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BY THE EXECUTIVE

COMMITTEE OF THE

Michigan State

Grange, P. of H.



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J. T. COBB, - - - - - Manager.

To whom all communications should be addressed, at Schoolcraft, Mich.

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To Contributors.

As the VISITOR now bears date the 1st and 15th of each month, to insure insertion in the next issue, Communications must be received by the 10th and 25th of each month. We invite attention to those interested to our new Heading "TO CORRESPONDENTS."

RATES OF ADVERTISING:

Acceptable advertisements inserted at the rate of \$2.00 per square, for each insertion.
A Liberal discount will be made on standing advertisements of three months or more.

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

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UNDER existing regulations we are required to send a copy of the VISITOR free to the Master of each Subordinate 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.

Exec'v Com. Department.

Why Plant an Orchard, and How to Cultivate It.

YPSILANTI, March 22d, 1878.

Brother Cobb:

Having read, with interest, an essay upon "Orchard Culture and Pruning," in the VISITOR of March 15th, I thought it might not be amiss to add a few further suggestions upon this very interesting, as well as important subject.

The first reason I would give, why it is best to plant an orchard is, that one so cultivated and cared for as to be worthy the name of "An Orchard" will add greatly to the beauty of our rural homes. With the trees carefully set in rows, perfectly straight, growing vigorously, with bodies erect and tops nicely, and as far as possible, uniformly shaped, nothing upon the farm presents a feature of greater beauty, either in spring, when full of bloom, lading the air with fragrance; in summer, in all the grandeur of a luxuriant growth, or in autumn when the branches gracefully bend beneath their burden of delicious fruit.

But an orchard becomes a thing of beauty only under the hand of him who takes a lively interest in its culture, and who plants, prunes, and cultivates with care, and is guided by an intelligent idea of what he desires to accomplish, and how to attain it. When such are the facts in the case, there is no labor connected with farm life more interesting.

The first, and very important step in the enterprise, is to select the best locality upon the farm for the orchard. Where the land is rolling, it should not be placed in the valleys where the air is stillest, densest, and coldest, but upon the higher lands where the circulation will be free and the temperature higher. But in both rolling and level localities it is desirable to have the force of the winds partially broken, especially upon the west and south-west, either by selecting a locality protected by forest, or by setting on those sides of the orchard a thick row of forest trees. But in case of forest protection, it is desirable that there should be a distance of at least twenty-five rods or more between the forest and the orchard.

In preparing the ground for setting an orchard, it should be tilled at least one year before setting, and a heavy coat of manure turned under just as deep as possible. The ground thus loosened and fertilized deeply, the lateral roots of the trees will run deeper, consequently, the orchard can afterwards be plowed at a moderate depth with less liability to injure the roots.

Next, when shall we plant? In answer I would say, the fall would be a good time if we were sure the succeeding winter would be a mild one, but all things considered, I prefer the spring.

Where to obtain the trees, is a matter of a good deal of importance. In

the first place, I would say, get them where you can obtain good *thrifty, healthy* trees; for none others are worth setting. Next, get them of dealers or nurserymen of known responsibility and integrity. For in setting an orchard for a life time, we cannot afford to be deceived as to varieties. We have quite a number of such nurserymen and dealers in our State. In some of the years past the nursery stock of our state was injured and rendered unhealthy by the hard winters, yet I believe that at the present time there are no better or healthier trees to be found in any State than we have in Michigan. And believing such to be the case, I think that the nearer home we get trees the better, and if possible, I would go *myself* to the nursery for them. And then I would be all ready to plant them, if possible, before I went for them.

What varieties shall we plant? In reply I would say: if you are setting an orchard for your own family use, get a few trees of all the most approved summer, fall, and winter varieties. By this means your fruit dish need scarcely be empty any time in the year. But if you are planting an orchard for profit, and for the market, I would not set out more than four or five varieties, and those the very best; such as the Greening, Baldwin, Canada Red, Northern Spy, and Golden Russet. I have become satisfied that it is better to plant apple trees (except some few varieties) not less than 30 or 40 feet apart each way, for the reason that such space gives the tree a chance to become a much larger tree than if they were set nearer together—they can be cultivated among, much longer without serious inconvenience; and also when trees thus planted come to be 20 years old and more, we can, without difficulty, get about among them with team and wagon and draw off the fruit.

I prefer heading an orchard low, and cultivating it, plowing shallow and turning under the manure, until trees become so large that it cannot be done conveniently, after which I would top dress, as the next best way. I think it does no harm to crop an orchard, especially with hoed crops, if we manure them sufficiently to feed both the trees and the crop. All plowing and cultivating of the orchard should be done before the 1st of August, so that the spring and summer growth can have an opportunity to ripen up before winter. There is no excuse for having leaning trees in the orchard—a very little care for a few of the first years will prevent it; and then with bodies erect and headed low, there will be found very few trees dead upon the west and south-west side, as is the case with a large proportion of the leaning ones, especially if headed pretty high.

In regard to pruning, I would say: Commence from the first to shape the top according to your idea, and prune *every year*, thereby avoiding, as far as possible the necessity of ever cut-

ting off anything but small limbs, unless in case a limb has become broken or dead. One word in regard to gathering and marketing the fruit. The utmost care should be taken not to injure, either that or the tree. After being thus carefully taken from the trees, the apples should be equally carefully sorted and packed in barrels and headed up *in the orchard*. I think the reputation of Michigan apples, for keeping, has been injured by so large a proportion of those being drawn to market in lumber wagons loose, which cannot fail to bruise them more or less, thereby injuring them for long keeping.

J. WEBSTER CHILDS.

The Enlargement of our New Capital, or Agriculture in the Basement.

We have just learned that the rooms in the new capital have been assigned by the "authorities" to their several occupants or to their several purposes. We are accustomed to hear from all quarters in rather a boastful spirit, that Michigan has erected a fine capital, at a reasonable cost. But it seems that somebody was too penurious in making the building so small. Already there are not rooms enough for the several demands on the building. At the first session of the legislature in the new quarters, very likely there must be a demand for an addition.

We have a State Agricultural Society which, in many respects, is the pride of our State. A year or more ago, the officers of this society made application for some rooms in the new capital. We have a thriving State Pomological Society, second to none in the United States for its enthusiasm and good works. This society also made early request for quarters in the capital. The State Board of Agriculture made a similar request.

It has long been the cherished plan of some of those most interested in agriculture, to have suitable rooms in the new capital in which to exhibit and preserve some specimens of insects, seeds, models of prints, collections of reports, and innumerable other things, which are interesting and important to the farmers of our State—to every citizen of Michigan, or any other State or country. But the only available (?) rooms for such purposes are in the basement, reached by descending beneath the steps to the main entrance. To be sure, there are three or four rooms, and these are said to be very good. The nearest surroundings are a privy and water-closet, several packing-rooms for other departments, an armory, etc. The rooms are in a position not to be seen by visitors.

Is this an index of the position occupied by Agriculture in Michigan? Will the farmers quietly submit to this arrangement? In the name of the Ceres, Pomona, and Flora, we call upon all who are interested, to act in this matter. Take hold at once.—

Speak, speak loud—speak sharp and quick. Let every Grange and farmers' club, and agricultural society in our State be heard in tones which can not be mistaken, Yours,
W. J. BEAL.

Master's Department.

J. J. WOODMAN, P. A. W. PAW PAW

Digest.

The following are the rulings and decisions contained in the Digest recently revised and published by the National Grange: Preserve these numbers for future reference:

CHAPTER V.

JUDICIARY OF THE GRANGE.

- SEC. 1. Of the Courts of the Grange, and their Jurisdiction.
SEC. 2. Of Offences and Charges.
SEC. 3. Of Trials and Punishments.
SEC. 4. Of Appeals.

SECTION I.

OF THE COURTS OF THE GRANGE AND THEIR JURISDICTION.

1 The judicial power of the Grange is vested in the following tribunals:

- First—The Master;
Second—The Executive Committee;
Third—The Body of the Grange;
Fourth—The Court of Appeals;
Fifth—The Seventh Degree.

2 The Master has jurisdiction of all questions of "Law and Usage."—[By-laws, art. iii.]

3 The Master of the National Grange, with the Executive Committee, has jurisdiction of the conduct of the officers of the National Grange.—[Cons. art. xii.]

4 The Master of the State Grange has jurisdiction of order and administration of Subordinate Granges within his State.—[By-laws, art. xvii, sec. 1.]

5 The Master of the State Grange has jurisdiction of the conduct of the Masters of Subordinate Granges.—[Dec. 105.]

6 The Master of the State Grange, with the Executive Committee, has jurisdiction of the officers of the State Grange in the interval between the sessions of the State Grange.—[Dec. 104.]

7 The Executive Committee of the National Grange in conjunction with the Master, has jurisdiction of the conduct of the officers of the National Grange.—[Cons., art. xii.]

8 The Executive Committee of a State Grange, at the request of the Master, may hear cases of charges against a member of a State Grange, in the intervals between the meetings of the State Grange, and their decision is binding until reversed by the State Grange.—[Proceedings 8th Ses., pp. 91 and 142.]

9 When the laws of a State Grange are in any respect deficient, and do not specifically provide for emergencies which may arise in the administration of its affairs, then, in the intervals between the meetings of the State Grange, the Master and Executive Committee are the highest executive and administrative officers, and are clothed with authority to do all acts necessary for the maintenance of law and order and for the good of the Order in the State, and make such rules and create such tribunals as the exigencies of the case may demand; provided, that in so doing they do not transgress the written laws of the Order or the enactments or orders of the State Grange.—[Decision Court of Appeals, Pro. 10th Ses., p. 165.]

10 The Executive Committee of the State Grange, in conjunction with the Master has jurisdiction of the conduct of officers of the State Grange, in the intervals between the sessions of the State Grange.—[Decision 104.]

11 Each Grange has jurisdiction of causes involving the conduct and standing of its members.—[By-laws, art. xviii.]

12 Each Subordinate Grange has jurisdiction of the officers thereof, except the Master and his wife.—[Dec. 104.]

13 The Grange within whose jurisdiction a dimitted member resides, may try him for a violation of the rules of the Order.—[Pro. 8th Ses., ps. 91 and 143.]

14 The Court of Appeals is composed of three non-voting members of the National Grange appointed by the Master thereof. It possesses appellate jurisdiction of all causes that may be brought by appeal from the State Grange.—[By-laws, art. iv, sec. 2.]

15 The Court of Appeals can only re-

view the evidence upon which the action of the Court below had been based, and it could not permit the introduction of new evidence which had not been produced before the lower court.—[Dec. Court of Appeals, Pro. 10th Ses., p. 167.]

16 The Court of Appeals may decide upon the application of law to cases where the facts involved were agreed upon by both parties, and about which there was no controversy.—[Dec. Court of Appeals, Pro. 10th Ses., p. 167.]

17 The Seventh Degree is a Court of Impeachment for the trial of offences of the officers of the National Grange.—[Preamble to Constitution.]

SECTION II.

OF OFFENCES AND CHARGES.

1 If a member commits an offense against the Order or any member thereof, charges may be preferred against him by any member of his Grange, and after a fair trial, if found guilty, he may be suspended or expelled by a majority vote.—[Decis. 98.]

2 A member can not be tried for acts done before he became a member. The proper time to pass upon such acts is at his election to membership.—[Dec. 99.]

3 When charges have been preferred against a Patron in due form, the Grange can not, by vote, order such charges dropped or the consideration of them indefinitely postponed.—[Dec. C. of A., Pro. 9th Ses., p. 203.]

4 Any member in good standing may prefer charges before the State Grange, against the Master of his Grange.—[Pro. 8th Ses. ps. 91 and 142.]

5 If the Master of a Subordinate Grange refuses to obey the By-laws of his Grange, or his conduct is prejudicial to the good of the Order, the Grange may present the fact to the Master of the State Grange, who after full investigation, may suspend the offending Master until the meeting of the State Grange.—[Decision 105.]

6 The Master has no right to initiate an ineligible candidate and would be so doing render himself liable to expulsion for having violated the laws he was obligated to enforce and obey.—[Dec. 70.]

7 When any officer (except the Master) fails or refuses to properly perform the duties of his office, he may be suspended or removed, after a fair trial, by vote of the Grange.—[Decision 107.]

8 To buy through the Grange and sell to non-members at a profit is using the Order in a speculative way wholly unwarrantable.—[Decision 54.]

9 The non-payment of dues is an offence for which a member may be suspended.—[Decision 37.]

10 A member who knowingly signs the application of a person under the required age or otherwise disqualified, for membership, thereby violates his obligation and invites the penalty.—[Decision 55.]

When an applicant for membership who has been duly elected, has borrowed the money of a member of the Grange to pay the membership fee and neglects and declines to repay the same, although able to do so, he should be expelled.—[Pro. 8th Ses., ps. 91 and 144.]

SECTION III.

OF TRIALS AND PUNISHMENTS.

1 State Granges may prescribe regulations for the trial of causes within their respective jurisdictions.—[By-laws, art. xviii.]

2 In all cases the accused has the right to be confronted with and to cross-examine all witnesses against him. The testimony of those not members of the Order is admissible.—[Decision 101.]

3 A member has a right to a fair and impartial trial; but the claim that he has a right to at least one adjournment for good cause does not seem to have been established by our laws and usages as compulsory upon a Subordinate Grange.—[Dec. C. of Appeals, Pro. 10th Ses., p. 164.]

4 The fact that a witness is under fourteen years of age does not necessarily invalidate the testimony.—[Dec. C. of Appeals, Pro. 9th Ses., p. 202.]

5 Every member of a Subordinate Grange, except the Master and his wife, must be tried in the Subordinate Grange. Every voting member and officer of the National Grange must be tried in the National Grange.—[By-laws, art. xviii, Pro. 10th Ses., p. 118, Dec. 102.]

6 Masters of Subordinate, County, or District Granges, and their wives who are Matrons, shall be tried only in the State Grange; Masters of State Granges and their wives who are Matrons, shall be tried only in the National Grange.—[Dec. 103, Pro. 10 Ses., p. 118.]

7 A vote on each specification is un-

necessary and improper, and a vote on the charges is sufficient.—[Dec. Court of Appeals, Pro. 9th Session, p. 202.]

8 A vote of "Guilty" does not carry with it the grade of punishment; but the Subordinate Grange should by vote decide upon the grade of punishment.—[Dec. Court of Appeals, Pro. 9th Ses., p. 202.]

9 No member can be sentenced for the commission of any crime before he is convicted, and a vote of the Grange not to accuit is most certainly not a vote of "Guilty," and on this ground alone the sentence of expulsion would be void.—[Dec. C. of Appeals, pro. 10th Ses., p. 164.]

10 Expulsion is the severest penalty known to our laws, and should be inflicted only for the most grave offences.—[Decis. C. of Apps., Pro. 10 Ses., p. 165.]

11 Every sentence of suspension or expulsion of a member should be immediately reported by the Secretary to the Secretary of the State Grange, and to all the neighboring Granges; and upon his removal, the Granges near his new residence should be notified in order that they may not be imposed upon.—[Decision 88.]

SECTION IV.

OF APPEALS.

1 A member of a Subordinate Grange who has been tried by his Grange has the right to appeal to the State Grange.—[Decision 100, By-laws, art. xviii.]

2 Should a member feel that he receives unfair treatment at a trial in his absence, he can receive the fair and impartial trial guaranteed him by appeal to a higher tribunal.—[Decis. C. of A., Pro. 10th Ses., p. 164.]

3 A member of a Subordinate Grange may appeal from its decision to the State Grange.—[Dec. C. of A., Pro. 8th Ses., p. 144, By-laws, art. xviii.]

4 A State Grange has a right to try a case on appeal on its merits, and is not confined to merely deciding errors of law in the Subordinate Granges.—[Dec. C. of Appeals, Pro. 10th Ses., p. 165.]

5 The State Grange may set aside the decision of a Subordinate Grange and grant a new trial on account of irregularities in the trial. The case should then be remanded to the Subordinate Grange for a new trial.—[Dec. Court of Appeals, Pro. 8th Ses., p. 144.]

6 A State Grange can not order a new trial by a tribunal unknown to the Constitution or Laws of the Order.—[Dec. C. of Appeals, Pro. 8th Ses. p. 144.]

7 A State Grange should not interfere with the discipline or action of a Subordinate Grange unless there was manifest injustice in its action, or some irregularity which worked injustice.—[Dec. C. of Appeals, Pro. 9th Ses., p. 202.]

8 An officer of the National Grange, who has been suspended from office by the Master and Executive Committee, may appeal to the next Session of the National Grange.—[Const. art. xii.]

9 Members of the State Grange are allowed the right of appeal from the decision of their State Grange to the Court of Appeals.—[By-laws, art. xviii.]

10 Officers of the State Grange who may have been suspended from office by the Master and Executive Committee of the State Grange in the interval between the session thereof may appeal to the State Grange.—[Decision 104.]

11 An appeal may be taken from the decision of the Master of the Subordinate Grange upon a question of law and usage, to the Master of the State Grange; and in the same way, an appeal may be taken from a decision of the Master of the State Grange to the Master of the National Grange.—[By-laws, article iii, secs. 1 and 2.]

12 Granges whose charters have been revoked by the Master of the State Grange, may appeal to the National Grange at its next session.—[By-laws, art. xvii, sec. 2.]

13. When a Subordinate Grange overrules the decision of the Master upon a question of Constitutional law, the Master should appeal to the Master of the State Grange, and, if necessary, to the Master and Executive Committee of the National Grange, and no further action in the premises should be allowed until the appeal has been decided.—[Pro. 8th Session, p. 144.]

14 If a Grange wrongfully withholds or refuses to grant a dimit, the aggrieved member may appeal to the Master.—[Decision 62.]

CHAPTER VI.

OF THE BUSINESS FEATURES OF THE ORDER.

1 The National Grange recommended to Patrons the system of Co-operation reported by the Executive Committee.

—[Digest, p. 30. Pro. 9th Ses., ps. 93 and 131.]

2 The National Grange recommend that each State Grange appoints, through its proper authority, one general business agent, who shall be a member of our Order. Such Agent shall give such a bond as his State Grange or its Executive Committee may deem necessary to cover all liabilities, and shall make such terms and negotiations for the Patrons of his State as the interests of the Order demand, under the direction and supervision of the proper authority of his State Grange. Said agent shall exchange confidential price-lists with the business agents of other States at least once a month, together with a statement of the best freight rates obtainable, as near as practicable, and shall buy and sell, or cause to be bought and sold, for the Patrons of other States on the same terms as for his own.—[Proceedings 9th Session, p. 141.]

3 The National Grange recommend that the Executive Committee of the several States adopt a uniform system of State agencies to meet the present wants of the Order.—[Pro. 10th Session, p. 172.]

4 The National Grange recommend to our members who are specially interested in the tobacco product, and the wool product, or indeed any other product, that they themselves form associations on the co-operative principle, and select the centre where they wish to concentrate their trade, choose their own officers and managers, make their own rules and regulations as nearly in conformity with the plan of co-operation adopted by the National Grange at this session as possible, for, bear in mind, the principles of co-operation are as well adapted to the commission business as to the wholesale or retail business.—[Proceedings 10th Ses., p. 154.]

5 No officers of the National Grange other than the Executive Committee shall endorse or recommend business agents.—[Pro. 8th Ses., p. 98.]

6 The Executive Committee of the National Grange will not be considered justifiable in recommending or publishing in any printed circular or private matter sent out to Subordinate Granges the name of any individual or firm as agent for the Order unless such individual shall be under sufficient bonds to secure the members of the Order from a probability of loss.—[Pro. 8th Ses., p. 98.]

7 The National Grange should not be held responsible for losses sustained by members of the Order in their business transactions with any person or firm.—[Pro. 10th Ses., p. 101.]

8 It is a violation of the good faith of our Order for any member to divulge to those not members any confidential business arrangement made by agents or our representatives, and any member thus violating faith shall be deemed guilty of conduct prejudicial to the interests of the Order, and called to account by the proper authorities having jurisdiction in such case; and upon conviction of guilt, established by proof, such offender shall be suspended or expelled from all the privileges of the Order.—[Pro. 9th Ses., p. 163.]

9 A moral obligation rests upon each member of this Order to observe with scrupulous care and fidelity all business arrangements or contracts. For members of the Order (when officers or agents have in good faith made business arrangements for the benefit of the fraternity) to use the advantageous terms offered by merchants and manufacturers, simply to get better terms of dealers in place of carrying out in good faith contracts made by competent authority, is a violation of good faith, and unworthy of a good Patron.—[Pro. 10th Ses., p. 92.]

10 Granges may employ persons who are not members of the Order as business agents.—[Dec. 21.]

11 To buy through the Grange and sell to non-members at a profit is using the Order in a speculative way wholly unwarrantable.—[Dec. 54.]

12 The Executive Committee or other agents with whom is entrusted the business affairs of the Order shall withhold the names of the manufacturer or business house from all circulars containing price-lists that may be issued from their several offices; but price-lists containing the name of a manufacturer or business house may be sent to Masters of State Granges and their appointed business agents, and to no other person.—[Pro. 8th Ses., p. 70.]

13 The Executive Committee of the National Grange is instructed to give especial attention to furnishing Patrons with tools and implements for the cultivation of their farms, and all family and

farm supplies, at as low a price as a legitimate business profit will permit, and also to make arrangements by which a mutual exchange of products between different sections of the country may be made; and they are authorized to employ, if in their judgment it may be necessary, competent agents to aid them in the work. They are also instructed to devise some safe plan for co-operative stores, for the information of members of the Order, and transmit the same to the Executive Committees of the several State Granges.—[Pro. 7th Ses., p. 80.]

14 District Granges are specially charged with the business interests of the Order within their respective jurisdiction.—[Preamble to Constitution.]

15 Each State Grange is requested to appropriate a sufficient sum to enable the Executive Committee of their State to send to each meeting of the National Grange such specimens of their farm and mineral products as they may desire to exhibit at the meetings of the National Grange.—[Pro. 10th Ses., p. 161.]

Why Not ?

Why should not farmers represent farmers in our legislative and other representative bodies? An ex-Governor of Michigan while acting Governor, answered this question by saying that no one who has been a farmer for twenty years was fit for any office; and this view is undoubtedly held by many other professional men. They have an impression that any one who is contented to settle down to the drudgery of farm life for years, is lacking in the qualifications which would fit him for any office of importance. When we see farmers so apathetic as to their political rights, we can not wonder at their thinking so.

But it is really true that farmers lack, as a class, the qualifications which would fit them for legislators or other important offices? It may be true that from the isolation necessarily connected with their occupation and from the close and constant care their business requires, that they, as a class, lack the polish, urbanity, and readiness which is attained only by constant contact with others, and by the sharp competition in business which attends many of the other occupations. But polish is by no means an evidence of actual worth and ability. On the contrary it too often serves to cover internal meanness and worthlessness. The purest gold is found in nuggets, rough and unpolished, and bearing marks of the soil from which they were taken. Men of good, natural intellect, of sound common sense, and of good business capacity, are found as often among farmers as among any other class. If they lack the polish and urbanity of those in cities and towns, they are also untarnished by the corruption, intrigue, and dishonesty which so abound in cities. Nor is cultivated intellect entirely wanting among farmers. There are many followers of the plow who possess intellectual attainments of which any professional man might be proud.

Of the capability and fitness of farmers, as a class, to take care of their own political interests, no one can doubt who has attended the meetings of our State Grange, and witnessed the readiness, ease, and rapidity with which men, right from their farms where they had spent all their lives, handle the many important questions which come before that body, and the correctness with which they dispose of them. And no one could fail to be impressed by the earnest, stirring, and pointed eloquence of the speeches made there, remarkable not so much for the elegance and redundancy of words used, as for the evidently honest, heartfelt impulse that prompted them. There is but little speaking for Buncombe there. There were in our last State Grange, as many men as we have members of Congress from this

State who were fully equal, if not superior to them, in all the qualifications that make good statesmen, besides enough to fill all the State offices as ably as they are usually filled, and to furnish many average members of the legislature.

The great difficulty with our present system of politics is that it is made a profession, and unfortunately those who follow it, instead of being fair representatives of any class of good citizens, are too often dishonest, unprincipled, unscrupulous men, representatives of the very worst class of society, and ready to do any dirty, disreputable work that promises to advance their own interests. It is as strange as it is true, that the people will permit so many such to come to the surface and become uppermost, and attain to places of responsibility and honor.

Now, farmers and honest laboring men of all classes! the question is: Would it not be well to change the programme and elect honest men to office, even though they may not be so polished and smart?

Does any one believe that if our halls of Congress had been filled with good, honest farmers, or honest men of any class, that such shameful transactions as the Salary Grab, Credit Mobiler, and the thousand and one subsidies that have marked our Congressional legislation for the last few years, would have ever taken place? Or does any one believe that much of the reckless legislation in our own State, would have taken place if there had been a preponderance of farmers in the legislature and in the State offices? Even incapacity, if joined with sterling integrity, is preferable to rascality and venality.

I reiterate my question: Why should not farmers be represented by farmers? GEORGE PRAY.

WOODARD LAKE, April 6th, 1878.

To Make Your Children Like the Farm.

From an address by Prof. W. J. BEAL, before the Ingham Co. Grange, Feb. 27th, 1878:

It is very natural for parents to prefer that their children should follow the same business or profession that they themselves follow. This is likely to be true of shoemakers, merchants, millers, carpenters, &c., &c. Farmers are not exceptions to this rule.

Farming, when well conducted, is a good and pleasant business. If your sons and daughters do not like it there is almost always some good reason for their preference. I have often taken an interest in tracing out the reasons. They are likely to dislike farming because they are not pleased with the way in which the parents have managed it. In some cases the young person has a very decided inclination to some other business. If you wish to make your son like his business, place him in some responsible places, trust him, consult him about the work he is to do, let him do part of the thinking, give him nearly the sole care or responsibility of something on the farm, the fowls, the pigs and some of the other stock, some of the crops, or the garden, or part of it. Suppose he does not do everything just as you would, advise him. It is much better that he should fail while he is yet young and under your training, than to not try and fail till he goes into business for himself. By treating children in this way, they will take more interest in their work and be much more likely to succeed when they start for themselves. Do not make slaves of your children. Too many of our most prominent farmers who are called the most successful, send their children to work each day

as they would send an ignoramus, without any "ifs" or "ands" or reasons for so doing. For want of proper training in this respect many a young man has grown up without mental discipline. He has been able, without much help, in an incredible short space of time, to run through all that his strong-minded father left him. Twenty-five years ago I knew of such a man. His farm was called and known as perfection for a long distance around. He had a son, who is to-day living in sight of this old farm. He owns only a poor span of horses and is living from hand to mouth and a very poor living he gets at that. The fine estate slipped easily and rapidly from the hands of the son who had no skill to manage it, because he had never been placed in responsible positions while he was a boy. So too often, one generation makes money for the next to squander. In laying up comfortable fortunes for our children to waste, we are doing them an injury. Better by far to spend our time in giving them a proper discipline to manage well. Then, if they are healthy, in most cases, they need only a little start to make them well off in the goods of this world.

Ever since I can remember I have heard much of a kind of grumbling among farmers, which seems to have become chronic. Farmers complain because they pay more than their share of taxes, that they are not well represented in legislature or in congress. It is barely possible that some of you have heard of this thing before. We have nine lawyers in congress to-day and no farmer. Why is it? There are many good reasons. The farmers do not *push* enough. They are too modest. There are not as many as there ought to be who are well qualified to fill such places. They are too backward, too modest. They take back seats and look on.

This matter of political position, like everything else, very likely, levels itself up according to the strength of materials at hand. The farmers must sharpen up, they must and are learning to fight for their own rights. And they are gaining and will gain still more if they hang on and continue to work and to study. The training of the boys must be kept constantly in view. Look out for the boys, and the men will look out for themselves, as we say of cents and dollars, look out for the cents and the dollars will take care of themselves. If rightly managed at home, it will be well and safe to let them attend a winter's course at a good law school. It will not hurt them. It will prepare them the better to know their rights and then to maintain them. If rightly trained, there is not much danger that they will prefer law to farming.

Farming is a good business and will grow better as the farmers learn more. As our secretary Baird, said the other day, "there is no other business which will afford so good a living with so much neglect and poor management as farming."

I said farmers are learning to demanding their rights everywhere. In the Grange they are trying to do this. They did not begin soon enough. It is hard for old men to learn new ways. If they try a new course, they are likely, in time, not to succeed as they had expected. They weary in the attempt, and it is not strange if some get disgusted or indifferent and back slide.

But our best chance is to look out for the boys and girls, and see that they are properly brought into the harness. The old stagers will soon pass away, and the new men and women will come on and manage affairs. They must be better educated.

The Grange is what the members make it. It will be good or indifferent, successful or unsuccessful, just in proportion to the portion taken by a few of the members. To succeed needs skillful management and a persistent effort. Success will come in no other way. Too many begin without first counting the cost. They suppose the machinery will run itself, and in some mysterious way all would go smoothly on, carrying them who would not carry themselves.

Be Independent.

Selected from the Pomona Paper read before Oakland Pomona Grange, at Clarkston, February 19th, 1878. Mrs. E. A. Green, of Farmington Grange No. 267, editor.

There is nothing in this world that ensures success so completely as does perfect independence. People who are always waiting for help, may wait a long time. As a general thing, a little assistance, a little recommendation, a little influence, is not to be had for the asking; but there is always something one can do for himself. Do it, whatever it is, and do it with a will. One thing leads to another.

If you are a girl, don't sit still and hope a rich man will marry you, while your old father toils for your daily bread. Make dresses, or go into a shop; or, if you know how be a good servant, go into some one's kitchen. Good, honest pluck, and sensible independence, are a dower in themselves, and there are men who know it.

If your means place you beyond such need, be independent in another way. Learn how to help yourself, and take care of yourself as much as possible. Rather be one who does things for others, than one who must have things done for you or suffer. Two hands, two feet, sight, and strength—these ought to enable you to dispense with help while you are young and healthy. We like men who can defy adverse circumstances, and could earn a living in any quarter of the globe in which they were dropped down; who can roll up their sleeves and set to work at almost anything that offers, and who can even sew on their buttons and make themselves a cup of tea, when deprived of the help of womankind.

We like women who can do their own work when the servant girl goes off in a huff; who can wash a dress, or sweep the floor, if necessary; and who, if plunged into the depths of poverty, will fight their own way out of it, asking help of no man. Independence makes no woman less loving. The most helpful women are the fondest and truest; and as for a man, never trust him in any capacity if he has not the true spirit of independence, without which neither strength or sweetness may be hoped for.

In the battle of life there is but one way to succeed—fight it out yourself. Give the helping hand when you may; take it, if in some sore strait it is offered freely, but never wait for it. Be independent as far as man may be, if you would honor yourself, be honored by others, and be happy.

FOUNDED upon that inherent principle, implanted in every human breast—self-interest and self-protection; strengthened and supported by the strong tie of co-operation; purified of the selfishness and greed which make man a disgrace to his Creator, the Order of Patrons of Husbandry will flourish for all time—a constant teacher and helper to those within its gates and a power of good among the nations of the earth.

THE GRANGE VISITOR.

SCHOOLCRAFT, APRIL 15, 1878.

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 Applications for Certificate of Dimitt.
- Blank Plaster Orders.
- Blank Certificates of Incorporation.

THE VISITOR.

The circular of the Committee begins to bring returns—not in large numbers, but we get a few names every day—enough to make us hopeful that the work that we suppose is being done, will in a few days or weeks at most, place the continuance of the semi-monthly issue of the VISITOR beyond a doubt. Brothers and sisters do not relax your efforts to obtain additional subscribers. To fail in this undertaking would be a discredit that we ought not to face. That we shall or shall not be required to, depends on you.

State Business Agent.

We received just to late for this number, a letter from J. M. Chidister, State Business Agent at Detroit, in which he invites consignments of produce in car lots. Thinks it will be necessary to make arrangements at an early day, so that he can receive and sell farm products in small lots. He is prepared to make purchases for the Order, under the arrangement made with him, as published in the last number of the VISITOR. His address, No. 75 Jefferson Avenue, Detroit.

Wool Growers' Convention.

Under a call for a Wool Growers' Convention, there assembled in the Court House at Kalamazoo, on the 9th inst., about 80 farmers of that and neighboring counties.

Hon. J. J. Woodman, of Paw Paw, was chosen Chairman, and Ashley Clapp, of Oshtemo, Secretary.

We condense the proceedings of the Convention, as space will not allow a full report of what was said.

The following Resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That the dockage allowed on bucks' fleeces shall not exceed one-third of the actual weight, and on unwashed wool shall not exceed one-quarter of the actual weight.

Resolved, That the price shall be agreed upon and the cash value determined before the transfer is made, and no further dockage shall be allowed.

Resolved, That the grade of delaine wool shall be recognized in the sale, which shall be sold upon its merits, or serve to enhance the value of the clip.

Resolved, That we are opposed to any reduction of the present tariff or to any change in any of the provisions of the statute, whereby a tax is levied on any raw material affecting the interests of

agriculture. That a reduction of the tariff on wool, in its various qualities and conditions, is unjust to the wool grower, injurious to the manufacturer and uncalled for by any exigency of the government, and its only advantage inuring to the importer, for whose benefit the change is sought.

While a few thought the shrinkage less than indicated by the first Resolution—the majority of those who expressed an opinion, believed that the percentage was about right.

Hon. E. L. Brown, of Schoolcraft, offered this Resolution:

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this Convention that the practice of washing sheep is injurious to the sheep, expensive and disagreeable to the owner, and had better be abandoned.

Mr. Brown supported his Resolution in a few remarks, and stated that he was determined to wash no more sheep; hoped to have the support of his fellow farmers, that the custom of not washing might become general; claimed that sheep washing in Vermont had been almost wholly given up.

J. H. McCall, of Ohio, spoke very emphatically in favor of the resolution, and made some good points as affecting the health of the sheep and the advantage to the next clip by shearing early without washing.

In answer to apprehensions expressed by some that the farmer would not realize as much for his wool, W. G. Kirby, of Charleston, was confident that wool would be sold on its merits, and that the producer would more nearly get what his wool was worth than he now does. In this view quite a number of gentlemen concurred.

Mr. W. L. Smith, of Hillsdale Co., believes in shearing early without washing, and supported his opinion by a few very sensible remarks.

Wm. H. Cobb, a wool grower and a wool buyer, also favored the Resolution, and it was unanimously adopted.

The Chairman, by request, gave quite a detailed statement of the duties now imposed on foreign wool, and how the wool growing interest of Michigan would be affected by the passage of the bill now before Congress.

In our next, this matter will again receive attention.

Visit to Centreville Grange.

We accepted an invitation from Bro. James Yauney, Master of Centreville Grange, No. 76, to meet with Patrons and friends of this and neighboring Granges for a good social time on the evening of the 5th inst. Except for the darkness of the night the circumstances favored a good attendance.

Not because of any programme of special interest, but because the members of this Grange have learned to value the social opportunities which the Grange affords to both sexes to young people as well as those of mature years. Centreville Grange, with its large and commodious building fitted up handsomely and conveniently, has not only accepted the theory of the Order, but is proving it sound and practicable. This Grange is an exception to the general rule. Here is a prosperous Grange having a Hall in a central place of a village, and that the County seat of one of our oldest Counties, just where we often find some of our weakest Granges—weak because the members are not sufficiently strong in the faith, have not yet become aware of the importance of our organization to the Agricultural interest of the Country, are not yet self-reliant, but allow the influence of their high-toned village acquaintances to keep them in a kind of milk and water condition, poorly fitted either to enjoy or profit by their

connection with the Order. There was no evidence of any of this weakness in this Grange.

The County of St. Joseph probably has no superior in the State for fertility of soil, and the evidence of thrift on every side, as we rode from Florence to Centreville, some ten miles, proves that she has intelligent farmers who do not propose to take back seats in matters of husbandry.

This class of men are found in Centreville Grange, but what pleased us more than all else, we not only found these farmers and their wives, but here to were their intelligent sons and daughters—such young men and women as Bro. Sessions had in his mind when he wrote about "The most valuable product of the farm."

The intelligence and culture of the young people present at this meeting was to me its most note-worthy feature.

The out-look as we take a general survey of the rising generation with the smoking, chewing and drinking habits of a large majority of our farmer's boys is anything but flattering. We have great faith that as the principles and teachings of the Order are in the direction of reform, that it is doing something to correct the evil tendencies of the times, for certainly there is much to do. What greater duty rests upon the farmer than to give his sons such practical education and training as will fit them to prosecute his own calling intelligently, and what school so attractive and so well calculated to give the boys the right direction as the Grange when the older members take hold in earnest of the work of the Order—provide an attractive place of meeting—have animated discussions upon farm topics, and do not forget that the young folks must have some time for amusement, not once a year, but often.

To come back to No. 76. It has important aid from a Bro. whose professional duty is to instruct his people in religious matters, but who sees in the Order an opportunity to encourage education, morality, and all that elevates his people, and their associates. We are always glad to find this influence lending a helping hand in the advancement of the moral and educational interests of the Order. Several of the members of White Pigeon Grange had driven over some ten or twelve miles to enjoy the occasion, and I trust were well rewarded for their trouble. The best evidence that all were enjoying themselves lay in the fact that after the feast which by the way was like all Grange feasts—bountiful—nearly all remained until the day was done and they had to go home on Saturday.

We are indebted to Bro. Yauney, and his estimable family (Grangers all) for every attention making us feel at home the short time we were with them. We have proof that he can like a prosperous farmer get up in the morning as he had us on our way to the Station, five miles away at five o'clock in the morning. Eighteen miles ride brought us home to breakfast well satisfied with the trip.

List of Appointments for Meetings, as Arranged by T. A. Thompson.

- PLAINVIEW, Minn., April 9th, 1878.
- April 20, Paw Paw, Van Buren Co., Mich.
 - " 22, Porter, " " " "
 - " 23, Lawrence, " " " "
 - " 24, Decatur, " " " "
 - " 25, Keeler, " " " "
 - " 27, Stevensville, Berrien Co., "
 - " 29, Sturgis, St. Joseph Co., "
 - " 30, Centreville, St. Joseph Co., "
 - May 1, Sherwood, Branch Co., "
 - " 2, Bronson, " " " "
 - " 3, Allen, Hillsdale Co., "
 - " 4, Coldwater, Branch Co., "
 - " 6, Jonesville, Hillsdale Co., "
 - " 7, Church's Corners, Hillsdale Co., Mich.
 - " 9, Tecumseh, Lenawee Co., Mich.
 - " 10, Ypsilanti, Washtenaw Co., Mich.
 - " 11, Belleville, Wayne Co., Mich.
 - " 13, Wyandotte, " " " "

May 14, Bedford, " " " "
 " 15, Scio, " " " "
 Other appointments will appear in next No. of THE VISITOR; so all will have two weeks notice, or more.
 Fraternally,
 T. A. THOMPSON.

How Can we Keep Up an Interest in the Grange Meetings.

I attended a meeting of some members of a dormant Grange a few days ago, held for the purpose of reviving the organization, and of again establishing a working Grange.

One gentleman said that if any one could tell them how to get the members out to the meetings, it would be just the thing they wanted to know in order to make their Grange a success. They had a good membership of good Grangers, and had a good hall to meet in, but this all amounted to nothing unless they could learn the secret of making the Grange interesting, and thereby secure the attendance of the members.

A gentleman from another Grange, which had, he said, been in about the same condition as this one, said that they owed the great revival they had had in the interest of members in their Grange, to the united efforts of the Lady members, who had taken hold with a determination to resuscitate it and make it interesting, and they had done it. His Grange now was one of the most prosperous in the county, having a good hall to meet in, and a store-room for the distribution of goods, and a good and constantly increasing membership; and for all this prosperity they were indebted to their working Sisters.

One gentleman from a neighboring and very strong and prosperous branch of our Order, said that this difficulty of securing a good attendance, was one encountered by almost every Grange of his acquaintance, and the best method of making the Grange interesting enough to secure good attendance was a subject well worthy of much thought and study. Made up as the Granges were, of farmers and their wives, who were generally unused to participating in the doings of public meetings, it is not surprising that the members should be backward in giving their views in the meetings, and in bringing forward work that could profitably engage the attention and interest the members of the Grange. He believed, however, that when a Grange had half a dozen zealous, working members, who would be on hand through thick and thin, at every meeting of the Grange, a good Grange could soon be built up in any farming community, and an interest created that would soon increase the number of regular and prompt attendants. He said he had been a member of the Grange for four years, and he had never let business keep him at home from the Grange. His Grange met in the afternoon, every two weeks, and he had never yet missed but one of its meetings, when at home, and he could say as much of a few more of the members of his Grange. He believed it paid him in dollars and cents to attend every meeting; then there was a benefit he had derived that was not to be estimated in dollars and cents. The education he had received by the association with his brother farmers and their wives. The more he had seen of the Grange, the more he prized it as an institution for the social culture of farmers and their families.

One thing he could recommend as creating much interest in the Grange—the question box—and he hoped his friends of the dormant Grange, would try this when they got in motion again. But at all events, keep trying something; you will hit it by and by; don't give it up.

Fraternally, C.

Ladies' Department.

THE HONEST FARMER.

(TO AN OLD TUNE.)

Happy I count the farmer's life,
 Its various round of wholesome toil;
 An honest man with loving wife,
 And offspring native to the soil.

Thrill happy, surely!—in his breast
 Plain wisdom and the trust in God;
 His path more straight from east to west
 Than politician ever trod.

His gain's no loss to other men;
 His stalwart blows inflict no wound;
 Not busy with his tongue or pen,
 He questions truthful sky and ground.

Partner with seasons and the sun,
 Nature's co-worker; all his skill
 Obedience, e'er 'n as waters run,
 Winds blow, herb, beast their laws fulfil.

A vigorous youthhood, clean and bold;
 A manly manhood; cheerful age;
 His comely children proudly hold
 Their parentage best heritage.

Unhealthy work, false mirth, chicanery,
 Guilt,—needless woe, and useless strife,—
 O cities, vain, insane, insane!—
 How happy is the farmer's life!

—Fraser's Magazine.

House-Cleaning.

"O, dear me! I've got to clean house next week, and there is that dress to make and that saccie to finish; yes, and Tobie's trowsers, too; I don't see how I'm going to get it all done," sighed Mrs. Tobias Green to her friend, Mrs. Steel, or "Aunt Sue" as every one called her.

"I do hate house-cleaning, don't you?"

"Not much," and Aunt Sue pushed back her spectacles, after picking up the stitch she had dropped in her knitting, and leaned back in her chair, adding, "I've seen the time when I did, though, and I guess I must tell you one of my efforts in that line. You see I had put it off as long as I could, for Reuben always made such a fuss. I knew the illacs were most out, and one morning I made up my mind to have a general sacking up. I got the children off to school bright and early. Piled up my breakfast dishes unwashed, and Polly and I went at it. I thought 'the hotter the war, the sooner the peace,' so I says to Polly, 'we'll just take up the carpets in all the rooms, and take out the furniture, and you might as well take down the pictures and curtains. Guess we'll have the things out of the pantry, too, while we're 'bout it.' Well we pitched in, I tell you, and when Reuben came in, I at him to take the stoves down. He mumbled over something about 'tearing the house down,' and confounded women; but I didn't pay any attention, and the stoves came down, every one of 'em. Then Reuben said if we must have such a muss, he'd help through, and would whitewash the sitting-room, while we papered the parlor. I didn't feel as tickled as I might at his offer, for he never had whitewashed; but as I was in a hurry thought I'd better try him. But the brush had to be soaked, and a handle made for it. The old paper was to be scraped off the wall, and the baby would keep wailing up and crying, and 'twas 'most noon before we knew it. I put a bite out on the work bench for the rest,—somehow I didn't feel hungry. Pretty soon I heard a shout at the gate, and Billy, John, and little Jane came rushing in with a couple of neighbor children, crying there was no school that afternoon, and I knew I'd have them all on my hands the rest of the day. I got 'em off, out the house at last, and we began work in earnest. After a little I could hear Reuben humming in the next room, and the swash of his brush as he put on the whitewash, and concluded that house-cleaning wasn't so bad after all. When all at once Billy's head popped in at the window, with 'ma, ma! Squire Frost's folks are coming. They're most here.' I started to look out through the hall, and, sure enough, there they were already at the door. There was no way but to go and meet 'em, conscious all the while that the witch of Endor looked respectable beside me. I caught a glimpse, in passing the hall glass, of an awful smutty nose and face, hair flying seventeen ways for Sunday, and ornamented with scraps of wall-paper, and a dress with a three-cornered tear on one side, where I caught it on a nail, besides being half ripped off the waist. Add to

this, sticky hands, and spots of paste and paper all over me, and you can imagine how I felt as I piloted them through the middle of chairs, tables, bedsteads and heaps of carpet, with which the hall was crowded, into the nasty parlor. They had come to spend the afternoon, and I needn't fuss for them. O, no! but just go on as usual. All the while knowing I wouldn't, and enjoying my discomfort as some people can. Well, I tried to make the best of it, not daring to hint it would be more convenient some other time, and went into the sitting-room, thinking Reuben must be most through, and that we could get it in order quicker. (Polly had made good her escape and was no where to be seen.) I wish you could have seen that room. There was whitewash on the paper, on the paint, and on the floor, while the ceiling looked as if some magician had been practicing his art. The streaks described so many curves and angles. Right in the middle of the floor was a great splash, good and thick, where Reuben had tipped over his dish, and from there were streaks in every direction, and of all sizes, from the baby's wee feet to Reuben's number 9's. The whitewash brush lay on my pet picture in the next room, slowly dropping its excess of wash on the Brussels carpet, and the dish was on top the mirror, with one sleeve of my silk dress soaking in it. It was no use to think of cleaning that room, so I started for the kitchen, in time to see the baby topple over a flat-iron and land in a bucket of paint which had been left there; I picked her up, wiped off the worst, and sent her upstairs to be washed and dressed by Polly. Just then I heard Reuben coming with Squire Frost, and, knowing I'd got to meet him, stood my ground in desperation. You know how pompous he is. He came forward, bowing in his most killing manner, stepped back to keep from walking over coffee-pot and a couple of kittens, slipping on a piece of apple-peel as he did so, caught at the table which stood on one leaf up laden with dishes, to save himself, bringing it over with a crash, and sat down plump in a dishpan full of buttermilk, which Polly had emptied there because the pails were full. My! what a splash he made.—You know he weighs most two hundred pounds, and the milk flew clear to the ceiling. I'd defy a minister to have kept from laughing, but no man should laugh at Squire Frost, much less a farmer's wife and children. He gathered himself and marched into the parlor with as much dignity as his damaged condition would allow, announcing, with a very red face, that he thought they hadn't better stay, as Mrs. Steel was cleaning house. You may guess I wasn't sorry to see 'em go, though I felt kind of uncomfortable when I thought of what Reuben might say. But I had no time to think of that, nor he to say anything, for little Jane had run in crying and complaining that Billy wouldn't let her have her medicine bottle; and, going out to make them play peacefully, I found him with an empty bottle labelled 'Poison.' I had put arsenic in just such a little bottle. I asked him if there had been anything in it, and he said 'yes,' but he had taken it all up. It didn't take me two minutes to catch him up, take him into the house and call Reuben. And then the way we dosed that child was enough to kill him without any poison. John, who had looked on frightened and crying, at last understood we were trying to save Billy's life because he had taken the poison, burst out with, 'Why, ma! that wasn't poison. It was white sugar. I got it myself out of the sugar box; and that paper on the bottle I pulled off'n this one.' Sure enough they had filled the bottle with sugar and pasted on an old label. The worry and fright were too much for me, and I just sat down and cried. That touched Reuben's tender heart, (though he said afterwards he did feel awful provoked,) and he tried to comfort me. After I had stopped crying, he says, 'Now, look here, Sue, I'll go in town to-morrow and get a woman to help you, and a man to whitewash, and we will come out all right yet; but if you ever clean house again, I declare I'll get a divorce.' Well we picked up things as well as we could and the next morning Reuben kept his promise and got me help. Of course I could not get along without house-cleaning more'n other folks but it was the last time I tore a house all up, and I never heard any more grumbling, unless it happens to be an occasional bang on a stove-pipe. One thing, when we built the new house, it was finished

with unpainted wood, black-walnut, oak and pine mostly, just oiled. The walls were all 'hard finish,' and when they grew soiled we had them also mired or painted. You know there is not a bit of paper on my walls, and I think it makes it ever so much easier to clean, and prettier too. But you ask your Grange how they would clean house, and the best way to build a handsome farm-house, and then if you want to know my way, and what I think, I'll tell you." And Aunt Sue rolled up her blue sock, and nodded good night.

GRATTAN GRANGE, NO. 170.

Wake up Patrons.

Yes, I say, "wake up," for Aunt Kate has come to give you another scold; this time it will be more for the brothers, but I may say something to the sisters before I get done talking. When I got my last Visitor, and read over the contents, I tell you my mind was very much exercised. I thought, can it be possible that the Patrons of Michigan are so blind to their own interest that they will allow the State Grange paper to be reduced to its former size, (and a monthly at that). Brothers! don't let it be done. The Executive Committee have done all they have agreed to, and it remains for us to do the balance, and that is, to subscribe for and sustain it. Now, will we do it or not is the question.—Brothers, I should feel ashamed of the Patrons of Michigan to allow such a thing. Let us say, by our actions, as well as words, that we choose knowledge rather than ignorance.

Now, I don't wish you were like me, but I wish you could see and feel as I do in regard to our Visitor. If you did we would have it enlarged instead of diminished. I think there is not one among us who is not able to take the Visitor. All that is necessary is the disposition; for anything we want very much, we will manage some way to get, especially if it doesn't cost more than the Visitor.

I was thinking, before I got the last Visitor, whether our Grange, and one more I know of, were the only ones that were not trying as they should to sustain our little Grange organ. I feel just like talking to our Grange; we have 109 members, I think, and we take about eleven or twelve copies of the Visitor, while there are those that take some other agricultural as well as political paper. I will say, though I don't like to, that I have been repelled when soliciting subscribers for the Visitor, once or twice; they say they have more papers than they can read. My advice to such persons is: read what is of real value; don't crowd your minds with the trash found in story papers, which spoil the taste for good, sound reading.

I don't know but I have lectured the brothers long enough; but I will entreat you, in the name of our Order, to maintain your honor in subscribing for the Visitor promptly.

My dear sisters, I don't blame you so very much; you don't always have a pocket-book to go to, or one of your own; but we, or the most of us, have butter, eggs, etc., to sell. I know the merchant don't like to pay money, but tell him he must—just a little; tell him you wish to take a paper. I think he would be ashamed to refuse you. It may be some of you have sewing machines so that you can do a little job of work, get the money for it, and thus be independent of your husbands. I did sewing and got money to take the Visitor and Live Patron, but I was not obliged to. I like to be a little independent, when I can. We know the money our husbands carry is ours, as much as theirs; but, hist! I must not talk so, sisters. Stir up your Patron husbands to subscribe for the Visitor; if you don't, I am afraid we shall not talk so much through our paper in future. I don't know but I shall get the name of "Talk Too Much" yet, but if I do, I stand—approved.

Now, I hope I haven't said anything out of the way; but I think you see I am in real earnest, and so should we all be. I have got to work, and I enjoy a great deal in the Grange. I wish we could have had a Grange 25 years ago; if we had I should by this time have been a Grange Evangelist.

This is from your eldest sister in the Grange,
 AUNT KATE.

A Montclair girl fainted at her first kiss, and it took several experiments of the same kind to bring her to her senses again. But she likes to faint.

A Few Good Thoughts for All.

The following essay was read before Conway Grange, March 15th, 1878, by Mrs. C. L. Gordon, of Conway, Mich.

We were admonished in our instructions, to remember the Grange, the Farm, and the Home. As we are organized in an Order of Brotherhood, entitled "the Grange," our first great object should be to make it beneficial, not only financially, but also socially and intellectually.

As we are taught that "order, is Heaven's first law," let it be ours. We often hear it remarked, that money is the power which moves the world; if so, the Grange is a portion of that weight, acted upon by the same force. As these are principles of momentum, to be applied in moving a certain weight by a given power, let us study these principles, that we may use them to the best advantage in our Order.

In benefiting ourselves socially, we do so by being encircled by good influences, which are brought to bear upon each other; and as what we know of our friends, and are known in return, are but the manifestations of the inner self—let us see to it well, that the inner man is so trained that his exhibitions are manifestly moral. We are also creatures of education, capable of elevating ourselves, by training the intellectual powers, to a higher and nobler purpose. Training, I say, because a great and good purpose earnestly pursued through life, must necessarily involve much renunciation, and discipline of life. Character is of slow and gradual growth; a man wills as he speaks, by learning to do so.

Man can learn to withdraw his mind, from one train of thought and feeling, the activity of which will thereupon subside, and direct it to another train of thought and feeling, upon which it will become active; and by habitual exercise of the will in the right direction, will bring about insensibly, such a train of thought and feeling as he may wish to attain. If capable of discipline, are we not bound, as human beings, to put forth every effort, acting upon circumstances, to accomplish such a work.

In remembering the Farm, I fear advice, and instruction, would be classed with much given in rural papers, by authors having a great deal of theory; of practice, but little.

The Home: In that, I wish I had a nobler theory, and a better practice. Upon our homes depends very much the rise or fall of our fraternity. If happy at home, in like manner we enter the hall, and like rays of sunshine, good feelings are transmitted with every act. If the reverse, then sad and sorry we extend the hand of fellowship, and gloominess like a vapor covers us all. How often, when seeing that motto, "There is no place like home," do I think, what meaning does it secretly convey? Does it mean confidence in each other? rest from life's busy toil? and of all places upon earth, this is the best? Or does it mean, we seek the shelter of home because, for some reason, we are refused the hospitality of neighbors and friends? and for a few hours we are obliged to endure the presence of those whom we have promised to love.

But don't dream that I am selfish enough to credit wholly to my own sex, the condition of our homes. As a principle of motion, that action and re-action are equal, and in opposite directions, please remember, that a kind word re-acts as easily as an unkind one, and with the same force upon the husband, as the wife.

Then, such feelings as we would

have borne toward us, let us cherish toward those at home. Those who are worthy of respect generally command it. The little child, whose surroundings reflect only his faults, soon thinks he was born never to do right; and speedily gives up all idea of trying. In childhood, a few kind words re-act so quickly, that we almost think sometimes, the rule is broken, and we are only children older grown; then let us have charity, remembering that "to err is human, to forgive, divine."

A Few Words about Rag Carpets.

Dexter, March 8th, 1878.

Worthy Brother J. T. Cobb:

As the season for rag-carpet making in the country is approaching, a few suggestions of the experienced, may lessen the labors of making them to the inexperienced, besides making a better looking carpet. First, the garments that are to be used ought to be washed clean, then rip them to pieces; if not ready to color, tie in bundles all that are to be colored, and all that do not need coloring may be cut and sewed or tied up by themselves, if not ready to commence the work. Any light, mixed, or plaid woollens may be improved in color by dipping in a good red dye; clean white rags can be colored yellow, orange, blue, or green; dingy white rags will look well, colored a brown. This is a cheap, pretty, and durable color for some of the rags and warp. (You will find the recipe for coloring brown in Dr. Chase's Receipt Book, page 344.)

If a smooth parlor carpet is wanted, the rags must be cotton, and other rags that are made of fine yarn. Coarse threaded wool rags make a carpet look rough, although it may do well enough for a kitchen, it is not very nice for a parlor. Unless the rags are light, it will take one pound and a half for each yard of carpet, but if the rags are coarse-threaded or woollen rags, it will take more than a pound and a half, if the carpet is well beaten up. If a striped carpet is wanted, tear each color separately, and mix together the different shades of the same color when sewing; this will make the carpet more uniform in color, and prettier than if some stripes contained all the brightest colors, and other paler ones, which they will, if the shades of the same color are not mixed in sewing.

A carpet always looks much better if all the breadths are uniform in color, and by mixing the shades of the same color in sewing them, it will be so. For a hap-hazard carpet (or motiled) all different colors may be mixed in sewing. This will use up all short rags of any color or shade, and often makes a very pretty carpet, which may be woven easier and cheaper than a striped carpet. Short pieces, or those not more than two yards long, alternated with shorter ones, look the best in this kind of carpet.

For warp—good, strong prepared yarn is acknowledged to be the best, and also saves much labor. It may be reeled into skeins of 5 knots each before coloring, allowing one skein to a yard; this will be sufficient to weave in at the end of each breadth for binding. Measure the inside of the room and let the weaver know how long to make each breadth. Carpets will shrink a little in length from the weaver's measure after they come out of the loom. The stripes will match the best if the edges on the same side of the loom are sewed together, as the different sides of the loom sometimes vary a little.

Yours fraternally,

MRS. M. D. BRUEN.

As I have never seen any communication from Johnstown Grange No. 127, perhaps a few words would not be amiss. Although a good many of our members have dropped off, yet our Grange is in a prosperous condition, for we have learned that all have rights, and those rights must be respected.

A good many left because they didn't understand what became of all the money that was being paid out to the State and National Granges; and I am inclined to think that there ought to be a yearly report made, in such a shape that all Subordinate Granges could understand what was being done with the accumulated funds, if there is any. This, I believe, would give better satisfaction, and save us from being slurred by accusing us of supporting a center-lizing power. Fraternally yours,

M. W. BLANCHARD.

An Interesting Lecture Tour—Prospects in Northern Michigan.

BEAR LAKE, March 11th, 78.

Worthy Secretary Cobb:

As I have just returned from Osceola County, where I was invited to lecture by Bro. Ash, the deputy of that county, I thought it would not be amiss to write you in reference to the Grange work there.

I left home on the 18th of February by stage for Traverse City, a distance of 50 miles; took the cars for Ashton the 21st, where I arrived in due time and put up at the Ashton House, as directed. I found it a very pleasant place to stay, with good accommodations. Bro. Ash, and the ladies were very busy preparing the hall and making arrangements. The lecture was announced for the 22d, at 11 A. M. The hall was beautifully trimmed in honor of Washington's birth, and also decorated with Grange mottoes and emblems. Washington's family, in costume, gave us sweet music, vocal and instrumental, suited to the occasion.

After the lecture, we repaired to the dining-hall, where the ladies had prepared an oyster supper in good taste, and the tables were loaded with good things, and I think justice was done by those who partook of the bountiful supply. Our only regret was that the inclemency of the weather prevented so many, who lived at a distance, from participating in our entertainment. Those present evidently enjoyed a good social time. After dinner we repaired to the hall and spent about one and a half hours in patriotic speeches and songs, with some discussion on Grange subjects, which, I trust, was time well improved. The Grange has a membership of about 70, but widely scattered over a newly settled country, but this part opened to market by the R. R. will soon be a beautiful farming country. Already large clearings are dotted all through, as we pass over that part lying back a few miles from the R. R.

On the morning train of the 23d we started for Orient (now called Ceres), on the Flint and Pere Marquette road, changed cars at Reed City, the junction of the two roads, arriving at Orient where preparations had been made for a lecture, on the evening of the 23d. We stopped at Bro. Smith's hotel, where, in a large, commodious hall the Grange meets. We found, through its gentlemanly proprietor, a delegation of ladies were appointed to meet us and provide for our entertainment over the Sabbath. Very soon we were invited out to dinner and tea with Sisters McLean, Hardy, and Gibbons; the W. M.'s lady, who lives three miles out, also met us here. We spent the Sabbath very pleasantly with Sister Dearing. There are pleasant friends here, and I think good Grangers and farmers. The Grange here seems to hold its own amid the pressure of the times; and I think will increase its interest and membership. The hall was trimmed with evergreens and well filled with an intelligent and attentive audience, who listened with all due respect to an hour's talk on Grange principles. On Sabbath evening we met a good audience at the new school-house and held religious service.

Monday found us at Evarts, 15 miles from Orient, awaiting the team which was to convey us to Hartwick, 10 miles away, over rough roads to Noble Grange, No. 616. To lecture on Tuesday night the 26th. Bro. Rickets and wife found us in the M. E. C. parsonage dining with Bro. Barrett and wife, pastor there, and old friends of ours. We left about one o'clock P. M., and after riding over

hill and dale, were ready for supper with a good appetite. Attended a meeting on Monday night at the log church, held by a Free Will Baptist brother, and on Tuesday night met a packed house to listen to Grange talk and the principles advocated by the Patrons of Husbandry. I expect a good report from this Grange soon.

Next day Bro. and Sister Handy, and five others, accompanied us 12 miles to Sherman. We arrived at Bro. Reece Jones' well shaken by the corduroys and cradle-knolls, but with an unshaken faith in the righteousness of the Grange movement. Here is a Grange store on a small scale, kept by Bro. Jones, Secretary of the Grange, and proving a benefit to the farmer so far from trading points. Next day we hied us away over the hills to Highland school-house (it being larger than that in Bro. Jones' district,) two miles, for a lecture on the 28th. We found the nice framed building packed with people, eager to learn what the P. of H. are doing or going to do, and the principles they advocate. Sherman Grange will live, I think. One man gave his \$5.00 and application before leaving the house. Stayed over night at Sister Jones', and started next morning for Tustin, on the G. R. & I. line. There is no Grange here, but some Grangers and others, who would like to organize. The audience here on the 1st of March was lessened by a party at the hotel the same evening, yet we found a fair attendance for so small a place at the new school-house, and hope they were interested in our cause.

On the following day we were off for Leroy. Bro. Stokes, at whose house we were kindly entertained, accompanied us to Leroy, as he had business there. We took dinner at the hotel kept by Mr. Westfall, who, with his amiable lady, made our short stay pleasant, and then we accompanied Mr. E. M. Braden to his brother's, Alonzo Braden. They are from Allegan, and Bro. A. B. was formerly Secretary of Allegan Grange. They, with some others, are anxious to organize here, and I hope soon to hear of a good Grange at Leroy. I found a large audience for so small a village, and considerable interest in the subject. Spent a pleasant Sabbath, with service at 11 A. M. and 7 P. M., with full houses, and started Monday, the 4th of March, for Traverse City, on my way home. Missing the stage on Monday, I stayed there till Friday, and reached home on Saturday, March 9th, having been absent nearly three weeks. I could have spent another week profitably in Osceola and adjoining territory, had I not been booked for a lecture at Crystal Valley, 70 miles south of here, on March 13th. On reaching home I found that Mr. Steele had written and postponed the lecture one week, as Bro. Woodman was expected here to lecture and organize a Pomona Grange, on the 13th. Next Wednesday, March 20th, I expect to be at Crystal Valley, and you may hear from me again.

Yours, fraternally,

MRS. A. R. STEELE.

Bro. J. T. Cobb:

CANNON, Mich., March 3d, 1878. A very interesting meeting of Cannon Grange, No. 39, P. of H., was held Friday afternoon, March 1st. It is astonishing to see what good a little effort will do. We have just had our hall calcomined, and the ladies propose to have a "Sugar Social," to raise means to get the necessary things that are needed to make the walls look still more attractive. It is to come off on Wednesday, the 13th of March. We are prospering finely at present, as a Grange, and we hope to for a long time to come. God speed the farmer.

Yours, fraternally,

E. L. HARTWELL, Sec.

Communications.

Meeting of Kent County Grange.

PLEASANT, March 18, 1878.

J. T. Cobb, Worthy Secretary:

On the 13th inst., pursuant to appointment, the Kent County Grange held a quarterly meeting in the hall of Wyoming Grange, at Grandville. Notwithstanding the very bad condition of the roads, the attendance was large. The business of the meeting was conducted in that earnest and satisfactory manner, which is characteristic of a live Grange. The members of Wyoming Grange received many thanks for their hospitality in providing a sumptuous feast at the close of the afternoon session, which was enjoyed by all. Many accepted the urgent invitation extended to remain over night. At the evening session the fifth degree was conferred on a large number. All expressed much delight with the labors of the day.

The following short essay was read by your humble servant, and, by vote of the Grange, the same is sent you for publication in the VISITOR:

Worthy Master, Brothers and Sisters:

We are making a page in the history and progress of American agriculture. We have extended the hand of fellowship and fraternal sympathy from shore to shore of this great continent. As progressive farmers and Patrons we are striving to hand down to our posterity a fertile soil for cultivation, just and equitable laws that will afford financial prosperity, and improved institutions of learning, for the best interests of agriculture. The eyes of the civilized world are now scrutinizing each act, to smile or frown on our success or failure, according to their liberal views or selfish greed. One thing we must bear in mind, that what is done for the good of this great cause we must do ourselves. We must reverse the farmer's old-time custom of employing some professional man to take the lead in every social, literary, political, and business enterprise. If we expect to fill those seats which the rules of our Order vacate, we must cheerfully labor in the work of self-improvement. If we expect to correct evils of which we complain, we must qualify ourselves for seats in Legislative Halls, and be prepared, not only to demand our rights, but resolutely maintain that demand whenever and wherever a trial of strength is presented. We, as farmers and laborers, have removed the forests, inhabited the prairies, cultivated the soil, filled the granaries of this continent with the great staples for consumption and exportation, have borne many hardships and privations, have paid undue proportion of taxes, and have suffered for want of representation in our law-making bodies. Now, Patrons, can we rest content without at least making an effort to better our circumstances.—We are now organized sufficiently to make some demonstrations in behalf of justice to ourselves and the agricultural interests of the country. Some wrong does already testify to this truth, and now what we need most is to stand firm, attend our Grange meetings regularly, introduce practical subjects pertaining to our interests, and promptly discuss the same in a fraternal spirit, to the advantage of all. Thoroughly sustain all practical enterprises that are placed in our jurisdiction by action of the Grange. Take and read Grange papers and encourage their circulation. Cultivate

our farms in a workmanlike manner; keep clean fields, clean yards, and beautify our surroundings, that our abodes may be worthy of the name of the homes of Patrons of Husbandry.

The next meeting of the Kent Co. Grange will be held at the Hall of Alpine Grange, No. 348, on the 15th day of May, at 10 o'clock A. M. All are invited.

As we left home with the intention of visiting Granges during the week, we accepted the invitation of Worthy Master W. P. Whitney, to accompany him home and meet with his Subordinate Grange on the following day.—After a drive of about six miles a halt was made, and in a few minutes we were in a pleasant apartment, enjoying the society of those that know so well how to entertain friends. Thursday afternoon found us at Byron Grange, No. 73, where we met many friends, some of whom we had met before. The attendance was fair, and the members manifested much earnestness in the good cause.

Friday evening we, with Brother and Sister Whitney, called on Burton Grange, No. 31. The Worthy Master, A. D. Chesebro, was not present, on account of personal injury received by a fall. The work of the Grange, however, was conducted in a satisfactory manner.

Saturday afternoon and evening found us at Paris Grange, No. 19.—This Grange, since its consolidation with Floral Grange, is in a very flourishing condition. There membership is increasing and they are talking of building a hall.

Our visit was a very pleasant one, and we are under obligations for the hospitality of many worthy Patrons.

Truly and Fraternaly,
JNO. PRESTON,
L. of Kent Co. Grange.

LOWELL, March 31st, '78.

Bro. Cobb:

The select school, which has been in progress in the South Boston Grange Hall, closed on Friday last, with an entertainment in the evening, by the students, who rendered the two dramas, "Bread Upon the Water," and "The Last Loaf," to an intelligent and appreciative audience, who were highly entertained.

This school was inaugurated something over a year ago, under the charge of Miss Eva White, of this place, an experienced teacher and a graduate of the State Normal School of this State.

Miss White has proved a successful and competent teacher, and has taught ten or fifteen terms in this immediate vicinity. The first term in the Grange Hall was a spring term of two months, which closed about one year since, to the satisfaction of all, so far as I have learned. Miss White decided to continue through fall and winter. The fall term commenced the first Monday in October; the winter term the first Monday in January last.

Our hall is as well calculated for school purposes as any in the State. We have also provided good stables, so that the more advanced scholars of farmers can drive three or four miles, and here they find all the conveniences necessary for their teams, with lofts for hay, etc., and by having two terms commencing as above, farmers have one horse at least that can be spared for this purpose, which gives it the exercise it needs at this time of the year. Several of the students who have attended here never could have had such advantages at a foreign school, their parents not being able to pay their necessary expenses away from home. Bro. Cobb, is not this a step in the right direction? And if this plan is adopted throughout the State, will it not advance the interests of the Order? and will not this, furnishing all the means necessary for a first-class education in the country, tend much to keep our young men and women on the farm, where their surroundings are better and safer than are found in our villages and cities, where they are usually sent to prepare for a business or professional life? Will they not be quite as likely to rise to places of honor, trust, and responsibility from our rural

High School as from the Seminary situated in the neighborhood of saloons and the many vicious influences which every village furnishes, to demoralize and ruin our young men? From town schools they are often promoted to our jails, or other places of reform or punishment.

If it is a step in the right direction, who will do likewise? and, more than this, who will help those who make the attempt, by supporting those who have the necessary facilities for such schools, by patronizing them in preference to others, whose interests are not identified with our own?

Our hall is situated five miles from town with no saloons near, or anything that tends to intemperate habits. The hall is pleasantly situated; but I will not describe it further, as Bro. Cobb gave it ample justice in the June (1877) number of the VISITOR. FARMER.

The Tobacco Question.

HOME, April 4th, 1878.

Worthy Secretary Cobb:

SIR,—In the VISITOR of April 1st, Andrew L. Davis, of Grange No. 182, informs us that he has had much trouble and some anxiety about the construction of the revised laws relating to the dissemination of Tobacco in the Grange, and he says he has a desire to hear the "experience and opinion of others in the matter."

His letter has given me occasion to think of the subject, and to say—though I do not regard it as any credit to me—I have had some experience in using tobacco, and I consider the only sensible reason any one can give for buying tobacco at all—unless they buy it to kill lice on calves, or ticks on sheep—is that they do it to aid their government by adding something to its revenues. And as the result of experience, and of long and careful observation, it is my firm conviction, and I do not hesitate to give it as my opinion, that the best use any one can make of tobacco, in any form, after it is bought and paid for, is to use it as a nuisance and throw it away. It is astonishing that men of sense and intelligence will submit to become the slave of a filthy and disgusting habit, and alternately suck and spit a filthy, poisonous weed that insidiously yet surely undermines the constitution, saps the vital energies, disspates the intellect, drives away manhood, and leaves its victim a corpse, or a miserably wasted, worthless wreck. While living, the victims of the foul weed must disgorge their spittle, and buildings, furniture, and clothing are in constant hazard. The very air they breathe is polluted, while burning tobacco, cigar stumps, and matches are scattered at random, and are responsible for the destruction of buildings and other property to an amount that would be astonishing if the facts could be ascertained and made public.

From the window in front of where I write, I can see a barn that has been twice set on fire by the use of a tobacco pipe, and I can also see a space where another barn recently stood, that took fire and burned with all its contents in like manner.

In settling for losses, insurance officers are not always able to ascertain the true cause of the fire, because, smokers are proverbially heedless and careless, and because they will not always disclose all they know. But cases are very frequent when the origin of the fire can be traced to no other cause than burning tobacco, or accompanying matches.

Now there is an honest, legitimate method, by which we can all free ourselves from the tax on tobacco, and be better and safer for it. Let us "touch not, handle not, the unclean thing." It will help to keep us clean, independent, and manly; "to reduce our expenses," "to buy less and produce more, and make our farm self-

sustaining." "To discountenance the credit system, the mortgage system, the fashion system, and every other system tending to bankruptcy or degradation."

Shall we labor in the Grange to rise up and leave our bad habits, and all work together to that end, leaving tobacco and whatever injures us in the hands of middle-men.

Very truly,
ALONZO SESSIONS
From White Pigeon Grange.

There are few Granges that can show a more honorable history than White Pigeon Grange. Its very organization was a success, and so has been its history and work ever since. Its membership is composed of good, enterprising, social men, and noble, intelligent and zealous women. Its meetings are always well attended, and it verily believes that it has a great mission among the busy farmers of our lovely county, and right well it is doing its work in their midst.

On the evening of March 23d we had one of the most enjoyable of the many pleasant meetings of our fraternity. There were nearly one hundred persons present. Such a happy time within the hall was an appropriate counterpart to the threatening storm without.

Besides the usual business and sociability of such meetings, there was on this evening the conferring of the concluding degrees upon three candidates, and a much enjoyed feast upon those delicacies and good things which Granger ladies know so well how to prepare.

This surely seemed enough on the programme for one evening; but the members of the Grange had arranged for still another interesting event.—Our Worthy Master, Daniel Shurtz, has presided over our Grange so long and so well, having been the first and only Master of our Grange thus far in its history, and having discharged his duties so faithfully and successfully, that the members concluded he had worn the old sash and pouch long enough. Accordingly, just as the Grange was about to go into committee of the whole, on the feast, Bro. George Dickenson stepped to the Master's table, and, unfolding a suspicious looking bundle, presented the Worthy Master, in the name of the Grange, a very neat and beautiful Master's regalia. Bro. Dickenson appropriately alluded to the appreciation of the Grange of the Master's faithfulness and usefulness, and presented the gift as a token of the fraternity's hearty esteem. The Worthy Master was taken completely by surprise, not having even the faintest suspicion of the beautiful gift; and, before he could recover self-possession, Bro. James Yauney, visiting Master from Centerville Grange, rather heartlessly, added to the Master's surprise and embarrassment, by rendering the following original poem, which we give in full, not only because of its beautiful appropriateness to the occasion, but also because of its real merit, and excellent sentiment:

Patrons! behold your Worthy Master,
Who long has battled for the right;
Whose faith was never known to waver,
While leading on the glorious fight.

No words of mine are fitly spoken,
Nor can my trusty pencil tell,
The love you had for him unbroken,
That binds you all to him so well.

Once more you've led him to your altar,
Once more he's pledged a solemn vow;
Let come what will, he ne'er will falter,
While guiding on the Patron's plow.

Long may he live: your noble Master!
And may his example be handed down;
To Patrons' noble sons and daughters,
Like jewels dropping from a crown.

And, when he fails to sound the gavel:
And, when his labors here may cease;
Oh! may then our Heavenly Master
Guide him to the Lodge of Peace.

Bro. Shurtz concluded that he had better not attempt to make his speech under the circumstances, but by the next meeting he had recovered composure, and thanked the Grange in the following neat speech:

"Brothers and Sisters—When you presented me with this beautiful sash and pouch, at our last meeting, I was taken so completely by surprise that I was entirely unable to express my gratitude to you for the kindness you had shown me. But permit me now, though it be somewhat after the time, to thank you most heartily for your kind gift. I am unworthy of such a reward at your hands. I have not been the true and zealous Patron that I should have been; nor have I been worthy of the confidence you have placed in me.

"This beautiful emblem of our Order will ever remind me of my duty, which I shall strive to discharge more faithfully in the future than I have in the past. And, in doing this, I hope I may ever receive from you that hearty support you have shown me heretofore. Again permit me to thank you for this beautiful present, which I appreciate not alone for its value, but also for the kindness and respect you have shown me in presenting it."

Are there not other Granges that can and should do likewise? Patrons, it is a pleasant work to serve a Grange, or do anything, when our labors are appreciated. Such tokens of esteem are becoming and beneficial to the givers and receiver. W.

ALLEN GRANGE, No. 78,
Hillsdale Co., Mich. }
Bro. J. T. Cobb:

Our Grange is trying to stimulate improvement by visiting the farms of members and reporting their condition, and we find it pleasant, and I trust it will prove profitable. A committee of these Brothers and their wives were appointed to visit the farm of our W. M., H. D. Pessell. The cordial greeting we received from Bro. and Sister Pessell dispelled at once any suspicion that we had, as a committee, an unpleasant task to perform. As space in the VISITOR is in such demand, the committee will briefly report that we found Bro. Pessell's farm consisted of 120 acres, well watered, stocked, and in good condition. The fact that Bro. P. killed a hog weighing 660 lbs. testifies to his manner of feeding and quality of breed.

His cattle were in a thriving condition. Has some steers that will pay his brother farmers to go and see. Has a good flock of sheep; average weight of fleece at last shearing, 6½ pounds. We found much to commend, and first of all he has a supply of good farm implements, and keeps them well-housed when not in use. The committee had a good time—done their whole duty to Sister Pessell's bountiful repast, and went home feeling that it was good to be a Granger.

By Order of the Committee,
W. F. S.

—Texas papers allude to Chicago peddlers as crosses between clock peddlers and lightning-rod men.

VISITORS to the interesting open meetings recently held at Golden Gate Grange, in this city, were considerably astonished at the ability and readiness of the Patrons in debate. If the Grange had accomplished no more for farmers than to educate them to the use of their wits and tongues in public debate, it would be worth more than all the time, money and labor that have been spent in its organization.—Homes in California.

THE REAPER, DEATH.

Died at Redford, April 2d, FREDERICK W. NARDIN, formerly Secretary and a worthy member of Redford Grange, No. 367.

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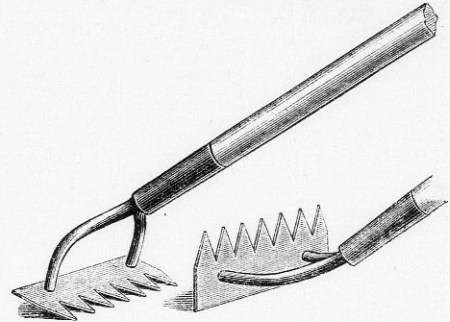
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Barage, Veiling,	Doeshins,	Linen, Birds-eye,	Sewing Machines,
Bills,	Domines,	Linen Thread,	Sewing Machine Illustra-
Bag Strings,	Dress Goods,	Linen Braid,	ted List
Bed Springs,	Dress Binding,	Linen Floss,	Seines,
Bed Quilt,	Drilling, Cotton,	Linen Collars and Cuffs,	Sheeting, Unbleached,
Belting, Machine,	Drilling, Linen,	Lucry,	Sheeting, Bleached,
Belts, Ladies,	Ducking,	Locks,	Shirts, White,
Beavers,	Edgings and insertings,	Lockets,	Shirts, Checked and Striped,
Bill Books,	Elastic Cord and Web,	Lockets, Illustrated List.	Shirts, Over,
Blank Laths,	Embroidery Silk,	Lucry, Muscettes and Piques,	Shirt Bosoms,
Blank Books,	Embroidery Cotton,	Mattresses,	Shirt Stands,
Blankets, Bed and Horse,	Fans,	Memorandum Books,	Shirts and Scissors,
Blacking,	Flanne, Cotton,	Miscellaneous Articles,	Shawl Bosoms,
Bleached Cotton,	Flanne, Union Checks,	Mittens, Men's and Boys',	Shawl Pins,
Blacking,	Flanne, Shaker,	Mohair, Dress,	Shawls,
Bleing,	Flanne, Wool, Plain,	Mohair, Binding,	Shawl Straps,
Boots and Shoes,	Flanne, Wool Twilled,	Monkey Wrenches,	Shawl Pins, Illustrated List
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Brushes, Backing,	Flanne, Wool Plain,	Nankens,	Silver Plated Ware, Illus-
Brushes, Nail,	Flanne, Opere,	Napkins,	trated List.
Brushes, Hair,	Flanne, Wool Plain,	Napkin Rings, Rubber,	Spoons and Forks, Silver
Brushes, Cloth,	Flanne, Wool Plain,	Napkin Rings, Rubber,	Plated,
Brushes, Horse,	Flanne, Wool Plain,	Napkin Rings, Rubber,	Skirts and Coat Braid,
Brushes Net,	Flanne, Wool Plain,	Napkin Rings, Rubber,	Sleeve Buttons,
Braids,	Flanne, Wool Plain,	Napkin Rings, Rubber,	Soap, Toilet and Silver,
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Brown Cotton,	Flanne, Wool Plain,	Napkin Rings, Rubber,	Star Braid,
Br saddleth,	Flanne, Wool Plain,	Napkin Rings, Rubber,	Stationery,
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Carpets,	Flanne, Wool Plain,	Napkin Rings, Rubber,	Tapo, Linen and Cotton,
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Cane Goods,	Flanne, Wool Plain,	Napkin Rings, Rubber,	Thread Lace,
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Cassimers,	Flanne, Wool Plain,	Napkin Rings, Rubber,	Ticking,
Cement, Rubber,	Flanne, Wool Plain,	Napkin Rings, Rubber,	Tick Binding,
Chromes,	Flanne, Wool Plain,	Napkin Rings, Rubber,	Tobacco,
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Connet Jeans,	Flanne, Wool Plain,	Napkin Rings, Rubber,	Wetting Cord,
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Curtains, Lace,	Flanne, Wool Plain,	Napkin Rings, Rubber,	Wool Twine,
Curry Combs,	Flanne, Wool Plain,	Napkin Rings, Rubber,	Wool Scars,
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