashion's mart,  
 Nor yet the blandishments of art;  
 Not one, nor all of these combined,  
 Can make one woman true, refined.  
 'Tis not the casket that we prize,  
 But that which in the casket lies!  
 These outward charms which please the sight  
 Are naught unless the heart be right.

### Talk to the Boys.

This morning I said, "If I felt well enough to-day, I guess I'll write a sisterly little talk to the boys. You know I hardly ever write anything for them, and of all classes in the world, boys are my favorites. Give me the boys, the dear, growing young boys, the hope and promise of the nation." Just as soon as I said that the girls began to tell me what to say. They said, "Don't forget to tell the boys that if they want their sisters to love them, they must be good to them, and tell them their secrets, and not take long walks when they could ride as well as not; and they mustn't growl over their fine shirts and complain over every imaginable annoyance, and find fault about their food. That it is these habitual fault-finders who grow to be unsocial and unlovable, and finally, detestable bores."

Summed up, this is what the girls told me to tell you, boys: Don't wear your hats in the house; be careful to keep clean; wash often; see that your hands are not grimy and your fingernails untidy. If you are going to clean a stable, put on old shabby boots kept for that purpose under the manger. Take notice how a well-bred gentleman sits—how he manages his two hands, his two legs, and let him be your example.

Don't ever, when you sit down cross your legs, sprawl, turn the soles of your boots up for inspection, or scoot down in your chair until you sit on the small of your back; you are a clownish boor if you do that. Some men will sit gee-hawed around all over a chair, with an arm up on the back of it, and their legs crossed, until they look no more like a man than a figure four trap, such as we often see along the creek bank. Nothing stamps a man a lout sooner than this.

No well-bred young lady will tolerate the company of a young man who smokes in her presence. It is an insult. Yawning and trotting your heels, and putting on indifferent airs, are likewise very insulting; so is eating noisily, or smacking your lips, or using hair oil and strong perfume. Many a good fellow has got the mitten just because he used pomades and hair dressing, and lolled his greasy head against the wall. I've seen more than one pair of blue eyes snap like black ones over the pitiless and immovable spot on the wall just back of the sofa. They called it desecration, or some such a word. Don't use slang phrases at home, and then

they will never slip off your tongue away from home, when you are on your best behavior. Be polite at home, that's the place to learn good manners; don't be stingy about saying, "thank you," "much obliged," "you're very kind," to your good mothers and sisters in your daily intercourse with them.

Don't be sneaking. Frequent the society of sensible women, talk to them and hear them talk, discuss books and public men, and the topics of the day. If you do not understand the topics of the times, go to the schoolmaster, or the doctor, or your minister, and ask him to explain and simplify and make it plain enough for your comprehension. That is thousands better, more creditable to yourself, and complimentary to him, than to nod and pretend that you understand when you do not.

Among your lady friends be sure you don't intrude your confidence upon them; keep your own counsel; that is so much better than to bore them with tales about your poor self, your outward circumstances—the unkindness of your relatives, the gloomy prospects ahead of you, and all this kind of talk. They can't assist you; they have trials perhaps greater than your own, and you are a tax upon their ready sympathy.

When you enter a room or a church, don't go flouncing in like a caught fish, slashing to the right and to the left, flapping your coat-tails about like seals. Go gently and lightly, and respectfully. Go to church in good time; that is genteel and speaks well of your bringing up.

When you make calls, don't stay too long and weary the ladies; and don't, I beg of you, make the longest part of your call between your chair and the door, as some young men do. Don't stand and finger the door knob, and act as though you were examining it to see if it infringed upon the patent you are meditating. Such tricks are very annoying to the "girls you left behind you," and very likely will provoke some sharp remarks about the time you click the gate latch. If you sit in the rocking-chair while making calls, don't for your own sake allow the chair to gallop; it suggests the days of bread-and-sugar and rocking-horses.

I'll tell you one thing, boys, even though I may violate confidence; there's nothing that flatters the vanity of a girl or woman like this pretty little respectful fashion of touching your hat, or lifting it slightly when you bow to one of them. I've heard many of them say if boys only knew how very charming was the compliment conveyed, they'd be tilting and touching their hats all the time! Boys, don't think you are irresistible; you're not. The girls don't all want you, and you must not wheedle yourself into the notion that they do.

Be good listeners, think much, read well, engage in all good works, attend church and Sabbath-school always, and don't forget that the basis of all good manners lies in your own heart, and don't forget that the Golden Rule is the embodiment of true politeness.—*Rosella, Ohio Far.*

## The Household.

### A LETTER FROM THE NORTH.

From the Detroit Tribune.

As I have never seen anything in your valuable paper from this section, perhaps some will be interested to know how we pass away time "away back here in the woods." As a general thing we are not troubled with ennui; and as far as my observation goes, the people are all socially inclined. Neighbors are plenty near enough for convenience. I cannot agree with Kate R., that farmers should have their buildings nearer together. I think that plan would turn out a great annoyance in several respects. Living in the woods for this town, will soon be among the things of the past, for we have very many enterprising farmers that don't intend to let our town remain in the back ground, and we hope soon to rank among the first farming towns of the State. Our village at Hozts corners contains two stores, milliners' shop, post office, two blacksmith shops, and a steam sawmill. We also have an Oddfellows' and a Grange organization. We find our grange, looking from a social stand point, a very pleasant and instructive place to pass away a few hours; and to those ladies that complain of such a dearth of social enjoyment, I would recommend the grange. If there is not one already near enough for you to join, organize one immediately, and I am sure you will be surprised at the amount of social talent which will develop itself in your neighborhood.

I hope the ladies will not grow weary in well doing this warm weather. There are very many subjects, I would very much like to hear discussed through the columns of this paper. If the ladies should all happen to meet, (say in the editors sanctum), would they be as voluble as they are through the paper? If so I imagine the editor would want to stop his ears and run.

J. E. P.

ROXANA, Mich.

### Public Buildings and Taxes.

IONIA, Aug. 30, 1877.

The new States Prison a mile out of the city of Ionia, on high ground between the D. & M. and the D. L. & N. W. Railroads is just now being stocked with prisoners from Jackson. Its architecture and finish include all modern improvements—so called—that cost money.

As individuals, corporations, towns, counties, and States are alike overwhelmed with debt, the expensiveness of all kinds of public buildings should engage the attention of the tax payer.

In nearly all our public buildings—the graded school house, churches, County and State buildings, there seems to be little regard had to the ability of the people who are taxed to pay for the structure. Nineteen twentieths of those who pay for public buildings do not and cannot live in houses corresponding in style with those they are paying for year by year. We build houses for schools and issue bonds running for years, frequently paying a high rate of in-

terest—we build splendid churches, and trust to Providence and the skill of an expert at begging, to relieve us of a load of debt when the job is done. Perhaps this is all right, but to me the proposition seems a little faulty, that a community can afford to have a house or structure held for use in common, that in style and finish is far superior to what any of the contributors to this common work can have themselves.

FARMER JOHN.

Communications.

**BRO. COBB.**—In my ignorance or simplicity supposing that the Order of Patrons of Husbandry was organized and sent forth into the world for or in the interest of the business of Agriculture, I have on looking around upon those who are prominent members of the Order, been surprised to see the lack of interest manifested by them in the advancement of their profession or calling. They meet week after week and month after month without the least apparent progress being made in the management of their farms or stock, and I find upon looking the field over, that the most successful farmers, and stock breeders are not the men prominent in the Order, but generally the reverse or at best but lay members. Now if my observations are correct, or nearly so, what is the remedy and how shall it be applied? First, ought we not to take a new departure and consider subjects more directly bearing upon our own business and leave the discussion of such subjects as co-operation, manufacturing, finances and merchandising to those having more time to attend to them, and strive to become better farmers and bring more intelligence into our own profession. Let us bring to bear a generous spirit of rivalry into our own business. Let us try and see who amongst us can produce the best crops, raise the best horses, cattle, sheep and swine. Let us make the experiments necessary to arrive at correct conclusions. Let us strive to blend scientific and practical farming so that the best results may be attained. Let us spend less time in finding fault with those of other occupations and more in informing ourselves with regard to our own. In our section of the country, in my judgment, a mixed system of agriculture is the only successful one. Should we all raise grain the markets would be overstocked and the price so low that it would not pay the cost of raising. Should we all raise cattle the market would be overstocked and we should have the cattle but no money. So with all other varieties of farm production. That being the case, is it not better, is it not a duty we owe to ourselves, to our families and our Order, that we take hold of this business of farming with more intelligence than heretofore, and strive to make the profession of Agriculture honorable by bringing to its aid a more enlightened intelligence and culture. "The world moves" and the time has long since passed away when ignorance can successfully compete with education and culture. The time has passed when the world thinks that all that is necessary to make a successful farmer is brawn and muscle. Brains rule the world. Cultivated active brains, win in the race of life, and who, more than the farmer needs their propelling powers, and who has more time if properly used than he to cultivate his mind and improve his talents. And now my Brother Patrons, if we as a class are left out in the cold or distanced in the race of life, the fault is our own, and the blame rests on our own shoulders and at our own doors. Let the farmers of the State fit themselves by study and thorough training for the responsible duties of life, and they will be called to the front; they have the opportunity if they desire, and success or failure lies with them.

Now a single word in regard to one of the agencies that we have at hand (and use so little) which should be a power for good, and which would be if farmers would only use it, and that is our *County Agricultural Society*, which as its name imports, is a farmers institution, gotten up expressly for their benefit and improvement, yet how few look at it in this light. They come to the fair and bring their families to see and to be seen, and make of it a mere social matter. Now the paramount object should be, with each farmer in the land, to go there and be benefited thereby, which he cannot be if he goes there as a visitor only; he should be at the same time an exhibitor, bringing in his horse, his colt, his calf or cow or steer, his sheep or swine, and then can there compare with his neighbor, and then can see and judge intelligently with regard to the

respective merits or qualities of his own *crow* as compared with his neighbors, and I am satisfied that any man desirous of improvement will be aided in so doing. A single word and I will close. Every farmer should recollect and chalk it down where he can see it often, that the County Agricultural Society is a farmers institution, and it will be just what they themselves make it. It does not belong to the President, the Secretary, or the Executive Committee. They are simply the agents appointed by yourselves to put the thing in ship shape, and see that the proper arrangements are perfected to make it convenient for your comfort and safe for your stock, implements and products, and I tell you brother farmers, it is no small tax on a mans time to take either of the Official positions in the Society. So let us like reasonable men and women bring on our stock, products of the farm and the house, and strive by generous rivalry to improve ourselves and thereby bring down blessing on our heads.

J. M. NEASMITH.

Vicksburg, Sept. 15th, 1877.

CLIMAX, September 5, 1877.

**BRO. J. T. COBB.**—Our Grange continues to show a good healthy growth, both in numbers and interest. At our last meeting, after conferring the first degree on a candidate, we had a discussion on noxious weeds, and how to eradicate them. The discussion was opened by Worthy Lecturer, J. D. Adams, who narrated the result of his observations during a recent trip to Western New York, where he found all the farmers in the vicinity of his old home completely overrun with Canada thistles, red-root, St. Johnsroot, daisies, and other pests. He called the attention of the Grange to the fact that all these vile weeds have made their appearance in this and the neighboring counties, and urged prompt, energetic action to destroy them before they become too numerous to be overcome. An animated discussion of the various ways and means for their destruction followed, which was participated in by Brothers J. A. Eldred, L. S. Eldred, J. Q. Adams, L. Brown, Wm. Tobey, the Master and others, and at the close it was resolved to wage relentless war on all these pestiferous weeds.

A number of the members of our Grange attended the Union pic nic of the Patrons of Husbandry and the Sovereigns of Industry, at Gogneau Lake on the 16th ult. The meeting was addressed by Capt. H. H. Brown, on the subject of "Labors lesson from the riot," and by Hon. George Willard, who advocated an inflation of the currency.

The former began by deprecating any resort to violence and rioting, and ended by advocating an unlimited issue of greenbacks, and urging the working men "if you are going to hang any body begin with the Secretary of the Treasury, John Sherman." In the course of his speech he made a sweeping attack on our whole school system, declaring that the schools were disseminating a false education—teaching that manual labor is dishonorable and degrading.—He quoted and endorsed as true in fact, the squib of the Danbury News, "that in order to keep the boys on the farm, it must be walled in, lighted with gas, and furnished with billiard tables," and that other one from the Burlington Hawkeye, "that the way to keep a boy on a farm is to pin him there with a stake down through him." He made special reference to our Agricultural College, stating that their students and graduates were not found on the farms, or among the ranks of laboring men. Now, as a graduate of our common school, and of the Michigan Agricultural College, as well as a laboring man and a Patron, I cannot permit such a wholesale calumny on our schools and their graduates, to pass without a protest. It is

not true, and H. H. Brown, if he knows anything about it, knows that it is not true, that our schools, any of them, teach that any kind of honest labor is degrading or dishonorable. On the contrary, they clearly, distinctly, and unremittingly teach the very opposite. No theme is more persistently taught than that of the dignity and nobility of labor. Neither is the assertion true that the Graduates of our Agricultural Colleges are not to be found upon the farms. On the contrary, by far the greater proportion of them may be found just there. And I disparage no one, when I say that there is not to be found on the face of the Globe to-day, a more thrifty, earnest, intelligent class of young farmers than I can point out to you as the graduates of the Michigan Agricultural College. Such men as Tracy, Reynolds, Hollister, Gully, Height, Jewell, Garfield, Ingersoll and scores of others I could mention, graduates of that school, are not only successful farmers, but are the peers and more than the peers of the Captain who goes about the country calumniating them. I don't wonder that the Captain in the close of his speech wandered about the crowd most uncommonly anxious to know where the pay for his speech was coming from. I suppose that is the way he gets his living.

F. HODGMAN.

—One Grange in Putnam County, Ohio, at Gilboy, has a hall that cost them \$6,000, built of brick. This is an evidence of the permanency of our Order, and the firm conviction of most of our members that it has come to stay.

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