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ISSUED SEMI-

MONTHLY

BY THE EXECUTIVE

COMMITTEE OF THE

Michigan State

Grange, P. of H.

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THE GRANGE VISITOR,

Is Published on the First and Fifteenth of every Month

AT FIFTY CENTS PER ANNUM,
Invariably in Advance.

J. T. COBB, Editor and Manager.

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

Remittances should be by Registered Letter, Money Order or Draft.

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.

RATES OF ADVERTISING:

Acceptable advertisements inserted at the rate of \$1.00 per square, for each insertion.

A Liberal discount will be made on standing advertisements of three months or more.

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By order of the State Grange at its late session, Masters no longer receive a copy of the VISITOR free.—Secretaries, or other persons, sending ten or more names, with pay for the same, will receive an extra copy free. Sample numbers furnished on application.

Communications.

Something More on the Oil Question.

SOLON, December 30, 1878.

Bro. Cobb:

In the VISITOR of December 1st, I noticed an article headed "Oil Monopoly." The writer cites us to the amount of money made by the Standard Oil Company, and from that to the Courts of Pennsylvania, etc.

That the oil business in Michigan is conducted and controlled by an oil ring, I have no doubt; but how to break it, is the question. It appears to me, the only way is through the Legislature. We send what we suppose are our best men to look after our affairs, and what is the result. Along comes a Professor of Science, Chemistry, or theory of something else, who has a well-worded document, and presents it to the Legislature. They think it sounds fair, and as Mr. Professor ought to know, it is passed by them, and becomes a law. In 1869, a law was passed to the effect that oil should bear the test of 110° Fahrenheit's thermometer, and that the inspectors should receive four cents for the inspection of each and every barrel, cask, or package.

In 1873, the law was changed to 150° F., and the price for inspection to ten cents for each and every package.

In 1875, the test of oil was reduced to 140°, and the compensation of the inspectors was raised, and classed thus: One bbl., forty cents, under five, thirty cents; over five and under ten, twenty-five cents; and ten cents for each additional barrel, keg, or package.

In 1877, the price of inspection was again raised, and classed nearly as above: Single barrel, sixty cents; not exceeding five, forty cents, not exceeding ten, thirty cents; and ten cents for each additional package in lots less than a car load of fifty barrels or packages.

Why is it that the compensation of inspectors is raised to such an exorbitant price? Mainly, because merchants and wholesale dealers are in the ring, and are bound to crush out those who want to buy by the barrel.

In 1869, when every thing was high, the inspectors could afford to inspect for four cents per package, and did so for four years, then the price was raised to ten cents, and they did the work two years for that; and now when every thing to eat, drink, and wear is about half price, and many things less, the Legislature allows the inspectors fifteen times as much as at first. Where is the justice, and who is to blame? I cannot trace it beyond the Legislature. If the members are duped by the oil ring, so much the worse for them; if in the oil ring, the question is solved. Another thing is quite mysterious,—that any oil refined outside of this State will not bear the test here! I believe that oil refined in Illinois, or any other State, and bearing the test of 150° Fahrenheit thermometer, ought to do the same in Michigan, and would if there was no humbug in the testers. A merchant in Iowa was about to buy oil in Chicago, he bought samples for inspection, one 170°, and the other 175°; the inspector tried them with his tester, and the 175° would just go 140° Michigan test.

Do you think there ought to be so much difference in testers?

Our Grange bought a barrel of oil in Ohio, 150° test, and while in transit, it passed through Grand Rapids, and Mr. Inspector, seeing it was from another State, he inspected it free of charge, marked it "rejected," and writes a postal card to the same address, telling him it was dangerous stuff, and that he

must send it out of the State, and send him (the inspector) the shipping receipt. What business had he to inspect it before it got to its destination? Just to favor the ring. Well, it cost us just \$4.84 to find out that we could not buy oil, except through the ring. The ring master says it is for the safety of the people. Do our records show any fewer accidents now than when the test was 110°. The inspectors report shows a great difference in burners used, but as they cannot control that, they continue to humbug the people on oil. Do we hear of more accidents in other States, than from our own. I presume all want to be safe, but hate to be humbugged. S. W. D.

Michigan Letter.

Worthy Sec'y Cobb:

DEAR EDITOR:—I clip the following "Michigan Letter" from *The Husbandman* of the 25th ult., and ask you to print it entire in the VISITOR. I see it had already been copied into some Michigan papers.

Fraternally,

G. D.

HOME, Ionia, Dec. 14, 1878.

EDITORS HUSBANDMAN:—Having just returned from the Capitol, where our State Grange is now holding its annual meeting, (to close to-day,) though pressed with other duties, and knowing that I can only use the little share of time that is given me, and that there is less of it every day than I need though every thing else can be multiplied in abundance, I can not resist the desire to give you and your readers some account of my observations and reflections on the past and the present.

A little over forty years ago Michigan was only a territory and a wilderness. Its first constitution was framed in June, 1835, and its State government was organized soon after. To-day it has a population of one and one-half millions of people, mainly industrious, prosperous and independent. Education is free to all the children in the State. All needful institutions for reform, charity, education, &c., have been built up, and a new capitol has just been completed and finished, costing nearly one and one-half millions of dollars, and all is paid for, and the State is practically free from debt.

The old capitol building was built for the accommodation of the Legislature only; it did not contain the State offices, and it has long been used for meetings of various kinds, the State Grange having held its annual meetings there for three years or more.

The constitution provides for a Board of State Auditors, to consist of the Secretary of State, the State Treasurer, and the Commissioner of the State Land Office, and this Board has charge of the capitol and public buildings at the seat of government. When the committee of the State Grange were seeking for a place to hold the annual meeting for this year, and meekly asked for the use of the old building, they were assured that it was not fit for them, but that the doors of the new building would be thrown open, and that the farmers of Michigan, with their wives, were invited to come up to the Capitol of the State, and dedicate and use the splendid edifice they had provided for the accommodation of their servants.

They did meet there, and were very fully and ably represented, and though a pressure of other matters forbade that I should give much time to the enjoyment of the meeting, I was always welcome inside the gates, and had an opportunity to observe that Master Woodman, who is a model man as well as a model presiding officer, and has the

happy faculty to inspire respect and confidence in all who approach him, was always at his post, and always master of the situation, ready, prompt and pusing work. Secretary Cobb was also at his post, kind, pleasant, genial, yet prompt and positive when occasion required, always quiet, yet always ready, with the force of a steam engine. The Grange could not get on without him, and its members have the good sense to know it.

Lecturer Whitney too, was as usual, at his post, when not needed elsewhere. He has the rare faculty of knowing just where he is wanted and can fit in to any place. He can make a good speech after everything has been said that ought to be said. It would please me to describe all the officers, but there is neither time or space. All are good, all are faithful and efficient. The lady officers out of their regalia looked charming, in it they were splendid. All the members seemed contented and happy, except here and there perhaps some man could be found that looked eager and anxious, reminding one of a bumme in pursuit of plunder, or of what happened in Paradise.

On Wednesday evening the doors were thrown open, the Governor, officers of the State, and all who chose, were invited to come in. Short but eloquent speeches were made by the Governor, Master and so on, alternately by members and others as they were called for, interspersed with music, and all seemed pleased and happy.

For myself I have to say, when I stood at the speaker's desk and looked around upon the vast body of people, intelligent men and women, assembled there, filling all the space on floor and galleries, I was proud of my class, proud of the officers who had the sagacity to see and judge that it was appropriate, suitable, and right that the men and women who had reclaimed the State, and made it blossom and bear fruit, made it a great and prosperous commonwealth, should come and occupy and use the place they had provided for their servants. I was proud too of my State, of its people, of its institutions, of its condition, and above all of the spirit of progress and improvement that pervades all its people. Never before did I feel so much the need of ideas and of language to express them. When I looked around me I could not doubt the evidence that the laborers of the State were occupying its Capitol, in actual possession of its Legislative halls, that the world was moving, and I could almost see, in imagination, the Father of all looking down upon a world where all were at work, a world where there was no idleness, no dissipation, no extravagance, no pauperism, no crime, and I felt like challenging our sister States to a contest with our own grand and noble State in its efforts to reach such a condition.

It is not my purpose to give any account of the work done at the State Grange. Its published proceedings will doubtless be forwarded to you in due time. It is a pleasure to know that its able and efficient officers were nearly all re-elected, and so far as I know everything is harmonious and pleasant.

I send you herewith a report, of cereal products compiled and published by our Secretary of State, and close this letter with the information that to-day is the first real wintry day of the season. ALONZO SESSIONS.

—A wife full of truth, innocence and love, is the prettiest flower that a man can wear next his heart.

—In order to live justly, and be respected, we must abstain from that which we blame in others.

Master's Department.

J. J. WOODMAN, - - - PAW PAW

DORMANT GRANGES.

Whenever thirteen or more members of a dormant Grange, who were in good standing when the Grange ceased to work, shall desire to resume work, and their connection with the State Grange, they should apply to the Master of the State Grange for permission to re-organize under their charter, or for the restoration of their charter, in case the same has been surrendered or suspended; and full and satisfactory instructions will be given. General and special deputies are requested to render all necessary aid in the work of revising and re-organizing weak and dormant Granges.

The absolute necessity of an organization among the farmers of the country, for the protection of their rights, and the elevation of their class, is so generally understood and admitted, that there seems to be no further argument needed, to convince all who have once been connected with the Order, as well as those who have not, that it is for the interest of every farmer in the State to sustain this organization. I am aware that more Granges were organized than the good of the Order required. Many have been consolidated; and the members of some that have ceased to work, have affiliated with other Granges; yet there are those that were once strong and prosperous, from which reports have not been received for a year or more, which should again take their places among the active working Granges of the State. The Order now occupies a position, and wields an influence no longer to be ignored, and its influence for good is largely increasing. Let its whole strength and power be brought into action.

COUNTY AND DISTRICT GRANGES.

Under the amended laws of the National Grange, State Granges are authorized to admit County and District Granges to representation in the State Grange, "under such regulations as the State Grange may provide;" and the State Grange at its recent session, authorized County and District Granges, to elect from such of the members, as are eligible under Sec. 1, of the Constitution of the National Grange, "one Representative to the State Grange, and the member so elected, and his wife, if a Matron, shall be voting members of the State Grange, provided; that such Representatives shall not be entitled to receive mileage, per diem, or other compensation from the State Grange."

County and District Granges pay no dues to the State Grange; hence the reason for the above proviso.

In order to entitle these Granges to the benefits of the above By Law of the State Grange, they must be in active working order, as shown by the quarterly reports upon the books of the Secretary of the State Grange. I discover that some of the strongest County Granges in the State, have heretofore neglected to make these reports. They are required by the By-Laws of the State Grange, and are quite as essential as reports from Subordinate Granges, as from them the condition and wants of the Subordinate Granges in the county or district can be learned. Let these reports be full and promptly made.

ANNUAL WORD.

The delegates who attended the State Grange, were instructed to visit all the Granges, which they represented, and communicate the annual word to the Master of the Grange, entitled to receive it. Any Masters of Subordinate Granges who fail to receive it from the delegate, or deputies, can obtain it from the Master of the State Grange, by sending an order for the same, signed by the Master and Secretary of the Grange, under seal. The Master of a Grange can communicate the word to no other person except the members of his Grange, who are entitled to receive it. It is quite important, that the Granges should all be in possession of the new word without unnecessary delay.

DEPUTIES.

The State Grange authorized the appointment of a special deputy for the district, composing the counties of Bay, Midland, and the counties north of them. The north-western portion of the State, comprising the counties of Manistee, Wexford, Missaukee, and the counties north of them, are also entitled to a deputy; and all other districts or counties, having five working Granges are each entitled to a special deputy, all of which will be appointed upon the application of a majority of the Masters of the Subordinate Granges in districts, and five Masters in the counties. I am of the opinion, that a good active deputy in each county could do much valuable work for the Order; and unless some more suitable person can be found for the position, I recommend that the Lecturers of the County and District Granges be made the Special Deputies, so that when they visit weak and dormant Granges, in their efforts to revive them, they may be clothed with full power to reorganize and put them in working order, and in full connection with the State Grange.

SPECIAL LECTURERS.

The lecturers whose names are in the VISITOR, have been re-appointed for the ensuing year, and Granges desiring their services, should correspond directly with them. There are scores of others among the brothers and sisters of the Order in this State, who are good speakers and lecturers; and their services would be valuable to the Order. Can we not have the list of Special Lecturers enlarged?

County or District Granges.

In answer to many questions—we republish the By-Laws of the State Grange relative to the Organization of County or District Granges with all the changes and amendments made since first published, and commend them to the attention of all members of Granges of the Pomona Degree, as well as to all who have not availed themselves of this co-operative movement. SECRETARIES please note the Section on Requirements, and report at once:

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR ORGANIZATION AND GOVERNMENT OF GRANGES.

Applications.

SEC. 1. Applications for the organization of a County or District Grange shall be made to the Master of the State Grange, and be signed by not less than nine men and four women, who shall be Masters or Past Masters and their wives who are Matrons, or fourth degree members in good standing, representing not less than—Subordinate Granges of the County or district, and shall be accompanied by a fee of \$15, which sum shall be in full for charter, and all expense of organization on the part of the State Grange.

SEC. 2. On the receipt of such application, setting forth (1) that the good of the order requires the organization of a County or District Grange in such county or district; (2) that notice of such intended organization has been served on all the Granges in said County or district; (3) that a suitable room will be provided, with the necessary paraphernalia for the convenience and work in such degree, it shall be the duty of the Master of the State Grange, to provide for the organization and instruction of such Grange, in accordance with the ritual of the fifth degree, adopted by the National Grange, and to cause notice of the time and place of meeting to be served on the Master of each Subordinate Grange in the county or district.

SEC. 3. The Master or Deputy, before completing the organization, shall see that the room provided is in proper order and suitably arranged; that the officers are duly elected and installed, and that the membership fee is paid to the Treasurer of the new organization. It shall be his duty to reject every person not strictly qualified, and to carefully instruct all officers in their several duties in the work of the Grange and degree.

SEC. 4. It shall be the duty of the Secretary of the State Grange on the reception of a certificate from the Master of the State Grange or his organiz-

ing Deputy, setting forth that such County or District Grange has been legally organized, to issue a charter in due form to such Grange.

Officers.

The officers of a County or District Granges shall be the same as in a Subordinate Grange, and their rank and duties shall be such as are provided for in the ritual of the Order including that of the Fifth Degree. They shall be chosen at the regular meeting in January of each year, and installed as soon as practicable thereafter.

All elections shall be by ballot. An Executive Committee of — members in addition to the Master and Secretary may be chosen to attend to the general business of the Grange when it is not in session.

Membership.

SEC. 1. Masters and Past-Masters of Subordinate Granges and their wives who are Matrons and all other fourth degree members of Subordinate Granges in the County or district, shall be entitled to membership, on filing an application in due form, accompanied by the fee of membership, and a certificate signed by the Master and Secretary of the Grange to which they belong, that they are members in good standing; and when duly elected to membership, shall be entitled to receive the degree of Pomona and its benefits. No member shall be received except by ballot, and three negative votes shall reject.

SEC. 2. No persons shall be eligible to this degree, unless personally engaged in agricultural pursuits, or who has other interests in conflict with the purposes of the Order.

SEC. 3. Persons applying for membership in County or District Grange shall do so in the form prescribed by the State Grange, (blank applications for which will be supplied on application, by the Secretary of the State Grange.

Fees for Membership.

The minimum fee for membership in a County or District Grange shall be \$1.00 for men and 50 cts. for women, which shall accompany the application—and no Patron shall be allowed to become a member of a County or District Grange without the payment of the regular fee.

Dues.

SEC. 1. The minimum of dues shall be 15 cents per quarter for each member, payable at the regular meeting.

SEC. 2. No dues shall be required from Pomona Granges to State or National Grange.

Meetings.

County or District Granges shall meet once in three months and may hold intermediate meetings as may be deemed necessary for the good of the order. All meetings for general business shall be opened and such business transacted, in the Fourth Degree.

Dimits.

Any brother or sister who is in good standing in a County or District Grange, and clear on the books, shall be entitled to a dimit card on the payment of the sum of 25 cents, which shall be valid for one year. Persons having such cards may be admitted to membership in another County or District Grange, but shall be subject to the same form of petition, examination, and ballot, as those first applying for membership, except that a majority vote shall elect.

Requirements.

SEC. 1. The Secretary of a County or District Grange shall report quarterly to the Secretary of the State Grange, at and for the same time Secretaries of Subordinate Granges are required to report, which report shall show the membership of the Grange, condition of the Subordinate Grange within its jurisdiction, and give such information in regard to amount of business done, stock, crops, implements, etc., as may be called for by the State Grange. Such report should be made promptly and with as much exactness as possible, and be certified to by the Master and Secretary.

SEC. 2. All circulars, information, or intelligence sent to a County or District Grange shall be communicated to the members without unnecessary delay, and through them to the Subordinate Granges in their district.

SEC. 3. All members of County or District Granges shall be on the alert to aid the Subordinate Granges in their district, and shall be prompt in communicating to them all matters affecting the interests of the order. To this end they shall make it a rule to attend all the meetings of their Subordi-

nate Grange with punctuality, and by their example and influence to encourage the members, in accordance with the design and purpose of the organization.

Jurisdiction.

The laws and rulings which relate to the jurisdiction of Subordinate Granges in this State, shall as far as practicable, apply to Pomona Granges.

Restrictions.

Religious and political questions will not be tolerated as subjects of discussion in the Pomona Grange, and no political or religious tests for membership shall be applied.

1. The Lecturer of County or District Granges shall compile the quarterly reports received from lecturers of the Subordinate Granges as required by the By-Laws of the State Grange, and forward the same to the Secretary of the State Grange.

Such blank forms shall be furnished to both County and Subordinate Granges, as the Worthy Master and Secretary of the State Grange shall deem best suited to this purpose.

2. The Lecturer of County or District Granges shall visit each Subordinate Grange in his jurisdiction, at least once each year, and exemplify the unwritten work of the Order, and give such instructions in the written work as he shall, in his judgment, think best suited to its wants and the wants of our Order, and shall report all troubles and grievances that may exist between Subordinate Granges under his jurisdiction to the County or District Grange, and he adjust the same if possible. He shall receive such compensation for said services as the Grange may direct, to be paid from its treasury.

Representative in the State Grange.

A County or District Grange may elect from such of its members as are eligible to be voting members of the State Grange, one Representative who together with his wife, if a Matron, shall be voting members of the State Grange, but not entitled to mileage, per diem, or compensation from the State Grange.—(Proceedings Sixth Annual Session.)

A Court of Appeals.

A County or District Grange may become a Court to which cases may be taken on appeal from Subordinate Granges as provided for in the By-Laws of the State Grange Art. XIII, Sec. 12.

Discipline.

The same rules of discipline as obtain in Subordinate Granges shall apply to County or District Granges, except that their jurisdiction shall only apply to Fifth Degree members against whom charges shall have been duly preferred in accordance with the usages of the order.

Trials for the violation of the obligation of the Fifth Degree shall only expell from that degree, but expulsion from the degree of Pomona shall be final, and debar the individual from a seat in the State Grange, or attendance on Fifth Degree sessions. A member, however, who is found guilty of violation of obligation of First Degree shall lose his membership in all higher degrees. All expulsions shall be reported to the Secretary of the State Grange, and by him to each District Grange in the State.

Amendments and By-Laws.

These articles may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members at any regular meeting of the State Grange.

Each County or District Grange may make such By-Laws for its own government (not conflicting with the Order, or the By-Laws of the State or National Grange) as it may deem best.

TRULY WONDERFUL.

\$14.00 AND \$15.00 SEWING MACHINES.

At last the Sewing Machine is within the reach of all. Ingersoll, of the Patrons' Paint Company has brought out a Machine, Lock-Stitch, and with all the advantages of the old monopoly machines, at the above figures. They are warranted to give satisfaction and no money required until they do. The book "Every one their own Painter," with also full illustrations of six styles Machines, sent free by mentioning this paper, and addressing O. R. INGERSOLL, Patrons' Paint Co., 162 South Street, New York.

Lecturer's Department.

C. L. WHITNEY, - - - MUSKEGON.

New Year Watchword.

From the National Grange at its late session, and to every State and Territorial Grange, and through them, to every County and subordinate Grange, and every member of the Order of the Patrons of Husbandry, has been transmitted the *New word*. *Advance*, said the National Grange. *Advance*, said the State Grange at its late session. Let *Advance* be repeated in County, Pomona, and subordinate Grange, till every member, as well as every officer of the Order, shall literally *Advance*. "*Advance at every point along the line*" won a hard battle and a disputed field in the late war, and crowned our arms with victory.

Then let us aid our organization on to victory by an advance at every point along the entire line.

Advance together, says the State Grange, and so says all past history—whether of success or failure. *Advance* with a will, and effort, and time.

At the beginning of the New Year, under the leadership of new officers, let us make new resolutions; put forth new efforts, and let no one forget the word *Advance*. But how advance?

By always attending the meetings, and ever being punctual; by endeavoring to get every other brother and sister out to the meetings; and then endeavor to make the sessions so interesting by your own effort, that you will not only be interested yourself, but every one else will also be.

By subscribing for the *VISITOR*, or causing your Grange to take it for every family in the Grange, and paying for it out of the Grange Treasury; by reading its articles, practicing its teachings, adopting its spirit, and aiding in filling its columns.

By looking after every family without the gates, and interesting them in the good cause, thus adding new force to the Order; by writing and inspiring the steps of the faltering, and "weary in well doing."

By uniting with the Pomona Grange, and forming one if you have none; by securing a stronger union in the co-operation of Granges and members to accomplish what you could not alone.

Then educate the masses of the tillers of the soil by visiting every neighborhood, especially every dormant Grange, or places where there should be a Grange.

Advance by organizing, and re-organizing. *Advance*, by advancing others. By hearty, well arranged public services, such as installations and dedications, can advance be made. But let every thing be done well, in order, and in season. Let the services themselves be impressive, and have them accompanied by that powerful ally—music. Let nothing occur to jar the sensibilities, wound the feelings, or mar the beauty of the services.

Public addresses, with or without the ceremonies, are always productive of good. So are public discussions by members only, upon topics of general interest; let them be well attended, because every one has labored to advertise the meeting, and invite attendance.

Secure the best talent you can for lectures, and co-operate in the matter with other Granges, and thus save expense.

Pomona Granges! you are bidden to "Go preach." Announce by both precept and example, and lead others to advance by pointing out the way and the means. Above all things, remove from your Jurisdiction those hindrances to advancement in the shape of dormant Granges. Send out scouts to take note of how they may be revived, and then, securing the aid of all members and Granges near, lift them to position again.

Advance in every respect; by rooting out selfishness, and supplying its place by noble fruits; by being charitable as taught by the lessons of the ritual; by developing mental culture, by cultivating social culture, and by purifying the moral field.

Advance by true co-operation, enlisting all the forces and powers God has given us, and by directing all these in obedience to the law which creates and must control.

Advance most of all by beginning with self-examination, pruning and weeding in the vineyard of your own heart, checking the passions, quicken-

ing the thoughts, and rousing the latent energies of manhood and womanhood.

Do all these, and we shall really advance at all points along the line, and carry with us such a force of moral, social, and intellectual power, that, as an Order, we shall not only advance, but take with us, those around us. In short, advance the whole country.

Advance then, brothers and sisters, not only now, but all the year, and may 1880 find us still advancing.

THE Lecturer and General Deputy has appointments as follows:

At Lansing and near there, the 15th and 16th, at Alton, Kent Co., the 17th, in Allegan Co. the 20th, Ottawa Co. the 23d and 24th, and will be again at Lansing about the 2d week in February.

He can go the week previous to the eastern part of the State if two or more Granges apply. His being from home much of the time requires that those who desire his services should promptly correspond with him. A number of Granges near together can save largely in the expense by arranging for their meetings to take place at one trip of the lecturer.

LET District and County Granges send to Secretary Cobb for a statement showing the standing of each Grange in the Jurisdiction, and don't forget the names of your new officers, especially the Master, Secretary and Lecturer, with the post-office address of each.

KEENE GRANGE, Ionia County, has taken (21) twenty-one subscriptions for the *VISITOR* this year, and Vergennes Grange, in Kent Co., takes 25 copies, all given at a late visit of the Lecturer and General Deputy. Let us hear from any Granges doing better.

Correspondence.

We have received the following from the office of Thomas Mason, general commission merchant and agent of the Michigan L. S. Fruit Growers' Association, and Patrons of Husbandry of the State of Michigan, 183 South Water Street.—ED.

CHICAGO, Jan. 6, 1879.

Advice to Shippers:

Apples—To ship a distance in car loads at this season, be prepared to come or send a faithful man with them to look after a fire placed in the car. The Railroad Company will grant a pass to such a man one way. To obtain this best results, see that there is no damaged fruit in the barrels, that they are honestly packed with good, sound fruit from top to bottom. You will thereby save cost of extra barrels, and freight on the same. The net gain will be a higher price on those sold, your brand will be at a premium, and you will be better satisfied with the world, yourself, and Your humble servant,

THOS. MASON.

P. S. Apples at this date find ready sale at \$1.75 @ \$2.00 per bbl. For further information, address as above—when you mean business.

VERMONTVILLE, Eaton Co., }
Jan. 3d, 1879. }

Editor Grange Visitor:

Vermontville Grange, No. 625, begins the new year with an entire new staff of officers, and with good prospects. Although its membership is about the same as a year ago its strength is one-third greater. Its income pays its expenses and it has been on the increase since the elections were over last fall. It has adopted a series of questions for discussion at our meetings for each of the ensuing six months, leaving the alternate evenings for such business as may be brought up from time to time; as lectures, addresses, discussions etc.

It always meets in the day time, generally at two o'clock P. M. It has never gone largely into trade matters, but its members declare that they save money because of the Grange. It has declared in favor of a Pomona Grange for this County, and for greater progress and activity in the advancement of our class.

The Past Master, Bro. A. P. Green, having been elected Register of Deeds, the members of the Grange gathered at his house on December 19th, for a parting social and quilting. A fine social time was enjoyed. After dinner a new

feature was introduced, to the surprise and pleasure of those in attendance. Some ten toasts were prepared, and various Brothers and Sisters were called on to respond in a few off-hand remarks.

On January 2d inst, we met to have our officers elect installed, and to hear an address from Bro. Thos. F. Moore, of Adrian. A beautiful New Year's day was followed by a terrible wind, and the thermometer indicated about zero all day; nevertheless about one hundred and fifty gathered in the M. E. Church, and after getting there we had a very pleasant time. The address was of a good, practical nature we so much need, and will do good. The day was closed with an oyster supper at the Follet House.

I think we have been aided in attaining our success by the opening of the Fifth degree to those who attend the State Grange sessions, for quite a number of our members have been to the last two sessions, and have come home invigorated and ready to push forward.

Again the *GRANGE VISITOR* has been a great help. About twenty-five copies have been taken here, and those who read it are among the active workers. Brothers and Sisters, increase its circulation, and thus increase useful knowledge of our Order, and its membership.

Yours Fraternally,
B. E. BENEDICT.

BATTLE CREEK, Jan. 3d, 1879.

Pursuant to notice, the Grange met on Saturday last, at 10 o'clock P. M. to carry out the usual programme of an annual meeting. Besides the usual attendance of the members of this Grange a goodly number from abroad put in their appearance, and by their presence gave greater value to the occasion. After the regular routine of business was passed, the reports from officers and committees were listened to with marked attention by all present. Through these reports we learn that Battle Creek Grange is not only augmenting her membership, but increased her ability to perform the work belonging to the organization. Many who live some distance from the hall and who had become quite lukewarm, have recently discerned a bright spot in the future of the Grange, and on Saturday last, reunited with us and resolved to live in and for the Order. After the report of the standing committees and officers had been made, the next thing, in order to fill the bill, was the annual feast in which many members, as well as many out of the Order, seemed to take particular interest in disposing of the rich and varied collection which the sisters had so generously supplied. We call to mind many gatherings of the kind during the past year, but this one entirely outstripped all its predecessors in the way of edibles. One could but think as he looked over the loaded tables that nothing but a long contemplated strife of each to outdo the rest could supply the vast amount of food so tastefully arranged for the occasion. The remaining part of the programme was the election of officers which was duly attended to. Worthy Master Wm. L. Simmons was reelected, and your correspondent elected Secretary.

Fraternally,
N. CHILSON.

BERRIEN SPRINGS, Dec. 24, 1878.

Worthy Secretary:

As my subscription for the *VISITOR* has about expired, I shall renew it, as we can't do without it, and do ourselves justice.

I wish to call the attention of all farmers in Western Michigan and Northern Indiana to the commission house of Brother Mason, in Chicago. We can say for Bro. Mason that he has given the best of satisfaction to his customers who have favored him with shipments of fruit and any other kinds of produce. We can say that we have shipped fruit and produce to Chicago for twenty-six years, and we have never been so well satisfied but one of these years as we have been with Bro. Mason since he has been in Chicago. Why not ship him all the produce we sell merchants at home. They ship it, and make a good profit on it, and we should make that percent ourselves. We can just as well ship our produce to Chicago ourselves, as to let the merchants do it on their account. We should stick to our co-operative stores at home and in Chicago. Our co-operative stores in Berrien County, at Buchanan and Benton Harbor have done a good business this

fall, with all the opposition that outsiders have made against them. Farmers, let us patronize our own institutions! Yours fraternally,

J. H. FEATHER.

QUINCY, Jan. 6th, 1879.

Worthy Secretary:

Inclosed you will find six more names for the *GRANGE VISITOR*. * * It is surprising that so few seem to realize the importance of taking the *VISITOR*. I consider it one of the best agents to combine, aid, strengthen and benefit the Order that can possibly be devised. As evidence I will say that those of our Grange who take the *VISITOR* are as zealous and determined as ever they were; while those who are negligent are nearly to a man those who do not read the paper. I consider the present the most important time in the history of this Nation for the laboring classes to combine and demand equal justice for all before the law. I also think the Grange one of the best organizations to bring about the desired change. Excuse this trespass on your time.

Fraternally Yours,
E. LAMPMAN.

COLDWATER, Dec. 29th, 1878.

Ed. Grange Visitor:

The Branch Co. Pomona Grange, No. 22, was organized March 21st, 1878. Since which time it has held meetings regularly and with increased interest, having work to do in initiating at nearly every meeting. At our last regular meeting at Coldwater Grange Hall, Dec. 10th, one of our best meetings was held. After the regular labor of the day was finished, a discussion was had between the Worthy Secretary, Wright, and Mrs. H. Norton, which was well received by the Grange. Subject, "Our Common Schools." On account of the length of the discussion I will not send a copy for publication, but suffice to say, we are alive and awake in Branch Co. and with a membership of 40, of the best material of the County, we will march boldly forward to success.

More after the next meeting which occurs on the 8th of Jan., 1879.

Fraternally Yours,
WALLACE E. WRIGHT, Sec'y.

MUSKEGON, Dec. 23d, 1878.

Worthy Bro. Cobb:

The annual meeting of Pomona Grange, No. 19, Ottawa and Muskegon, takes place January 23d and 24th, at Berlin in the Hall of Ottawa Grange, No. 20. A large meeting is expected, and Bro. Moore, Worthy Overseer of the State Grange, is expected to be present on the 24th, to install the officers elect. A general invitation is extended to all Brother and Sister Patrons.

C. L. WHITNEY,
Lecturer, State Grange.

THREE RIVERS, Jan. 6th, 1879.

Brother J. T. Cobb:

Please notice in *GRANGE VISITOR* that St. Joseph County Pomona Grange, No. 4, not having a quorum present Jan. 2d, on account of the extreme cold weather, is hereby ordered by the Executive Committee to take place the first Thursday in February, 1879. The meeting will be held at the hall of Centreville Grange, as noticed in the *VISITOR* of Dec. 1878.

W. G. LELAND, Sec'y.

BYRON, Dec. 28, 1878.

Bro. J. T. Cobb:

Kent County Grange, No. 18, will meet at the town Hall at Byron Center on the 23d of January, 1879. The officers elect will be installed. All members of the Order are cordially invited to attend. Bro. Moore, Overseer of Mich State Grange, will deliver a public lecture in the Evening.

Fraternally Yours,
WM. P. WHITNEY, Master.BERRIEN SPRINGS, Mich., }
Jan. 4th, 1879. }

The Annual meeting of the stockholders of the Western Produce Exchange will be held at Buchanan, the first Wednesday (the 5th) in February. It is desired that all members, and as many more who are interested in co-operation, will be present.

E. M. IRELAND, Sec'y

—The gem cannot be polished without friction; neither can man be perfected without trials.

THE GRANGE VISITOR.

SCHOOLCRAFT, JAN. 15, 1879.

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.

PETITIONS.

In reviewing the proceedings of the late session of the Michigan State Grange we find that we are to prepare and have printed, petitions to the Legislature asking for amendments to existing laws, or for enactments that are expected to better protect the interests of the people of the State. We shall try and have this work done, and the blanks distributed within ten days, and we hope the Secretaries to whom they are sent will lose no time in obtaining names to the petitions.

It so happens that while as Patrons we may undertake this work and be foremost in pressing some of these matters upon the attention of the Legislature; yet the objects sought are alike in the interest of other classes as well as farmers. That our readers will give these matters a little attention before they are called on to sign petitions we will enumerate the subjects embraced in these several petitions:

A reduction of the highest contracting rates of interest from ten to seven per cent. per annum. Adopting a different standard for kerosene oil. Restricting cases that are now appealed from justice courts to circuit courts, to certain limits. Asking that Receivers managing and operating railroads in this State be made liable and subject to all laws that affect or control officers managing other railroad corporations. In regard to simplifying the drainage laws. Making more complete the law relating to the collection of agricultural statistics of supervisors. Providing for the better taxation of personal property, particularly of mortgages. Making provisions for uniformity of text books in schools, and making women eligible to official positions, or for school officers. Asking for the admission of girls to the Agricultural College, and an appropriation for the building of a cottage for their use.

In regard to these several matters we have time to say but little in this number. The readers of the VISITOR perhaps all know that we believe that the rate of interest which people may contract to pay should no longer be ten per cent. If there ever was an argument that was good and valid, for restricting the rate of interest to ten per cent. we believe whatever that argument may have been, the same reasoning now demands that the highest rate allowed by law shall be seven per cent. We leave it for those to discuss at length who have the time, and will summarize our views in a few words.

Our form of government recognizes this as a self evident proposition. The interests of the many are superior to the interests of the few. Lenders of money are few in numbers in Michigan, compared with borrowers. We think that no one will for a moment pretend that if the highest legal rate is fixed at seven per cent. the lenders of money in this State will not derive as much or more revenue from their money than the owners of capital invested in farming or

any other legitimate business, which our people are prosecuting. It is alleged that no matter how carefully a restrictive law may be drawn, or how well defined, the penalties imposed for violation, that men will still continue to take more than seven per cent. just as now and for years past, sharp men who are ostentatious in their declarations about *doing just as they agree*, and whose theory of *right* is to take whatever any man may agree to pay, no matter under what compulsion, have been taking more than ten per cent. To this we answer, that kind of talk is not entitled to be called argument. It is neither right or legal to steal, yet men do steal every day and probably always will, and no one is advocating a repeal of all laws prescribing penalties for theft.

We hold, however much a law prescribing a rate of interest is evaded, the borrowing class will pay to the lenders of money during the first year that seven per cent. is the highest rate of interest in this State allowed by law, several hundred thousand dollars less of interest than if the law in relation to interest remains unchanged, and further, that the sum so saved whatever it may be, by the borrowers, will be of advantage to the people of the State taken collectively.

In the matter of kerosene oil, we invite attention to a communication from "S. W. D." on another page. That article should be read by each member of our Legislature, and all new members should at once take stock in the Standard Oil Co., make arrangements for a *division* of the legal charge for inspecting, or at once go to work to legislate the price of inspecting kerosene oil back to a reasonable compensation. If four cents a package paid for this service for four years when prices of labor were one-third higher than now, the chances are that four cents a package would be fair pay for the work now.

The onerous burden of taxation which annually meets the tax-payer on account of suits for petty sums that are appealed from our justice courts to the circuit court, and in the prosecution of which the litigants themselves are often impoverished, is a load so grievous, unnecessary, unjust and aggravating that we believe the people who have endured this trespass upon their rights for many years are very unanimous in their demand for legislative relief. A community has rights as well as individuals, and in this matter "we the people" shall ask for protection from litigants and lawyers who, with only a *bone* of contention, will consume years of time dragging it through all the courts of the State, largely at our expense.

The incompleteness of our laws governing railroad companies has permitted "Receivers" to operate and control roads without regard to the requirements that are enforced against railroads officered and controlled in the ordinary or regular way. Railroads are operated by receivers in this State without being fenced, and we have the best authority for saying that there is no law by which a receiver can be required to fence the road he controls.

In regard to simplifying the drain laws, we have only this to say. A good many able Michigan farmers are very simple that they don't make good meadow land out of bog-swamp while labor is cheap.

We don't know anything about the law. If it needs legislative tinkering we are sorry for it.

We shall also ask that sections 804 and 805 of the Compiled Laws,

which relate to the collecting of agricultural statistics by Supervisors be so amended that the Secretary of State shall be required to furnish blanks for that purpose that shall more fully cover the area cultivated and the agricultural productions of the State. The incompleteness of the present law prevented any attempt to execute its requirements for many years and not until the Secretary of State, E. G. D. Holden, who has just retired from that office, took hold of the matter and went beyond the requirements of the law in providing blanks for the use of Supervisors, did we have any collection of the cereal or other products of the State? Statistics though rather dry and uninteresting to the general reader are nevertheless important. And an agricultural State that has not complete statistics of all its productions has through some branch of its government or executive officers, somewhere been unfaithful to its duty.

Although legislation so far has not devised any way whereby personal property bears its just proportion of taxation, yet the farmers of Michigan are not ready to believe that it is impossible to reach in some way the owners of mortgages covering real estate on which the farmer is paying taxes for the full assessed valuation. Our real estate bears much more than its just proportion of taxes, and some means of relief should be devised that shall bring about a more equitable distribution of the burdens which must be borne by the people.

Next comes the very reasonable demand that women shall be eligible to election as school officers. For argument in support of this proposition we take pleasure in referring to an article in the Dec. 16th No. of the VISITOR from the pen of Mrs. A. Knapp, of Prairie Ronde.

The same petition will also include a request that some authority be lodged somewhere to establish uniformity of text books in our schools. Our present *want* of system is an expensive cause of complaint, and something should be done to remedy the present condition of things.

And last but not least we shall ask for a practical recognition of the right of girls to instruction in our Agricultural College on an equal footing with our boys. And that this Legislature make an appropriation for the construction of a cottage suitable for their accommodation.

THE VISITOR.

We have an ample supply of the VISITOR of January 1st, with which to supply new subscribers as well as old, and as will be seen by this number, we are having smaller type used so as to get as much matter as possible into the paper. We mean to give our friends the worth of their money this year, and hope they will remember that now is the time to make up clubs for 1879. A little earnest work in every Grange will put the VISITOR on a paying basis, strengthen the Order and promote the general welfare.

An error made by the compositor who was requested to alter the *single* subscription price of the VISITOR and *Husbandman* from \$1.75 to \$1.70, but instead altered to \$1.50, has given us a little annoyance. As that is the regular price of a single copy of the *Husbandman*, it must be quite apparent that we did not intend to say that we would furnish both papers at that price.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

W. E. Smith—Your card received too late for VISITOR of Jan. 1st.

TO ALL WHO WRITE TO ANYBODY, BUT MORE PARTICULARLY TO THOSE WHO WRITE TO THIS OFFICE.

In the course of a varied business experience we have learned to do several things to our satisfaction, but have not been able to make up deficiencies such as appear in the following letter:

January 8th, 1879.

Mr. Cobb—Dear Sir:

Please send my GRANGE VISITOR to Scotts, Kalamazoo Co., Mich., and oblige,
H. E. TAYLOR.

Bro. Taylor, where have we been sending your paper to? Perhaps we ought to know, but we don't, and we can't afford the time to look through our mailing book to find out.

We are preparing a new blank for the report of Secretary of County Granges. Form the appearance of our record book of County and District Granges we conclude that this requirement has been overlooked by many Secretaries. It is important that this office have complete records of the County and District Granges as well as of the State and Subordinate Grange. The County Grange is a constitutional branch of our organization, and we must enjoin upon the Masters of these Granges to see to it that the requirements of the State Grange applying to them be no longer disregarded.

Pomona Granges should insist that each and every officer of their Granges shall take and read the VISITOR, even if the amount of the subscription is paid from the County or District Grange treasury.

Western Pomona Grange, No. 19, held a very successful meeting on the 20th of Dec. at Allendale Grange Hall. Twelve took the Fifth Degree; and eight subscriptions were taken for the VISITOR.

Interesting Michigan Statistics.

Michigan has a population of about 1,500,000 inhabitants, of which number, we learn from a statistical paper in the *Detroit Post*, prepared by H. G. Van Tuyl, there are 270,458 young men of all ages ranging from 15 to 35. 37 per cent of the male population of the State are under 15, 28 per cent are over 35, leaving 35 per cent of young men. 25 per cent of these live in the 46 cities of the State. Of the whole number, 104,900 are of foreign birth, but for the most part they speak English. Of occupations, 108,137 are farmers, 6,468 are teachers, 3,448 are clergymen, 811 lawyers, 707 doctors, 1,171 journalists, 331 servants, and employees, 29,638; trades, etc., 11,455; manufacturers and miners, 48,080; transportation, etc., 6,794. There are 2,679 in colleges, and 11,000 in the lower grade schools. The paper further says: "It is estimated that the whole number of young men in the United States is 7,000,000, and of these, 250,000, or less than 4 per cent, are Christians." Michigan has only 40,000 Church members among her 270,000 young men. "Less than 25 per cent of our young men avail themselves of religious privileges in any degree; fewer still, 40,000, or less than 15 per cent are Church members." The writer deplores the sad state of affairs, and he laments to find that on the other hand, there were 2,623 young men arrested, and sent to the Detroit House of Correction last year, which was 75 per cent of all the males arrested. Of these, 15 per cent could neither read nor write. The State's Prison report for 1875 shows the average age of its inmates to be 29 years, or that of 700 prisoners, 474, or 65 per cent, were young men. And about the same conditions of illiteracy holds as at the House of Correction. But another fact is impressive, namely, that 80 per cent were without trades; 77 per cent were intemperate."

This is an interesting sociological study, and made a great impression on the minds of the members of the Young Men's Christian Association, before whom it was read.

Communications.

Something to Think of.

Editor Visitor:

I have been much interested in your discussion of the lawyers and the expense of the Courts. You have struck sturdy blows in favor of economy in the matter of suits-at-law. I trust your proposition to restrict small suits to Justice Courts will carry. A very large portion of our taxes comes from this class of cases.

Were people willing to leave their disputes to a justice, or better still, to the judgment of three trustworthy citizens, much more satisfactory would be the result, and great would be the saving of money to the people. As it is now, the people suffer for the suits brought, for the cost is put into the taxes. I need not tell you how this is, for every reflecting man will see that parties to a suit rarely ever pay all the costs of maintaining a Court, while the suit is in progress. It is very expensive to the litigants of course, but if they were the only ones to suffer, we could afford to let them fight it out—although it would not be good neighborhood to allow two men to fight till they give their property to the lawyers; it is as bad to permit them to do this as it is to allow them to stand up and beat each other. Your plan of allowing no suit to be taken to the Circuit Court under \$100 will save much of this expensive litigation it is true, but there may sometimes be injustice, though far less than when you make other people pay as much more to have the cases carried to the Circuit or Supreme Court. I have another plan which, though startling in its character, I think still better—abolish all laws for the collection of debts! (except security on real or personal property). Then you have done away with courts and lawyers except for criminal cases. This would put every man upon his honor, and every business man upon his guard. It would close the brazen temple of so-called justice to a certain class of cases, and do much to abolish the credit system. "Men would then have to pay for what they buy—they would have to do so. If you trusted a man then for a cow or a bushel of wheat, you would do so wholly upon your knowledge of his personal integrity, as you do now all poor men. This would save millions of dollars every year to sellers, and be a blessing to buyers. Will you not advocate this? I know all that can be said against this, but more can be said for it than can be said against it. Then have a criminal code established, the work of competent and high-minded lawyers, that every man may easily understand his relations to society, and the penalty of disobedience, and make that code unalterable; bid the Legislatures of our State meet but once in five years, instead of once in two years as now; reduce the course of study in our public schools to the teaching of the English branches, and withdraw all State support of universities and colleges; abolish some of the needless offices at your State Capitol, and give fixed salaries to all township and county offices, in proportion to the amount of legitimate business they transact, and instead of the present arrangement, where a township board can vote each other whatever they deem proper without regard to the plain language of the statute. Taxes would then no longer be a burden, and the temptation to do wrong and robbery would be measurably reduced. This is a period when the people are immensely over taxed, and they are determined that

REFORM IS NECESSARY.

Farmers' Institutes.

Jan. 9, 10, at Charlotte, Eaton Co.
Jan. 16, 17, at Flint, Genesee County.
Jan. 20, 21, at Howell, Livingston Co.
Jan. 23, 24, at Centreville, St. Joseph County.
Jan. 28, 29, at Dowagiac, Cass County.
Feb. 4, 5, at Bay City, Bay County.

LANSING, Mich., Jan. 8, '79.
J. T. Cobb, Sec'y State Grange:
Above you will see places and dates for Institutes for 1879.

The Institute at Centreville, in which I have a special interest, bids fair to be, if we may judge from the programme and local interest, one of exceeding interest. I hope it will not only be useful

and inspiring to the farmers of St. Joseph County alone, but also contiguous Counties—especially Kalamazoo County, which from its excellent railroad communications, will find it easy to attend. Very respectfully,
A. J. COOK.

The Personnel of the Sixth Session of the Michigan State Grange.

This great representative body of the Patrons of Husbandry has met, done its work, and separated with stronger fraternal ties, binding each to the other; and with higher aims, and nobler purposes, to elevate the agricultural pursuits of the Peninsular State, to its deserved rank among the industrial departments of our country. How well it may have done its work must be determined by the future of its influence, upon Grangers and our legislature, and the agricultural interests of the State at large. We give an imperfect portrait of some of its work, and workmen.

The place of its meeting must not be overlooked, as much of its interest as derived from the place of its assembling. It was held in the new State Capitol at Lansing, and was the first deliberative body, ever convened within its massive walls. This invitation from the State authorities was not only highly complimentary to the Order, but a deserved tribute to the agricultural interests of the State, which was duly appreciated, and gratefully acknowledged.

This building is not only a model of architectural beauty and grandeur, but of prudence and economy in its erection; it costing less by nearly one-half than similar buildings of some other States, with no embarrassing debt remaining, to oppress the industries of the State. The last dollar has been paid, and it stands a beautiful illustration of the Grange principle, "Pay as you go." Michigan can afford to be jubilant over the completion of this gigantic work of art. May its legislative halls never be desecrated by class legislation, or Michigan's honored name, sullied by complicity with wrong and oppression.

The high honor of dedicating this noble edifice, was conferred upon the Patrons of Husbandry. Their State Master's gavel sounded the first call for business within its walls—the voice of prayer was first offered from their chaplain's chair, and their choir sweetly sung the first notes of praise. At their meeting, the Governor and Lieut. Governor and State officers, first appeared in a public assembly in its legislative hall, and delivered their first address. It was fitting that it should be so, as no interests of the State is more fundamental to Michigan's prosperity, than agriculture; when this prospers, all other industries of the State are remunerative, but with agriculture oppressed, all others are correspondingly crippled. But to the personnel.

We first salute the Worthy Master of the Michigan State Grange, Hon. J. J. Woodman, who has entered upon his fifth year's service in this relation. That he is "worthy, and well qualified" for this high position, is apparent by his long continuance in this office; in opposition to his protests against re-election. He has indeed become indispensable to us as an order.

By nature he seems to have been endowed with high executive abilities, which have attained a degree of perfection by his long practice of parliamentary usages, both as speaker of the House of Representatives, and presiding officer of other deliberative bodies. Add to this his general knowledge of agriculture, and the practical character of the man, together with his genial manners, and gentlemanly bearing, and he stands a peer among Michigan's noblest sons. A more efficient presiding officer we could not have, and a less, would not meet the wants of the Order, at this juncture. The old adage over again, "The right man in the right place," was never more strikingly illustrated.

The next officer in order of importance to us as an organization—although not next in the order of the Ritual, is the Secretary of the State Grange, J. T. Cobb, Esq. Upon the Secretary of any deliberate body, the heaviest burdens fall, and particularly so in our organization. No officer has brought the State Grange under greater obligations, for efficiency and fidelity to its interests, than our Worthy Secretary. Not only has he the work of the office properly upon his hands, (which are enough for ordinary men,) but that of editing and publishing the Grange VISITOR, which, under his supervision, is taking rank,

not only as the organ of the Patrons of Husbandry, but as a first-class agricultural paper. Also, as a member of the State Executive Committee; his services are frequently called into requisition, and his time heavily taxed. The wonder is how he can do so much; and do it so well. Always prompt, genial, and unobtrusive, he has won for himself the highest expressions of confidence and esteem.

With such leaders as Woodman and Cobb, seconded by the wise counsels of the Executive Committee, our Order stands pre-eminent in its influence, and must become a power for good to the agricultural interest of the State at large.

We reserve the other noble workmen and women of the State Grange for another paper. S. S.

Bear Lake, Jan. 1, 1879.

The Education of Farmers.

We read much about high and unjust taxation in this or that department, but hear very little or none of it in regard to education, while thousands of dollars are being collected from us every year, and are paid for the education of hundreds who are more able to pay their own tuition than those from whom the money is collected; while it is certain that not one in ten who pay this tax can avail themselves of the benefits to be derived therefrom, the institution being practically out of their reach, while they have to contribute their full share in support of their schools at home. And what do we get in return. In many instances these institutions turn out upon us professionals whose one great study has been, how to prey upon the farmer. I don't wish to complain about the tax we pay for education. What we need is to have its benefits more equally distributed, in order that farmer's sons and daughters can obtain a better education, without spending three or four years of the most important part of their lives from home, at a large expense. But very few of our calling are able to give their children the education they wish under the present system besides the practical experience they lose at this period, if educated away from the farm and home, is a loss to them when they come to take the entire care of a farm for themselves. What we need is a better system of schools distributed throughout the land, to be in session from the 1st of October to the 1st of April, where our children shall receive the best instruction the patronage of the schools will afford, while the remaining half of the year they can engage in practical farming. Then when they attain the years of manhood, they will have a good stock of experience to begin life with for themselves. I think I hear a chime of voices saying, you would fill our agricultural college. It would not harm it in the least. The above schools should be made auxiliary to the college, and should be the means of shortening the time necessary to spend at the college one-half. We believe it would be the means of nearly doubling the number who could and would graduate at the college. For we know when we get a little learning it gives us an appetite for more. When the Grange shall petition and work for the above object, or something more practical to effect the same object, as persistently as some of its members do to cut down the rate of interest, instead of living up to the true Patron's maxim, viz: "Pay as you go," we shall begin to hear the intelligent farmers who are still out of the fold, or who are receiving the benefit of these schools, saying, "Those Grangers have done us a great good, I don't think they are a bad class of people to have in our neighborhood, after all." And perhaps they will quote this old authority, "By their works ye shall know them." Then we may hear a tapping at the door, and a voice saying, "Is there room?" Then as we open wide the door, the answer will be, yes; room for all outside. If you will prove faithful and true, we will gladly accept you, and take your application in. It is claimed by many that the Grange movement is in advance of the present education, and civilization of the mass of farmers. If this be true, then I will say, as did a member of the British Parliament, after he had opposed a bill enfranchising a certain class of subjects, which finally passed, he immediately arose to his feet and said, "We must now provide for them the means for a more liberal education." J. C. ENGLISH.

Commercial Interests of Farmers.

An Essay, Read before Fenton Grange.

Mankind, in their primitive or pastoral state, had few wants beyond the direct products of their fields and vineyards, their flocks and herds. These, supplemented by their own industries in the rude arts then known, supplied them with food, clothing, and nearly all the luxuries they were acquainted with. It is too late to discuss the question whether the changes of civilization are for the better or worse. The changes have come. The world is divided into several armies of laborers and idlers—the agricultural or strictly producing class—the lumbermen and miners who bring the raw materials from the forests and mines—the manufacturing classes—and the merchants and dealers, or *middlemen* engaged in the collection and distribution of products between the producing and manufacturing classes, and between the people of different countries and climates. We have also a number of professional classes, more or less useful, ornamental, or burdensome.

The pursuers of agriculture in this advanced and still progressing age, need the tools and machinery adapted to improved methods. The aid of the blacksmith, the wood-worker and the machinist, is called in to make the labor of the farmer more efficient, productive and successful. Beside, the farmers and farmers' wives and daughters of this day think they want about as good clothes, as comfortable house-keeping arrangements, and even something of the elegance that characterizes the dwellings of city people. They want for their tables some of the products of other climes. Hence farmers have *commercial interests*—they buy and sell; and, how to buy and sell to the best advantage; is a question that the Grange movement was designed largely to deal with.

Experience as well as theory has proved that the CO-OPERATIVE SYSTEM of BUYING has great advantages when thoroughly carried out, on a sufficiently extensive scale. At one of the large manufacturing towns in England is one of the most successful experiments of this kind. At this establishment, nearly everything is kept on sale that families need—clothing, furniture, provisions, groceries, and sold to the stockholders as wanted, at the usual retail rates. At certain periods, the accounts of sales and profits are figured up, and to every Patron belonging to the company, is paid back a portion of the profits—a certain per centage on what he has purchased. The buyer may have paid as high for articles as they would have cost elsewhere, but he gets a portion of it back in the dividend of profits. Some of the co-operative stores started under the Grange movement have failed of complete success—owing, doubtless, to some defect in organization or management, the want of experience; while others are reported eminently successful.

Unquestionably any company of individuals, by massing their orders and buying on a large scale, can save most of the retailers' profits. When there is no co-operative store, the dealer at home has one advantage in having his goods on hand, an important item in case of tools and machinery, or any articles that the purchaser wishes to examine before purchasing.

We are often told that *competition* in trade is a sure safe-guard against unreasonable profits. To some extent this is so, but not entirely. For instance, suppose we have in this or any other town, twenty persons engaged in selling dry goods in a number of competing establishments. These all have to get their living out of the profits of this trade; and of course the customers have them to pay. Now, if all this trade could be concentrated in one large establishment, half the number of persons, under a well organized system, could do all the business, and of course only half the profits would be required to support them. I am not advocating *monopoly*. Quite likely, if A., or B. or C. could control all this trade, he would not be satisfied with giving his Patrons the benefit of the saving in expense. In one man's hands it might be worse than the present system. But the *co-operative system* would secure the saving in expense to the Patrons.

It is urged, and truly, that a greater number of business men, with their families and employees, make a greater home demand for some of the farmers' products, and other advantages of a

larger population. It is worth considering, however, whether these advantages are worth what they cost, whether farmers can afford to help support them all in the way of profits in trade, if they can be relieved of a portion of the tax.

In regard to SELLING the farmers' products, the problem is not so easy. I am not as enthusiastic as some of our friends in the idea of dispensing with middlemen, until a better system is devised and well organized, we must get along mainly with the present. Of course farmers cannot, to any great extent, depend upon dealing directly with the consumers of their products. But an organized body of mechanics, laborers, or manufacturers, could order a hundred barrels of flour from a Grange in Michigan, without the aid of middlemen; officers of such organization acting for themselves and fellow members in the transaction of the business, or an eastern miller could obtain carloads of wheat direct from the Grange. And so the proper arrangements being made, there would be no difficulty beyond some careful and systematic details, in our State Grange contracting with parties in England or France for the shipment to them of cargoes of wheat or pork—the several Subordinate Granges furnishing their proportion. Had we a co-operative store here, it might be made the medium of selling some of our products for the local demand. In various ways the policy of selling more directly to, or as near to the consumer as possible, can be advanced,—working up the trade in such directions as experience proves most practicable. But we cannot at once entirely dispense with middlemen, and perhaps never can. True, there are too many of them, and their numerous are profits often burdensome to both producer and consumer. Still, we must recollect what we derive from their operations, namely: They often hold and absorb in the course of storage, shipments and sale, or by holding for a rise, large amounts of produce which, if the farmers could offer directly to consumers, would not at once be taken by them. In the rush to sell, the market would be over supplied, as the mass of consumers would purchase only for immediate use; and prices would run down to ruinous figures, with frequently no sales at all.

So we must get along with the present system, until we can do better.

This subject admits of a far more extensive and thorough treatment, but I have wearied you long enough for one chapter.

PERRY JOSLIN,
Lecturer, Fenton Grange.

"Love thy Neighbor as Thyself,"

This precept, although ancient, is as applicable to-day to us as when first uttered, and when properly understood, embraces a world of thought, action and feeling. Any one who raises a standard with this matter upon it, "Love thy neighbor as thyself," with a soul drinking in its spirit, active in carrying it out in thought, action, words, deeds and understanding, is doing something more than acting mechanically in this direction.

To commend one to love is one thing, to love involuntarily without an effort is another thing. If a man's whole soul is tuned in accord with the spirit of the precept, then is he happy indeed, as a missionary to peace and good will to his fellow beings. How will we put ourselves in condition to live up to this precept so far as possible, is a question, and to put the question predisposes the ability to solve it in some form, in a measure correctly or incorrectly. Each one has his peculiar method in presenting this subject, for the purpose of impressing its teachings upon his fellow being without ostentation, and in my humble way, allow me to present the subject to the readers of the VISITOR as I read it. I think we are too apt to ignore the beautiful teachings of harmony and unity, surrounding us in Nature, and her inherent laws. To be in harmony with Nature's laws, is to live in true relation with God's laws. Therefore, since we exist subject to law, and live in true relation with it, we are blessed; while on the other hand, by taking a course of life in false relation to law, we are cursed.

I think this statement is conceded as an axiomatic principle of truth. If so, the attitude we assume towards laws within and without us, determines our moral and spiritual status, our love, element in relation to our surroundings. To love others, let us learn wisdom

from Nature's workings—remembering the while that we live in and are governed by laws, we cannot jump out of, or be independent of laws, but held fast as in a vice.

The whole thing about this precept hinges upon the word *love*. It is a small word, but vastly large in its significations and import. Love is the primary operative energy and the cause of all phenomena in the universe, as some put it, is synonym with life; the Divine Mind, the great Architect, the vitalizer of all—vitality is life, and in essence love,—the fountain head of all streams of life and forms. These rivers of life and forms are freighted with love—hence it permeates and penetrates every thing in existence. Every thing we see around us has inherited from its primal source an underlying basis principle—a love force, looking to which for instruction, we may learn much from its phenomenon action in nature. For instance, if we ask the atoms of matter why they attend each other, and form compounds, they will tell you in plain language that they love each other.

Question all of the gases and forces, and you get the same invariable answer. If you interrogate the atoms of matter, why? they often leave the original compound, flee to and attach themselves to other compounds, they tell you no love is lost in a general sense, but their mission and usefulness being ended in that especial capacity, they have gone to the help of others.

Every thing seems to be sustained and moved by this love. If food is taken into the stomach, it forthwith by vital affinity—love, goes on its round, elaborating blood, muscles, tendons, nerves, bone depositing here and there a portion of it to make nails, hairs, the eyes with its different shades of color. Man physically is a bundle of love, elements if he but knew the fact, and if he would turn within and without and view things in their true light, could receive ample instruction written in golden letters every where as if lovely angels guided the pen. There is no passion of hatred going on in the physical system proper, or in nature, everything is reciprocated, working for the general good of the whole "greatest good to the greatest number," so to speak.

Love and hate are not two principles *par se*, but opposite states or conditions of one principle, same as light and darkness, heat and cold. In the divine economy of the universe, there is no vindication of hatred in conditions, or between light and darkness, heat and cold, etc., but always reciprocation. If two positions repel each other, or a positive and negative attract, the solution is found in the fact that the force of attraction and repulsion in these forms are acting and reacting to accomplish certain legitimate ends. For instance, the sun's love force attracts and repels, the one to hold the planetary family circle together at a proper distance, the other to keep it from being scattered abroad, which would result in discord, confusion and ruin.

Here is another lesson, teaching us how the father of the solar system, through love, cares for his children and grand children. I have thus briefly outlined the teachings which we may derive from nature. Love, the principal actuating element or attribute in the child, unfolds and develops itself like a plant. How beautiful and sweet to witness the child first manifesting love, so unsophisticated, unperverted, the first to teach selfhood. Its first lesson is to be attracted to and appropriate things to itself, then in time wells up a desire to share these things with others; here a stage is reached, the very chit of our precept—love and share with others. The child's happiness is produced by it, a lesson to us to do likewise.

I wish I could impress indelibly the example of a child at this stage, upon every father, mother, sister and brother. As the child advances to manhood or womanhood, this attribute takes on a wider range, yearning for the good of society, manifested in acts and deeds of charity, angels of mercy to the sick, downtrodden and dispirited, thus, step by step the tendrils of love reach out and cling to state and nation. At last passes the way, so that its tiny shoots reach out to all nations of the world.

In conclusion, then, to love thy neighbor supremely or as thyself, is but a germinal starting point, the mastery of which only prepares us for a wider circle of usefulness. You cannot love society without first learning to love

neighbors; you cannot be patriotic and truly love your country without loving society.

Let us take the first step in the A, B, C's and each succeeding step will crown us with unspeakable blessings. Try it, for it will not only conduce to our happiness and others, but be a panacea for health, which all of us prize so highly.

H. A. CARR,
Lima, Washtenaw Co., Mich.

The Clawson Wheat.

There has much been said and written about the Clawson wheat. There seems a general desire to know the exact facts about this wheat. It appears to us that Mr. Chamberlain, of Summit County, Ohio, sums up the reports in the best manner for the *Country Gentleman*. He says: First, the yield, I think is without question higher on the average than that of any other variety. From all parts of the country come well authenticated reports of its yielding this year from forty all the way up to sixty bushels an acre. My own yield by accurate measurement was over 46½ bush. per acre on ten acres, and on three acres it was a trifle over 60 bushels per acre. When sown side by side with other wheat, it surpasses, all so far as I have seen accurate reports, except the Fultz, and surpasses that, except in one case where both gave the moderate yield (for Clawson) of 30 bushels per acre. And I have seen no records of the Fultz as high as many of the best reported yields of Clawson. In my own field last year it beat the Treadwell ten bushels per acre, both having equal chance.

Second, the quality. It has a splendid large, white berry, but does not harden up as soon after cutting as many other kinds of wheat, and hence does not grind as well at first. But it seasons well either in the mill or granary, or in the flour after grinding. Last year I had my year's flour ground and put in paper sacks immediately after harvest and threshing. At first the bread was not so light, nor so white, as that from the best flour we had been buying. But it improved each week, and by December the bread was fit to set before a king. This year the flour on first grinding seemed not so light and white in the bread at first, and so we mixed it two parts Clawson and one part red wheat, and have splendid bread. The chemical analysis, if I remember, shows that the Clawson lacks in gluten, which most of the red wheats have in abundance. A miller told me that, mixed, they made better flour than either taken separately.

So much from personal knowledge of the Clawson here. Now for a bit of its history elsewhere, and of the history of a few other fruits and vegetables that like the Clawson have shown enormous yields.

Two years ago the Michigan Miller's Association pronounced against it, and graded it below No. 2 red wheat. Now it bears the highest price there, as stated by your correspondent a few days ago. A year ago the New York millers, also pronounced against it, and tried to buy it at price of No. 2 red. Now, as stated by your correspondent two or three weeks ago, it bears the highest price in New York State too. This year the Indiana millers followed suit and said it didn't grind well in Indiana and Ohio, but was prime in Kentucky and Tennessee, &c., and our Ohio leading millers put down the price ten cents or more below No. 1 white wheat. But already I learn that as they became acquainted with the wheat, and it gets seasoned, they change their minds and pay within two cents of the highest price.

Now there has been the same cry against many of the best fruits and vegetables. The Wilson Strawberry, the Lawton blackberry, the Concord grape, and even the Baldwin apple were all at first pronounced coarse and unfit to eat. But they showed themselves hardy and very productive, and so the people would raise them and would eat them with relish in spite of epicures and connoisseurs who said they were unfit for an educated palate. And the grapes and berries, and fruits and grains that are puny and need watching and nursing are forgotten, while these hardy and productive and really good ones yearly grow in favor. For, as Gail Hamilton somewhat wittily remarks, "A beet that will grow is better than a cedar of Lebanon that won't grow."

State Agent's Department.

J. M. CHIDESTER, - - - DETROIT.

DETROIT, Dec. 27, 1878.

Dear Bro. Cobb:

Allow me through the columns of your valuable paper to say a few words by way of explanation to the numerous letters I am daily receiving, making enquiries as to the manner of marking and shipping produce to this market and particularly to the agency. It is not to be expected that the farmer who has quietly remained at home as producer simply, without regard to how many hungry dealers may stand between him and the consumer, to take each his share by way of commission, can at once become a shipper of his own and others produce without some instruction as to the manner and style of so doing. The question is frequently asked, "how shall we direct or mark our consignments?" I answer, if as freight, mark simply C and forward bill of lading by mail; if by express, give full directions, to wit: J. M. Chidester, No. 80, Woodbridge St., West,—to insure safe transportation. The style of marking as above, refers to all shipments unless in bill and car lots, which require no mark. I regret exceedingly that we could not have commenced this enterprise at a more favorable time, as it has been a season of depression in almost all kinds of produce, particularly butter with which our markets have been completely flooded—an article to which no man can give entire satisfaction in the sale. Still, hoping as I do that you will realize that this is but the commencement of the undertaking, and that you will not claim or expect at my hands too much at present, I will pledge you my best efforts, and in time hope to make the undertaking a success; but cannot without your hearty co-operation. I am sorry to say that thus far fully two-thirds of the grain shipments have been from outside parties, and one third from Patrons. This should not be the case as on the grain trade depends, largely, our hopes of success. Without it we cannot succeed as the sale of butter, cheese, eggs, poultry, etc., requires so much time and labor, with but little compensation. It affords me much pleasure, however, to know that many of my patrons are well pleased with both purchases and sales, some probably are not. This is no more than I could expect, as I cannot please all. I shall at all times endeavor to do the best I can for those who favor me with their patronage. Promise me, Patrons, that you will do your share, and I will do all in my power to insure success.

Yours Truly,
J. M. CHIDESTER.

How Farmers Lose Money.

By not taking one or more good papers.

Keeping no account of farm operations, paying no attention to the maximum that "a stitch in time saves nine" in regard to sowing grain and planting seed at the proper time.

Leaving reapers, plows, cultivators, etc., unsheltered from the rain and the heat of the sun. More money is lost in this way annually than most persons would be willing to believe.

Permitting broken implements to be scattered over the farm until they are irreparable. By repairing broken implements at the proper time many dollars may be saved—a proof of the assertion that time is money.

Attending auction sales and purchasing all kinds of trumpery because, in the words of the vendor, the articles are very cheap.

Allowing fences to remain unrepaired until strange cattle are found grazing in the meadow, grain fields, or browsing on the fruit trees.

Disbelieving the principle of rotation of crops, before making a single experiment.

Planting fruit trees without giving them half the attention required to make them profitable.

—We spend much of our time making blunders, and a great deal more of it in correcting them.

—The reason why egotists find the world so ugly is because they see only themselves in it.

Ladies' Department.

A Query box Question.

GRATTAN GRANGE, No. 170.

Bro. Cobb:

I don't know but you think I come most too often for a chat with my sisters, but when I come to tell you that I have been sick and not able to attend the Grange, you will forgive me.

My question is this: "Are we, as parents, as careful in teaching our boys virtue and integrity, as we are our girls?" I understand that the question was ably discussed at our Grange when I could not attend. As I proposed the question myself, I was sorry I could not be there. I thought I would submit my views to the VISITOR, for I think the subject one of great importance. I feel that for want of words, I am unable to present the subject as I would like or as I feel upon it. But I will try and say a few words. Now are we as careful in training our boys in the ways of virtue and integrity, as we are our girls? I think we are not. Is there any reason why our sons should not be as virtuous as our daughters? I think you will say there is none, but I think you can see a vast difference between the morals of our boys and our girls. I do not wish to cast any reflections upon the boys, but upon the parents and guardians—we are the ones that are to blame. I suppose the father will say that it is the mother's duty to train the children, as she has the most time, and is with them so much more. As a general thing, this is so, and I think mothers try to have their boys do right, just as they do their girls. I think there is not much difference in their behavior, until the little son dons his pants and boots, and goes out with his pa and the men to work, or to town. It is then the vigilant mother begins to have trouble with her little son. The boy sees and hears many strange things, so when he comes from the field or town, he tells what he has seen or heard; the mother listens, and how it makes her heart ache! The father has not been careful in what he has said, and perhaps he has used profane or vulgar language before his child. The little fellow is not slow to see and understand. He thinks because his father says so or does so, that it is no harm if he says or does so, and it is just here the trouble commences. The mother says it is wrong and very naughty to talk or do so, but the son says his "pa ain't bad, I like pa." So the mother has to tell the boy that his pa is bad or naughty, and that she hates to do; but she is bound to do her duty by the son the same as by the daughter, so she tells the boy that he must not use those naughty words any more. The little fellow thinks ma is too particular if he don't tell her so, and sometimes he will tell her so, if the father does not use his influence with the mother in educating that son to be virtuous and honest. I think the fathers have shirked responsibility long enough. I think it is the duty of the father to instruct and set good examples before his children, as much as it is that of the mother. The mother has more care than the father, any way, and it is no wonder if she neglects her children sometimes.

I presume you can see by this time who I think are the most to blame for the lack of morality among our boys. Fathers, if you wish your boys to be virtuous and honest, you must teach them to be so by your lives. Teach them that they must have good characters, to gain the respect of society and the approbation of God. I think we are unmindful of the influence we exert over our children. Now I don't want the boys to think they are all so bad, nor the girls that they are so good; but I think the girls have received the best moral training, and they have received it from their mothers, as a rule, and if the mothers could have their own way, how many of her boys do you think would be liquor drinkers, tobacco users, and night rambles? I think the number would be very small.

But, says the father, I love to see my boys respectable just as well as you do, mother. Well, so you do—at least, some of you; but don't you know that it is you that should set a good example before your children? I don't have much faith in fathers whose examples are bad, or a mother either when they say so. Let us teach our

boys to respect women, and treat them with politeness, and I think you will see a change for the better. Politeness in society is what varnish is to furniture, or what polish is to metal—it gives a fine appearance; but the foundation of good society is virtue and integrity. What a good world this would be if we were all honest and virtuous! It seems as if we would not have anything to complain of.

Brothers and sisters, let us all with one accord try to elevate the standard of morality. We, as parents, must begin the work at home, keep our children at home more, provide amusements, furnish good books and papers, and strive to make them happy and contented. But I must stop. I fear I have said too much already.

AUNT KATE.

Pen Photographs of Leading Grangers.

Worthy Secretary:

In former years, I have looked and longed for some of the minutie of the State Grange—I mean from a woman's pen, just such things as a woman likes to hear. "Betsy" last year gave us a comical account of her journey there, and the opening, but stopped then. If she was there this year, I failed to recognize her, but I hope she will not fail to put in an appearance at an early day at the VISITOR office, and give an account of herself. Believing that many who have never been to the State Grange would like to know how everybody looked and what they said, I will try and tell some of the good things that were said, and describe some of the prominent persons present.

First, Worthy Master Woodman, in the chair, is large, well proportioned, dignified, and noble in his bearing, but not handsome. His wife, who is Flora, is pleasant, of common size and build, has an intellectual look, and I should judge, has æsthetic taste; she dresses becomingly, but not elaborately.

Secretary Cobb sat at the Master's right, a little lower down; he is tall, not heavy, has a very pleasant way that wins all hearts at once. I would like to say just here, that he is the only one who looked fresh, and equal to any emergency at the close of the session; his son assisted him, and their labors were continuous. I must say (in confidence of course), I think the VISITOR has fallen into safe hands, and his labors are appreciated. Sister Cobb is large, fair, and jolly; I regret I could not become better acquainted with her.

Bro. Brown, the Treasurer, sat at the left; his face has a youthful look, but his hair and beard are whitened by the snows of many winters. One would not be afraid to trust him, after looking into his eyes.

Bro. Childs, as you all know—yet perhaps not all of you,—is quite tall, looks older than he seems, stoops a little, puts on no style, has a care-worn, serious look; but you must hear him talk to appreciate him. More of that anon. His wife was the most refined, elegant, dignified, and the best dressed lady present, and I am told that she is as good as she is beautiful; she is rather short of stature, her hair is quite gray, and her face shows many wrinkles, but she looks worthy to be the consort of a king.

Bro. Luce is short of stature, dark complexion, wild looking, and fierce in argument; he is one of those very careful thinkers, never rises to his feet unless he has something that will tell. His counsels are wise, but I hardly liked his talk on Probate Laws. A woman who has only felt the injustice of the Probate system, is no match for lawmakers in argument; however, I fully exonerate Bro. Luce from any desire to retain an unjust system, if there can be found a remedy.

As many communications will pour in upon you, that will be of more importance than this, I will wait to see if there is room, ere I write more.

Who "Aunt Margeret" Is.

PONTIAC, Jan. 1st, 1879.

Bro. J. T. Cobb:

Enclosed please find my renewed subscription to the GRANGE VISITOR for 1879. I should feel sorry to miss one number, for I prize it very highly. It is a welcome guest, and I only wish it was weekly.

Permit me at this time to say a few words to the Ladies who write for the VISITOR. I have been pondering some time upon what Mrs. Sexton wrote in

No. 54. The purport was that we should sign our own names and places of residence to the articles we write. I see no reason why we should desire to remain incog., and must suppose it arises from the modesty that pervades a woman's mind, and leads her to shun publicity. We need not be ashamed to own the production of our brain-thoughts that enter the heart and flow from the pen. We may not all be gifted as some noble women are that live by their writing; but the crumbs of thought might be carefully picked up, and be the means of feeding some hungry soul. If they are a source of comfort to some, and give them strength to take up life's burdens with a lighter heart, we need not refuse them the joy of knowing who is the dispenser of that pleasure. I have been highly interested in the writings of the sisters, and though they are strangers to me, I have learned to love them, and they seem to me as old friends. I hoped to have had the pleasure of attending this session of the State Grange, that I might become acquainted with some of the sisters, and clasp their hands in a loving embrace, and perhaps form friendships that would remain green through the winter of life. But I could not go; yet I rejoice that so many could attend. If I could not go to this session, I look forward with hope to the next, if I am spared to live. I will now wish you all a Happy New Year.

Henceforth, I will drop "Aunt Margeret," and sign myself,

Yours truly,

MRS. M. J. SPENCER,
Pontiac Grange, No. 283.

Another County Heard From.

DALLAS GRANGE, No. 505
December 14, 1878

Bro. Cobb:

Your paper is indeed a welcome visitor at our house, and I always think the time very long from the first to the fifteenth of each month. My better half subscribed for the VISITOR and *Husbandman* almost a year ago, and he proposes to do so as long as they are so full of words of good cheer from our brothers and sisters of other Granges. I am much pleased and interested in the Ladies' Department, and often wonder why some member of our Grange does not contribute to its columns. We have ladies who are competent, if they would only put forth the effort. I have grown impatient, and concluded that if I break the ice, the rest may follow in the wake. Our Grange numbered at one time one hundred and four, but some have gone the way that all must go, while others joined only from curiosity, and came but two or three times afterwards. Some have backslid, but I think when we have a Fourth Degree feast day they will slide in again, pay up their dues, and be installed. We meet every Saturday night. We have had a number of interesting discussions this fall, in which some of the ladies took part, and I am ever so glad that women have the privilege of speaking in public as well as men. I feel truly grateful to the men who first instituted the Grange.

Our Grange is located in the village of Fowler, on the D. & M. R. R. Any brother or sister visiting us will receive a hearty welcome.

Will some one inform us through the VISITOR of some good singing book that is well adapted to Grange use?

I will close this my first attempt at correspondence, for fear that I shall be intruding too much upon your good nature.

E. S.

For song books for the Grange, see "List of Supplies" kept by me.

J. T. C.

Buckwheat Cakes.

Now comes the season of buckwheat cakes, for which nearly everybody has a relish and which are required to be served at least once a day during the winter months. We must confess that we have not the prejudice against buckwheat that prevails in some hygiene circles. Used in moderation we believe the cakes to be healthful, appetizing, and excellent for a change. One thing is certain, very few are left over. With Oliver, the cry comes up from the children, for "more."

The griddle must now be brought out and washed off hard with hot soap and water, and then wiped and rubbed well with dry salt. It is now ready to

heat and grease with a bit of fat salt pork. Avoid too much grease—a piece of pork an inch square should last for a week. Buckwheats should be of good size and each cake should consist of a large spoonful of batter. Good cooks always try their griddle first with a single cake to be sure that all is right with both batter and griddle. A hot plate should always be ready for the cakes. There are many receipts for buckwheat cakes. We will give ours for a breakfast for a large family; One quart of buckwheat flour; four table-spoonfuls of yeast; one tablespoonful of salt; one handful of Indian meal, or Graham flour, we prefer the latter; two tablespoonfuls of good common molasses, add warm water enough to make a thin batter, then beat well, and set to rise in a warm place. Is your batter sour in the morning? then stir in a very little soda dissolved in hot water. An earthen crock is best to mix in, and be careful not to use it all but leave a little in the bottom each morning for sponge for the next night, instead of getting fresh yeast. You can pursue this plan through the winter for a week or ten days run, then setting a new supply. Add fresh flour, salt and molasses each night. Instead of Graham flour or Indian meal, some use one-third fine oat meal and two-thirds buckwheat. One of these three, Graham, Indian, or Oat meal, should always be used in the buckwheat cakes. We believe Graham to be the best. A syrup made of sugar is a nice dressing, though we have found honey to be delicious and healthful.—*Exchange.*

Woman Suffrage in Wyoming.

The following very comforting letter to the advocates of woman suffrage was sent us by a friend with this note:

"I send the within letter clipped from the *Lansing Republican*. It was written by a graduate of our agricultural college, and its statements can be relied upon as truthful."

CHEYENNE, WYOMING TERRITORY,
Nov. 6th, 1878.

Yesterday was election day in the territory of Wyoming, and in this fastest city of the far west I observed with interest what to me seemed an odd phenomenon. It was the practical operation of

WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE

Under free, full, and lawful sway,—the women voting as the men, unmolested, unhampered by even the faintest public sentiment.

Cheyenne is a wicked town. It is the home of many vicious and abandoned women. There are more saloons in proportion to the population than perhaps in any other city, and there are probably more houses of prostitution than saloons. If woman suffrage will work here, it ought to work anywhere. I was born and brought up to believe that it was

WICKED FOR WOMEN TO VOTE;

that their business was to make pies and quilts and take care of babies. I was taught to believe that if one did vote, she would be called upon at once to shoulder a musket and fight a battle; and that if they all voted, every social restraint would be broken; all respect for the sex would cease; and disorder, anarchy, and libertinism would be rampant. I therefore watched the event of yesterday with peculiar interest, and was solemnly impressed with the result. There were but few offices to be filled, but few candidates in the field, and political feeling ran high. There were those around who vote early and often, those who button-hole the weak-minded, and those who buy and sell and barter votes. There were reckless "cow punchers" from Texas and Oregon, Black Hills adventurers from everywhere, castaways and wanderers. All conditions were favorable for disorder, and unfavorable, it would seem, for a peaceful and quiet day. But (and I say it with all possible candor) I have never in my life witnessed a more

ORDERLY AND DIGNIFIED ELECTION, and I do not see how one could be made or desired more peaceable and decorous.

About the polls were gathered the usual cluster of eager men. The ladies were driven up in carriages, assisted to alight, and of course closely scrutinized while they deposited their ballots. But there was no swearing, no boorish swaggering, no jeering, no loud talking even. The scene was impressive, and

there was something of solemnity about it. Aged matrons, whose gray heads and bending forms seemed to render them nearer to heaven than to earth, put in their votes, while the bystanders kept breathless silence; the fond mother with her babe clinging to her bosom, — emblem of fidelity and innocence, — cast her vote with seriousness and seeming perfect propriety; and gay young girls, just of age, who I supposed were never expected to know, or think, or care anything about politics or political science or good government, deposited their ballots with evident earnestness and thoughtful intelligence.

At the voting place, where I watched for an hour, there was stationed near the window, where the votes were received, the dignified and imposing figure of the estimable governor of the territory, Hon. J. W. Hoyt, of Wisconsin. All the men near by wore a gentlemanly appearance; the ladies were attired in their prettiest, and all seemed doing their best to be good. I did not see manifested toward the women voters any sentiment save that of respect. During all the day the carriages came and went; and when the noted

QUEENS OF THE DEMI-MONDE,

in their gaudy, costly dresses, came to exercise their right, the hangers-on seemed to remember that they once perchance had been women, and to respect them for the virtue they then had. Nor when the "soiled doves" of lesser dignity (the lowest of the abandoned) came, was there any disrespect shown them? Not even when a tall, thin, nervous, wire-pulling Irishman (democrat of course) led up by the arm a fat and flabby old negress, who strutted laboriously with feet wide asunder and eyes cast heavenward, did I observe more than a slightly audible smile pass over the assembly. The day was one more than ordinarily quiet, and the congregated crowds more than ordinarily respectful and orderly.

Although I viewed the event not at all as a sympathizer, but as one strongly prejudiced against what was transpiring, I can truly say, that with what I saw of the practical working of the doctrine of woman's suffrage, I was

MOST FAVORABLY IMPRESSED.

Since the election there has been no unbridled plundering, neither have I seen any women with guns. The experience of yesterday did more to change my views concerning this matter than all the argument I have ever listened to; and I am now not sure that any good people should deny to every intelligent, mature human mind the same rights and privileges, no matter in what kind of a body it happens to be clothed withal.

HENRY A. HAIGH.

Farmers' Creeds.

We believe in small farms and thorough cultivation;

That soil loves to eat as well as the owners, and ought, therefore, to be well manured;

In going to the bottom of things, and therefore, in deep plowing and enough of it—all the better if it be a subsoil plow;

In large crops, which leave the land better than they found it, making both farm and farmer richer at once;

That every farm should own a good farmer;

That the fertilizer of any soil is a spirit of industry, enterprise and intelligence, — without these lime, gypsum and guano will be of little use;

In good fences, good farm houses, good orchards, and children enough to gather the fruit;

In a clean kitchen, a neat wife in it, a clean cupboard, a clean dairy and clear conscience;

That to ask a man's advice is not stooping, but of much benefit;

That to keep a place, and everything in its place saves many a step, and is pretty sure to lead to good tools and to keep them in order;

That kindness to stock, like a good shelter is a saving of fodder;

That it is a good thing to keep an eye on experiments, and note all—good and bad;

That it is a good rule to sell your grain when it is ready;

That it is a good thing to grow into farming, not jump into it;

That all farming is summed up in the manure heap on the farm;

Is enriching the soil according to its wants.—*Canadian Farmer.*

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Elmira Farmers Club

occupy about one page of the paper each week, and are alone worth more to any practical farmer than the cost of subscription.

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Hon. Alonzo Sessions, the present Lieutenant Governor of Michigan, and an old and successful farmer, in a letter urging the farmers of his own county to take this paper said: "I have read THE HUSBANDMAN for more than two years, and I do not hesitate to recommend it as the BEST FARMERS PAPER that I ever read. I take and read several other papers, but I will say frankly that no paper comes to my house that is more welcome to myself and to all my family, and not one that is read with so much pleasure and profit."

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By giving poultry a heaped tablespoonful occasionally in a quart of chop, it will keep them healthy and increase the quantity of eggs.

By giving hogs a large heaped tablespoonful, with the same quantity of salt, in a half peck of scalded wheat bran for every four hogs, twice a week you will prevent Hog DISEASE.

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I do hereby endorse the statement of Mr. Lyman Thompson.

O. H. FELLOWS.

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