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J. J. WOODMAN,  
J. T. COBB,  
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For Grange Supply, kept by the Secretary, see "List or Supply" on eighth page.

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LADY ASSISTANT SECRETARY—MISS CARRIE A. HALL, Solon, Ill.

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For explanation as to changes in size of Visitor, see Secretary's Department.

Under existing regulations we are required to send a copy free to the Master of each Subscriber's Grange. We shall also send a copy free to all Secretaries who send us ten or more names of subscribers for one year, with pay for the same.

We cannot longer furnish it free to those who do not work for it. We must have something for something.

On the contrary, if my argument is good for anything, I have been showing that we have already had too much of that, and what we now want is its correction. It would be well to have all the interests, all the industries of the country represented in the law-making bodies, and then we may be sure that all will be well and justly considered.

As matters are managed, the productive interests of our country are made to bear too great a share of the taxes. I believe it will continue to be so until the men engaged in these industries give their attention to making legislation with direct reference to adjusting the laws governing assessments in such manner that all property of every kind shall be taxed in its just share of taxes, and such a legislature will never be made of men who add nothing to the wealth of the country.

The farmers of Illinois, opposed to the Grange, organized Farmers' Associations and admitted to membership all who had no real sympathy with our reform, or with any of the objects for which our association was organized. These men disregarded the principles of the association and nominated men who would repudiate the principles, or were silent upon those labor associations admitted parties not in sympathy with the cause, or who failed to accomplish was defeated. We have the same danger to guard against. Without the Grange there is our only safe guard. If we have the moral courage to use it, when a doubtful candidate applies for admission, we are safe.

The Worthy Master of the Louisiana State Grange speaking of the subordinate Granges sending letters to the Grange papers says:—

"Sincerely wish that the granges would adopt this plan of letting the reports of the schools and their prospects and plans for the future be encouraging to hear that some Granges are engaged in earnest work and are making their influence felt for good. It is also important to hear the complaints of those who have grievances to be known, and if possible corrected. Don't have the least fear of "pitching a fit" the officers of the State Grange. They are the servants of the Order, and are always glad to be removed from the neglected or overlooked on their part."

"The next number will contain not only the report of the Executive Committee of the State Grange, others matters of interest to the Order."
The organization of Subordinate Granges began in the close of the year 1872, and this State Grange was organized April 15, 1873, and this order yet has passed into history, and the Order yet remains strong and prosperous. The doubts and misgivings which many entertained in regard to its perpetuity have been dispelled, and the beautiful Grange Halls which dot almost every portion of the State, are built on the plan of business, co-operative stores, means provided for, and success of, practical co-operative Subordinate Granges, the success which has attended our State and local business agencies, the intimate and satisfactory business relations which have been established, will continue to represent them; but to make radical changes in the constitution and laws of the Order, to gratify the wishes of a few, who term conclusions without duly considering the effects of the changes asked for, may destroy every vestige of harmony in laws and work of the Order, and weaken, it not destroy the efficiency of the organization.

I will call your attention to a few subjects, which in my judgment are worthy of your consideration; and to principles to guide you in your decisions. First, it becomes a matter of Purposes of the Order, adopted by the National Grange, and published in the world.

So wise and just are the objects of the Order, so noble, that no opposer of the Organization has ever had an opportunity to criticize them. The opposition we have encountered, has been more the result of imagination than reality, and must cease when our principles and purposes shall be fully understood.

WILLIAM PATTON.

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and the perpetuity of our republican institutions, depend upon the general prosperity of the people; and when a policy shall be inaugurated which will so stimulate the political economy should be subjected to the same, the current prices of all commodities, more than fifty per cent attributed to the condition of these Granges, and the industrial interests, yet we are opposed to the "tyranny of monopolies," and shall labor with all the influence of the organization against the antagonism between labor and capital, by common consent, and an understanding of the wants of the community worthy of the nineteenth century.

The government is elast with vigor, and the influence and the Order more perceptible, than in the early days of its existence. All the benefits accruing from the walking of the states, and the creation of the states, and the country, have been derived from the amalgamation of all classes, and the strength and success of the Granges.

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Protection to Wool Growers.

I have received a letter from a member of Congress from this State, informing me that a bill is now introduced into Congress to repeal the tariff upon wool; and that it is feared that it will pass, unless the farmers who are opposed to it, will take immediate action against it. I recommend that every Subordinate Grange in the State take care to see this letter in the Order's newspaper, and obtain the name of every farmer within its jurisdiction to a resolution to adopt it in the next Grand Lodge, and forward the same to their member in Congress.

In this, the following form of petition, which can be used for this purpose, with such alterations as may be deemed advisable:

**To Michigan Senators and Representatives in Congress.**

We, the undersigned farmers and wool growers of Michigan, learning that a bill has been brought forward in Congress to repeal, or reduce the duties on wool imported into this country, and believing that such action would not only be detrimental to the best interests of the community, but would prevent the growth of the industry, and thereby prevent the furnishing of a proper food supply for the people of the United States, and at the same time add to the value of the wool produced in this State, request you to use your best efforts to prevent such action.

**BLANKS**

Blanks that are sent from this office upon application are:

- Weekly Reports of Secretaries of Subordinate Granges
- Blank Monthly Reports of Secretaries of Patron Granges
- Blank Certificates of Membership in Patron Granges
- Blank Report of Secretary and Treasurer
- Blank Application of Soak Granges
- Blank Certificates of Election to County Convention
- Blank Certificates of Representatives elected to the State Grand
- Blank Constitution
- Blank Certificate of Charter
- Blank Quarterly Reports of Secretaries of Pomona Granges
- Blank Certificate of Incorporation

**Secretary's Annual Report.**

**Worthy Master and Patron:***

With the return of another season of the Order, it is with pleasure I report the following facts to the members of the Order; that I submit a report of the business transacted in the Secretary's office during the fiscal year of 1876.

While the business of the supply Department has fallen off very materially, the correspondence required of the office has not diminished, this with the increased circulation of the Visitor, have demanded and received my undivided attention.

I have for the years of the Report of the Ex. Committee, the profits on stock and halls have been returned to the resources of the State Grange.

As the Ex. Committee have collected all the facts as to the receipts and disbursements of the Secretary's office and incorporated the same in their Report, it is quite unnecessary for me to go over the same ground.

In the matter of collections and set-offs, the balance of the stocks with Subordinate Granges are in a better condition than any year, and the amount of money due to the Secretary will be the same as in any year.

In all cases of this kind the "Good of the Order" seemed to demand this remission of dues and no action under the name of "Good of the Order" is the vital principle by which under constitutional restrictions our official acts should be regulated and controlled, I think no one will take exception to the course adopted.

I have received official notice of the organization of five Subordinate Granges in Michigan this year, and in the County of Wexford, by special Dep. J. T. Cobb, and in both Wisconsin and Illinois, by special Dep. O. J. Whitaker, in Iowa, and the other in the East, and I have all paid their dues to the State Grange with commendable promptness.

A review of the accounts of the Subordinate Granges as shown in my Books, shows that of the 614 Granges that have been organized in Michigan, the total for the fiscal year, Nov. 30th, 1876, Reports have been received from 285 in full, 119 were deficient in one or more reports, reports for one season for 41 were for four quarters, 35 for three quarters, 23 for two quarters, 10 for one quarter, and there were 270 that have not sent in any reports, or are in a dormant condition, and the remaining 25 have been connected with neighboring Organisations. We can with reasonable certainty expect that nearly all these will be received, and that if not, we shall have an avenue open to us to appeal to their local Constituencies.

We therefore, "in justice, fairness, and right, do hereby appeal to the entire membership of the Order, to support the principles of this Order, and to take every possible measure to strengthen them, so that we may have a large and growing membership in every part of the State, that the Order may go on from strength to strength, in numbers and influence. Unsuccessful enterprises undertaken merely to gratify the prejudices of some one man, and by which the Order can do little or no good, and which are calculated to lose the Order the favor and confidence of the people, we should therefore, "make haste slowly," that our growth may be more permanent and enduring.

**PLASTER.**

It will be remembered that your Secretary, by direction of the Executive Committee, sent to the several Granges of the State in September, a blank order for the purchase of plaster, on which nature of a contract with Messrs. Day & Taylor of Grandville by which the Order agreed to accept ten per cent off all orders to a ton on board car at the mill of Day & Taylor, and those orders when received, were to be forwarded to any member of the Order. Day & Taylor were to forward plaster on all orders under seal in sealed packages, and pay the expenses of transportation at the address as given to the Secretary in the directions accompanying the order.

The plan adopted was carried out and the result was that orders amounted to 5,891 tons. The amount sold and delivered to Patrons and others, and shipped by Day & Taylor on orders sent to them direct, was not included in this statement, but when added made their total sales over 7,000 tons. By the arrangement, I was to make collections for those orders, and apply 25 per cent of the amount of collections to the payment of a provisional Executive Committee to H. O. Weston, for his services in attending the Grange of this Office.

Though our Organization was not primarily designed by its founders to operate in the commercial and manufacturing interests of the Order, yet, as a matter of principle, we desire improvement, no school or society has ever furnished to the country so many useful and able men as the Order, who by their qualifications have made the business a success. It has proved a wonderful bond of strength, union and growth to the Order.

In proof of this, I cite the conditions in which the Grange of Alleghany County, Pa., was received into the Order on the 30th day of July, 1876, by the Order in this State, the aggregate value at the mill of the plaster shipped on orders forwarded by us, was over $47,000, which with collections for all other businesses and other orders, amounted to over $53,091. In this case, the collections from the patrons amounted to nearly $18,000, and the members of the Order were benefited in the amount of $8,530.17. In two or three collections that sum was paid, and the members of the Order were benefited to the amount of $8,530.17. Our position was not improved, but the members of the Order were benefited, due to the large number of orders that were received, and the large sums that were paid. We have not been able to do this in the case of the other mills, but eight accounts which were wholly or in part unpaid, amounting in all to $8,530.17.

**Very little if any of this will be lost.**

I venture to say to the credit of the Order, that the amount of our business, even covering such a large number of accounts, was never before collected in the State of Michigan.

In behalf of brothers Day & Taylor, it affords me pleasure to say that in our business, we have never had any experience in the treatment of every case of complaint we have received from our patrons, but that we have been in the habit of giving them every convenience, and endeavoring to do the best we can under all circumstances. I believe they have not received adequate justice in the treatment of every case of complaint, but I believe that they have been as fair to the Order as is consistent with the amount of business that has been done.

The Grange Visitor, Jan. 1, 1877.