

THE GRANGE VISITOR

ISSUED SEMI-

MONTHLY

BY THE EXECUTIVE

COMMITTEE OF THE

Michigan State

Grange, P. of H.

[Kalamazoo Publishing Co.'s Print.]

VOL. 4,—No. 17 }
WHOLE No 73. }

SCHOOLCRAFT, SEPTEMBER 1st, 1879.

{ YOUR SUBSCRIPTION
will Expire with No.

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.

Officers National Grange.
MASTER—S. E. ADAMS, Minn.
OVERSEER—J. J. WOODMAN, Mich.
LECTURER—MORTIMER WHITEHEAD, N. J.
STEWART—A. J. VAUGHN, Miss.
ASST. STEWARD—WILLIAM SIMS, Kansas.
CHAIRMAN—A. P. FORSYTH, Illinois.
TREASURER—F. M. McDOWELL, N. Y.
SECRETARY—Wm. M. IRELAND, Wash'ton, D.C.
GATE-KEEPER—O. DINWIDDIE, Indiana.
CERES—Mrs. S. E. ADAMS, Minnesota.
POMONA—Mrs. J. J. WOODMAN, Michigan.
FLOBA—Mrs. JAS. T. MOORE, Maryland.
LADY ASSISTANT STEWARD—MISS CARRIE A. HALL, Kentucky.

Officers Michigan State Grange.
M.—J. J. WOODMAN, Paw Paw.
O.—THOS. F. MOORE, Adrian.
L.—C. L. WHITNEY, Muskegon.
S.—S. A. TOOKER, Lansing.
A. S.—A. E. GREEN, Farmington.
C.—SALMON STEEL, Bear Lake, Manistee Co.
T.—S. F. BROWN, Schoolcraft.
Sec.—J. T. COBB, Schoolcraft.
G. K.—A. N. WOODRUFF, Watervliet.
CERES—Mrs. C. L. WHITNEY, Muskegon.
POMONA—Mrs. G. W. EWING, Ross, Kent Co.
FLOBA—Mrs. J. J. WOODMAN, Paw Paw.
L. A. S.—Mrs. A. E. GREEN, Farmington.

Executive Committee.
F. M. HOLLOWAY, Chairman, Hillsdale.
J. WEBSTER CHILDS, Ypsilanti.
C. G. LUCE, Gilead, Branch Co.
WESTBROOK DIVINE, Belding, Ionia Co.
THOMAS MARR, Berrien Center, Berrien Co.
Wm. SATTERLEE, Birmingham, Oakland Co.
J. Q. A. BURRINGTON, Tuscola, Tuscola Co.
J. J. WOODMAN, J. T. COBB, Ex. Officer.

State Business Agents.
GEO. W. HILL & CO., Detroit.
THOMAS MASON, Chicago.

General Deputy.
C. L. WHITNEY, Muskegon.

Special Lecturers.
R. E. Trowbridge, Birmingham, Oakland Co.
Thos. F. Moore, Adrian, Lenawee Co.
Geo. W. Woodward, Shelby, Oceana Co.
Samuel Langdon, Bowen Station, Kent Co.
E. C. Herrington, Four Towns, Oakland Co.
M. L. Stevens, Perry, Shiawassee Co.
M. L. Brown, Rawsonville, Washtenaw Co.
Andrew Campbell, Ypsilanti, " "
Mrs. Salmon Steele, Bear Lake, Manistee Co.

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.

OUR SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES.

Response of W. S. George to the above toast at the banquet to the Press of Northwestern Michigan, given in Big Rapids, July 14, 1879.

From the Lansing Republican.
Your large-hearted hospitality has filled me almost too full for utterance; and in anticipation of this, I selected, by permission of your chairman, the above toast to be responded to, because, knowing personally but little of our public schools for 40 years past, and nothing of our colleges except as an occasional reporter, I should feel ridiculous in boring you with a long speech.

There are three ways of filling the inner man: 1st, to follow that economical boarding-house keeper, who gave her boarders dried apples for breakfast, warm water for dinner, and let them swell for supper; 2d, to follow the confederate soldier who, being seen to chew green persimmons by his commanding officer, was told that they were wholly unfit for food, whereupon he replied, "I don't take them as food, general, but to pucker up my stomach to fit my rations;" and 3d, the method you have adopted, of spreading abundant, wholesome, and delicious viands before your guests, and giving them time to eat and enjoy the same.

OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

furnish the newspapers with readers. They are the fountain from which subscribers flow. Close the schools, and the printing-presses would stand still and the editors would have to work at something which, in a majority of cases would pay them better. But our schools should be made more practical and thorough. They should reduce their field and cultivate it better. They should turn out correct spellers, plain readers, legible writers, ready arithmeticians, with enough geography and history thrown in, to enable the pupils to move around in society and in the world like intelligent beings. A graduate coming out of a \$60,000 palatial school-house, and does not know in what ward of his city that school-house stands, nor how his country is bounded, nor what race of men first settled his State, nor what caused the war of the rebellion, is practicing a fraud on the tax-payers,—or, at least, those who got up such a system of education are practicing a fraud. The text-books in which I studied geography began with the solar system, traveled down to this globe, then to the continents, then to different nations, and scarcely got as far as the State wherein I lived. But the true system I think, would be to begin with the child's cradle, proceed to the different rooms, then to the outside of the house, then the lot, the block, the street, the ward, onto the township, the county, the State, and nation, and lastly the globe. In this way geography would teach the pupil at every step and turn he made, and would be a vital, useful branch of knowledge, instead of a shadowy abstraction.

I once took a boy to learn the printing business, and he set up in type the word "committee" in three different ways, and all of them wrong, namely: "comittee," "comittie," "comittity;" and when I criticised him, he said I was "too particular;" and so it became necessary to look for another boy, and several months passed before I could find one who appreciated this little matter of spelling correctly. And yet good spelling is at the base of all our written and printed language, and errors here are likely to bring more disgrace than anywhere else.

OUR COLLEGES.

are to be especially thanked by the press, for they send us out a large crop of first-class editors every year. These

young men walk into the various sanctuaries of the land, flourishing their diplomas, and claiming the highest positions. They despise the long and painful drill to which printers are subjected, and expect to jump to the top of the ladder in about two steps. There may be exceptions, but I have never yet known any fresh college graduates who did not need to be trimmed down, spurred up, rubbed, sharpened, held to rigid hours of labor, taught to be exact in details, and to have their punctuation, and capitalization corrected, before they are of much value on a newspaper. The most careless, troublesome, and aggravated "copy" I have ever seen, for the press,—and I have handled cords of it, in the regular course of business,—was prepared by some D. D. LL. D., M. D., A. M., A. B., or other owner of a college title. You have probably heard that when Horace Greeley listened to the "show" recitations in French he told them "it would be of much more value if they would find out under what conditions milk soured;" and when the boys recited in Latin, he advised them to "learn to swim instead of spending so much time over the classics."

I wondered, in riding to your city, this afternoon, what could be done with the enormous quantities of shingles near the various stations. Shingles at the right, and shingles at the left, shingles in front, shingles everywhere, and the buzz of shingle-mill Hall in prevailing sound. But it neatly and in the fact that our Univ-ell filled, and a multitude of new laws, make the octors every year, and these shingles are needed for their signs. You may keep on making shingles and be sure of a market, so long as the State keeps on producing lawyers and doctors at the cost of the people generally.

That a good common-school education is of superior value in practical affairs is shown in the educational history of our governors during the last 30 years. Seven of them out of ten were trained in the common schools and the practical business of life, while three were college-learned. Michigan has been fortunate in the ability and integrity of her executive officers, and very fortunate indeed to get them for \$1,000 per year. The same rule applies to our legislatures, which, although regularly scolded by disappointed lobbyists, have yet made this State nearly a model in wise economy, joined with liberality. No State manages her institutions with better success or less waste and mistakes. Two-thirds of the senators this year were educated only in the common schools, and a large majority of every house of representatives—the popular body, which controls appropriations—derived all their early education from the common schools. I will not bore you with further statistics.

Ezekiel Webster on being asked "why his brother Daniel was sent to college, while the other brothers could not go," answered, "Dan was probably sent there to make him equal to his brothers." A certain farmer, who had kept his brightest son at home to help in the needful work, and sent another boy less bright to college, once had among his live stock a very stupid calf born. The creature would not take its natural food and was in danger of perishing. The farmer asked James, the boy at home, "what shall we do with the calf?"—"I don't know, father," was the reply, "unless we send him to college along with Ephraim."

The influence of colleges ought to be felt in the good manners of the graduates, but they are frequently remarkable only for conceit,—the most offensive form of bad manners. Knocking around the world may take the conceit out of them, but there is something wrong in

any system which leads young persons to think that their education is finished. Schools and colleges only supply them with the keys, and they must hunt perpetually for truths to be unlocked from the store houses of nature, science, and art, and never feel that "they know it all."

In conclusion, I presume the clergy will admit that the "devil" is controlled by editors,—a thing which the church has never succeeded in doing. We keep him in a good school, and frequently make a good man of him.

Never.

Never exaggerate.
Never point to another.
Never betray a confidence.
Never leave home with unkind words.
Never leave home with unkind words.
Never laugh at the misfortunes of others.
Never give a present, hoping for one in return.
Never speak much of your own performances.
Never fail to be punctual at the time appointed.
Never make yourself the hero of your own story.
Never fail to give a polite answer to a civil question.
Never question a servant or child about family matters.
Never associate with bad company.
Never join a bad company, or none.

Are Wools

Never over the shoulder of another.
Never appear to notice a scar, deformity or defect of any one present.
Never arrest the attention of an acquaintance by a touch. Speak to him.
Never punish your child for a fault to which you are addicted yourself.
Never lend an article you have borrowed, unless you have permission to do so.
Never pass between two persons who are talking together, without an apology.
Never forget that, if you are faithful in a few things you may be ruler over many.

Never exhibit too great familiarity with the new acquaintance: you may give offense.

Never fail to offer the best and easiest seat in the room to an invalid, an elderly person or a lady.

Never send your guest, who is accustomed to a warm room, off to a cold, damp spare bed, to sleep.

Never enter a room filled with people without a slight bow to the general company when first entering.

Never fail to answer an invitation, either personally or by letter, within a week after the invitation is received.

Never accept of favors or hospitalities without rendering an exchange of civilities when opportunity offers.

Never cross the leg or put one foot before the other in the street car or in places where it will trouble others when passing by.

Never borrow money and neglect to pay. If you do, you will soon be known as a person of no business integrity.

Never write to another asking for information, or a favor of any kind, without inclosing a postage stamp for the reply.

Never fail to say kind and encouraging words to those whom you meet in distress. Your kindness may lift them out of their despair.

Never refuse to receive an apology. You may not receive friendship, but courtesy will require, when an apology is offered, that you accept it.—*Ex.*

A NEVADA lady scolded her Chinese servant for not properly cleaning a fish, and going into the kitchen soon after found him industriously washing it with brown soap.

Communications.

The Business Farmer.

AN ORATION AT THE STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE BY A. A. CROZIER.

When one speaks of a "business man" whoever thinks of a farmer? It is common to suppose that nothing in particular is needed to make a farmer, or at most, experience in the ordinary operations on ordinary farms.

It is comparatively easy to explain how this idea arose, but it is not easy to suggest a remedy that will be adopted.

Business qualities can not take the place of general and special knowledge, but the latter without the former is comparatively unproductive. The tact for business must supplement the talent for knowledge.

Only as the revelations of science become universal, is their full value revealed. The man of business is not to be despised for applying the principles of the man of knowledge. Principles are slow enough at best in "filtering in" to the minds of those who will most profit by them."

Whatever the cause, it seems to be a fact that notwithstanding agricultural newspaper, fairs, clubs, Granges and colleges, agriculture is not keeping pace with other pursuits. The cost of production does not decrease with the cost of exchange and manufacture. Improved machinery and skill are yearly bringing the price of manufactured articles nearer to that of the raw material.

The improved condition of farmers is large due to others cheapening what they buy.

The work now done by the operatives in the cotton factories alone, would, if former methods were used, require the labor of every human being on the earth.

Farmers are progressing, but their progress looks too much like being dragged along by those who need their service. It is the sewing-machine agents, fruit-tree peddlers and patent right swindlers that are enlightening farmers, and they fancy they are enlightening themselves.

Those trained in law, medicine, engineering, chancery, lawyers, teachers, often make the best of farmers. No business man could endure the mismanagement of most farms.

He who succeeds neither neglects little things nor is absorbed by them. His mind is a microscope and a telescope in one. To him there are no trifles. His breadth sees all relations, his keenness all particulars. He will not be the last man to adopt a new improvement.

Last year there was made in the United States as much wire for self-binding reapers as in 1860, for all purposes whatever. The California harvester harvests and threshes 50 acres of wheat per day. Five times since 1850 have the furnaces in some iron foundries been rebuilt, because of new inventions. Business men spend their thousands to introduce some trivial improvement, and make it pay. Most farmers think the old tools and methods good enough, and don't know whether it pays or not.

If among Grangers there had been more business men, co-operative selling would not now be a failure and co-operative buying nearly so.

Business qualities can be cultivated as well as any others, and is a cheaper way than in the dear school of one's own experience. The laws of prices are as fixed as those of storms, and men of business study them.

The farmer who sells potatoes for 20 cents in the fall and finds them a dollar in the spring, the next time is sharp, and refuses 80 cents in the fall, and sells for 20 in the spring.

The business man buys when others sell; the farmer sells when others sell. The business man draws buyers, the farmer seeks them.

The farmer knows nothing of demand or prices until he reaches the market, the business man has reports from the markets daily. The farmer may take the County paper, in which the market quotations are revised twice a year; the business man man watches everything likely to affect prices, the supply, demand, condition of the weather, roads and legislation. If there is tariff tinkering in Congress, he calls home his ships and saves thousands. The business man makes quick sales and small profits, the farmer slow sales and smaller profits.

And yet, in farming, as in every other pursuit, "business is business." A little hand work where the horse should go, a little start by weeds; a little delay in planting or harvesting; a little neglect in storing; a little ignorance of prices; a little trouble with hired help; a little delay, misunderstanding, makes all the difference between profit and loss, between success and failure.

Michigan Legislature—Letter No. 3. from Lt. Gov. Sessions.

HOME, August 23, 1879.

The faculty of speech and the art of speaking well, is a matter of great convenience, and is, doubtless, often the means of doing some good. In all legislative assemblies it is very proper that the introducer of a bill, or the member of a committee reporting a bill, should be able to give the reasons for or against its passage, as the case may be. But the propensity to talk, and the habit of talking at all times, on every question, is a bore anywhere, and in a public body is an endless waste of time and a public nuisance. The inveterate talkers do not talk for any good purposes. Their talk is the offspring of conceit, and it is to exhibit their wonderful wisdom that they talk incessantly regardless alike of the annoyance they occasion, and the waste of valuable time. I estimate that more than half the time in all legislative assemblies is wasted by a few men in useless talk. On the most trivial questions, on matters that others know about and understand as well, perhaps better, than they, their wonderful eloquence is perpetually vomited, though those who submit to it are always impatient, often disgusted. A Senator once said to the presiding officer, that he had a mind to submit a question of order on a brother Senator. It was this: "Has a Senator a right to go away from the Senate, and leave his mouth a going?" The inveterate talkers seldom do much besides. They are not often found where the important work is being done. What they say does not aid its progress or accomplishment, and their talk is seldom listened to with interest or profit.

They are in the habit of employing their tongues, and have found that they keep their mouths shut and invariably does the best work, and the most of it; that the conceited fool that has a scant supply of brains is subject to a constant waste of supply at the mouth. And if I had the making up of a Legislative body, no such material would go into it. As a rule, lawyers waste more time in talking than others, yet there are lawyers who have the good sense to talk only when what they say needs to be said, and they say it in a proper time and say it well, while others lacking both good sense and discretion, seem hard pressed with a diarrhoea of words to slobber and scatter everywhere, and being indifferent as to the side of a question they take, or as to what they say, are apt to be found about equally divided, "provided always," it is not a matter that interests them personally or as a class, and they talk, talk, talk without end—only as everything must have an end finally. There are also lawyers who from habit or otherwise are attorneys. They are that outside, and they are that in the Legislature if they get there; they are simply that and nothing more, whether the fee is paid or not, they advocate the cause of their client regardless of time. A bill comes from the other house, is referred, reported favorably, and referred to the Committee of the Whole. It is perhaps one of the bills that should not be there, or is of no importance whatever, but it is in the way, and some smart lawyer thinks the grammar defective, and moves to strike out a word and insert another. The smart lawyers all take sides and a hot discussion consumes an hour of time, perhaps more. In reality, it is of no consequence which word is used, but if a change is made, the bill must go back to the other house to be discussed and considered, the amendment is made and treated with some passion, indignantly rejected, and the grammar of the originating house vindicated. It is hard to surrender more time is wasted in discussion, and finally the great question is disposed of by the passage of the bill in its original form. This is only one incident of legislation. It is liable to be repeated daily in any legislative body in the country, but would never be repeated if only good business men were elected to frame our laws. The best

men I have ever met in the Legislature were those that did not talk over five minutes at one time, and never needlessly, and those who do most good are usually those who have no special interest in any one or more bills.

Very truly,
ALONZO SESSIONS.

The Annual Grange Picnic of Southern Michigan and Northern Ohio.

MORENCI, Mich., Aug. 18th.

Wor. Sec. Cobb:

The Annual Grange Picnic of Southern Michigan and Northern Ohio was held at Morenci, August 9th, in a beautiful grove owned by Bro. Baldwin, just south of the village. At ten o'clock the respective Granges from both States met and formed a procession with their banners, four horse teams, bands of music, etc. As they passed through the village, the streets were lined with spectators.

Arriving at the grove, a cordial welcoming address was delivered by Bro. B. G. Hoag, of Morenci Grange. After prayer by the Worthy Chaplain, and a song by the choir, the remainder of the forenoon was occupied by the sisters of the Order in reading four splendid essays, which (being read with confidence and great earnestness) impressed upon the mind of every intelligent listener the magnitude and grandeur of the noble Order of P. of H.

Moore's Band of martial music generously gave their services for the day to the Order, and as their clear animating strains of music were sent through the forest the baskets were relieved of their contents and a dinner was prepared, to which all did ample justice.

After spending an hour in social converse, the vast audience was called to order by music from the brass band of Weston, and listened attentively to a very able address from Hon. C. E. Mickley, Worthy Lecturer of the Lenawee County Grange, closing with his favorite poem, "The hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world."

This was followed by a short speech by Bro. Crabbs, who said that he "came upon the stand just to let Bro. Mickley down easily," which he did in a very graceful manner.

This closed the exercises in the grove—and all agreed that the fifth annual picnic was a grand success.

In the evening Morenci Grange held a special meeting at their hall in the village of Morenci, where Grange was called to order by Worthy Master Woodworth, with 85 members of the Order present. There being no urgent business before the Grange, the evening was spent in listening to short speeches from Bros. C. E. Mickley, J. Crabbs, J. H. Turner, A. A. Abbott and many others.

SEC. MORENCI GRANGE.

Bro. "High Private" Correct.

Bro. Cobb:

Let Patrons everywhere raise their voices against the old but unjust custom of the manufacturers of agricultural implements in placing them in the hands of middlemen or agents, to be disposed of by them exclusively.

The time was, perhaps, when it was absolutely necessary to take a course of this kind in order to bring them before the agriculturalists; but to-day it is not necessary.

We readily learn through the advertising mediums that these improvements are made, and experience has taught us that we need and want the best, whether we are able to get them or not; and as the manufacturers are making them for our use, why not sell direct to us, instead of putting them in hands not always scrupulously honest.

Brother Patrons, when a manufacturing company will not sell direct to the Grange or to individuals of the Grange and give them as good terms as to the itinerate salesmen, then let them keep their goods.

There would be no objections to sending samples that we might see them,—but when two gentlemen call on you to sell a plow, a drill, or even a spring-tooth harrow, it would be as well to let them pass, as a general rule. A few days since two gentlemen, with a team, called on me to sell me a pair of spectacles. They must necessarily have been quite expensive, or those gentlemen must work for less salary than that class of gentry are wont to do. I hadn't time to look at them, of course.

Fraternally yours,
AN INDEPENDENT,

Meeting of Hillsdale Pomona Grange.

GRANGE HALL,
JONESVILLE, Mich., Aug. 6.

Bro. J. T. Cobb:

Hillsdale Pomona Grange, No. 10, convened here to-day, with a fair attendance. After the usual routine of business, the subject of the Patrons' Aid Association, of Hillsdale Co., was taken up and discussed somewhat, and then tabled until next month for further consideration.

When it is the subject deserves that the Executive Committee of the Association, composed of the Masters of the several subordinate Granges in the County, will be present and take part in the deliberations, it being their duty to present the matter to their respective Granges, and if it is concluded to continue the Association, make it another strong link to bind the Order together, in brotherly love.

While it is not expected to make a large life insurance company, it is hoped its membership will be increased until it shall be a substantial token of our esteem in the case of the death of a worthy brother or sister, and in some cases a great pecuniary benefit to the surviving friends.

The prospective price of wheat was then taken up, and it was well demonstrated that, with our large surplus, there was also equally as large a demand, and if the farmers do not press the wheat on the market too fast, we shall be able to realize one dollar and upwards for every bushel, and those that can will do well to hold until the coming winter and spring, and realize a good per cent by so doing, and also materially help those who are obliged to sell this fall, for when the wheat is rushed to market faster than wanted and before it is fit to ship to foreign markets, there must be a depression in the price. The price is governed by the price,—there being a demand, we can realize a fair price, if the markets are not glutted. But if crowded on the markets in undue quantities and before it is dry enough, a large part of what the wheat is worth will stick in the pockets of the speculator, instead of reaching the producer. Therefore, all that can hold their wheat should do so for the present.

What varieties of wheat shall we sow? was discussed, and from the remarks it was generally conceded that the soil and the condition of the land must determine the varieties to a great extent. For good conditioned, high openings, Diehl was generally thought best. Some recommended Fultz highly—and the millers at Hillsdale recommended it also.

There will be considerable Fultz sown this fall in Hillsdale County,—most farmers will also continue to sow some Clawson, it being hardy and productive—and it is claimed that our present crop is of far better milling quality than heretofore.

For heavy timbered soil Lancaster and Shephard wheat was highly recommended as very hardy and fairly productive. Fultz is a red wheat of the amber order, hardy and productive, and very early.

At our next meeting, at Jonesville, on Wednesday, Sept. 8th, together with the consideration of the Patrons' Aid Association, our worthy Lecturer will introduce the subject, "How shall we resuscitate dormant and strengthen weak Granges," and all 4th degree members of the Order, that can make it convenient, should come out to our meeting.

The Pomona Grange is not exclusive and does not seek to control, but only to advance the interests of the Order generally.

You are cordially invited to attend and give your experiences on the various subjects and your suggestions for the good of the Order, and thereby give increased value to the meeting.

To me, having been engaged in other pursuits than farming most of my life, it is a matter of surprise that almost every farmer, his wife, sons and daughters are not members of our Order, for the great successes of our times can be gained only through permanent and thorough organization. The social and educational benefits pay more than four-fold, and financially you can get returns for every dollar and hour expended, if you will make use of the means provided.

Yours fraternally,
SECRETARY,
Hillsdale Pomona Grange, No. 10.

ATTEND your fairs and purify them—make them really useful and instructive.

THE GRANGE VISITOR.

SCHOOLCRAFT, SEPT. 1, 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.

THE GRANDVILLE PICNIC.

The State picnic of the Patrons of Michigan has passed into the history of the Order in Michigan.

After the picnic had been fully determined upon, we found that a good deal of interest was manifested in the enterprise by many Patrons in different parts of the State.

From the first we felt that the project was a good one and not difficult of execution, and therefore thought that a large number of our people from various directions would be brought together on the 22d, at the most desirable point in the State—for Grandville is known as the battleground of the Order in Michigan.

We have said we thought the project not difficult of execution, but we have learned something, as people always do when they undertake to do anything for the first time.

We learned that simple and easy as it is to set down and talk an enterprise into shape, it takes work to get 5,000 people together, the most of them a considerable distance from their homes.

The Executive Committee of the Kent County Grange, having the matter of securing special rates of transportation in charge, assigned the L. S. & M. S. to me, and I proceeded at once to the work.

At the end of ten days, or on the 14th, I first got definite terms, or coach rates, from Pigeon to Grand Rapids, and the little time remaining was well improved in advertising the meeting along the line, or in reach of the railroad.

If we could have had a prompt reply to our application, we should have been able to have started the train as far east as Coldwater, which would have been unfortunate for those on the north end of the line, as the Railroad Company furnished every spare coach for the train, and if we had started further east those nearest Grandville would have been left. As it was, we had 13 coach loads, or 800 people, great and small. We had expected that many of those who went on to the city of Grand Rapids would perhaps conclude to spend the day there, but when we came to gather up our tickets on the return trip, we found that nearly all had taken in the Grandville picnic in the course of the day.

Once on the ground, we met at almost every step brothers and sisters that we had met before, and many whose names were as familiar as household words but whose voices and countenances were new to us.

The preparations were just what we expected—complete. The seating was ample for all, and as the train stopped but 100 feet from the stand, the wearisome walk so often required when an excursion is taken, between the grounds and the railroad, was not experienced.

All the essentials for an enjoyable day were present, and the goodly company of not less than 5000 people all seemed to have a good time.

We have seen some quite large gatherings of people on occasions when public speaking was one of the important announcements in the pro-

gramme, but we never before saw so large a percentage give their undivided attention to the speaking for over two hours. Nearly every one seemed intent on hearing, and gave good proof that they were there for that purpose.

This fact is alike complimentary to the speakers and to the large audience, and adds additional evidence to the claim which we make, that the Patrons furnish the most intelligent and orderly collection of people that get together for any purpose.

We have been thinking very highly of Michigan Patrons for several years and this large gathering of good sensible people, worthy members of the Order, confirmed the good opinion we entertained, and we were glad to find such support for that opinion as that furnished by Supt. Amsden, of the Kalamazoo division of the L. S. & M. S. R. R. He usually accompanies all excursions running over his line of road, and he said of all the excursion parties he had ever carried, this was the most intelligent and orderly.

On account of the insufficiency of coaches to take the good people away from Grandville, there was a delay of our special train of over an hour at the crossing; but as everybody was comfortably situated, and the delay inevitable, there was no complaining, but all were cheerful and happy.

This delay made it a little late for some when they reached home,—but the trip was so satisfactory, the grounds so pleasant, the Grangers so numerous, the speaking so good, and the plaster quarry, warehouses, mill and fixtures were all so complete and easily examined, that being a little tardy in returning does not stand charged up against the excursion in any appreciable amount.

Mr. A. M. Nichols, Gen. Pass. Agt. of the C. & West. Mich. Road, took charge of the train which he put on the road to run between Grand Rapids and Grandville for the day, and spared no efforts to meet the wants of our people in going to and returning from Grandville.

We are glad of so suitable an opportunity to express our confidence in the good will and good intentions of the intelligent gentlemen under whose personal supervision the roads are run, and we consider the companies owning or operating them fortunate in their selection.

Where railroad officials exhibit such good, practical common sense, attended by the courteous bearing towards all, which Supt. Amsden, of the L. S. & M. S. and Gen. Agt. A. M. Nichols, of the C. & W. M., have always shown in our business relations with them, the best interests of the railroads and their patrons are promoted. Such men, we believe, will do what they can to remove much of the unnecessary friction that has given cause of complaint by the people against railroads, and we are glad to believe that in Michigan (while everything is not as it should be) yet there is much less cause of complaint than in the States west of us.

In the State Lecturer's Department will be found a description of Bro. Whitehead's meetings for the first week of his late visit to Michigan. And we presume the completion of his notes will give our readers items of interest, in relation to the Grandville meeting, which we have omitted.

Bro. Whitehead, we believe, has been doing the Order much good in our State.

He may have had as good meetings elsewhere as at Grandville, but this was the first of its kind and its success has left such pleasant recollections that we are quite sure the like will some day be seen again.

We call attention to the new advertisement of Montgomery Ward & Co in this number of the VISITOR. There is no mercantile house in the country to which the Patrons of Husbandry, as an Order, is under so great obligations as that of Montgomery Ward & Co., as it was the PIONEER HOUSE to furnish goods on small orders at wholesale prices, by mail, express or freight. This house followed the lead of many successful men in the matter of advertising. It spared no expense to let the public know what it was doing, and its immense catalogues, issued twice a year, are valuable to any one, whether goods are wanted or not, as there is so much to learn of the value of all kinds of articles used by the people. Until this year these catalogues have been sent to all applicants free. The demand has become so great that they now insist that they can no longer carry this expense, but must charge all applicants nine cents, the cost of the book.

We have received the following circular from Chas. W. Garfield, Secretary of the Michigan State Pomological Society and refer it to the readers of the VISITOR for answer:

MICH. STATE POM. SOCIETY, }
GRAND RAPIDS, Aug. 16th. }

My Dear Sir:

I am anxious to secure a pretty full account of the grape-rot in Michigan and adjoining States, as well as the opinions of prominent horticulturists concerning the disease.

Will you be so kind as to write me quite fully any facts about the malady that may have come under your observation; also your opinion as to the cause and the most promising methods of combating the disease.

Please suggest the best means of ascertaining further facts upon the subject, and give me the privilege of publishing your answer in my volume for 1879. I would like an answer by September.

Yours truly,
CHAS. W. GARFIELD,
Sec'y.

We were at the picnic of the St. Joseph County Grange, held at Klingler's Lake on the 27th inst. Should have written it up for this Number, but had a promise from a Brother who we knew could do it well; but his communication has not been received yet. We have only to say that it was a great success.

Don't fail to read the article from the Lansing *Republican* on our first page. We seldom see so many good hits in a short article. We have something to say on this subject of education, and mean to say it soon.

No Probable Overstock.

An inquiry has been made as to whether or not there will be any danger of overstocking the country with bees, so as to make their product almost valueless. In answer to this it may be stated that bee culturists believe that this is not possible. In Germany 300 to 500 swarms are often kept by one person; in Russia and Hungary honey-producers have apiaries of 2,000 to 5,000 swarms each, and in Lombardy 97,800 swarms exist. Notwithstanding the fact that these countries are more thickly populated, bee culture has proved to be profitable. It is estimated that twice as many bees can be placed on the square mile in the United States than in those countries, a result far from attained at present. Large tracts of country with honey-producing plants have as yet been undisturbed, while in the old country these plants are constantly being torn up as weeds. It is believed that even with the large results already obtained, bee culture is only in its infancy.

If a man is in embarrassed circumstance and aspires to be a rascal, the law will afford him every assistance, but if he tries to be honest, he will find the law obstructing him at every step.

Australian Merino Sheep.

The pastoral industry of Australia was well established, and had attained to great importance half a century ago. Before the discovery of gold, about 30 years ago, the commerce of that immense island consisted mainly in exporting the wool furnished by the enormous flocks of sheep. Next in importance as an article of export was the tallow, obtained from the carcasses of the sheep, which being useless for any other purpose, was boiled down to supply tallow for European consumption. In this rude pastoral life, the settlers upon the dry and grassy plains of that country slowly but surely gained a competence, and after a term of what they considered voluntary banishment, they returned to their homes in England.

The discovery of gold changed the whole order of Australian life. Where the hoof of the sheep had trod, the soil actually turned to gold, realizing literally the fancy of the poet. For it was on a sheep run than the first nugget, a monstrous one, valued at over \$20,000, was found quietly reposing on the bare ground.

Previous to the golden age, when a run or pasture tract was sold to a new arrival, and the old owner returned home with his savings, the flocks on the land were usually "thrown in," as at that time a sheep was only valued at 25 cents. After the discovery of gold sheep became worth \$2.50 each, and the ground over which the flocks had roamed, was leased to miners, who turned it over, washed, gullied and burrowed into it, and spoiled it for pastoral purposes. The sheep interest, however, rapidly developed in new fields, and this improvement in part consisted in sheep culture. The climate being hot and dry, with a winter consisting of a series of rains, and much similar to that of California, the Merino became the popular breed, and more especially as fine clothing wool was then the most saleable in the English market, to which the fleeces were sent. By importing the finest rams from Europe, chiefly from France, the Australian Merino was greatly improved, but it was only when some American rams were brought to that country that it was discovered that Australian Merinos were excelled by the American.

This superiority was no mean credit to our breeders, who had long abandoned the importation of foreign blood, and for many years had steadily improved their flocks from within, with no aid from without, while the Australian shepherds had secured the best rams from the most noted French, German and Spanish flocks.

The character of the Australian Merino is much the same as that of the American, except that the latter is now running to longer wool fit for combing purposes. The samples of Australian wool shown at the Centennial Exhibition at Philadelphia, in 1876, were remarkable for their fineness of staple and evenness and regularity of curl, and much of it was three inches in length. But in weight of fleece the Australian wool is surpassed by that of our American Merinos, while the American sheep itself is heavier and more robust than the Australian.

The product of wool in Australia is very large; the export to England is over 250,000,000 pounds annually, while the home manufacture of woolen goods is very excellent and extensive. The superiority of the Australian Merinos to those of Europe, makes it the second best variety of this breed in the world, being surpassed only by the American race, and is a curious example of the improvement of breeds by a favorable change of climate, soil and pasture, aided by the practical skill of the shepherd. These are interesting, as showing how a well-known breed may be modified. Climatic influences and breeding for a particular purpose, when both of them are combined, as in the case of the Australian Merino, result in almost distinct breed.

BRO. WHITEHEAD, Lecturer of the National Grange, and the Lecturer of the State Grange addressed the members of 200 Subordinate Granges from 30 different Counties of the State, in the series of meetings just closed, may the good seed thus planted, spring up and bring forth a hundred fold.

At the Dansville picnic, Aug. 15th, every Grange in the County was represented and, persons from four adjoining Counties were present.

