

THE GRANGE VISITOR

ISSUED SEMI-

MONTHLY

BY THE EXECUTIVE

COMMITTEE OF THE

Michigan State

Grange, P. of H.



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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.

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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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CORRESPONDENTS will please remember that we depend on them for matters of interest to the readers of the VISITOR, and that so far we have relied on volunteers. Do not overlook this.

A RUSSIAN FABLE.

SELECTED.

One day a farmer in his field
Was sowing oats for autumn yield.

A young horse watched him on his way,
And gave at once a scornful neigh.

"How foolish man is!" the colt thought,
"Here in the very act he's caught

"Of throwing oats upon the ground,
Could any rasher waste be found?

"Give me that heap, and I would show
What oats are good for, for I know;

"Or even give them to the crows:
They've more sense than this act shows!

"Or hoard them carefully away:
Man may want oats some future day!"

Well, time passed on; the autumn grain
Was garnered from the field again.

The farmer gathered oats ten-fold,
And gave the horse all he could hold.

Do we not sometimes, like this colt,
Send thus a criticizing bolt

'Gainst higher powers? We call waste
What is but wisdom, viewed in haste.

BREADSTUFFS.

From the New York Produce Exchange we clip the following very rosy outlook for farmers who have unlocked their graneries since threshing only long enough to take out their seed and the needed grists for family use.

If these statements are approximately accurate the demand for our remaining surplus will enhance the price before another crop is secured. But we are not ready to advise "marking up" stock on hand to \$2.00 a bushel, and borrow money at ten per cent. to meet current expenses.

The exports from San Francisco of wheat and flour, the latter at its equivalent in grain, from July 1 to November 4, 1879, have been equal to 10,963,107 bushels.

The exports from Portland, Oregon, from August 28 to October 30, 1879, have been in wheat and flour equal to 1,105,880 bushels of wheat.

The exports from American Atlantic ports, including Montreal, from July 1 to November 15, 1879, have been in wheat and flour equal to 94,837,640 bushels of wheat. Recapitulating the foregoing, the exports have been,

	Bushels.
American Atlantic ports, July 1 to Nov. 15, 1879.....	94,837,640
San Francisco, July 1 to November 4, 1879.....	10,963,107
Portland, Oregon, August 28 to October 30, 1879.....	1,105,887
Total bushels.....	106,905,604

of which about 15,000,000 bushels are from the crop of 1878. Assuming that the 15 million bushels of the crop of 1878 is approximately correct, there have been exported from the crop of 1879 equal to 91,006,604 bushels. We place the available surplus for export at 175,000,000 bushels, from which deduct 91,006,604 bushels and the remaining export surplus is 83,993,396 bushels. The estimated requirements of foreign wheat for the United Kingdom for the crop year 1879-80 are now placed at 18,000,000 quarters, or 141,000,000 bush. We place the requirements of France at 80,000,000 bushels, or about the same as in 1878-79.

The requirements of Belgium, Hol-

land and Germany will be about the same as in 1878-9, or about 36,000,000 bushels. France during the last two months has imported at the rate of 72,000,000 bushels per annum. The monthly average requirements of Great Britain, France, Belgium, Holland and the German Empire will be upwards of 21,000,000 bushels. The United States, including shipments from Canada, have exported in four months an average to all countries of 24 1/2 million bushels per month, or a monthly average to Europe of about 28 1/2 million bushels. The remaining available export surplus to all countries of 84 million bushels extended over a period of eight months—from November 1 to June 30, 1879-80, will give an available monthly average of 10 1/2 million bushels to all countries, and less than ten million bushels monthly for export to Europe. Of the total aggregate of wheat on passage for the United Kingdom on the 6th of November of 2,475,000 quarters, about 2,000,000 quarters were from North America. The export movement from American Atlantic ports for Europe during the last two weeks has been at the rate of 13 1/2 million bushels of wheat (flour included) per month, and this average cannot be kept up during the ensuing eight months, while about 21 millions of foreign wheat per month will be required by only five European countries.

City vs. Country Work.

Our young friends in the country who may think that country pursuits are not as profitable as city work would have their eyes open to a new light if they could get a few months' experience of city affairs. The number of young men who are seeking an "opening" is wonderful. They all find the opening, but it is on the wrong side. We know of numbers of young men between the ages of 18 and 25, who have been well educated and are of excellent moral character, who can find really nothing to do suited to their education, and are yet on their parents' hands, dependent on them for food and clothing,—a feeling of dependence that most farmers' boys at that age seldom experience, but which must be mortifying to a high-toned youth. Advertisements for clerks and such like positions often occur; but this is not because they are scarce, but rather because they are numerous, and those who want are anxious to make a pick from the large number at the lowest price. One excellent young man whom we know, and who for over a year has been looking for "something to do," has been rather busy for some time in responding to such applications. Occasionally he has been invited to call, but has never succeeded in being the lucky one. Recently he thought he was in luck, on giving his name, a file a couple of feet thick was searched for his letter, and after some conversation he was found satisfactory. The salary question followed, and was found to be but \$3 per week for a start! Of course anybody could do better than this picking berries on a blackberry farm, and it is not surprising that our 23 year-old friend concluded to live with his father yet a little while. We are quite sure agriculture can show a better record.—*Germantown Telegraph.*

IN A primary school, not very long ago, the teacher undertook to convey to her pupils an idea of the use of the hyphen. She wrote on the blackboard "Bird's-nest," and, pointing to the hyphen, asked the school, "What is that for?" After a short pause, a young son of the Emerald Isle piped out, "Plaze, ma'am, for the bird to roost on!"

Prepare for the Census.

Accurate statistical information with regard to the agriculture of this country is of prime importance not to our own farmers and citizens alone, but to the world at large. Recognizing this fact Congress, by an act, approved March 3, 1879, provided that the next census should be completed within the month of June, 1880. By this provision it is expected to avoid most of the errors in former agricultural reports, due to the fact that many of the products returned embraced those of two different crops. As the next enumeration will be completed between June 1st and 30th inclusive, nearly all the crops harvested one year can be pretty accurately ascertained. Those for the calendar year 1879 will include the cereals, peas, beans, rice, tobacco, cotton, potatoes, fruits of all kinds, hay, clover, grass seed, hemp, flax, honey, sugar-cane, sorghum, and, in short, everything harvested this fall. The crops for the calendar year 1880 will be few, embracing maple sugar and molasses, and wool clipped early in spring, except in California, Texas, and some of the other Southern States where two clippings a year are obtained. For certain agricultural products there is no regular harvest, for they are gathered as they mature week by week, and day by day. These comprise butter, cheese, milk sold, value of animals slaughtered, yield of market gardens, timber of all kinds, and home manufactures. It is extremely desirable that the returns on all these topics should be full and accurate, and this end can be best secured by the hearty and intelligent co-operation of our farmers. Accordingly Francis A. Walker, Superintendent of the Census, strongly recommends them to make notes from time to time, of the quantities and values of the several crops gathered; of the number of acres planted to each, and of all other particulars that will enable them to make prompt, full and accurate returns when the census canvassers call upon them next June.

Strange Tradition.

There is a tradition among the Seminole Indians regarding the white man's origin and superiority. They say that when the Great Spirit made the earth he also made three men, all of whom were fair complexioned, and that after making them he led them to a small lake, and bade them leap in and wash. One obeyed and came out purer and fairer than before; the second hesitated a moment, during which time the water, agitated by the first, had become muddied, and when he bathed he came up copper-colored; the third did not leap in until the water had become black with mud, and he came out dark in color. Then the Great Spirit laid before them three packages, and out of pity for his misfortune in color, gave the black man first choice. He took hold of each of the packages, and having felt the weight, choose the heaviest—the copper-colored man chose the next heaviest, leaving the white man the lightest. When the packages were opened, the first was found to contain spades, hoes, and all the implements of labor; the second wrapped hunting, fishing, and war-like apparatus; the third gave the white man pens, ink and paper, the engine of the mind, the means of mutual mental improvement, the foundation of the white man's superiority.

"WHAT station do you call this?" groaned a traveller, as he crawled out of the wreck of a smashed up railroad train. "Devastation," replied the polite conductor.

Communications.

Sustain and Patronize Your State Agent.

I fear very few of the Grangers of Michigan realize the importance of patronizing our authorized State Agent in buying and selling. I am well satisfied by both observation and experience that a great saving can be effected in this way.

But to make the system of more value to us, we must give our Agent more general patronage that his purchases may be on a sufficiently large scale to enable him to have the benefit of the wholesale prices.

In the Eastern part of the State many of the Patrons are discouraged at their partial failures in co-operation, and most all are aware that many mistakes have been made in attempts to establish co-operative stores. Admitting this to be the case, it should stimulate us to new efforts and different methods of making co-operation a success. Suppose we did in some cases start wrong and make a mistake, how often do we do this in farming in raising some particular crops, and yet with continued efforts succeed, and by these failures learn lessons of great value.

The Rochdale system of co-operation met with many failures in England before it was an acknowledged success, and in fact its founders were twelve years in experimenting and feeling their way before light dawned upon their way and gave them final triumph.

A Mr. Holyoke of London, England, has recently been lecturing in New York, explaining the system, its workings, its advantages in the Old World, and his explanations have been so favorably received in that city that the New York Tribune seems to have become a convert to co-operation, and recommends the laboring and poorer classes of this country, notwithstanding the many failures, to try the Rochdale plan. May not our Patrons profit by this advice?

Notably the difference between the Rochdale system and ours is,—in their plan they sold goods at usual profits, and divided the profits with the purchasers after paying six per cent. on the capital employed; but Mr. Holyoke says that the employment of competent and reliable Agents for purchasing, is one of the most important features of their system and has enabled them to secure the best of articles in the market for their customers.

Brother Patrons, we in Michigan have this important part of the Rochdale system in full operation. Let us as individuals or by Granges sustain it, and build it up against the time when we may need it as a part of an improved co-operative system.

C.

Shall we Have a Farmer for Governor?

Of course we shall, if the farmers of the State insist upon it. They have the power to name the next Governor, if they choose to exercise their right. Of course we shall not, if farmers are so apathetic as to let politics alone, as has heretofore been the case, to decide who shall be nominated. Michigan has never but once in her history had a farmer Governor, Kinsley S. Bingham, and he was one of the best she ever had; and it seems to me that it would be a good plan to try the experiment again, and perhaps in that way, do what I think we never have done, except in the case of Bingham, elect finally a farmer United States Senator. Even if we should not elect any better man from the agricultural portion of our community than could be selected from other classes, it would be nothing more than an act of justice that the great agricultural population of the community should not be entirely ignored as it has been for years in the selection of the chief magistrate in our State. With such men as Alonzo Sessions, J. J. Woodman, J. Webster Childs, R. E. Trowbridge, T. F. Moore, J. T. Rich, and many others of great ability and large experience in State affairs, there is no excuse that the agricultural class does not furnish fit material to select from. No better or fitter men than those I have named could be found in any profession. One of our State papers in advocating the claims of a Detroit millionaire, says that no poor man has any business to aspire to the office of Governor, because he cannot afford it on account of its low salary. Farmers, although not often millionaires, are not so poor as to be alarmed

at the prospect of being elected Governor, and it is not only possible but very probable that a man who has made his money by actual toil, and who well knows the worth of a dollar by having actually earned it, would be so prudent and modest in his expenditure as to be as little inconvenienced by a moderate salary as any body; and would it not be probable that a man who has always been trained in principles of economy, and who knows the great value of even a little money, would be more likely to be careful of the pecuniary interests of the State, and guard well her treasury, than a millionaire, or than any one who has never by actual necessity been compelled to be prudent and careful. Let us try the experiment.

GEORGE PRAY,

Woodard Lake, 190.

The Why He Complains.

LEONIDAS, NOV. 21, '79.

Bro. Cobb:

I noticed an extract from the speech of Mr. Dunning, and your comments thereon, in the VISITOR of Oct. 15th, also further remarks upon the same subject in the No. for Nov. 1st.

Now, Mr. Dunning, I understand, is a merchant, and his remarks seem to have been made from that standpoint; and when he states his occupation, he gives the text to his whole argument.

The probabilities are that just so long as the farmers of his vicinity will sell him their produce, and buy his goods, and let him set the price both ways, it matters little to him whether they belong to either club or Grange. They are both farmers' organizations, and if he is merchant, I don't see what he could, or did, do or say from his standpoint that would in any way advance the interests or political standing of farmers.

Judging from his criticism, all he knows about the Grange he has picked up from outside talk. Building ships, telegraphs and railroads is no part of farming, no more than growing potatoes would be a branch of the mercantile business.

Mr. D. might, with more propriety, ask, who ever saw a railroad that farmers were not taxed to pay for? Again, if an important railroad was to be built, what part would Mr. D. take? If the undertaking had the appearance of being a paying one, he might take stock; but most probably he would take a stand near by where he could sell the workmen clothing at a profit of from 20 to 50 per cent, and if possible, repeat twice a year. While the poor shoemaker or sewing-woman who made up the aforesaid clothing barely made enough to keep body and soul together.

Merchants, no doubt, belong to the list of necessary evils, and the majority of them would just as quick throw stones at the club as they would at the Grange. I may have been over harsh with Mr. D., if so, I beg his pardon, but he should not have forgotten the old saying, "Those who live in glass houses, &c."

Yours fraternally,

D. C.

Pomona Grange, No. 6.

HIGHLAND, NOV. 18, 1879.

Worthy Secretary Cobb:

Perhaps some of the doings of Pomona Grange, No. 5, would interest the readers of your valuable paper. They met on the 9th, with Tenny Plains Grange, No. 355, as was noticed in the VISITOR. The day dawned foggy and with some rain, hence there were not many from the eastern part of the county, but White Lake, Farmington, Birmingham and Milford were well represented, also Pontiac and Four Towns. The program was carried out with a vim and readiness that shows what the Grange is doing for the farmers and their matrons. Persons who could but address the Master and excuse themselves, when the Grange was first organized, arose and gave short addresses that did credit to themselves, and would have been applauded in our legislative halls (for their patriotism) had they been delivered by some lawyer or professional man. But, judging by the spirit shown there, this prejudice will soon be of the past, and with it will go the management of our agricultural fairs by lawyers and business men.

Bro. Sexton was also there from Howell, and gave us a description of

their co-operative effort in disposing of their wool, also in purchasing other supplies. It worked admirably in their case, why should it not in others? The evening was devoted to the good of the Order, and nearly every one present had something to offer for our mutual benefit. The exercises were spiced with instrumental and vocal music. I tell you Patrons we had a grand time, and if any of you are inclined to falter in a work for the benefit of all mankind just visit one such meeting as we had, and you will go home with buoyant spirits and thro'ts of—well, the Grangers amounts to something after all. In attending these meetings it will try your faith, especially where you have to walk in the mud some, and be carried to the depot as some there had to be.

But I have made this letter longer than I intended to, so I will cut it short lest the editor cuts it shorter.

WALDO.

A Farmer for Governor.

Nov. 16th, 1879.

Bro. J. T. Cobb:

In reading the last number of the VISITOR I am much pleased to find your article, headed, "The Governor of Michigan." There can be no possible harm for Grangers or Grange papers to talk politics when and wherever their best interest demands, and where so more than in the selection of their public officers or servants. All this may be done without soiling ourselves with the evils of partisanship in American politics. But to return to the subject, my observation differs from yours, in this, you say that all the papers that have come to your notice, none containing recommendations as to who shall be Michigan's next Governor have proposed the name of a farmer. Several papers that have come to my notice have proposed the name of a man who is in every sense of the word a representative farmer, a gentleman well known throughout the State, and a man eminently well qualified to fill the position by public experience, integrity, and all other qualities that go to make a first class public servant, and the man is no other than the Hon. J. T. Rich, of Lapeer Co., the present popular speaker of the House of Representatives. Mr. Rich is comparatively a young man in years but not in experience. He is so well known throughout the State that it is needless to dwell long upon his abilities and qualifications.

Fraternally yours,
G. W. CRAMTON

Attend the State Grange.

Yes, by all means go to the State Grange, it will do you good. If you are already a good, working member, with a realizing sense of the value of the Grange, it will gratify you to meet and shake hands with so many in full sympathy with you. If you are in doubt about its stability, and its usefulness as an institution, by all means go and investigate. And when you see those earnest men and women patiently and systematically at their legislative work, you will be convinced that the institution has come to stay. And when you listen (as you will listen with much interest) to the reports from all parts of the State of the benefits of the Grange, and then reflect upon the manner in which these farmers and their wives make their reports, you will be converted to the faith, and never regret the time and money it cost you at the State Grange.

C.

Some Farmers who Would Make Good Governors.

DOWAGIAC, Mich., Nov. 20, 1879.

Bro. J. T. Cobb:

I am well pleased to see you take your position in favor of a farmer for our next Governor. Michigan has had many excellent Governors, which I think may be attributed in part to the low salary. No man has sought the position except for its honors, and when in office has endeavored to merit the honor by serving the people faithfully. We have many farmers all over the State who would do honor to the position, and might be elected if the farmers will unite and go to work as earnestly as the machine politicians do to secure delegates. Among many competent, worthy farmers, I would name Hons. J. J. Woodman, C. G. Luce, J.

Webster Childs, and Lieut. Governor Sessions, as being as fully competent as any men named by the machine politicians.

Fraternally,
H. H. TAYLOR.

An Address from a Private.

Prepared for the Grandville pic nic, but not read.

Sisters, Brothers and Fellow Citizens:

I am happy to meet you here to-day on this now famous spot, this Lexington of the Grange, for here is being fought the first battle between monopoly and the tillers of the soil.

When we read the grand old Declaration of Independence, how we admire the true manhood of those who framed and signed that grand instrument, and we all say those men showed true and noble greatness.

Did it ever occur to you how easy it was to frame and sign that instrument compared to defending and living its principles?

The signing of that instrument was a great step, but it took true heroism to defend it,—and it is for their true courage and heroism that we honor them to this day.

The condition of the farmers prior to the advent of the Grange will compare well with the condition of our forefathers prior to the Revolution.

Were we not like them, reduced almost to abject slavery, seldom even allowed to select one from our number to represent us, who would be likely to look after our interests in making our laws, though we out-numbered all the other classes together. And while our fathers were insulted on the high seas of commerce, we were insulted on the high sea of business, and when we ordered plaster of the plaster ring, we were treated as not fit to be recognized equal with men of other callings, notwithstanding they had pledged their sacred honors to do so.

Sisters and brothers, I wish to remind you of one fact, viz: that we did not seek to bring on this contest, but rather to avert it. We believe we exhausted all honorable means to avert it, and to have surrendered more we would have surrendered our sacred honors.

Like our forefathers, we had true and noble patriots at the helm, who drew up and signed a noble instrument—and if we defend it as bravely as our forefathers defended the Declaration of Independence, we shall place ourselves above all harm from our enemies and traitors too. We should be thankful that we have such men with us to-day who, in the hour of our extremity, framed and signed a second Declaration of Independence, which severed our connection from one of the greatest monopolies of this State: and to their action, we attribute the cause of the assembling of this vast multitude here to-day, who have come up here to do them the honor they so richly deserve.

Sisters and brothers, while we honor those who signed the declaration of 1776, let us not forget those who signed this second Declaration of Independence, which brought the consumer in direct communication with the manufacturer. Sisters and brothers, there is no way that we can honor them so satisfactorily as to defend that Declaration signed by our Executive Committee, as by buying every pound of plaster we consume of Messrs. Day & Taylor, as that declaration declared that we would.

Now, if there is a brother here to-day who has bought or used plaster which came from any other source, he ought to repent before he leaves this grove, dedicated to the Order of Patrons of Husbandry.

If there is one such person here to-day I wish to say to him, now is the day of repentance, and now is the accepted time, and you never will be so likely to receive pardon as you will now, if you come forward and, in sack-cloth and Day & Taylor's plaster, ask God and the Grange to forgive you.

I wish to impress it upon every brother that our success depends upon our rank and file, viz: you and I, the same as the success of our forefathers depended on the rank and file of the Continental army.

And that we must not, we cannot afford to loose this battle, for on this hangs our prestige, as well as our future gain or loss.

Sisters and brothers, if we lose this battle, where shall we be able to make another stand?

I pause for a reply.

PRIVATE.

Meeting of Livingston Co. Council.

HOWELL, Nov. 17, 1879.

J. T. Cobb:

According to previous notice, the regular meeting of Livingston County Council was held in Howell, November 4th.

The roads were good, the day fine, and about noon the good brothers and sisters came thronging in from all parts of the County, accompanied by the indispensable and the number at the report was estimated by the Co. paper at four hundred, so you see quite a large family gathered around the festal board.

I know much has been said against the labor connected with these festivals, but I for one, always feel well paid for the labor, and that there is nothing too good to grace the board at a Grange festival. We gather together as one family, and sit down together at one table as brother and sisters, and I believe we all enjoy it better than if each one sat down, spread their own napkins in their laps and quietly ate their own bread and butter.

After dinner tables were cleared away, and our Worthy Master, J. S. Briggs, of West Handy Grange, called to order and we were ready for business. All the Granges connected with the Council were well represented. Visitors were there from Unadilla, North Lake, Eureka, and Tenny Plains Granges, also from Fitchburg, Ingham Co.

The purchasing agent gave a full report of the sale of wool shipped to Fenno & Manning, Boston. The transactions in business of this Council the past year has been the sale of 58,000 lbs of wool, 124 tons of plaster, 50 tons of bran, and various other commodities in smaller quantities.

A special meeting will be held at Conway Grange Hall in January. A committee was appointed at the Nov. meeting to visit the different Granges connected with the Council.

We send as our delegate to the State Grange, James Harger, Worthy Master of Howell Grange, who is among the best workers in the County.

I am counting the weeks until the meeting of the State Grange, when I hope to meet familiar faces whose memory I carry fresh in my mind.

Fraternally yours,

Mrs W. K. SEXTON,
Sec'y Livingston Co. Council.

COLDWATER, Nov. 6th, 1879.

Worthy Sec. Cobb:

Yesterday, Nov. 5th, was the regular meeting of Branch County Pomona Grange, No. 22, which was well attended, notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather.

We received four applications for membership, all of which were accepted.

These meetings are both pleasant and profitable. After the regular order of business, we have farm and home visiting committees appointed at every meeting, whose duty it is to visit one or more farms, designated by the Grange, and report at the next meeting,—the reports to be in writing and to be kept on file in the Secretary's office.

We also have one or more subjects discussed at each meeting, those taking the lead in the discussion who were appointed by the Worthy Lecturer at the previous meeting.

The subject for discussion at our last meeting was, "What is the best method of feeding stock (cattle and sheep), taking into consideration economy of feed, the good of the stock, and preserving the quality of manure."

The subject was very ably handled by Bro. A. A. Luce, George W. Fisk, and others, though they differ materially in manner of feeding. Bro. Luce feeding corn in the ear, without husking, keeping some swine to follow the cattle, while Bro. Fisk grinds all the grain fed his cattle, and keeps all stock stabled in winter.

The Grange is increasing in interest at every meeting, as well as in membership. We hold our meetings monthly, and every member seems to feel that the position the farmer takes in this society, in the government of this country or ours, and in every department of official life, depends upon his own efforts. "Only a farmer," does not apply to this Grange in the sense it was formerly used.

A close study of our profession, concert of action, combined with honesty and integrity, showing to the world

that we are not only content with, but proud, of our calling. Never shall we be placed entirely upon an equality with other professions, until, by our acts, we honor our profession; then, and not till then, will we, and it, be honored:

The next meeting of this Grange will occur on Tuesday, Nov. 25th, at Butler Grange Hall, at 10 A. M., to which all fourth degree members are cordially invited.

Fraternally,
WALLACE E. WRIGHT,
Sec'y.

THE LAKE SHORE & MICHIGAN SOUTHERN.

We had the form for this number all made up to go to press except a little space in our article giving railroad rates to Lansing. This space was left to give the conditions which the L. S. & M. S. might at the eleventh hour concede. But the eleventh hour was not long enough for its General Ticket Agent at Cleveland.

Knowing the characteristic slowness of this department of the management of the L. S. & M. S. we wrote to Ticket Agent Cary, on the 13th of November asking for the usual reduction of rates to Lansing. He replied on the 18th declining to give any reduction, assigning as a reason that last year the L. S. & M. S. sold but nineteen tickets to Lansing to which we replied as follows:

SCHOOLCRAFT, Nov. 19th, 1879,
J. W. Cary, Esq. Gen. Ticket Agt., L. S. & M. S. Cleveland, O.,

DEAR SIR:—Yours in answer to my application for commutation rates over the L. S. & M. S. R. R. to Lansing is received, and, although you have refused, I must be allowed to renew the application with an explanation.

You say that "Last year we sold but 19 tickets for the occasion, all told." Last year you required that applicants should exhibit certificates of membership to entitle them to purchase commutation tickets. The matter was not well understood, and some had certificates while more had not. By the aid of R. R. Commissioner Williams we got a telegram late the last day of the session, after many had gone home, allowing those who had paid full fare to Lansing to return at one cent per mile on presentation of a certificate showing that the holder had been in attendance at the session of the State Grange. As before stated, some 700 people attended the session last winter. Of course more than nineteen of them got to Lansing over the L. S. & M. S., many paying full fare both ways.

The D. & M. The D. L. & N., and C. L. H. (I give old initials) all sold round trip tickets without the certificate required by the Central and the L. S. & M. S. Your road more tardy in assenting to an arrangement really, as it turned out, gave us least accommodation.

Allow me, in conclusion, to express my surprise that you should set aside a usage of railroads and discriminate against the farmers of Michigan, who, as a class furnish your road with more business, I presume, than all other classes put together. To me it seems, not in accordance with common justice, general usage, or sound policy. And I cannot think the L. S. & M. S. under its present management, after looking at this matter as it is, will ignore the claims of the farmers of this State, even if but nineteen tickets are sold to the representatives of an organization numbering 20,000 of her men and women.

Of course we have no desire to dictate how commutation tickets shall be made available. If certificates are required we shall do all we can to make that fact known to our people, and provide for the requirement.

Yours truly,
J. T. COBB.

On the morning of the 25th inst. we met in Kalamazoo A. G. Amstden the gentlemanly Superintendent of the Kalamazoo Division of the L. S. & M. S. and stated the case to him. He at once volunteered to telegraph to Gen. Ticket Agt. Cary asking for an answer to my application. Twenty-four hours passed, no answer had been received, and we could hold the press no longer.

We regret this outcome for several reasons. First, because fewer of our friends on the 460 miles of the line of the L. S. & M. S. in Michigan, will be at Lansing.

Again, because I live on the line of this road, (though it is not my route to Lansing) years ago gave money toward the construction of this division, ride on it every week, am well acquainted with many of the employes on this Division from the Supt. down, from whom, one and all we have received uniformly courteous treatment.

From all these causes we have had a friendly feeling for this road, and when we had a chance in the plaster trade to give direction to traffic we uniformly gave it preference. We are sorry to have Gen. Ticket Agent Cary set aside the usages of Michigan railroads, treat the Patrons so shabbily, and do an act that can only be construed by our people as railroad hostility to Grangers.

Annual Meeting of Michigan State Pomological Society.

In acceptance of an invitation from the Allegan County Pomological Society, the State Society will hold its annual Session in the village of Allegan, Dec. 2d, 3d, and 4th, opening with an evening lecture at 7:30 Tuesday, the 2d proximo.

The following list comprises the main topics for discussion during the day sessions:

1. Pruning pear trees.
2. Scale of points in judging fruits and orchards.
3. Is the grape rot doing damage in our State?
4. Growing native ferns.
5. Mutual relations of nurserymen and fruit-growers.
6. How to use flowers in the home, the school-room, and the church.
7. Culture of the quince in Michigan.
8. Distances apart for planting fruit trees and plants.
9. Habits of observation a practical assistance to the fruit-grower.
10. Native and introduced climbers.
11. Influence of local horticultural societies upon communities.
12. Practical workings of the yellows law.
13. Grape vine thrips, and how to battle the pest.
14. Management of young orchards.
15. Horticulture at the Agricultural College.
16. Are we not lowering the pomological standard of merit by too often applying the market test?
17. Describing apples by their flowers.

Aside from the above topics, there are two resolutions laid over from former meetings to be taken up at this session of the Society, as follows:

Resolved, That the Michigan State Pomological Society recommends the use of hedges for fencing in Michigan.

Resolved, That the name of our Society be changed to accord with our work, that henceforth it shall be known as the Michigan State Horticultural Society, and that the president be instructed to so modify the constitution as to accord with this resolution.

The following reports will be received during the session of the meeting.

Report of the superintendents of the State Fair.

Report of the committees of the State Fair.

Report of the delegate to the American Pomological Society.

Report of the committee on new fruits.

Report of the secretary.

Report of the finance committee.

Report of the treasurer.

The annual election of officers will occur during the afternoon of Wednesday, Dec. 3d.

T. T. LYONS,
CHAS. W. GARFIELD, President.
Secretary.

A PROPER conclusion for the marriage ceremony in many of our fashionable society weddings would be, "What commercial interests put together, let no ill-temper put asunder."

A Good Thing to Have Around.

From the Ottawa County Courier.

In combination there is power. A grain of sand is a little thing, easily brushed away; but a union of these little things can turn back the rushing wave, or wreck a noble Amazon.

A scattered army can accomplish nothing, but by combination, forts crumble and strongholds are taken. A combination was formed at Spring Lake, in the capacity of a Grange. They whispered in the ears of the N. W. Transportation Co. that they wanted lower rates of transportation on fruit, from Grand Haven to Milwaukee. The Transportation Company turned a deaf ear to their wants. The Grange whispered again, in louder tones, numbering their forces, and the allies that could be summoned, and concluded the whisperings with, "you must reduce your rates or we will seek for some other party to carry our fruit." They reduced the rates on berry crates from 10 to 8 cents, and on peach and grape baskets from 8 to 6 cents. The American Express Co. was compelled to do the same. The Goodrich line followed suit and sometimes played the deuce.

These has been shipped from Spring Lake and Peach Plains this season over 50,000 baskets of peaches and grapes and over 10,000 crates of berries—consequently, this community has saved over \$1,200 through the influence of Spring Lake Grange. Is not a Grange a good thing to have around? Each shipper, whether a member of the Order or not, can calculate his indebtedness by multiplying the number of his baskets and crates by two cents.

Again: The Grange whispered in Capt. Van's ear that his rates were too high for carrying fruits to Grand Haven. He listened and complied. A reduction was made on berry crates from 5 to 2½ cents each, and on baskets from 2½ to 1 cent each.

By this reduction \$200 has been saved to the people on the Lake. Is not a Grange a good thing to have around?

This arrangement with Capt. Van has been satisfactory to all parties. The shipper gets his fruit carried to Grand Haven at reasonable rates, and he is satisfied. He has the good will of all his patrons, and no competitor can take his trade, or any part thereof from him. He has done justice to the shippers, and they will stand by him. By united action, \$1,400 has been saved, and no injustice done to anyone.

Half that amount would build us a good hall; but, perhaps, more anon.
J. S. DEWEY.

"Write on only one side of the paper. Number the pages in the order in which they follow each other—don't paste them together in a long continuous sheet; it is only labor lost, as pages of manuscript, to be used conveniently on the case should be short; consequently if your copy is pasted together it must be cut apart again—and when this duty devolves on the compositor he is apt to forget that scriptural injunction about swearing not at all. Write names plainly and spell them correctly; it doesn't make so much difference as to other words—although there would be no sorrow were everything written a la copperplate. Gentle correspondent, heed these suggestions, offered in a friendly spirit, and thine shall be the glory."—*Nodaway Democrat*.

A GOOD country parson preached a series of sermons on practical morality, and very interesting and instructive they were. A lad in the village, who had heard only one of them, was coming out of an orchard one day, his pockets bulging out with stolen fruit. He met the parson, who noticed his efforts to conceal the evidences of his guilt. "Have you been stealing apples?" asked the minister. "Yes, sir," answered the boy sheepishly. "And you are trying to hide them from me?" continued the good man. "Yes, sir," said the culprit, and then added, his face brightening up, "you said last Sunday that we must avoid the appearance of evil."

ANYBODY can catch a cold now. The trouble is to let it go again, like the man who caught the bear.

"I'm engaged for this set," said the hen to the rooster as she went clacking away.

THE GRANGE VISITOR.

SCHOOLCRAFT, DEC. 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.

RAILROADS AND THE STATE GRANGE.

We are glad to be able to announce that with little trouble we have been able to make arrangements with the several lines of railroads named below for fare at reduced rates to Lansing during the week of the session of the State Grange.

Herewith we give the conditions prescribed by the several roads:

THE MICHIGAN CENTRAL RAILROAD.

Over the Michigan Central Patrons will pay full fare to Lansing and be entitled to a return ticket for one cent per mile, on the presentation of a certificate to the Lansing agent, signed by me, showing that the holder paid full fare over the M. C. R. R. to Lansing from a designated point on the line of said road. These certificates can be obtained at my desk at any time during the session.

THE DETROIT, GRAND HAVEN & MILWAUKEE RAILWAY

require, to entitle the purchaser to a round trip ticket at 2 cents per mile each way from any point on the line of their road to DURAND, OWOSSO, or IONIA, that he shall present a certificate to their ticket agents, signed by me, or one signed by the Master or Secretary of a Grange and stamped with its seal. I will by return mail supply all Patrons, who apply, with the required certificate.

An ordinary membership card signed by the Master or Secretary, with the impress of the Grange seal, will answer the purpose.

THE NORTHWESTERN GRAND TRUNK, (formerly Peninsular,) will sell round trip tickets at two cents per mile at all points on the line of their road from Port Huron to South Bend good from 8th to 13th, inclusive. No certificate required.

THE DETROIT, LANSING, & NORTHERN RAILWAY

will sell round trip tickets at two cents per mile each way on the 8th, and 9th, at all stations on its line to Lansing, good to and including the 13th. No certificates required.

J. J. WOODMAN ELECTED MASTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE.

A note received just as we go to press from Treasurer McDowell of the National Grange informs us that Bro. Woodman has been elected Master of the National Grange.

This will gratify more than it will surprise large numbers of his Michigan friends, and is a merited recognition of the valuable services he has rendered the Order.

A CALL FOR NAMES OF DELEGATES TO STATE GRANGE.

There are some things that are not done when they should be, and some things are not done at all, by those who have assumed the obligation to do those very things.

We have in our mind just now the remissness of those who should send to this office the names of the delegates elected on the 7th of October to represent the Patrons of Michigan at the next meeting of the State Grange, which will occur in a few days.

We are sorry to be compelled to publish so incomplete a list.

We want at the opening of the session to have a complete list before us, all complete and in print, as that will very much facilitate the work of the session. Of course, if we knew the name of the Chairman or Secretary of the conventions of the Counties not reported, we might send a card of inquiry. But we do not, and can therefore do no better than to give this general invitation.

It is perhaps as well, while the subject is up, to say again what we have said more than once, that it is important that the name and postoffice of the Master and Secretary-elect should be sent to us immediately after the election of officers in December, and this should be done by the Secretary of 1879. If neglected by him, the new Secretary will not be likely to think it a part of his duty, and between the two it may not be done at all.

There are Masters of Granges today in Michigan that have never received copies of the Proceedings of the National or State Grange, for the reason that their names and postoffices have not been reported to this office. We still have copies of each that we are always glad to supply to those entitled to receive them.

To return to delegates. We hope some one who knows, in each Co. or District, will send us the names of the delegates, where they do not appear below:

List of Representatives with Number of Grange to which the Master belongs:

Allegan—
Barry—J. C. Bray, 38. Henry Hewitt, 413.
Berrien—J. K. Bishop, 122. Joseph A. Becker, 14. W. J. Jones, 43.
Branch—J. D. W. Fisk, 137. F. H. Fisher, 96.
Calhoun—
Cass—
Clinton—John J. Keiser, 226. Thomas Baldwin, 358.

Eaton—
Genesee—
Hillsdale—Lewis B. Agard, 107. Geo. N. Mead, 269. And'w Hinkel, 274.
Ingham—Geo. D. Green, 322. J. W. Wiley, 289.
Ionia—S. M. Creager, 270. G. S. Allen, 163. A. W. Sherwood, 430.
Jackson—Abel N. Howe, 321. D. H. Ranney, 344.
Kalamazoo—A. Haas, 49.
Kent—John Porter, 353. John Berry, 110. Henry M. Sleeper, 340. G. S. Crumback, 119.

Lenawee—
Livingston—James Harger, 90.
Macomb—
Manistee—
Montcalm—
Muskegon—
Newaygo—Neil McColum, 495. R. E. Trowbridge, —.

Oakland—A. H. Paddock, —. Hiram Andrew, 259. J. Van Hoosen, —.

Ottawa—
St. Clair—
St. Joseph—James L. Yanney, 76. Joseph H. Sheep, 332.

Shiawassee—
Saginaw—
Van Buren—
Washtenaw—H. D. Platt, 55. Wm. Wood, 631. E. M. Cole, 68.

DISTRICT GRANGES.
1st Dist.—Bay and Midland—

2d Dist.—Grand Traverse, Leelanaw and Benzie—

3d Dist.—Tuscola and Sanilac—
N. B. White, 582.
4th Dist.—Mason and Oceana—
J. F. Phillips, 415.
5th Dist.—Wayne and Monroe—
6th Dist.—Mecosta and Osceola—
7th Dist.—Wexford and Manistee—
Jacob Sears, 633.

POMONA GRANGES.

Berrien—No. 1.
Mecosta—No. 2.
Calhoun—No. 3.
St. Joseph—No. 4.
Oakland—No. 5.
Genesee—No. 6.
Washtenaw—No. 7.
Wayne—No. 8.
Valley—No. 9.
Hillsdale—No. 10.
Newaygo—No. 11.
St. Clair—No. 12.
Van Buren—No. 13.
Ingham—No. 14.
Lenawee—No. 15.
Ionia—No. 16.
Traverse—No. 17.
Kent—No. 18. Wm. P. Whitney,
Western—No. 19.
Cass—No. 20.
Manistee—No. 21.
Branch—No. 22.
Oceana—No. 23.
Clinton—No. 24.

THE PLASTER INTEREST.

Day & Taylor have written us that their new plaster bed has opened first rate; that their railroad from the quarry is completed, and that they shall have ten thousand tons ready for delivery in good order as fast as wanted when the season opens. They will have a warehouse on the line of the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern railroad, at Grandville station so as not to be dependent on two other roads before they can get a L. S. & M. S. car to load. The railroads, we are glad to learn, have found out one thing and are willing that the farmers should have the benefit of it.

Heretofore ten tons has been rated as a car load, and if a greater amount was loaded it subjected the consignee to an extra charge. Now twelve tons can be shipped as a car load, and, as we understand, at the old car load rates. This is quite an item in the large amount of plaster which farmers use annually, and should be taken into account in making up orders for the plaster season that lies just before us. We hope those whose duty it may be to get orders for plaster will attend to the matter promptly; and where it is ordered in bags, in some instances the farmers can get it earlier than when supplied in bulk.

Do not forget that to the Grange the farmers of this state are indebted for cheap plaster.

Do not forget that without the co-operation of Day & Taylor the efforts of the Grange would have failed.

Do not forget that while everything else has boomed, Day & Taylor sell cheaper than ever before.

Do not forget that they will ship to you in bulk or in bags, the bags to be paid for at cost or returned to them.

Do not forget that to buy plaster at other mills is to do what you can to return to old prices.

Do not forget that every good Patron will order plaster of Day & Taylor.

And we will not forget that this is a matter of principle as well as business, and that no better test of the genuineness of the Patron need be applied.

Order plaster early for yourselves and neighbors, and order of Day & Taylor.

In the Ladies' Department of this issue will be found another communication in defense of our school system.

The subject is an important one, and, as viewed by those whose highest hopes for their children's greatest

good lie in the direction of education, our criticisms seem like an attack on rights conceded, and the best interests of society.

We have little time to devote to the farther consideration of the subject in this number. Our notions, opinions, and theories will keep for some time yet.

The school system which we have, has a vast amount of good in it. We think it also has some points wholly indefensible, and have before so stated.

In the matter of proficiency of graduates we shall be best pleased if found somewhat mistaken as regards their general qualifications, and the completeness of their knowledge of the common branches.

But, if ready to concede all that is urged (and we are not), still the vital point, the obligation, the rightfulness of requiring the many to furnish this culture to the few has not been asserted, much less maintained, by any of our reviewers, and, although we do not propose to leave the matter here, we see no occasion to devote further time to this subject now, though our columns are open to further discussion.

NATIONAL GRANGE.

A brief letter from Canandaigua written in haste by Bro. Woodman, gives us notice that the Thirteenth Session of the National Grange is in session, that the attendance is very full, and a large number of Michigan Patrons present. A paper, received too late for extracts, gives the opening speech of Worthy Master Sam'l Adams, of Minn. It is a good strong document, and we would be glad to present much of it to our readers. We had hoped to have given some of the opening proceedings in this number.

Our Worthy State Lecturer, Bro. Whitney, forgetting to mention the matter, in sending his communication to the printer, has written us suggesting that the Brothers and Sisters who attend the Session of the State Grange take their regalia with them. Go prepared for a grand display of Grangers. We are satisfied that there will be a larger attendance of visiting members than ever before. Numbers have spoken or written to me asking me where to stop, and all indications point to a session that will be very enjoyable to all who attend, and will exert an inspiring influence on the Order throughout the State.

Don't forget your regalia.

The following Granges are delinquent in reports and payments of dues to the State Grange for some one of the quarters of 1878 or of 1879.

Some of them are undoubtedly dead or dormant beyond hope of resurrection while a considerable number of them are delinquent on account of the remissness of their Secretaries.

3, 16, 21, 22, 32, 41, 47, 51, 52, 61, 63, 69, 81, 82, 86, 94, 126, 128, 144, 147, 157, 168, 172, 214, 229, 236, 239, 241, 245, 256, 261, 263, 264, 268, 274, 289, 310, 317, 321, 334, 342, 345, 358, 364, 381, 383, 385, 394, 402, 409, 417, 422, 425, 426, 436, 452, 456, 457, 460, 465, 470, 482, 485, 487, 499, 514, 518, 521, 523, 528, 539, 553, 554, 556, 582, 582, 589, 590, 592, 606, 614, 616, 632.

T. J. CRANDALL wants his paper changed to Joliet Ill., but failed to give his present address, therefore we cannot make the desired change until we hear from him.

SEE page third for the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern railroad correspondence, and conclusions.

Lecturer's Department.

C. L. WHITNEY, - - - MUSKOGON.

Field Notes.

Leaving Schoolcraft after dinner we soon made Scotts, when at the train we were met by Brother A. Haas, the Worthy Master of Montour Grange No. 49, who conducted us to the hall where we found a goodly number of friends awaiting our arrival. There were some from Leonidas, some from Vicksburg, and some from Climax, and other places, all of whom came to attend the meeting and receive such benefit as they might in return. We were pleased with the attention given for the hour and a half of the address. Bro. Haas took us home with him to tea—we found him just completing a new house, or part of a house with brick finish. Bro. Haas was burned out on July 4th last, but showed us his present dwelling—the result of Grange co-operation and enterprise, put up by the assistance of his Grange brethren during the 5th, the day following the fire.

The evening was given to a session of the Grange for instruction at the hall. All the brothers and Sisters present seemed to be well paid for their ride or walk through the mud to the hall. This Grange seems to be doing good work, yet wants to advance, and for that reason would like to unite with the others of Kalamazoo County in a Pomona Grange. We understand that a move will soon be made in that direction. We were entertained for the night at Bro. J. Haas, a brother of the Master, at which place the Master found us on the morning of November 7th well huddled into the carriage with Bro. A. Haas, we started for Mendon, in St. Joseph County. After a long but very pleasant ride through a variety of scenery and farms, we reached Mendon just in time for dinner, at a brother's home on the banks of the St. Joseph river. In the afternoon we made several calls upon former Patrons near this pleasant village, and hope at no distant day to see them again at work within the mystic circle. Riding three or four miles across Nottawa Prairie with a brother, we reached Bro. T. Cuddy's home, and then took tea—we found this sturdy Patron well located in farm and building, fine stock and crops denoting thrift and industry. This farm might be called a Grange.

Mendon brothers, put your hands to the plow again and never look back. You have all that is needed to make a successful and pleasant Grange, and we certainly would be pleased to see you at work. An evening train on the G. R. & I. R. R. bore us to Sturgis, where we spent a very pleasant evening, visiting with our many year's respected and honored student D. E. Thomas, and his ever agreeable wife, once a companion in arms as instructor in the Public Schools at Dowagiac. The evening went by all too rapidly, and the night was half spent when we retired to rest—thinking while trying to sleep, why could not all boys make as good use of their school days as did our host. At last, we slept.

Saturday, November 8th.

The forenoon spent in seeing Sturgis, and visiting. We made the village of Burr Oak just in time for the public meeting, which was at the Union School Hall. Bro. Chas. W. Sheldon, met us at the place of meeting—where soon assembled a goodly number of Patrons and others—at least for the pleasant day, and the very busy time—many farmers at work at their husking. The excellent attention to the address showed interest in the subjects presented—and speaks well for the farmers of Burr Oak and vicinity. Supper was served at the hall of the Grange No. 303, or rather in the room beneath the hall. This Grange has many pleasant quarters. The location is good, and the hall convenient—ample in size—with large ante-room and stairs to the room below, used by the Grange for a store-room and a dining-room.

An ample respect was served by the industrious Sisters who seem to know just how to feed the hungry Brothers. We noticed the Worthy Master, and others from Gilead Grange in Branch County present. Supper over, we repaired to the hall, which was well decorated with flowers, emblems, evergreens and many fine pictures, all of which added to its comfort and cheerfulness.

The members of this Grange have begun a library, which, I was informed, is well read. This is a step in the right direction; may every Grange in the State take note, and as soon as they can begin even humbly a Grange library.

The Grange was opened in due form by the Worthy Overseer in the absence of the Master from home. The singing was good, as was the work of the Grange as we saw it. Some time was given to instruction in the unwritten work and its meaning and teachings, and to the best of our ability we endeavored to impress these lessons. The labor of the day completed, we said good night to all, and rode home with Bro. Chas. W. Sheldon, a short distance out of the village. Bro. S. is young in years, and as a Patron, although several years ago we had correspondence with him about the Order when he was a student at the Agricultural College. Bro. S. has a fine farm, upon which he seems to demonstrate that the lessons taught in our College at Lansing can be put into remunerative practice. He may have learned the theories so much scoffed at, but they are facts in the practice of the student. Did the Agricultural College pay only as a farm enterprise in the profits of its crops it would not pay so well in the successful tillage of the farms of its numerous well trained students.

Monday, November 10th.

An early hour found us flying with a train to the northward, through Grand Rapids to the junction of the Newaygo Road, where we met Bro. John Preston, the earnest and industrious Lecturer of Kent County Grange, who took us to Sparta for the meeting of the day. At the hall we found many Patrons and friends ready for a talk upon the Grange. Supper and rest followed at a brother Patron's near by, and the evening session was opened in form by the Master Bro. Sleeper. Sparta Grange No. 340, lacks one thing in common with many other Granges, and that is *young people* among the members. They are the life of any Grange, and it is for their sake that we should preserve and advance the Grange. Take care of the young people and interest them in our Order, and they will take care of the Grange.

The instructions of the evening were open and the Grange closed just in time to reach our resting place before the all night and three days rain, which followed, set in.

Wednesday, November 12th.

Reaching Ionia last evening, we found our Worthy Bro. Mattison quite ill, from exposure and hard labor, doing duty in the service of justice, and spent the night under his ever hospitable roof. To-day it rains or continues to rain. After dinner it slacks, and finding Bro. F. A. North in town for me, I rode to Easton in his carriage, and found his home very pleasant and enjoyable. Through mud and wet and darkness a few faithful and some curious ones came out to the meeting at the school house in the evening. Another meeting in a more favorable time may be expected.

Thursday, November 13th.

An early breakfast and ride to Ionia with Bro. North's family gave us just time to take the train to St. Johns, where we arrived safely. At 11 o'clock, a large number of Patrons had assembled in the hall, and temporary organization affected.

Two P. M. found the hall well filled, and Clinton County Pomona Grange No. 25 was soon duly instituted, its officers elected and installed and instructed. Its officers are as follows: to-wit: Master, Thos. W. Baldwin; Overseer, Warren Halsey; Lecturer, C. G. Bennett; Steward, J. J. Keiser; Ass't. Steward, A. V. Dickerson; Chaplain, Anson McWithy; Treasurer, James Sowle; Secretary, Frank Conn; Gate Keeper, Daniel Dutton; Pomona Sister, E. M. Voorhies; Ceres, Mary T. Drake; Flora, Sister J. W. Ennest; L. A. S., Lydia J. Rice; Ex. Com., Courtland Hill, John P. Madden, Daniel Dutton, and I. L. Richmond. The next meeting is to be at Olive Grange, on the 20th inst. With this organization we bespeak for Clinton County, an active winter campaign. The labors of the day closed, we ride to Grand Rapids ready for an early start for the duties of the next day.

Friday, November 14th.

Six o'clock came, all too early, and we started for Hastings in the rain to meet the Patrons of the County, who in spite of rain and mud came together in goodly numbers at two o'clock at the

Union Hall. After a brief talk, an application was duly signed for a Pomona Grange in Barry County. The 4th day of December, the birthday of the Order is set apart for the organization—which will take place early in the day. A picnic dinner will be served in the hall at 12 o'clock, and at 2 o'clock a public address will be given, to which all Patrons and their former friends are cordially invited. Patrons who attend this meeting are requested to bring their regalia and song-books, and plenty of dinner, and celebrate the day by a feast of good things, as it is to be the wedding day of all the Granges in the County, uniting to form a strong Pomona Grange—enabling them in a practicable way to verify or gain the old principle, "*In union there is strength.*" "*Advance!*" is still the watchword of the year. Pass it along the entire line. Let the sleepy weak ones in the rear catch it and hasten forward into the active ranks—lest the enemy capture them and they be held prisoners in the castles of ignorance and indolence, in which they will be doomed to rear their children—unfit for the duties of the citizens of our advancing Republic. Up all and be doing. Regain what has been lost—make the close of the year lively by a general ADVANCE.

Annual Elections.

Before the next number of the VISITOR appears, many of the Granges in the State will have held their annual election of officers.

Pardon us if, in view of the above fact, we make a suggestion or two. Let there be no wire-pulling, button-holing or electioneering, or even caucusing, but proceed in a quiet Patronly way to ballot for each and every officer until all are elected, and by a majority of all the ballots cast. No informal ballots are known in Grange work. Every ballot is formal, and elects if one candidate has a majority of all the votes cast. Balloting should be continued for each officer until some one is elected. No nominations should be allowed—that is caucusing. No person should decline until he knows by the result of a ballot that he is elected and so declared, which is evidence that the Grange wants his services, and he has no right then to decline, except for the best of reasons, which the Grange may or may not accept, by motion and vote.

Whom to select is the question each member should consider for him or herself, as the ballot is prepared. *Who will best fill the office*, is the point to be argued in the mind—not whom do I fancy most—who wants it; but who, of all others, will best serve the Order and this Grange in this office we are about to fill.

While it is well to change the officers of a Grange at times, it is not well to make a radical change of all the officers at once. Never vote against a worthy official because he has done his duty to your displeasure. Never oppose any candidate because of a personal pique.

Don't try to elect any person to any office to get a *joke* or *put up a job* on him. You may burn your own fingers or get paid dearly for a joke.

Try to fill every position with the proper person, remembering that it is your duty to work with and aid such person in the place to which he is elected, and that the prosperity of the Grange depends greatly upon the persons placed in official positions.

Don't burlesque the office by voting for an improper person, as selecting an illiterate person for Lecturer, or an irreligious one for Chaplain, or an awkward one for Assistant Steward, but select every one with a view of the duties they have to perform, to the end that our beautiful Ritual may be impressively rendered, and every candidate duly instructed in the lessons it is intended to convey.

An election to office as indicated, would be considered an honor by the recipient, and he or she feel in duty bound to fill the place to the best of his or her ability—making sacrifices to be always on hand and well prepared to do well the part assigned.

Brothers and Sisters, let us remember our duties as Patrons, towards each other, and to the whole Order and our calling, and select such standard bearers as we can best succeed with, that in the year 1880 our Order shall make its greatest and surest advance, building up a worthy organization that shall "*develop a higher and better manhood and womanhood among ourselves*" advancing "*the Good of our Order, our country and mankind.*"

A Good Time.

It is a good time to get Grange Halls as well as homes in readiness for winter use. Make them both pleasant and attractive by comfortable and pleasant surroundings. Adorn the walls with pictures and mottoes, emblems and evergreens, each of which shall teach a lesson to even the careless observer, and which in the future will come to his mind in the time of need, and richly pay a little effort now made. Our Order's work is full of beautiful lessons taught by a mute emblem. All our tools of labor are emblems redolent with lessons of instruction and information, and happy is he who heeds their teaching. Adorn our halls with them. Let the very walls speak with decorations, neatly and beautifully, because appropriately made and put up.

Grange mottoes—words or sentences, always are good, easily obtained, because they can be made, or at little expense purchased. Pictures of farm and home scenes are all good, and may be borrowed of the members, if not contributed by them. To those who will, very many ways may be found to add to the pleasantness of a hall or home.

To those who have no hall or home, now is a good time to prepare to build, to arrange for getting the timber, stone, lumber, etc., at little expense, ready to push the work of erection when the mild weather shall again come. Many a Grange Hall in this State has been built at little cost in money paid out, except for plastering and material that the members could not furnish. The teaming and labor has, in most cases, been all contributed by members themselves.

May not other Granges? Act now and the coming winter, to secure a permanent Grange home for themselves and their children. Yes, even a place for a Grange School, where may be taught all the higher branches our boys and girls may desire, without the danger and expense of city instruction.

When to Hold Grange Meetings.

There seems, in some places, to be some feeling as to when the Grange shall meet—that is, the hour of the day. The elderly people—and we don't blame them—like to meet in the afternoon, while the younger and busier portion of the Grange wish the meetings in the evening.

Now, why not compromise? Hold at least two regular meetings a month, one in the full or near the full of the moon in the evening, and the other near the new of the moon, in the afternoon.

If you meet once a week, arrange to meet half the time in the evening, and the other half in the daytime. This can be arranged so as to always have pleasant evenings for meetings, and when the meetings are in the day, it matters little about the evenings. The younger members like evening meetings, and who that was ever young blames them, yet they should not deprive the more aged members of the Grange of pleasures, by always holding evening meetings. Older members must not be selfish in their likes and dislikes, but try to accommodate the pleasure and business of all, and together old and young, the busy and those of leisure, arrange for your meetings to accommodate all, and when times are arranged by the majority, carry out the program fully. Insist upon all attending, and soon it will be seen which times are best or liked best. Each class should give up of their comfort and inclination a part of the time to contribute to the pleasure of the other classes.

When the hour of meeting is fixed to suit some class, that class should at all times be there, to show their appreciation of the efforts of the other classes to please them, and they in turn, should also be on hand to show how readily they make the sacrifice for others comfort or pleasure.

Above all things, fix the times of meeting so that a member absent may know just when the next meeting is. Some Granges print a card for members, showing just when each meeting for a length of time is to be—a good idea—and sent to the county or neighboring Granges, informs them, that they may timely arrange their visits. To conclude the whole business, *work together in harmony.*

THE Cincinnati Commercial does not believe that an apple caused the fall of Adam; but thinks that it might have been an orange or banana peel.

Ladies' Department.

THE FARMER'S WIFE.

Up with the birds in the early morning—
The dewdrop glows like a precious gem;
Beautiful tints in the skies are dawning,
But she's never a moment to look at them.
The men are wanting their breakfast early,
She must not linger she must not wait;
For words that are sharp, and looks that are
surly,
Are what men give them when meals are
late.

Oh, glorious colors the clouds are turning,
If she would but look over hills and trees;
But here are the dishes and here is the churning—
Those things must always yield to these.
The world is filled with the wine of beauty,
If she could pause and drink it in;
But pleasure, she says, must wait for duty—
Neglected work is committed sin.

The day grows hot and the hands grow weary;
Oh, for an hour to cool her head
Out with the birds in the winds so cheery,
But she must get dinner and bake the bread.
The busy men in the hayfield working,
If they saw her sitting with idle hand,
Would think it lazy and call it shirking,
And she could never make them understand.

They do not know that the heart within her
Hungers for beauty and things sublime;
Then only know that they want their dinner—
Plenty of it—and just on time.
And after the sweeping and churning and bak-
ing,
And dinner dishes are all put by,
She sits and sews, though her head is aching,
Till time for supper and "chores" draw nigh.

Her boys at school must look like others,
She says, as she patches their frocks and
hose,
For the world is quick to censure mothers
For the least neglect of children's clothes.

Her husband comes from field of labor,
He gives no praise to his weary wife,
She's done no more than has her neighbor;
'Tis the lot of all in country life.

But after the strife and weary tussle
With life is done, and she lies at rest,
The Nation's brain and heart and muscle—
Her sons and daughters—shall call her blest.
And I think the sweetest joys of Heaven,
The rarest bliss of eternal life,
And the fairest crown of all will be given
Unto the way-worn farmer's wife.

—California Farmer.

The School Question.

In speaking of several articles in the
VISITOR, alleging a want of thorough-
ness in our union schools, "Matron"
says that however justly those criti-
cisms may apply to the schools of Lan-
sing and Schoolcraft, they do not apply
to those of her acquaintance: and for
fear that she and others may be led to
believe that these articles were called
up by a lack of thoroughness in our
Schoolcraft schools, I would like to say a
few words in their behalf.

Of the students who have attended
the graded school during the past nine
years, I have had a chance to examine
letters from ten different persons, who,
though but few of them are graduates,
were all in the highest classes while re-
maining there. I have, during the
past week, carefully read over 25 of
these letters, selected at random, and
found but three mis-spelled words, and
no grammatical errors. The writing is
all legible, and some of it very good;
and I feel myself justified in asserting
that in geography, history, and other
common branches, almost all of these
persons could pass a satisfactory exami-
nation given by anyone qualified to
judge. In regard to reading, I do not
think our students show that they
have been wholly without training.

From various causes, our graded
school has graduated but ten pupils.
Is the brother prepared to say that not
one of that ten can read creditably
well? Perhaps I am not a judge of good
reading, but I do not know where he
will look for good readers, if there are
not more than half of these graduates
who read not only "creditably well,"
but very well. If even a few persons
have come out of our school, with thor-
ough, practical knowledge, in their
common studies, in spite of having
studied some of the higher branches
(even Latin, French and Greek), it
seems convincing proof that all
might do so, and that if they do not
it is their own fault, not that of the
school.

Reading, spelling, geography, etc.,
should be taught thoroughly, but all of
a child's school life need not be spent
in learning them. A child having
spelled every day until after he gets

into the high school, ought to know as
much as can be learned in that way.
The practice he gets in essay writing
should do the rest,—in fact, in my ex-
perience, it does more practical good than
any amount of spelling by rote.

In practical arithmetic the pupil
learns to work a certain set of examples
by rules which are not explained, and
cannot be until he reaches geometry,
and, as few persons remember what
they have learned without understand-
ing, for this reason alone the study of
this branch of mathematics would seem
to be not entirely unnecessary.

In this way, a great many of our
high school studies and exercises fix
permanently in the mind what has
been learned in the lower rooms.

But after all, home encouragement is
the best help which a child can have,
and only those children who have it
are at all likely to become thorough
scholars, whatever the schools may be.
Then let us give them that encourage-
ment, and teach them that the business
of their youth is to get an education,
and that the more liberally they are
educated, the better fitted they will be
for any vocation.

If there were fewer of our farmers
who thought that the course of study
in our graded schools should be lower-
ed, there would not be so many who,
for want of a little knowledge of bot-
any and astronomy, would argue that
"wheat turns to ches," and that the
moon's phases should govern the time
of putting in crops and making soap.

A SISTER.

Benefits of Attending the Grange—An
Essay.

Let us, for a few moments, consider
some of the benefits we may derive
from attending the Grange. We can
make it profitable discussing in every
light those subjects of the most impor-
tance to us, commencing with those
with which we must all have to do, in
our every day work.

Many of us are deceived in the im-
plement we buy because we do not
know as much about them as we should
before purchasing.

I will venture to say that nearly
every third family in a neighborhood
have a different harvester, mower and
plows, also churn, washing machine,
and sewing machine.

If we would talk more of these,
which some may say are common
things, we might be able to always get
the best.

More than half of the benefit which
might be derived from the various lab-
or saving implements which have
flooded the country for the past ten
years is lost, by our ignorance of their
construction, and the proper method
of working them.

Many years ago, Solon Robinson, an
able writer of a work on farming, said
that farmers' clubs were a necessity,
and should be always made very social
and conversational. Now we have the
society under a better form, possibly,
than he at that time had devised, and
there is no necessity of its being a fail-
ure.

I claim that we, as a class, are not too
ignorant to sustain the Grange, with the
sisters, want of practice and a natural
timidity keeps the most of them silent.
There are many in every Grange that
have had advantages which can be
made of use to them now. All the best
educated women have not married for
city homes and stylish husbands. The
farmers have a good proportion of the
intelligent women of our land as wives.

Another way in which it seems to
me we are benefited by our meeting
in the Grange is this: The better ac-
quainted we are, the less liable we be-
come to engage in paltry disputes or
quarrels, or more serious litigations.
The teachings of our Ritual can not
help but awaken better thoughts, when
listened to by the most careless,—while
those who give every part careful at-
tention are inspired with good feelings
towards others, and a resolve to be
more circumspect in their actions, more
prudent in their expression of what
seems to disagree with the views of
others.

Some who have been at variance for
years have, by mingling together, been
able to see good in those they previ-
ously thought all bad.

What can be said of us more to our
praise than that we are growing better,
engrafting into our hearts more of the
spirit of our Master as we advance in
years.

Should we not all try to leave behind
us a good name, a reputation for hon-

orable dealing, and not the least chance
for the lawyers to say, "We have lost a
good patron." CERES.

Home Politeness.

By Eva D. Coryell, the first Graduate of
the Agricultural College of Michigan,
Read at Commencement.

In every agreeable association of man
with man each must show considera-
tion of other's wants and feelings. This
adapting of one's self to others is polite-
ness.

This term so often limited to merely
the outward polish of the person, the
movements of the body, the speech, or
the behavior, implies a deeper meaning.
Politeness is the happy way of doing
favors, but means more, because such
favors are the overflow of a kind and
loving heart. In terse expression it is
true kindness kindly expressed.

Tennyson says, "Manners are not
idle, but the fruit of noble nature and
of royal minds." Such true gentility is
the bond which holds society together,
it is the very soul of home. In society
its power is felt and acknowledged, at
home it is too often forgotten, and in
proportion as it is neglected, home, the
only concrete type of heaven, is trans-
formed into a mere place to wear out
an existence.

Some, who with studied gestures
and well practiced smiles make them
selves agreeable in the social circle, at
home hasten to doff this gilded robe,
for the time being and display the hol-
lowness of a false soul. Such a one
makes a double mistake; first, in try-
ing to appear what he is not; second,
in thinking that so-called society needs
his choicest gifts.

Painted honor and fictitious benevo-
lence are very short lived. These can-
not stand in the every day association
of a home; 'tis there politeness sheds its
brightest beams. The true nobleness of
human character shows itself in the
way it meets the little difficulties and
disappointments of every day life.

"The trivial round, the common task
Will furnish all we ought to ask,
Room to deny ourselves, a road
To bring us daily near to God."

To meet these as one ought, there is
need of self possession, a careful regard
for other's wishes, a willing self-sacrifice
of ease and comfort for the good of
others. Home life will then be made
up of little tendernesses, kind looks,
sweet laughter, gentle words, and lov-
ing counsels.

Too many of our young people think
that they have special privileges at
home, father and mother will not re-
member it against them, even if they
are somewhat petulant now and then,
and looking tenderly at their lack of
principles say, "they always humor
me in my little ways." They thus try
to smooth over the act which speaks of
a cruel heart, for, of all the proofs of
heartlessness which youth can give, the
strongest are indifference to a
mother's feelings or disregard of a par-
ent's happiness.

One cannot imagine how much dis-
comfort it is in the power of a single
individual to make. We will picture
to ourselves a household of which one
member is a selfish young lady. Some-
times the convenience of the whole
family may depend upon some little
sacrifice of hers. Often, rather than
have a little collision of interests they
all suffer for her.

Instead of the cheerful morning greet-
ing she meets one with a frown upon
her face, carries this same unpleasant
way with her to the table, and if there
is any preference here, of course it be-
longs to her. If anything in the food
dissatisfies, all have to be bored with
her complaints. She will not share
any of the little household cares, but
is herself a weighty care to her parents
whom she should relieve. She has al-
ways some fault to find with others
even though they do better than her-
self. She throws the same spirit over
her because she exacts too much from
them. There can be no mirth in her
presence. In fact she casts a shadow
over every pleasure, deepens every sor-
row, and doubles every care of home.

In contrast we cannot estimate the
worth of one who is ever thoughtful of
others' feelings; is quick to perceive
the wants and wishes of others; finds
no service beneath him, if duty requires
it; can, even in trying circumstances,
preserve a perfect self control; does
not forget that cheerfulness is the sun-
shine of life. Not only does such a one
consider the wishes of others, but he

does not forget to train the irregulari-
ties of his own character into more
perfect shape; he even modifies his
tastes; will not indulge in any offen-
sive habit; will compromise anything
but principle. He is quick to minis-
ter to the wants of the feeble; would
scorn to ridicule the decrepit form;
lends a helping hand whenever occa-
sion requires it; notices each little
kindness and returns it thankfully;
suppresses the word that would give
pain to another, even a rebuke is wrap-
ped up in loving kindness and has
double power. How he scatters sun-
shine around him, brightens the care-
worn brow, and silently leads all to a
brighter ideal of life. 'Tis then

"We see in the childish dreams of life's low
vale,
The faint, but lovely shadowing forth of
heaven."

Besides the pleasure it brings around
the home fireside, its influence is wide
extending, the small home circle is a
part of society, and home culture is
sure to reveal itself abroad. The repre-
sentatives of one fireside in a few short
years become the representatives of
many, and each carries with him the
influence of his childhood home. How
well will they, who have never learned
to rule themselves be fitted to rule their
household?

Politeness, springing from a pure un-
selfish heart, puts to shame anything
in others that is wrong or degrading.
It discovers the best in others' minds,
and finds in every mind a vein of gold.

Ordinary life is undervalued by a
large majority of mankind, but one
who takes in all its parts, as earnest,
vital, essential affairs, will find how the
lowliest can prove that life is grand.

"Life is before you; from the fated road
You cannot turn; then take ye up the load,
Not yours to tread, or leave the unknown way,
Ye must go o'er it, meet ye what ye may.
Gird up your souls within you to the deed,
Angels and fellow spirits bid you speed."

Directing Letters.

Bro. Cobb:

In reading the articles in the VIS-
ITORS of Oct. 1st and Nov. 15th, from
yourself and Myra, I was quite sur-
prised you did not go a little farther
and tell how to address a letter, as well
as where to put the address, and the
postage stamp.

Now, I have seen letters that were
written by people you would suppose
were well posted in regard to the eti-
quette of letter writing, and have been
surprised at their lack of conformity to
all rules I was ever taught. For in-
stance, I should consider it very rude
to address a letter to "J. T. Cobb." I
should at the same time consider it
superfluous to write the address "Mr.
J. T. Cobb, Esq.," but the use of the
"Esq." is imperative.

These things may seem but trifles to
some, but they show what our educa-
tion and advantages have been, or else
they indicate a lack of care or respect,
which ever it may be.

It should not lay us liable to the criti-
cism that we set ourselves up for
teachers, if we express our ideas of life
in all its departments in this, our only
organ, the VISITOR. I, for one, would
be very glad to hear from the sisters in
regard to a good many of the so called
trifles in our every-day life.

CHLOE.

The Grange Beneficial.

PORTLAND, Nov. 12th, '79.
Worthy Bro. J. T. Cobb:

I have been a faithful reader of the
VISITOR for more than three years, and
I do not remember anything that a
member of Portland Grange has ever
sent you for publication. While I may
not do the Grange any credit, yet it
may be worth something for friends
of the Order to know that these sister
Granges have some members imbued
with great faith in the value of the
Order to the farmer and his family.

I am a Granger because I love the
Grange, and I love it because I see in
it such opportunities to improve and
develop the farmers as a class. Your
paper furnishes evidence of that, for it
grows better continually. Much in the
Ladies' Department would be very
creditable to the authors in any period-
ical.

I love the Grange for its social oppor-
tunities, its pleasant hand-shakes and
greetings, and all the pleasant and
friendly inquiries that follow.

How much it increases our interest
in our neighbors and friends as we be-

come better acquainted with them at the Grange meetings.

The advantages to farmers and their families are so apparent and real that I feel that it is a duty for every farmer to join the Grange and participate in its discussions and social reunions, and reap the good results.

Having been a farmer's daughter, and now a farmer's wife, I am deeply interested in all that concerns the farmer, and therefore, in the work of our noble Order, I see the elevation and improvement of our class.

Its fraternal character is one of its most beautiful features, and its educational character is so exactly adapted to their wants that I am only surprised that all sensible farmers do not give it their support.

If we are but attentive and diligent, we may learn something at every meeting, as well as enjoy the society of our neighbors and friends. And here let me say, brothers and sisters, attend the meetings of the Grange, except when compelled to be absent. Join in the discussions. Compare views and opinions, for by such comparison our field of thought is made broader, and we are constantly being better prepared to do the work assigned us.

Mrs. M. J. R.

From Charlotte Grange.

Bro. Cobb :

I am always interested in reading the communications in the VISITOR from different Granges in the State. While I have been thus interested in the doings of others, it is at least presumable that they may be pleased to hear that Charlotte Grange, No. 67, yet lives, although our membership is sadly depleted, only a few real workers yet meet to conduct our meetings. It is a pleasing fact that most of our officers are ready and willing to attend to the duties of their office.

The County Grange holds its quarterly meetings at our hall, which I think is of great benefit to us, for the meetings are always very interesting, and we generally have one or two good meetings afterwards in our own Grange.

And now a word to delinquent members: Why do you urge business, or a press of work, when asked why you do not come to the Grange? How many of you would urge that plea when your political meetings are called? Nearly every man is ready to go and work for his party to elect its man, whether he is fit for the office or not, and will go and work to have some great speaker to make political speeches that are mostly buncombe.

Now, why not infuse some of that same energy into your work in the Grange? You know that its principles are grand and good. Too many joined the Grange to make money, and because they did not succeed without any effort of their own, they became dissatisfied and concluded that it don't pay to be a Granger, and thus evince how little they had learned of the great principles of the Order.

I hope, as winter has come, that ere it is gone, as we have more time for recreation and work, to be able to make a better report. Until then I remain,

Fraternally yours,
Mrs. D. EDDY.

Charlotte Grange.

Grange Meetings.

We see the following notice omits time of meeting. Those interested will follow this lead, and ascertain time of Bro. Ewing.—Ed.

Ross, Nov. 14th, 1879.

J. T. Cobb:

The next meeting of Kent County Grange, No. 18, will be held in the city of Grand Rapids in the hall occupied by the U. S. of I. The election of officers for the ensuing year will take place on that day. All members are requested to attend.

Geo. W. EWING, Sec'y pro tem.

The annual meeting of Hillsdale Pomona Grange, No. 10, for the election of officers will be held at Jonesville Wednesday, Dec. 3d, 1879. All members of the County Grange are requested to be present, for much depends on the choice of officers, but more on the regular attendance of each member of the Order.

G. M. GARDNER, Sec'y.

Correspondence.

The Patrons' Aid Society.

ELMIRA, N. Y., Nov. 22, 1879.
Editor Grange Visitor:

I wish to call the attention of your readers to the national character of the Aid Society. By many it is regarded as simply a State institution, but it is no more confined by State lines than other insurance corporations whose offices are located in New York. It can and does receive members from all sections of the country, bestowing its benefits equally in Michigan, Florida, or New York.

Among the first hundred Patrons to join the society were O. H. Kelly, ex-Secretary of the National Grange, J. S. Armstrong, Treasurer of the Illinois State Grange, M. D. Davie, Master of the Kentucky State Grange, Spencer Day, an officer of the State Grange of Iowa, Alonzo Golden, Illinois State Grange, J. H. Osborn, of the Wisconsin State Grange, Mrs. E. P. Thompson, wife of the well known past Lecturer of the National Grange, and B. F. Wardlaw, Master of the Florida State Grange. I should mention another well known Patron who was among the early members of our society, Hon. Thomas R. Allen, of Missouri, whose life was worn out in the service of the Order, and who died in Feb. 1878. A member of our society, his family received the benefit of nearly \$1,000. I mention these names because they are familiar to your readers, and to show that prominent workers in our Order early availed themselves of the opportunities afforded by the Aid Society to furnish a ready benefit for their families in the event of sudden or unexpected death.

I am aware that in some States there has been a hesitancy in regard to joining our Society, on account of the desire to form a similar home institution. It is true that there are enough Patrons in any good Grange State to support such a society, but those who have undertaken the task know that it is hard and slow work to get such an institution well established. Every one wants to wait until it gets a good start, or until it gets a certain number of members. All want to see it prove itself a success before they join it. Such Societies have been started in several States, and some of them have not yet attained a membership of more than one or two hundred, and yet their officers have worked faithfully. If, instead of trying to build up these several Societies, the Order had united without regard to State lines in order to make strong and vigorous the first few Societies organized, much more good would have been done. A few successful institutions are vastly more valuable to us as an Order than many weak ones, and it is a mistake the Grange has made to try to establish or start too much, and not stand by and support well what has been started.

One of the great blessings of the Grange is to be seen in its nationalizing influence. It has done much to harmonize the different sections of the country, and to build up a closer mutual interest between the farmers of widely separated states and districts of the country. There is room for much more work in this direction, and every institution of our Order which has a national character and application is a helper. I must not write more upon this point now. I have been burning midnight oil to write what I have.

A word in answer to a Patron of your State who asks for full instructions as to how to become a member of the aid society. Blank applications which will be readily understood by any one, are furnished by the society, and can be had on application to me. Any Patron or Matron, who is in sound health and under 60 years of age, is eligible to membership. The membership fee ranges from \$3.00 to \$15.00, according to the age of the applicant. The blank applications provide for the certificate of the Master and Secretary of the Grange to which the applicant belongs, as to the truth of his statements, etc., and for the certificate of a physician stating the applicant to be in sound health.

When the application is properly filled out it is sent to me as Secretary of the Society, with the requisite membership fee. If the application is accepted by the Board of Directors, who meet at the office of the society in the city of Elmira, on the second Thursday of each month, a certificate of member-

ship is sent to the new member. If not accepted, his application and money is returned.

Bro. Cobb, with whom I have the pleasure of an acquaintance, started in the days of the Centennial celebration at Philadelphia, and cultivated since by pen and paper communication has been a member of the Aid Society for nearly three years, and I might name other well known members of the Order in Michigan, but those we have, I trust, are few as compared with those who are yet to join our Society from your great and prosperous State.

Fraternally,
J. S. VAN DUSER.

CEDAR RUN, BENZIE Co. }
November 11, 1879. }

Bro. J. T. Cobb:

It becomes my duty by request of the Grange, to ask you to notify the brothers and sisters through the VISITOR, of our great sorrow in the death of our beloved Brother, Harris Abbe, who had been our worthy treasurer for many years, and who was honored and esteemed by not only the brothers and sisters, but by all who knew him.

He had been a great sufferer for nearly a year, but he passed away on the 30th of September last, leaving a wife, also a worthy and esteemed member of our Grange, who takes his place as Treasurer, one daughter, also a member, and several other children to mourn the loss of a devoted husband and father, besides a sorrowing neighborhood. Brother Abbe never failed in any duty to the Grange, and when he could come to us no more, we went to him, and the cheerful greeting we received from him while on his couch of suffering, told a thousand fold how well he loved the Grange. He always had something good to say, and his urgent solicitation was never to falter, never give up the Grange. Brother Abbe is gone from us forever, but his memory will still live with those who esteem the noble acts of his devotion while in the councils of the Order we so much love.

Brother Abbe's death occurred during my absence of several weeks from home, and there seems to have been no action taken by the Grange until my return, and then a resolution was passed simply requesting me to have the sad event published in the VISITOR. I cheerfully do this because I feel that such a memory is worthy the imitation of all, and after they are gone we are apt to take it at heart and try to do better.

I have often thought that I owed an apology for my slackness in doing my duty toward the blessed little VISITOR and in many other things, as a member of the State Grange, and twice a representative from this district, but then I have concluded to beg your indulgence, for I feel my inability, and so have done very little, when perhaps I ought to have attempted more. But I hope God will bless the Grange, and strengthen it with better members than I have been. I remain

Very truly and fraternally yours,
L. A. JENNE,
Master.

Almira Grange, No. 381.

A YOUNG American in one of our country towns, of the mature age of 5 years, was walking about with a stick in his mouth with a peculiar swagger of self-importance. A lady, mildly suggesting that he should not take the first lesson in smoking, and urging him to copy the example of his father, a saintly minister, was shocked into silence by the emphatic reply, "I want you to understand, marm, that I intend to be an entirely different man from my father."

THE REAPER, DEATH.

LEWIS.—At her home in Trowbridge, Allegan County, Mich., SYLVIA R., wife of N. S. Lewis, after a long and painful illness which she bore with patience and fortitude, died November 1st, 1879, in the 50th year of her age. She leaves a husband and six children to mourn her death.

At a meeting of Trowbridge Grange, 269, the following preamble and resolutions were adopted November 12th, 1879.

WHEREAS, It has pleased our Heavenly Father to call to her home above, our beloved Sister, SYLVIA R. LEWIS. Therefore,
Resolved, That in the death of our Sister we have parted with a worthy and consistent member of our Order, whose loss we sincerely mourn; her family an affectionate wife and mother; and her neighbors a friend whose kindness will long be remembered.

Resolved, That our Charter be draped in mourning for the period of sixty days; that we tender her family our heart felt sympathy, and send them a copy of this obituary; that we enter the same on the records of the Grange, and send a copy to the GRANGE VISITOR and Allegan Democrat.

MISS MARY W. BRENDER,
Mrs. JOSEPH BREST,
Mrs. STEPHEN D. ROCKWELL,
Committee.

WED.—Died on the 16th of August last at his residence, Brookport, N. Y., Bro. JAMES A. WED, a Charter member of Home Grange, No. 129, of Mich., and formerly its Master.

At a meeting of the Grange September 27th, the following preamble and resolutions were adopted:

WHEREAS, The Divine Master removed from among us our Worthy Brother, we bow submissively to the mandate from which there is no appeal and tender our sympathy to the family of our departed Brother, and commend them to that God, who is too wise to err, and too good to be unkind. Therefore,

Resolved, That this evidence of our sorrow be entered upon the records of the Grange, a copy sent to the family of the deceased, and also to the GRANGE VISITOR for publication.

A. E. GLEASON,
H. S. SUTHERLAND,
N. I. CAMERON,
Committee.

EWING.—In obedience to the immutable laws of being, Sister MARY wife of J. W. Ewing, passed from earth to a higher life, Oct. 29th, 1879, aged 32 years, 10 months, 22 days; she was a worthy member of Grand Ledge Grange, No. 301; therefore,

Resolved, That, while we tender our earnest sympathies to our Worthy Brother in his sad affliction, we would not forget to express our appreciation of the many good qualities which adorned the character of our Worthy Sister, who has gone to that home where sorrow never comes. As a wife, ever faithful and true; as a mother, ever striving to gratify the wants of her children and elevate their aspirations; as a friend to humanity, generous, noble, and confiding.

She has gone, noble woman—from earth called away,
The loss of her presence is felt every day
By the sad and the lonely—the dear ones at home—
For at noon-time of life she has left them to mourn.

At home with the angels, the good gone before,
Freed from the earth and its cares evermore.
With kindest of thoughts she may quiet their fears,
And her hallowed presence dry all their tears.

HESLER.—WHEREAS, The Great Master of Life has, in love and mercy, removed from our Grange and her family, our beloved and esteemed sister, MARY HESLER, who died at her residence in Courtland, Nov. 3d, 1879, aged 21 years; therefore,

Resolved, That we, as a Grange, deeply lament her death and most earnestly sympathize with the family who mourn her early loss.

Resolved, That these resolutions be published in the GRANGE VISITOR, and a copy presented to the family of the deceased; also that our charter be draped in mourning for 60 days.

We shall miss thee, Sister Mary,
In our home, and everywhere,
But we know that thou art happy,
Where the joyous angels are.

For a brighter crown is given,
And a happier home is thine
That kind friends could furnish for thee,
On the restless waves of time.

Rest thee, loved one, may the angels
Guard and loved thee on Heaven's shore,
May we meet thee when earth's shadows
Dim our visions nevermore.

Mrs. I. M. HUNTING,
ZOLLIN B. KIBTZ,
LIZZIE PIERSON,
Committee.

CARROLL.—Died, in Delta, Eaton County, Mich., on the 27th day of October, 1879, Bro. JOHN CARROLL, aged 43 years. At a meeting of Capitol Grange, No. 550, held at their hall, Nov. 8th, the following resolutions were adopted:

WHEREAS, It has pleased the Great Master of the Universe, in his all-wise providence, to remove by death our Worthy Bro. JOHN CARROLL; we therefore deem it but a just tribute to the memory of the deceased, to say that in deploring his removal from our midst, we in hope mourn the severed tie, and yield to the unerring hand of the Great Master above; therefore,

Resolved, That we tender our most heartfelt sympathy to the afflicted sister, family and friends, in their sad bereavement; and we trust that our sister Patron may bear with resignation and fortitude this separation, ever looking to our Heavenly Father for that comfort He alone can give.

Resolved, That our charter be draped in mourning for 30 days, and that these resolutions be read upon the Grange record, a copy be presented to the family of the deceased, and to the GRANGE VISITOR for publication.

E. S. THOMPSON,
Mrs. D. WILLIAMS,
Mrs. B. C. GOODNOE,
Committee.

Items.

BOOK-KEEPING may be taught in a lesson of three words—never lend them.

NO MATTER how much a candidate itches for office, he never likes to be scratched.

A SMALL boy and a gun are harmless when apart, but they make a terrible combination.

THERE is a man in Chicago who does not grumble at his tax bills. He's deaf and dumb.

"If you don't want to be robbed of your good name," says the Minneapolis *Tribune*, "Don't have it printed on your umbrella."

A REPORTER, in describing a railway disaster, says: "This unlooked-for accident came upon the community un-awares."

Do not use profanity, vulgar terms, slang phrases, words of double meaning, or language that will bring the blush to any one.

"A donkey carrying a load of books," said Amru, the conqueror of Egypt, "is as respectable an animal as the person whose head is crammed with learning that he does not understand."

A FELLOW wrote to a city store as follows: "Dere sur; if yew hev got a book called Daniel Webster on a bridge, please send me a copy by Pyser's express c. o. d. want to git it ter-morrer if I kin, cause my spelin techer says I oughter hev it."

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