

THE GRANGE VISITOR

ISSUED SEMI-

MONTHLY

BY THE EXECUTIVE

COMMITTEE OF THE

Michigan State

Grange, P. of H.

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We want to print a list of the Granges in Michigan, with the names of Master and Secretary-elect for 1880, and their post-office, at the earliest moment practicable. This is so often neglected that we wish to call the attention of Masters to this matter, and ask them to see to it that the names are promptly reported.

Exec'ive Com. Department.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

To the Master and Members of the Michigan State Grange:

In presenting the seventh annual report of the Executive Committee, we have departed somewhat from former custom, for the purpose of avoiding repetition and sameness with reports from officers of the State Grange.

The law creating and defining the duties of the Executive Committee contemplates a general supervision only of the work enjoined on the officers of the Grange, and to look after and provide for the wants and necessities of the Order in the State during recess of the Grange.

We will not rehash to you a long financial report as heretofore, but give you facts as they have transpired before us, and the legitimate deductions derived therefrom.

Our Committee was organized in the cloak room of this hall December 13th, 1878, at the close of the State Grange.

We were not unmindful of the fact that almost every petition or resolution presented to the State Grange pertaining to legislation, State or National, had been referred to the Executive Committee, for them to take action for carrying the several matters so referred into effect.

With a desire to meet the wishes of as many of our Order as possible we caused petitions to be drafted, printed and forwarded to every Grange in the State, covering the oil question, appeal from justice courts, fees in foreclosure of mortgages, probate court proceedings, interest, assessment laws, railroad restrictions and provisions for ladies at the Agricultural College. These petitions were signed with a unanimity unprecedented, and promptly returned to the Legislature.

So prompt, indeed, and with such numerical strength from all parts of the State, that many members in both branches of our Order, saw the force of the evils complained of, and with zeal and fidelity for the right, labored unceasingly in the interest of the petitions, and we doubt not that all such personal efforts will be appreciated by members of the Order coming from whom they may, whether within or without the Gates.

Your committee are impressed with the belief that the Grange erred in asking for so many things at once. Had they confined their work to three or four of the most oppressive burdens they would have been more successful; as it now stands, they have only the chill test law on illuminating oils repealed, and in its stead a flash test of 120° Fahrenheit.

Our petitions to the National legislature, are, so far as we know sleeping the sleep that knows no waking.

Your committee received notice April 6th from J. M. Chidester, State Agent at Detroit, that he would be obliged to throw up the Agency on the 1st of May to engage in other business, and on his recommendation the Agency was transferred to Geo. W. Hall and Alphonso Platt, under the firm name of G. W. Hall & Co. Bonds were taken in the sum of \$10,000 for the faithful discharge of the trusts confided to them. The terms of the contract were in all particulars the same as made with Mr. Chidester.

The Chicago Agency remains the same as last year in the management of Bro. Thomas Mason. Neither of these Agencies is doing as much business for the Order in the State as their merit demands. It is not their fault, nor is it a

lack of confidence in the men, but from the ever changing methods of the American people in doing business. The practices in vogue a few years ago when prices were all unsettled left the farmers at the mercy of speculators, middlemen and monopolies. Another cause operating against the business of the Agencies may be found in the many co-operative stores that have sprung up in the State since the Grange movement began. These are increasing yearly, and are a great convenience, especially when connected with a good Grange hall, in which case they prove nearly inexpensive, and become the medium of exchange for many neighborhoods.

Our contract with Messrs Day & Taylor for plaster expired with the last plaster season. We are pleased to announce to you that we have closed another contract with the same parties for a term of five years. This is based on a sliding scale: for the first year it is not to exceed \$1.50 per ton aboard cars at the mill or at Grand Rapids. This is a saving to the purchaser (if his plaster has to be run through the city), over the contract of the last two years of one dollar per ton. It will operate the same with all parties living along the line of the Michigan Southern Railroad if they will order their plaster shipped from Grandville station on said road.

For the next four years the maximum price shall not exceed \$2.50 at the mill, aboard cars, or at Grand Rapids, or Grandville station, being the same that it has cost for the two years past. What the minimum price may be in any of these years for which the contract runs no one can tell.

Our Brothers, Day & Taylor, went into this business at the instigation of this Executive Committee to break down one of the most uncalled for monopolies that was ever undertaken to be formed in the State. The fight has been kept up to the present, how much longer it will continue, none can tell.

It gives us little concern as to their next move. If they offer you plaster at one dollar a ton as they have to some in the past, we believe you will treat all such offers with silent contempt. Their siren songs, sung never so sweetly will have no charms to captivate a true Patron, whose every pulse beats with fidelity to the noble aims and purposes of our Order.

In our last report we stated that there was yet due and unpaid from J. H. Gardner, former State Agent, the sum of \$249.35. This sum he refused to pay except in goods. This treatment of an honest debt in the face of a specific contract, caused surprise on the part of those who had the business in charge, and they referred the whole matter to the last State Grange. Your committee were instructed by resolution from that body to effect a compromise with Bro. Gardner.

After labored efforts and expense in time and travel we secured a settlement on the basis of his paying half cash and half goods, at his purchasing price two years before. The total amount due from Bro. Gardner Dec. 1st, 1878, was \$1,640.80, of which amount \$1,011.21 was received and included in the accounts of last year, leaving a balance of \$628.89, which was disposed as follows:

Paid Gardner for services.....	\$ 250 00
Cash paid Holloway.....	118 64
Cash for goods taken and sold.....	190 59
Discount on goods.....	69 66
Total.....	\$ 628 89

We desire to call your attention to what is known as the patent gate swindle, as it is a striking example illustrating thorough and efficient co-operation. Unprincipled men who seek a living without work, got hold of two old patents issued many years ago by

the Patent Office on a species of sliding gate. They commenced collecting royalty on the same in the Eastern part of the State, and moved along cheerfully until they came upon members of our Order. There they ran foul, and the result was twenty-seven suits in the one case on the Lee patent, and two in the other on the Teal patent, all in the United States Court in the city of Detroit.

To meet this emergency, members of our Order and others interested, formed themselves into a mutual defense association in the city of Ypsilanti, taxed themselves heavily for funds to defend these suits, believing they were but a species of blackmailing, and at our last State Grange called upon the Order in the State to back them up, and, if necessary, assist in the defense. Your Committee at once called on County and Subordinate Granges to appropriate from their treasuries such sums as were proper to be drawn upon if necessary to aid in the defense. In response to our call a large number of Granges responded, and a large amount was pledged.

In February last, a test case was tried on the Lee patent, and decided in favor of the defendants, on a plan of the same published in the *American Agriculturist* eleven months prior to date of patent.

In the Teal case it was tried in September last, and decided in favor of the defendants on the ground of previous use.

We learn that the expense of this defense has been fully met by the defense association, and that the Granges coming to their aid are fully relieved from their pledges made.

We have made a prudent estimate of the money that would have been taken from the farmers of the State on these two swindling claims, had they been successful in their plan, of nearly half a million dollars. Is not this a sample of co-operation worthy of the Order? Is it not the carrying out in full of our Declaration of Purposes?

As sentinels placed on the out-posts to guard every material interest of the Order, we are gratified to know that prosperity follows in the track of thorough Grange work. Our people are fast learning the value of co-operation; that it means more than mere buying and selling of commodities; that it reaches even to our social and intellectual wants, and wherever it has been applied in its fullest significance, there we see the Grange in all of its beauty and strength contending for the right, and winning laurels to itself from day to day.

But we would be unmindful of our duty did we not look on both sides of the picture. In our last VISITOR we find no less than 121 Secretaries who have failed to make their quarterly returns to the State office, some for three, others for five and some for a dozen quarters, some we found square on the books, who had closed up as many as six quarters at one time, others fail to make returns of delegates elected to the State Grange. These are practices, or rather neglects that should not be longer tolerated. No brother or sister should accept a position in the Grange officially, and take the solemn pledge to discharge the duties of the office according to their ability without living up to that pledge. Better resign the office at once, than to thus tamper with a known duty.

The perplexities springing from such mismanagement to the State Secretary are trying in the extreme. If he charges up the dues every quarter as required by the by-laws of the Grange, he has to guess at the amount and the chances are that it will not accord with the report when it is received, if it ever is. Another evil from this neglect, he can never know the true

standing of the Order in the State, a certain number can be given, for their returns are always on time, others are wanting; what per cent. shall be counted and what not is purely hypothetical. May we not look for a better future in the method of doing our official business.

The publication of the VISITOR has become an item of deep solicitation to your committee. Prior to 1878 it was deemed a work of necessity to disseminate business information, principally to the members of the Order. Since then it has not only served its original purpose, but assumed and become an active and efficient worker in the field of literature, science and art, ranking so far as its limited means will allow, with the very best in the land. If we consider it as a means of the Order for the accomplishment of noble ends it has been a success from the beginning. If only in the light of dollars and cents, a non-paying enterprise. Who that believes its mission to cater to these mercenary motives.

From the Secretary's report, which has been fully verified by us, we find it has made a saving of \$464, if we do not charge it with the expense of editing, and your committee are not inclined to make this charge against it, from the fact that the difference in the salary of the Secretary between editing or not editing would hardly compensate for the great benefits accruing to the Order by its publication.

To your committee the VISITOR looks as though it was one of the strong bands that holds us in fraternal friendship, one of the agencies brought into action for the advancement of higher and nobler purposes, through which our calling in life is made equal with any other, we therefore recommend another enlargement for the next volume equal to the savings of the year just closed. This will add almost a third to the size of the paper, which would be devoted to reading matter, giving a fine field for contributors, and making it equal in its selected matter to any paper in the State. This plan seems most favorable to your Committee.

It will not do to undertake a weekly without doubling the subscription price. To do this would defeat the purpose sought, by the falling off of subscribers so much that but little, if any addition would be made to the funds, and it would require either a new editor or Secretary, as no one man could do the work for both places, and do it well.

Your Committee, through their chairman, have verified the books and accounts of Secretary Cobb for the fiscal year, ending November 29th, and we find them in all particulars correct and agreeing with the report made to you yesterday. And we further find the same system and order in his office and with his books that we have heretofore commended in him.

We further find that Treasurer Brown keeps the money coming into his hands from the Secretary of the Grange carefully deposited in bank, and only draws on the same to meet regular attested orders of Master countersigned by the Secretary.

In conclusion, your Committee feel to congratulate the officers and members of the Order in the State on the general revival of the work in the Order.

There is a steady growing interest in our GRANGE VISITOR, requiring about 4,000 copies to fill the list on the mailing books, showing conclusively that our people are taking more and more interest in the work of the Order.

It has been a year of great harmony and peace in the Order, but one complaint has been made which called for action by your Committee. There was nothing gross or criminal in this, a mistake in action easily rectified.

There has been a growing interest on the part of the leading members in the Subordinate Grange, for its prosperity, and the result is seen, with some financially, with others in social improvements, and still others availing themselves of both.

The more the Declaration of Purposes is studied by us, the closer we govern our actions by the rules of the Order, the more beautiful to the senses appear those graces, Faith, Hope, Charity, and Fidelity, the corner stones on which rests the super structure of our Order.

Respectfully submitted,

T. M. HOLLOWAY,
Chairman of Committee.

EVIDENTLY this would be a bad day to attempt to drive pigs to market.—The telegraph reports "pork firm."

A TALE OF TWO BUCKETS.

Two buckets in an ancient well got talking, once together,
And after sundry wise remarks, no doubt about the weather—
"Look here," quoth one, "this life we lead I don't exactly like;
Upon my word I'm half inclined to venture on a strike;
For—do you mind? however full we both come up the well,
We go down empty—always shall, for aught that I can tell."
"That's true," the other said, "but then the way it looks to me—
However empty we go down, we come up full,
Wise little bucket! If we each would look at life that way,
Would dwarf its ills and magnify its blessings day by day.
The world would be a happier place, since we should all decide
Only the buckets full to count, and let the empty slide.

Communications.

The Curse of Fashion and Intemperance.

Worthy Bro. Cobb:

One wise and important feature of the Declaration of Purposes adopted at St. Louis by the National Grange, was to discountenance the fashion system.

In no one sphere of life is there a greater need of reform than in fashion; and I have been expecting for some time that some of our good, sensible sisters would agitate this question, and try to inaugurate a reform in this respect, but as little has been heard from them I have concluded to offer a few remarks on that question, hoping that I may arouse others to act, and by their influence a reform may finally be effected.

A few years ago this question was discussed in the Grange, and members generally condemned it in strong language as foolish, expensive, and injurious to the health and happiness of those who support it.

Only a few days since I heard some wives of farmers talking on this subject. One said: "I wish the fashion would change so that eight yards would be sufficient for a dress, I want to get rid of so many ruffles, so much pleating, so much fixing that takes so much time, attention, labor, and expense." "Yes, I really do wish the fashion would change," remarked the second lady, "we would all be better for it." "But," says the third, "as long as the fashions remain as they are we will follow them more or less." While these remarks were being made the first speaker was fixing and fussing and working at a dress that was composed partly of silk, and partly of some other costly material. It was started in a dress-maker's shop. It was ruffled, plaited, and puckered, and gawgawed. Days had been spent upon it, and every few minutes the owner would hold it up and ask, "well, how does it look?" "will this answer?" etc. And after all the expense and time, it was a hideous, homely shaped, inconvenient, unhealthy article of dress.

These ladies, like the thousands of others, were mere slaves to a fashion of dress that they denounced in severe terms as wrong, unwise, and pernicious in its influence. They, like hundreds of thousands of others, have not the moral courage to do what they acknowledge as wrong. Never were men more completely under the control of King Rum, than are women and some men under the control of the tyrant fashion.

Thousands of women complain, and justly to, of men spending their time in gambling dens, and squandering money for poisonous whiskey which is needed for the support of the family, all which is true, but not a word is said by them, or any complaint made about the money that is squandered for the tomfoolery of dress, of the time spent in the process of putting together that complicated article, and then in as many instances before the article is hardly soiled, rip it to pieces, reconstruct it, requiring additional expense and time; and frequently fault-finding, growling and ill words are used, and nearly all for the sake of fashionable dress.

While men waste their time and money in saloons, and drinking whiskey, women, more than men, waste their time and squander money following the silly fashions. While men are poisoning their systems, creating disease by drinking whiskey, women are poisoning themselves and producing

disease by an improper and unhealthy style of dress. Neither can escape the penalty of violating the physical law which has been laid down by the Creator. Misery, disease and suffering will be the consequence. I do not contend that the fashion system is as pernicious and injurious as liquor drinking, but women ought to realize they are wasting time and money uselessly as well as men. Neither do I say that women should discard fashionable styles altogether, but they ought to feel it their duty to dispense to a certain extent with what they are willing to acknowledge to be wrong and injurious.

Women can adopt a style of dress reasonably cheap, that looks well, is neat and tasty, and command the respect and admiration of more people, and a little better class of people than those who admire the present style of dress. These trailing street mops are a nuisance, and are despised by all sensible people, especially men. Women have no more moral right to squander money for such useless appendages than men have to spend money for whiskey.

Not that farmers' wives have as good a right as any other class to follow the fashions, but can they afford it? Thousands of families who are poor and destitute to-day might have been in good circumstances if they had saved what they have spent foolishly for games, liquor, or fashionable dress.

Liquor dealers keep their shops for the purpose of accumulating money. Fashion mongers and dealers change the fashions, introduce new styles for the sole purpose of accumulating money. Large profits are put upon the new styles. We are furnishing the money to enrich that class. If we would live more economically in this respect and dare to do right, we would have more time for enjoyment, more time to visit each other and be better in the end.

Will not some of our sisters take hold of this question, agitate it, and inaugurate a reform, and farmers' wives establish a fashion of their own that will be economical, plain, healthful, and be free and independent from one of the greatest tyrants of the age, and carry out a valuable principle of our Order.

PATRON.

A Demand that will be Heeded Sometime.

BENGAL GRANGE,
CLINTON Co., Michigan.

Worthy Secretary Cobb:

I was very glad to see by the last VISITOR a suggestion from you in reference to the next Governor of Michigan, and recommending that he be a farmer. I second the suggestion most heartily, and promise that if I ever vote for Governor again, I will vote for a farmer.

For the last one hundred years, the Government has been run almost exclusively by lawyers, and the sentiment has been almost universal, that farmers were not capable of holding office, or making laws, even to govern themselves. But times are changing, and since the Grange movement started, farmers have begun to think for themselves, and have learned that they have talent and intellect of as high a grade as lawyers—in fact, many of our lawyers are made up of farmers' boys who were too lazy or dishonest to lead a farmer's life. And now as we have quietly allowed them to hold the reins for so many years, is it not reasonable that we should take a turn at the wheel for one term in a life-time? And if they say we are not competent, let them compare the delegation of our State Grange with any legislative body that has ever convened at the Capitol. Let them compare the doings of any State Grange with the wise (?) enactments of our last legislative body, especially on the liquor bill, the interest bill, and the mortgage fee bill, where their own interests predominate, and the farmer was unthought of and unheeded for—making a law that they shall have from \$25 to \$100 for foreclosing a mortgage, when any farmer that has brains enough to know a spelling book from a Bible, can do the business as well as they.

But how are we as Grangers to change the complexion of our executive and legislative offices? The two great political parties that hold dominion over the people, will hold their conventions as heretofore, and nominate men that will carry out the principles of their party, and we Grangers will hold our nose to the grindstone, and

vote just the ticket they give us. Our declaration of principles forbids our holding a nominating convention, or discussing political topics in the Grange, and party ties bind men with such an iron grasp that you cannot persuade a Republican to vote for a Democratic Granger, nor a Democrat to vote for a Republican Granger. If the best man in America were nominated on a ticket labeled and known as a Farmers' ticket, and the regular party tickets had lawyer candidates, the lawyers would get the offices.

Unless there can be something done to break this terrible chain of party, it would be useless to think of putting a Granger into the gubernatorial chair. Under the present state of things, no man can be elected Governor of Michigan, unless he is elected as a Democrat or a Republican. I think this question should be thoroughly discussed by the State Grange, and some plan should be adopted and recommended to all the Subordinate Granges that will induce farmers and Grangers alike, to support a government that cares for and protects our interests.

COURTLAND HILL.

The Agricultural College.

Anomalous as the fact may seem, the most persistent and strenuous opposers of the Agricultural College in the last legislature were members who are farmers. In fact they were almost the only opposers. This should be generally known in order that the blame may be placed where it belongs. I notice from several communications in the VISITOR that some farmers are disposed to find fault with the legislature for the niggardly small appropriations made for that institution in comparison with the munificent ones made for some others. I think they find fault justly, for I consider that College one of the very best and most worthy institutions in the State. But the farmer members were alone to blame, for had they all of them favored and voted for the comparatively small and modest appropriations recommended and asked for by the State Board of Agriculture, they could have all been carried, instead of being cut down to almost nothing, and then carried by a small majority. Some of them undoubtedly voted against the appropriations on the general plea of economy, which would lead them to vote against any and all appropriations, which are not absolutely necessary to run the machinery of State, forgetting or not appreciating the fact that her great educational, reformatory and charitable institutions are what preeminently constitute her a State, and should be the pride and glory of all her citizens, evincing, as they do, their enterprise, intelligence, and prosperity, and that to cripple any of these great institutions, by lack of funds to do well and thoroughly their work, would be false economy.

Others were open mouthed and virulent opposers of the College as an institution.

Judging from this, I believe that this spirit of opposition must exist to a considerable extent among the farmers of the State, for whose special benefit the College was established.

In a future article I shall have something to say in regard to some of these objections.

GEORGE PRAY,
Woodard Lake, No. 190.

Programme for Centreville Grange.

At a regular meeting of Centreville Grange, No. 75, held December 2d, 1879, the following program was laid down by the committee appointed to lay out work for the three subsequent meetings.

Dec. 16. Essay by Worthy Chaplain Rev. A. H. Van Vranken, subject, Kind Words.

Essay by Will T. Langley, subject, Fertilizers, followed by discussion.

Joseph Mosher, subject, Care and Management of Calves in Winter, followed by discussion.

Dec. 30. Essay by Miss Belle Hull, (subject not given.) Essay by Miss Mary Titus, (subject not given.) Select reading, Mrs. S. Brenton Roberts. Election of Officers. Music.

Jan. 13, 1880. Address by Worthy Master Geo. M. Bucknell; music; installation of Officers; feast. Toast, Where are We Drifting? Response by Wm. Hull. Address by Worthy Lecturer J. H. Gardner. Original poem by James Yanny.

A. E. HOWARD, Sec'y.

Lecturer's Department.

C. L. WHITNEY, - - - MUSKEGON.

The Lecturer's Program.

Soon after the State Grange, the Lecturer, in answer to some solicitations, will visit Lapeer County and vicinity, to help revive the work of the Order in that part. All wishing his services, or who can in any way lend a helping hand, by way of information, are earnestly requested to correspond with him, and as soon as convenient.

Let everyone who loves the Order in that vicinity take hold and see what can be done to put it there in as good condition as in the western portion of the State.

Lecturer's Appointments.

The Lecturer is expected to be at the following places at the dates named,—these may be slightly varied, and others in the vicinity wishing his services should address him at once, so that changes, if desirable, may be made, and other appointments added:

- Dec. 17.—Grand Rapids.
- Dec. 18-19.—Greenville.
- Dec. 30-31.—Newaygo County (perhaps).
- Jan. 1-11.—Will spend in Lapeer and adjoining Counties, if arrangements can be perfected.
- Jan. 13-18.—In Berrien and Kalamazoo Counties.
- Jan. 20-21.—Grand Rapids.
- Jan. 22.—Berlin, Ottawa County.

Field Notes.

November 28th, '79.
It had been raining three days, at least, and leaving home this morning we had hoped for fair weather, but were disappointed. *En route* for Traverse, we had rain to Big Rapids, and then snow the rest of the way. At Traverse City there was fair sleighing, as Bro. J. S. Ramsdell met us at the train with his horse and cutter, and we took our first sleigh-ride to his pleasant home, over-looking the Bay and City. A warm supper awaited us, and a very pleasant evening passed all too soon.

November 29th, '79.
It still snowed some. After breakfast we made ready to go to the new Grange Hall in the City, to dedicate which was the special order of the day. The large sleigh was brought out, and baskets of provisions, boxes of fruit, and utensils, were loaded in; then "all aboard," and we were soon at the hall, which is located on the west side of the village.

The building lately completed by our energetic brothers' and sisters' effort is about 24x50 feet, two stories in height. The lower room is a store for agricultural implements, while a pleasant Grange hall, with lateral ante-rooms, occupies the upper story,—as comfortable a Grange home as one could wish. Although some had a long distance to come, yet there was a goodly attendance.

The District Pomona Grange, No. 17, held a short session in the forenoon. A bountiful dinner was duly served, and besides other good things, most beautifully colored apples, and well-kept grapes, from Bro. Ramsdell's fruit house, were provided in abundance. All ate and were filled, and a bountiful supply was left.

This new hall of Grand Traverse Grange was dedicated at 2 p. m., with the appropriate service of our Order, in the presence of a goodly number of Patrons and friends. The address followed, and when through, it was time to go to tea, which we did.

In the evening the election and installation of the officers of the Traverse Pomona Grange, No. 17, took place, and a large number took the lessons of the degree of Pomona,—giving this Grange a strong body to push the work of the Order in this vicinity.

Not having a list of the officers-elect present, we give from memory:

Master—Bro. C. E. Clark, Traverse City.
Lecturer—Bro. J. G. Ramsdell, Traverse City.
Secretary—Bro. S. A. Gardner, Traverse City.

At a late hour we sought bed and repose,
On the following morning, we made

a careful examination of the fruit-house—for the keeping of fruits from the extremes of heat and cold. In it we found several barrels of grapes in an excellent state of preservation, and they will keep for a long time. Fall apples are here in just good eating condition.

Had we time and space, we would like to describe this excellent method for the benefit of every Patron farmer and fruit-grower—for anyone who has a little spare means and some skill can build himself a house, by the use of which, with the presence of plenty of ice, fruit and all other perishable articles can be kept a long time in a perfect state of preservation, and be put upon the market when they will bring the best price.

Another sleigh-ride to the depot, and I bade Grand Traverse good-bye, reaching home safely, to find bare ground, and unfrozen at that.

December 3d.

This morning found us at Grand Rapids, *en route* for Caledonia station, where we were met by Bro. Jas. Brock, who took us home to dinner, and then to the school-house, where we addressed the members and friends of Ganges Grange, No. 479, and gave them public, and afterwards private, instruction—to all of which the best of attention was given. After tea we took the train for Hastings.

December 4th.

To-day our beloved Order is 12 years old, and is stronger in the true elements of strength than ever before in its history.

At an early hour, in spite of mud, Patrons of Barry County began to come in to the meeting. At 10 A. M., the work of organization began, by the appointment of temporary officers and a Committee on Credentials, who were soon able to report 80 members for Barry Pomona Grange, No. 26, and then followed the election of officers—which we give from memory:

Master—Bro. A. Luther, Irving.
Secretary—J. A. Robinson, Middleville.

Lecturer—Bro. Blanchard.
We wish we could give all, but we have mislaid our list.

After the election, a basket dinner was served in the hall, and then followed a public meeting and an address, which was listened to with marked attention.

After the public meeting, the Grange proceeded to the installation of officers and instruction in the degree of Pomona. This County has a strong and, we hope, an efficient organization.

One accompanying feature of to-day's meeting is the reorganization of Hastings Grange, No. 50, with Bro. Peter Burton, Master, and Bro. Wm. H. Merriek, Secretary. Let them move right onward.

Our day's field-work done, we ride 10 miles with Bro. Jennings to West Campbell, in Ionia County, eat an oyster supper, and then rest for the labors of

December 5th.

This forenoon we visited the public school near Bro. Jennings', in company with our host, and found Sister Leach doing good work in one of the best school-houses, for a country district, we have seen for some time. Our only criticism was that the teacher should cause the pupils to rely less upon the teacher and books, and more upon their own investigation and research.

The afternoon took us to the Town Hall, where a public meeting was held, and we were glad to meet many friends from South Boston and other Granges.

After tea with Bro. Barnard, we met again at the hall, and reorganized West Campbell Grange, No. 422, with Bro. James B. Post as Master, and Sister E. D. Jennings as Secretary. We see no reason why they cannot have a large and flourishing Grange here, in spite of all the adverse elements operating against them. Unity and effort are all that is needed.

To reach home the next day, we started from the hospitable home of Bro. and Sister Jennings at 2 o'clock A. M. on the morning of the 6th, and rode to Lowell, just in time to board the night express, and reached home for breakfast, satisfied with the fact that two more subordinate Granges were upon a solid basis, and a whole County put in excellent condition to do aggressive work this winter. Let "Forward" be the order to them all.

Expectancy.

Kalamazoo, Eaton, and Shiawassee Patrons are each moving in the matter of a County Grange. Petitions are be-

ing circulated in each of said Counties, and will soon be in the hands of the Gen. Deputy, asking for the appointment of a day for the organization of a Pomona Grange.

Patrons' Aid Society.

At the late meeting of the State Grange the question of a Patrons' Aid Society in this State came up, and was favorably reported upon by a special committee.

The friends of the movement being called together, a temporary organization was duly effected, by choosing Bro. M. B. Hine, of Austerlitz, Kent Co., president, and Bro. C. L. Whitney, Muskegon, secretary; who were instructed to place the matter before the Patrons of the State, and as soon as sufficient encouragement had been given so that a permanent organization can be effected, to call a meeting to effect it.

Brothers and sisters are invited to send in the names of all who would like to become members of such an organization when effected. Address the secretary.

M. B. HINE, Pres.
C. L. WHITNEY, Sec'y.

Items.

Diamondale Grange, No. 619, are building a hall, which they expect to have dedicated early in the spring. Another Grange home will thus be made permanent.

Our Little Grangers is just the thing for the children of the farm. Why not subscribe for it, and get the first copies for a Christmas gift. It will delight the little folks everywhere.

The members of our Order in this State will regret to learn that the physician's counsel to Bro. Whitehead is that he must stop speaking for some time, on account of his bad throat.

Hudsonville Grange, No. 112, Ottawa Co., has just purchased a fine organ for its hall,—a very useful article, which every Grange needs. May it ever lead the Grange into harmonious action, as well as singing.

Subscribe now for the VISITOR. Everyone who takes it should solicit everyone who dares not take it to send for it now, and get the numbers of this year, with the proceedings of the State Grange in, and all of next year, for 50 cents. *Reading makes a full man.*

Ashton Grange, No. 629, of Osceola County, are building a Grange Hall, which they expect to have ready to dedicate in the spring. We congratulate the Grange; it will give them an occasion for a grand turnout of all the Patrons and farmers of the vicinity.

Business and Social Axioms.

Never fail to be punctual at the time appointed.

Never read letters which you may find addressed to others.

Never lend an article you have borrowed, unless you have permission to do so.

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

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

Never associate with bad company. Have good company, or none.

Never look over the shoulder of another who is reading or writing.

Never pass between two persons who are talking together, without an apology.

Never will a gentleman allude to conquests which he may have made with ladies.

Never be guilty of the contemptible meanness of opening an letter addressed to another.

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

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

Never should a lady accept of expensive gifts at the hands of a gentleman not related or engaged to her. Gifts of flowers, books, music or confectionery may be accepted.

Never, when walking arm in arm with a lady, be continually changing and going to the other side, because of change of corners. It shows too much attention to form.

WHEN I MEAN TO MARRY.

BY JOHN G. SAXE.

When do I mean to marry? — Well,
'Tis idle to dispute with fate;
But if you choose to hear me tell,
Pray listen while I fix the date.

When daughters haste with eager feet
A mother's daily toil to share,
Can make the puddings which they eat,
And mend the stockings which they wear

When maidens look upon a man
As in himself what they would marry,
And not as army soldiers scan
A sutler or commissary.

When gentle ladies who have got
The offer of a lover's hand,
Consent to share his "earthly lot,"
And do not mean his lot of land.

When young mechanics are allowed
To find and wed the farmers' girls,
Who don't expect to be endowed
With rubies, diamonds and pearls.

When wives, in short, shall freely give
Their hearts and hands to aid their spouses
And live as they were wont to live,
Within their father's one story houses.

Then, madam, if I am not too old,
Rejoiced to quit this lonely life,
I'll brush my beaver, cease my scold,
And look about me for a wife.

Co-operation.

On former occasions I have endeavored to point out the different kinds of co-operation, and the injurious consequences of the one, and the beneficial effects which might be expected from the other. I was much scolded, ridiculed, and almost scurrilously treated for my pains; and as I could not "reply in kind," and did not feel bound to be "yoked unequally," I left the field to my adversaries. The "logic of events" have vindicated some of my positions and conclusions, and Mr. Holyoake, an eminent author and worker in the Rochdale system of co-operation in England, in a lecture lately delivered in New York and published in the *Tribune*, confirms my opposition to many of the co-operative stores and operations in our country, which have failed so often, wholly or in part. Competitive co-operation—where the stores strive to undersell surrounding middlemen, individual merchants, mechanics, etc.—this competitive co-operation was first tried by some who are in the present Rochdale system, and not only failed, but brought losses and ruin in many cases—as most attempts in the face of the Divine mandate of the Golden Rule have failed in this country.

But Christian or humane co-operation, giving all a share in the proportion to purchases—after deducting expenses and interest on capital—and thus building up the trades and labor of the vicinity. That has succeeded, and is succeeding wonderfully. From a scanty capital of a few shillings, it now employs many millions of pounds sterling. It carries on many trades, workshops, as well as stores, and not only furnishes pure articles, the best of goods, and honest measures and truthful representations, but it sells at market prices, and pays fair wages to all whom it employs. Thus it builds up each neighborhood instead of injuring it by sending its custom away to build up some distant monopolizing manufacturer or mercantile speculator, and thus it saves for the few instead of for the many. "A word to the wise." A. B. G.

DR. DRYSDALE said lately that whereas the death rate among infants of the comfortable class is 80 per 1,000 in cities such as Liverpool and Manchester, it is 240 per 1,000, in some places even 300, and in Berlin it actually reaches 500.

JOHN B. GOUGH, in a lecture in England, referring to the question whether alcohol was a food or a medicine, remarked that, in his opinion, it was "very much like sitting down on a hornet's nest—stimulating, but not nourishing."

I THINK the first virtue is to restrain the tongue; he approaches nearest to the gods who knows how to be silent, even though he is in the right.—*Cato.*

DANIEL DREW was a Methodist by profession, but a Drewid by practice.

THE GRANGE VISITOR.

SCHOOLCRAFT, DEC. 15, 1879.

Secretary's Department.

J. T. COBB, - - - SCHOOLCRAFT.

Officers and members of Subordinate Granges in corresponding with this office, will please always give the Number of their Grange.

To Contributors.

As the VISITOR now bears date the 1st and 15th of each month, to insure insertion in the next issue, Communications must be received by the 10th and 25th of each month.

THE GRANGE VISITOR.

BY ORDER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IS TO BE ENLARGED FIFTY PER CENT. WITHOUT INCREASE OF PRICE.

And that Enlargement will Take Place with the next No., Jan. 1st, 1880.

When this matter came up at the annual session two years ago, then as now, there was a very general expression in favor of making the paper a weekly as soon as practicable, and after considerable discussion, it was decided to commit the whole matter to the Executive Committee. Their determination made it a semi-monthly, and increased its size fifty per cent.

But these Michigan Patrons were not satisfied, and they came up to the State Grange last week, and with entire unanimity repeated the demand of two years ago. This time, as before, the whole matter was turned over to the Executive Committee, and now the Committee propose to try it one year as before stated, again enlarging the paper fifty per cent, charging only the former price of fifty cents a year.

The paper has looked small by the side of weeklies costing from \$1.00 to \$1.50 per annum, but all careful observers have noted the fact that there is as much reading matter as very many of these large papers furnish that are more pretensions in size. The Executive Committee of the State Grange have a well established reputation for prudent and judicious management of all business matters, and we believe have the entire confidence of the Patrons of the State; and the Committee are quite as anxious to see the VISITOR issued a good sized weekly, as are our brothers and sisters who write us often upon this subject, and who at the late session pressed the subject so often and vigorously upon the attention of the body.

By all the VISITOR was pronounced every way a success. But the only thing that we really cared for as especially complimentary, was the character it has obtained for independence in attacking any abuse, or trespass upon the rights of the people.

This perhaps is best accounted

for by saying that we followed the plow until near fifty years old, and therefore when called into this new field of labor, we were wholly unacquainted with not only the business of managing a paper, but also with the *policy* which fetters and controls almost the entire press of the country—a press which so often calls black, white—seldom exposes the weakness or wickedness of its party friends, or hesitates to suppress or exaggerate the truth about its enemies, and is practically indifferent to the evils of existing laws, the expensiveness and inefficiency of courts, and the remissness of officials in any department of government. Not being a professional, and not having been set to work by men of experience in this department of business, we have so far simply followed our own convictions, and endeavored by pointing out what to us seemed quite wrong, to awaken such an interest in the minds of our readers as shall induce such action as shall lead to a correction of the evils complained of, and so long as the make-up of the VISITOR depends on our judgement, our readers may rely on having an independent paper in sympathy with the people as a whole, but more particularly the great agricultural class who have undertaken through organized effort, to improve their moral, social, educational and political condition.

We mean to make a paper that shall be read and approved by those outside the gate. Those questions of transportation, patent rights, and taxation that so imperatively need legislative action, we intend to keep prominently before our readers. This government, republican in form, we hope, has not yet got beyond the reach of the people whose vital interests are so largely affected by laws and usages of those in authority. Needed legislation, we shall never get, if the people are not aroused to the necessity of protecting themselves from the rapacity of capital which covertly escapes taxation; of railroad companies that fix their freight rates upon the basis of what a product or business will bear, rather than what will be a fair return on capital invested; of patent right swindlers who rob their victims under cover of a law that is a disgrace to our civilization.

May we not expect that Michigan Patrons will more generally subscribe for and work for their paper. It is certainly cheap enough, and we mean to make it worth more than its price.

We have no jack knives or other traps to offer subscribers, but shall venture the offer of a copy free to any person who sends us ten names and five dollars.

We expect to print editions in Jan. and Feb. large enough to supply all who subscribe before March 1st, with back Nos. BRO. PATRONS, what will you do for the VISITOR of 1880.

THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE MICHIGAN STATE GRANGE

Has been held, and pronounced a success. The attendance was good, though the pouring rain of Tuesday and Wednesday, all over the State, prevented many from visiting Lansing who had arranged to go.

Our railroad arrangements were satisfactory. Those who came over the Central were all accommodated, as by the arrangement, a certificate signed by the holder, and verified by me, entitled the party to a return ticket, issued by the Lansing agent, at one cent per mile to the point of starting.

Several dozen Patrons came to our desk during the session who had paid full fare to Lansing, to enquire how they could get home at reduced rates.

These came over roads that sold round trip tickets at two cents per mile, and the parties, from ignorance of the arrangement, or some other cause, failed to get a ticket at the point of starting. But there was no complaining. Several over the L. S. & M. S. Road, after reading the VISITOR of Dec. 1st, supposed the matter was closed up, made no enquiry, but paid their fare in full; while several others living on other roads, who did not take the VISITOR, ignorant of any arrangement, paid full fare to Lansing. Several such subscribed for the VISITOR during the session, and cheerfully owned up that they could not, as Patrons, afford to do without it.

The session was harmonious and the work done, will, we think, reflect credit upon the body of intelligent farmers assembled in our new Capitol building.

We who have been present at every session can see a marked improvement from year to year.

The educational work of the subordinate Grange, shows itself at our annual sessions.

It has come to be understood that some farmers not only have ideas, but can express them.

The open Grange session of Thursday evening was every way creditable to all concerned.

At seven o'clock the doors were opened, and the gallery was soon filled with citizens of Lansing. The floor of the hall was shortly occupied by members of the Order, nearly all wearing their regalia.

Bro. Whitney had taken good care to provide the beautiful regalia of the Pomona Grange, borrowed of the County Granges of the State for the use of all the voting members. These were worn during the four days' session, and on this occasion the rich green and gold added much to the beauty of the scene.

The desks of the Worthy Master, Overseer, and Secretaries were decorated with fruit, flowers and grain, in a suitable manner.

The music was all that could be desired—though not a judge—it seems to me the best we have ever had, perhaps because last heard.

Worthy Master Woodman delivered an address of welcome, which was responded to in behalf of the State officers by C. A. Gower, of Saginaw, Supt. of Pub. Inst., in a very neat speech.

He made some happy hits when referring to the Declaration of Purposes, touching salaries of public officers, a part of the Declaration having been read and presented as a basis for the evening's talk.

We had never seen this gentleman before, but after his excellent practical speech, we were well satisfied that Michigan has an officer at the head of her educational department well suited to his position.

Most excellent speeches were made by Bro. Moore, Overseer of the State Grange, and Bro. Chas. E. Mickley, of Adrian.

A note from the Mayor of Lansing explained his absence and that of the Common Council, on account of a meeting of that body having been appointed before receiving the invitation to be present at this open session.

S. D. Bingham responded in behalf of the city authorities, in a lively speech, racy with humor. He had done good work on a farm when a boy, and been defrauded of the reward of diligent labor in the care of a calf, given him by his father, by its sale, when increased value made it a coveted object of paternal regard. He said if that did not make him leave the farm, that sort of treatment has made many other boys turn their back on home, to seek their fortunes in cities. *Farmers, be honest with your boys, if you would keep them on the farm.*

W. S. George, of the Lansing Republican, referred to the greater influence of lawyers in legislative bodies on account of their "gift of gab," and said that he was glad to know that the Grange was developing the talking capacity of farmers, many of whom had an abundance of practical ideas, but habit had repressed their utterance. He closed by saying, "the Grange is a grand institution."

Bro. Childs made one of his best speeches, and Bro. Trowbridge improved the little time allotted to each, in a suitable manner.

O. M. Barnes, who occupied a seat on the platform, by the side of the Worthy Master, complimented the Grange on the good work it is doing, and from the tenor of his remarks showed that he very fully comprehended its objects, and was entirely free from any prejudice against it.

We present to our readers the Master's address, and such other papers as we find room for, by adding a supplement to our regular issue.

Our next number, third series, enlarged size, will give some valuable committee reports, which we are sure will be read with interest and profit by our friends. We have not time to give such a summary of the proceedings as we should be glad to in this number.

The people of Lansing have come to regard the annual session of the State Grange as an institution, and from the first the Grange has been treated by the people of our Capital city with respect and attention.

Few State Granges have been so highly favored as Michigan at their annual meetings; and, we apprehend, few assemble such a body of "fair women and brave men" as compose the Michigan State Grange and its visiting friends.

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, 163, 172, 214, 229, 236, 239, 241, 245, 256, 261, 263, 284, 268, 289, 310, 317, 321, 334, 342, 364, 381, 383, 385, 394, 402, 409, 422, 425, 426, 436, 452, 456, 457, 460, 465, 470, 482, 485, 487, 499, 514, 418, 521, 523, 528, 539, 553, 554, 562, 589, 590, 592, 606, 614, 616.

We give the readers of the VISITOR, in the Supplement accompanying this number, even more than a "fifty per cent increase," which causes a little delay in its issue.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

Worthy Master and Fellow Patrons:

The return of another annual session of the Michigan State Grange renews a duty on my part that I discharge with the greatest pleasure, on account of the favorable circumstances under which the representatives of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry meet together in their legislative capacity, for the seventh time in Michigan, in fraternal council.

As I was early apprised that the Worthy Master and the Executive Committee, through its chairman, had each prepared elaborate reports, and from their respective standpoints, the present condition and future prospects of the Order in this jurisdiction had by them been ascertained and would be presented, I have determined in presenting my report at this time, to confine it almost entirely to a statement of such facts and figures as pertain to my office, and the additional duties devolved upon me by the Executive Committee.

We herewith present a statement of receipts and disbursements for the fiscal year 1879, compiled from our books:

SECRETARY STATE GRANGE, DR.

To fees and dues collected from Subordinate Granges.	\$4920 53
To fees collected by organization of one County Grange.	3 00
To amount received for supplies sold.	226 38
To amount of subscription to Visitor.	1067 48
To amt. collected for advertising.	190 43
To cash rec'd from F.M. Holloway on act of St. Agt. Gardner.	118 64
To cash for goods sold on Gardner account.	190 59
Total receipts.	\$7317 05
CONTRA. CR.	
By paid supply bills.	\$ 176 80
By sundry deposits to account of Treas. Brown, in Bank, for which I hold his receipts.	7140 25
	\$7317 05
To this amount of deposits of cash. May be added balance of cash in treasury, Dec. 1st, 1879, of.	2741 45
And we have a total of.	\$9851 70

During the year 45 orders have been drawn on the Treasurer, for purposes as follows:

For expenses of State Grange Session of 1878.	\$1410 82
For expenses of Ex. Comtee.	393 69
For printing 600 copies of Proceedings and Misc. Matter.	162 50
For dues to Nat. Gr. 4 quarters.	772 87
For salary of Master.	400 00
For expense act of Master.	50 00
For salary of Secretary.	1000 00
For stationery of sec'y's office.	30 34
For postage.	122 90
For rent.	30 00
For traveling exp's & fr't paid.	8 35
For salary of Treasurer.	50 00
For special appropriations.	70 00
For bills of Lecturers.	35 01
For publication of Visitor.	1026 50
For postage of Visitor.	114 30
For traveling expenses, wrapping paper, and expenses of folding and mailing.	252 60
Total amount of orders.	\$5898 48
Balance in Treasury at close of fiscal year, 1879.	\$3945 22

As the receipts on account of the VISITOR make up a very considerable portion of the foregoing account, and as the paper itself has become an important factor in the work of the Order, we present a statement of its finances apart from the other business of the State Grange:

GRANGE VISITOR, CR.

By cash rec'd on subscription.	\$1667 48
" " " for advertising.	190 44
Total receipts.	\$1857 91
Dr., To cost of publication.	\$1026 50
" " " postage.	114 30
" " " to all other expenses attending its publication and mailing.	252 60
Leaving a surplus of.	\$464 51

This, for the VISITOR, is a much better showing than we have been able to make for any former year of its publication.

The balance sheet of 1877 showed a surplus of \$240.89, while the balance of 1878 was but \$3.47.

This difference between 1878 and 1879 is not so much owing to the greater number of subscribers, as to the less cost of publication. We had on the 1st inst. 3,522 subscribers, being 674 more than one year before.

We have in Michigan some 20,000 Patrons, and if all these copies were taken in this State (and they are not), we can see at a glance that one-half our membership are not its readers. With the large number of papers that are

constantly being pressed upon the attention of the people, there is a feeling that, when invited to subscribe for the VISITOR, often finds expression in about these words, "I'm taking more papers now than I can read." And this, too, frequently from men that mean to be good Grangers.

The circulation of any periodical depends largely upon the activity of its friends. The many must have their attention called to the matter of renewing their subscription, or when their time runs out, the paper stops, and has lost a subscriber. Some, of course, renew of their own motion, and upon that class, the paper must depend for aid in securing renewals, as well as for an increase of the number of its patrons. With the next number ends the current volume, and also a large number of our present subscriptions.

Whether the present number shall be maintained or increased, depends more upon the few who are willing to devote some time and effort in behalf of this interest, than upon the many who are to-day its readers.

If, as has been assumed, the VISITOR has become so far identified with the Order in this State that its continuance is essential, then with the facts already presented, what changes, if any, shall be made in its size, frequency of issue, price, and management, become questions for determination before the commencement of another volume.

With the experience afforded by our connection with the VISITOR (and we have no other in kind), we are not so fully satisfied of our adaptation to editorial work, but what we should very cheerfully resign this business to other hands.

As an Order, we have but just barely entered upon a broad field, the boundaries of which we cannot see. The work of its cultivation devolves upon the progressive, earnest laborers, and by the aid of the press, which scatters the thoughts of all with such a liberal hand, must the Patrons expect to accomplish for the agricultural class the grand work so fully and beautifully outlined in "the Declaration of Purposes," adopted by the National Grange at its seventh annual session.

On those who are anxious alike for the prosperity of the Order, and the advancement and elevation of the American farmer, devolves this vast amount of work and self-assumed responsibility.

That such men, aided and encouraged by earnest and determined women, are equal to the work, no one who has noted well the progress made in the last ten years can doubt.

Our Organization has undertaken an immense work. All its aims and objects may never be fully realized, and probably never will be in accordance with any program ever yet made.

Be this as it may, the work remains, and not much different in kind, and it must and will be done; and among the agencies employed the press will always be included. Believing this, we feel that no reasonable effort should be spared to encourage the reading of papers devoted to the improvement of the agricultural class.

That farmers have heretofore borne more than an equitable share of the public burdens, with but little representation and less influence in legislative bodies, is now a recognized fact. That their rights have been disregarded and their interests sacrificed is undoubtedly true. These and kindred facts are being discussed in the Grange, and by Patrons thrust upon public attention to some extent through Grange papers, and the more such papers are circulated, the more read, the sooner justice will be accorded to the farmer class, who, for all these years, has consented to occupy a secondary place in the business of the country, and the affairs of government.

These truths should inspire all to more earnest work to provide instructive material with which to make up a valuable paper for Michigan Patrons. Truths once told must be often repeated, presented in a different way by different persons, line upon line, and precept upon precept, to move forward to a successful issue the great work of the Order.

If the little paper under consideration has done any good work we all know that in the same field far more remains to be done, and with the improved condition and prospects of the Patrons of Michigan, may not we reasonably expect a more liberal support for the VISITOR for the year before us than at any time in the past, and it seems

to me that any action by this body that will conduce to an improvement in the paper itself and to a large increase in its circulation, will be quite as likely to promote the general objects of the Order as time and labor given to any other purpose in any direction.

The year before us will be full of political talk and party action, and now that the farmer is awakened to the fact that, while he is busy providing food for the world, the politicians are busy governing it with little regard for his interests or his rights shall we not seize upon this as an opportune time to force upon public attention the fact that the agricultural interests of the country not only need, but demand representation and influence in governmental affairs?

Discussion in the Grange and friendly social talk among members is exerting a powerful influence in the right direction, but the potent influence of the press and its disseminating power must be relied upon in this work.

Our observation satisfies us that we cannot expect aid from a partisan press.

Permit us then to enjoin upon each and every one present the duty of making a personal effort to give the organ of the Order in this State, more contributors and more readers.

A careful analysis of the work of the Order, as indicated by the reports and payment of dues is not as satisfactory as we could wish.

Of the 638 Granges that have been organized in Michigan, quite a number had but a nominal existence, several never having made a report, or paid dues at all, and others but once or twice.

We find that for the three expired quarters of this year, 320 Granges have reported and paid for one or more quarters; that 71 that reported in 1878 have not since reported; and that of those reporting in 1877, 50 have fallen into a dormant condition.

All Granges delinquent in reports and payment of dues prior to January, 1879, have been suspended by the action of the Executive Committee.

A financial comparison, however, makes a much more favorable exhibit, the receipts from fees and dues being but \$291.04 less in 1879 than in 1878, and in profit on supplies sold but \$13.51, or a total loss from these two sources of \$304.55, while the increased net receipts from the VISITOR were \$461.51.

The expenses of the last session were less by \$448.33 than the preceding one; and the total expenses of the fiscal year 1879, exclusive of VISITOR and supply accounts were less by \$645.03, with an improved treasury balance at the beginning of the present year over that of one year ago of \$1,203.77.

While the fact that we have many dormant Granges cannot be denied, yet to the reminiscence of Secretaries in making reports may be charged a part of this apparent loss of working Granges; and may I not here say that we cannot hold the Masters of Subordinate Granges entirely irresponsible for this condition of things. To us it seems within the line of official duty of the Masters to know that the Secretary of the Grange over which he presides, and the interests of which, for the time being, are committed to his care, discharges the duties which he has assumed with promptness and fidelity.

In compliance with the action of the State Grange at its last session we had petitions prepared, asking for Legislative action upon several subjects which the State Grange had considered and deemed important for the welfare of the people of the State. These petitions were distributed, numerous signed and forwarded from time to time to members of the Legislature for presentation and action. The result was not what we had a right to expect.

Although the farmers of the State had quite a representation in these halls, and of the number were men of industry, integrity and talent second to no other class, who labored faithfully and well to carry out the wishes of their constituents, and accomplish for the people some positive good, yet the results of five weary months of legislation were mainly unsatisfactory.

That failure should not discourage but serve to stimulate to renewed efforts. The brazen and impudent attempt of members of the legal profession in that Legislature to secure a monopoly of the business of foreclosing mortgages at an exorbitant price for the work done, and other acts of like

character should arouse us to the danger of electing smart lawyers to legislate for us. Legislation is expensive, it should be of value to the whole people, and farmers must learn that it is unsafe to commit all the interests they have in good government into the hands of men who live and fatten on the follies or wickedness of others.

PLASTER.

The plaster war inaugurated nearly five years ago has not reached a final settlement. The antagonism of other manufacturers to the Grange mill of Day & Taylor, gives cheap plaster not only to Patrons but to the farmers of Michigan and neighboring States. The situation is now so well understood that we need spend but little time on this subject.

Messrs Day & Taylor have, in spite of all opposition and some reverses, kept in the field, and are prepared to furnish pure plaster to Patrons, when wanted, cheaper than ever before. Their facilities for supplying all demands are very much better than heretofore, and there is no duty more incumbent on the Order in this State than that of giving our entire patronage to Day & Taylor. Nor should we be satisfied by simply ordering what we need ourselves, but should solicit our farmer friends outside the gate to join with us in ordering of this firm.

RAILROAD TRANSPORTATION.

The Executive Committee at its meeting in November last directed me to make arrangements with the agents of the several roads centering in Lansing for commutation rates for all Patrons who might wish to attend this session of the State Grange. The arrangements were completed with less trouble than at any former session. The only road not making favorable answer to my application being the L. S. & M. S., whose Gen. Pass. Agt. at first declined to make the reduction of one cent per mile which the "Passenger Department of the Railroad Association of Michigan had adopted for the year 1879, for all public gatherings where reduced rates are given."

On a farther presentation of facts to the passenger agent of this road, he acceded to our request, and on account of so little time intervening before the meeting, set aside the usages of the company requiring certificates, or evidence of membership, to entitle the applicant to commutation rates.

It is some satisfaction as we review the past, and note the improvement and growing importance of the agricultural class which ten short years have witnessed, to feel and know that the reasonable demands of farmers are being more and more recognized, and that each succeeding year the class so honorably and largely represented in this Hall to-day of "fair women and brave men," as they are better known, are better appreciated; and may we not reasonably hope that if true to our best interests—if true to the agricultural class, which our Order represents, that the time is not far distant when "nothing but a farmer!" will no longer be a reproach, for the farmer will be the peer of any man of any class.

Fellow Patrons, you have not come here wholly and solely to see this beautiful Capitol building, and greet your brothers and sisters here assembled from different parts of our beloved State, but in addition to this, we trust you have at heart the great objects proclaimed to the world in that grand Declaration of Purposes, so beautifully expressed, so pure, noble, and elevating in its objects, that from its first announcement, it secured the love and admiration of its friends, and against which no word of cavil or reproach which has been uttered by its enemies. This large gathering of Patrons, with these pleasant surroundings, is inspiring, and cannot but stimulate each one of us to increased diligence in the great work which we have undertaken—a work that will require great and prolonged effort for its accomplishment.

All of you who have engaged in this cause have the satisfaction of knowing that much has already been accomplished, and that the prosecution of this work affords a fruitful source of present enjoyment.

This No. coils the second Vol. of the VISITOR of this size. Those who can supply Nos. 33, 42, 43, 46, 47, can have the two Vols. bound in book-form for 60c., by sending me these Nos. We have a full supply of all others.

Ladies' Department.

Our Homes.

Our homes are just what we make them, I don't mean the construction of our houses, of course they can be made very beautiful, elegantly finished with all the modern appliances to make them convenient; in fact everything that money can supply can be obtained if only one has this much needed commodity. But, alas how many dwellings that could be thus described, are merely looked upon as places where we can eat and sleep. All those hallowed associations that should cluster around a happy home are wanting. And why? Simply because true love is not there. Too much selfishness is indulged in, we neglect those little attentions to one another, a simple "thank you" for a small favor received, or "will you please assist me," little things, so simple in themselves, yet how important. A vast amount of discord and strife would never be known if we would only accustom ourselves to these little polite attentions. Don't save all these for your company manners, for if we neglect them in the home circle, we are most apt to neglect them when we most wish to remember them. So you see, "this world is not so bad a world as some are apt to make it." And as there are some of our number who have not made homes for themselves we would give them a word of advice, as a word fitly spoken may be the means of helping them in the choice of a companion for life.

Would you make your choice for life,
Choose some good adviser,
Take your friends, they are wise,
Wise as you, and wiser.
They will counsel you for good,
They sincerely love you,
Should your heart their counsel heed
Heaven will smile above you.

But if you their counsel spurn,
Think not strange, if sorrow
O'er your sun, so bright to-day,
Hang her veil tomorrow.
For 'tis business which requires
Careful circumspection;
So our worthy mothers say,
After due reflection.

Once then, listen to my words,
Let me say there's danger
When a maiden finds her heart
Yearning for a stranger,
Though he have a pleasant voice,
Though he be good looking,
Have a bright and sparkling eye,
Nose a little hooking.

But beware you do not think,
"Never saw his equal."
Learn his history hitherto,
Ere you try the sequel.
Never choose a silly friend,
Such are quite too plenty;
Many virtues, sterling worth,
Scarce has one in twenty.

Do not choose a man all work,
Nor a man all idle;
Not a temper all too slack,
Nor one that needs a bridle.
Neither get a lad too young,
Nor a rich old miser,
Be not bribed by paltry gold,
Maidens, do be wiser.

Choose no man of goatee chin,
Clad in costly raiment,
'Till you've seen his tailor's bill
Signed *received payment*.
Do not choose a handsome man
Merely for his beauty,
But select an honest mind
Bent on truth and duty.

Unto him, your heart incline;
Should you be invited,
Offers made by such a friend
Never should be slighted.
He will not advance too soon,
Nor too long will tarry;
But with wisdom will he choose
The proper time to marry.

Better first your Ma consult,
Ask your Pa's permission;
These preliminaries fixed,
Trust to his discretion.
Hand in hand with him unite,
His love will not falter
When you'r joined in hymen's bands
At the nuptial altar.

Now, should my advice seem good,
Then, I trust you'll try it,
And be this my fervent prayer,
May you profit by it.
For, alas, your future years,
Might be sorrow laden,
Should some wild and worthless rake
Win your heart, young maiden.

Should you choose a companion like the one here described, your home will be a pleasant and happy one, and we shall feel that our labor has not been in

vain. Accept this advice kindly given by
KATE.
WHITE LAKE, Nov. 11, 1879.

Ancient and Modern Accomplishments.

FOR THE VISITOR—BY LETTIE LESTER.

Is there anyone who would like to see the world go back to where it was 75 or 100 years ago! I hardly think there is anyone who really wishes it, and yet we hear so much about "the good old times." Could some of those who began their last long sleep in those days awaken now, I think they would be surprised at some things they would see here.

The spinning-wheel and loom have given place to large factories, the sickle to mowing and reaping machines, the flail to large threshing machines, run by steam power.

In almost every thing are like changes perceptible. On everything is written the word "advance."

Our great-grandmothers used to make their own cloth of linen or wool, and a young lady who could not spin and weave was not considered fit to take the helm in any man's household.

In the autumn of the Centennial year, at our County fair were exhibited a lot of old as well as new things. Among other things exhibited was a piece of linen toweling, made by an old lady living in the County, several years ago, and while examining it I overheard one old gentleman remark to another, "I wonder if one of the girls now-a-days would know what a spinning wheel was if she would see one."

None who attended that fair need be in ignorance as to how they look, for they had one there, and a woman to run in.

But, in all candor, I would like to ask of those who talk about "the good old times": Would you like to see them return? I don't think you could, truthfully, say yes, to this question. This is decidedly a fast age, and still our motto is "onward and upward." Now we have enterprising men and women who carry on manufactures of all kinds, and for a few cents you can buy at a store what it would take us days to make, and which would be of an inferior quality and poorly made at that.

And how rude and bare of ornament their homes must have been in those days! What woman would like to give up her neat convenient cook-stove, and cook by a fire-place?

Our people are becoming better educated and more refined with every generation. In our houses are found books, pictures and music. Our country is overflowing with instructors of all kinds, ready, for a reasonable compensation, to teach all the common branches, besides drawing, painting, music, the languages, and many other things. The cultivation of flowers is becoming a science, as well as an art. The homes where one sees no flowers are very few, and still the love for them increases.

What man is there who would like to see his wife and daughters clothed in coarse home-made and home-colored linen or flannel dresses of our grandmothers? I don't think there are many, though they do scold when the bill for dry-goods is handed in.

Who would see the piano or sewing-machine in his home replaced by a spinning-wheel or loom? Who wants to saw all his wood with a buck-saw or thresh all of his grain with a flail? If there are any such, they are at liberty to do so.

I think the Grange is helping to do away with these old-fashioned notions; and if the people of the rising generation are wiser, better, and more refined than those who have preceded them, the Grange should receive its share of praise.

Let us work, in the Grange and out of it, to accomplish this end.

The Other Side.

If we find a pebble, we stop, pick it up, turn it over, and examine it thoroughly on every side; but the important things of life we pass by without giving them a second thought. Why is it that we regret doing so many things that we have done? Why are we ever lamenting misdeeds, or sighing because we do not accomplish more? It is because we did not thoroughly examine what we were going to do. In our pleasures we have not been careful to select such as when "past were a pleasure still." In our work we have done

what was easiest, and did not stop to think whether our part of the work was not a little harder. We did not examine it on every side.

Our opinions, actions and tastes differ. For example, (I may myself be liable to censure for saying it, but I will, regardless of the fact that you may think it sounds heathenish.) When I go to church I do not care to hear what Melchisedec, or any of those men with unpronounceable names, have done,—I can read about them, but I want to know what I ought to do, and how to do it, i. e. the minister's view of it. I do not care whether Joseph had two wives or ten. In short, I want a practical sermon from a human minister. What I mean by a practical sermon is one that helps to teach me how to live, and I mean a great deal when I say *how to live*. By a *human minister* I mean one that has trials and temptations, and all that we have to contend with. He can understand and sympathize with us. I always did maintain that it was no credit for any one who has no temptations to be good. Every one has his or her idea about everything, and I am willing they should, I think as much of them as though they thought the same as I do. What I want, and all I care about it is that they should look at it in the same way, and grant me the same liberty of opinion. Men and women think differently about the same question because men look at it from their standpoint, and women from theirs. Before either condemns the other, it would be well at least to put yourself in the other's place.

In order that the ladies might keep this in mind, they might put it in writing, and paste it in their looking glasses. The gentlemen might put their copy—where? That question has never been answered, but I'll venture to suggest tobacco box or pipe.

If we could only see as others do, if we only knew the *motives*, we would not judge others so harshly. I knew a lady whose acts were judged harshly by nearly all who knew her. While talking with her one day she spoke about the doings of some people, that had been condemned by those who had heard about them. With quivering lip she said, "Perhaps if we only knew how they tried to do right; if we knew what habits they formed in youth when they were too young to know for themselves, and had no one to properly direct them, how much they had tried to govern a temper that had become too strong for the will, and knew of their many temptations, we would not be so ready to judge." Since then I have been more careful. If we could only stand in other people's places and see with their eyes, before we formed an opinion, and think whether we would do any better were we in their place had we their temptations. Even in the small places where we succeed, where we stand firm while others stumble, is it because we are better than they? If we are not, what is the reason? It is because He hears the feeble prayer, "Lead us not into temptation."

Let us all think about everything, and be sure we find the right side. When we pass over to the other side of death, there will be a left and a right side there. We must find the right side here in order to have "well done" over there.

O. A. M.
WHITE LAKE, Mich.

Want of Courage.

BY MRS. T. CLARK.

A great deal of talent is lost in the world for the want of courage. Every day sends to the grave, obscure men and women who have remained in obscurity because their timidity prevented them from making their first effort, and who, had they been induced to begin, would have gone great lengths in the career of fame. The fact is, in order to do anything in this world that is worth doing, we must not stand trembling, and saying, "I can't," but overcome this timidity by an undaunted resolution to meet and conquer all difficulties that may arise. It is fear unrestrained that prevents us from accomplishing very much that is in our power. We may imagine that in these days of peace, courage is unnecessary. This is a mistake. Courage is as necessary to-day as in times of war or martyrdom. It is not battle-fields or the stake alone that try the soul and demand courage, neither does it require extraordinary circumstances to learn to practice

courage. If it did we might despair of acquiring it. Every day life calls loudly for its exercise. Does it require no courage to stand firmly in the principles of right and truth; no courage to meet the opposition to our Order as a Grange; and does it not require a strong, undaunted courageous spirit to prepare and read our essays before this refined and intelligent society. And it is for the want of courage that our programs have so often been a failure. No doubt very much talent lies hidden under timidity which only needs a little moral courage to present to the world as bright a talent as has ever been found in history.

"Excelsior" Reproved.

BERLIN, Mich., Nov. 24, 1879.

Bro. J. T. Cobb:

I don't know but I am presumptuous in addressing you, never having written a newspaper article, but I wish to say a few words in reply to an article which appeared in your paper a few weeks ago, signed "Excelsior." I do not know what his object could have been in writing as he did, whether it was to provoke controversy, or whether he wrote out his honest convictions. If he did, I pity him and his wife too, if he has one. He, because of the selfish views he takes of humanity at large. She, if she is a woman of ordinary intellect, because she has to be tied to such a narrow, contracted mind. I do not believe he belongs to the Grange, or else he has not been rightly instructed in the beautiful lessons taught in our ritual. I think if he thinks so much of England's laws, he had better emigrate there for this country's good, for he can rest assured that in this glorious Republic there will be no such thing as American nobility established. And another thing perhaps, there he could find his proper place which I am sure would not entitle him to more than one vote, if any at all, according to his ideas of voting.

I know there are many of our laws that need reforming, but I do not suppose it will ever be done so long as man holds the ballot exclusively, for "men seldom improve when they have no other models but themselves to copy after." It is a good thing that "Excelsior," as he styles himself, is not a member of the Legislature, and will not have the framing of the prohibitory law. I wonder if he thinks there is a woman in the State of Michigan that would be fool enough to vote for such a law if she had the chance, as he would like to have. If he does, I can tell him there is not, for they do not believe in praying for the cause of temperance, and then go and vote for the whisky and beer saloons, as many of you of the nobler sex do.

Nobler sex, indeed, I wonder where "Excelsior" thought he would go when he wrote that. I am glad Mr. Editor you did not print his communication in the Ladies' Department, for I think it is a disgrace to any place. "Excelsior" seems to think that the man with the most money should cast the votes and thus build up a great monied monopoly to the detriment of all but the rich. I wonder if he would think so if he was not worth a dollar.

Just let him wait till suffrage is granted, as it surely will be, then we will see whether it is money or brains that rule. One of the first laws that will be enforced, will be that no one shall vote unless they can read and write and qualify themselves to become voters. There would not be so many whisky votes polled if all were rightly educated. I fear my communication is already too long, but if this meets with approval I may write again.

EQUALITY.

WORTH REMEMBERING.—It is not what we earn, but what we save, that makes us rich. It is not what we eat, but what we digest, that makes us fat. It is not what we read, but what we remember, that makes us learned. All this is very simple, but it is worth remembering.

Bro. Mortimer Whitehead's address before the National Grange was a worthy effort, and does him and the Order credit. All our readers will look for it in the proceedings of the National Grange, when published.

SNAKE stories should not generally be credited, unless the name and residence of the snake is given.

HOW A PAPER IS MADE.

"Pray, how is a newspaper made?"
The question is easy to ask,
But to answer it fully, my dear,
Were rather a difficult task;
And yet in a bantering way,
As the whippoorwill sings in the glade,
I'll venture a bit of a lay,
To tell how a paper is made.

An editor sits at his desk,
And ponders the things that appear
To be claiming the thoughts of the world—
Things solemn, and comic, and queer—
And when he has hit on a theme
He judges it well to parade,
He writes, and he writes, and he writes,
And that's how a paper is made.

An editor sits at his desk,
And puzzles his brain to make out
"Telegraphic" so squabbled and mixed,
It's hard to tell what it's about.
Exchanges are lying around,
While waiting dispatches delayed,
He clips, and he clips, and he clips,
And that's how a paper is made.

An editor out in the town,
In search of the things that are new—
The things the people have done,
The things they're intending to do—
Goes peering and prying about
For items of many a grade,
He tramps, and he tramps, and he tramps,
And that's how a paper is made.

And all that these workers prepare,
Of every conceivable stripe,
Is sent to the printer, and he
Proceedeth to stick it in type.
His lines, all respecting his will,
In slow-moving columns parade—
He sticks, and he sticks, and he sticks,
And that's how a paper is made.

In short, when the type is all set,
And errors cleared up more or less,
The "locked up in a form," as we say,
And hurried away to the press;
The pressman arranges his sheet,
His ink gives the requisite shade,
Then he prints, and he prints, and he prints,
And that's how a paper is made.

Communications.

Letter from Gov. Sessions.—No. 5.

HOME, NOV. 24, 1879.

Bro. J. T. Cobb:
Any of your readers who will take time to look over the statutes of Michigan will find: 1. A general law providing for the organization of cities. 2. A general law providing for the organization of villages. I shall not undertake to decide whether these general laws are as liberal as they should be, or whether they are properly limited. If there are any defects in them in either regard it would seem easy to point to them and provide a remedy.

The constitution prohibits the creation of corporations by special act, except for municipal purposes. Why this exception was made does not seem clear, but it is certain that great expense of time and money is occasioned by special acts of incorporation, and they occasion much trouble, inequality and injustice.

The constitutional provision relating to the power and duty of the legislature in the matter is very simple and plain, to-wit: "The Legislature shall provide for the incorporation and organization of cities and villages, and shall restrict their powers of taxation, borrowing money, contracting debts, and loaning their credit." It would seem to be easy to accomplish this object by general laws applicable to all in like condition, available to all who desire their protection, and operating equally so far as it is desirable or proper for the law to operate at all. The practice that prevails, however, with very rare exceptions, is to ignore the general laws provided, and as often as the legislature convenes, applications come from almost every city and village in the State for special charters, or amendments to special charters, and the committees and the public press are put to work to grind them out at public expense. It is the practice, I believe, to have the charter drawn or copied by an attorney, presented by the member representing the city or village, and referred to a committee. The business of the committee is to harmonize the turbid spirits of those who volunteer to represent the people at home by looking well to their own private interests. If the committee succeed in this, as they sometimes do, they report the bill, and under the rule it goes to the printer. After being printed at public expense, it often happens that it is so much changed by the

interference and solicitation of those who have conflicting interests, that it is ordered printed again. Aside from the member from the city or village, and local lobby, no one takes any interest in the bill. It is passed in committee of the whole without reading. On its final passage it is read only by its title, the ayes and nays are called, and the grave and honored Senators and Representatives look solemn, and vote aye! with the tacit understanding that they are all in the same boat—or may be—and that they must be kind and help each other. After passage it goes to the Governor. Perhaps it is read; I cannot say. If he does read them all, his salary should be increased, and his life insured. If he signs it, it must be printed once again at public expense, and add page after page to the useless lumber that cumber our session laws, only waiting for another good natured Legislature to amend or repeal the whole of it. I regard it as a great misfortune that the people of the State are not protected from such reckless, yet costly legislation. It inflicts serious injury upon many of our people. It is a reproach to all.

I am not able to write more now, and desire to make my letter short. Have more to say on this subject in future.

Yours Truly,
ALONZO SESSIONS.

Farmers in Politics.

ADRIAN, Dec. 2nd, 1879.

Bro. Cobb:
I am glad to read so many well written articles on the elevation of agriculturists as a class. I am a farmer, and have been nearly all my life, and am well aware that we labor under many difficulties, but I am not one of those who believe that all our ills can be cured by one stroke of legislation, nor one of those that believe laws should be passed in our interest solely because we are farmers. I am opposed to class legislation under all circumstances. We have a great work to do to prepare ourselves for the responsibilities in life as they come upon us, as private citizens or public officers, not because we are farmers, but because we are members of this great Commonwealth. These are provisions in the Constitution [see Constitution, U. S., Sec. 8, Art. 3.] upon which legislation can be based, which would be so just and correct, and which if had, would not only benefit the producer, but would bring relief to the laboring millions who suffer from the effects of discrimination in freights. The true way to obtain such legislation is not to berate our representatives in Congress by calling them lawyers and such other names, as shall seem to answer our ends for political effect, but grant to them due respect and consideration, believing them to be good men and capable of looking at all questions fairly, until we are convinced to the contrary, but remembering that our nine representatives look upon questions that come before them for consideration as lawyers (if I mistake not,) whose training and culture must have led them in nearly the same channel. Now let us in our respective districts, change the order of things a little by sending occasionally a farmer, a doctor, a merchant, or a mechanic, ever believing that these would make good come from the deliberations of good men whose training has caused them to look at the same subject from different standpoints.

Let us ask to have the next governor, because we can name the man who is eminently fitted to be Governor. Let us ask to have some members in Congress because we have farmers who are well fitted to discharge the duties of representatives. Let us put forth the names of none but good men, well qualified, and our requests will be heard and answered.

Grange Meetings.

The next regular meeting of the Clinton County Pomona Grange will be held at St. John's, Wednesday, Dec. 31st, at 1 o'clock, p. m. sharp. All 4th degree members are cordially invited to attend.
FRANK CONN,
Secretary.

The next regular meeting of the Eaton County Quarterly Convention P. of H., will be held at Ketchum's Hall in Charlotte, on Wednesday, Jan. 7th, 1880. All members of the Order in Eaton County are earnestly desired to attend, as subjects of great impor-

tance to its future in our locality are to be considered, among them being the formation of a Pomona Grange.

B. E. BENEDICT, Pres.

MARILLA, Dec. 10, 1879.

Bro. J. T. Cobb:
We wish to notify the members of the Manistee District Grange that the next meeting, which will be held in Marilla, will be the annual meeting, and we wish all the officers to bring or send the rituals belonging to the Grange. Meeting to commence at 2 o'clock, p. m., 1st Tuesday in January.
Mrs. J. A. POPE, Sec.

SODUS, Mich, Dec. 8, '79.

Bro. J. T. Cobb:
Berrien County Pomona Grange No. 1, will hold its next regular session at Berrien Center Grange Hall, on Tuesday, the 13th day of January, 1880, at 10 o'clock a. m. A full attendance is expected. Let every subordinate Grange be well represented. The election of officers, and other important business will be transacted. Come and make the meeting interesting.

THOS. MARKS, Master.
CHAS. HOGUE, Sec'y.

Correspondence.

The Work at Rural Grange.

Bro. J. T. Cobb:
Rural Grange is not dead although she has been slow to open communication with the VISITOR whose welcome pages so often make us glad. We have about eighty good paying members, most of whom attend the meetings regularly. Our meetings are more interesting since we adopted the program system. This system gives work to all, or nearly all the members. Granges that have not adopted this system, would do well to try it, and see how much waste time can be utilized. Much depends upon the make-up of the program.

I think the following are some of the questions deserving discussion in every Grange:—

Which are the two best varieties of wheat to raise?

What is the best method for preparing the ground for the seed?

Is drilling preferable to broad-cast sowing?

Is there any necessity for a change in our tax laws?

What is the best method of cooking beef steak?

Is coffee better to be prepared for the table without grinding?

Questions like these are of such a nature that each member can talk on them, and both give and receive more or less of profitable instruction. As the Grange advances, deeper and broader questions may be taken up.

By the way, Bro. Cobb, your article on the "next governor of Michigan" seems to receive a hearty response from everybody, not from Patrons alone, but from outside of the Order. There can be no possible objection by any farmer of the State, and if all the farmers demand it, they can have the pleasure of seeing a farmer administer the highest office within the State. As you suggested, we have plenty of good material to select from. Bro. J. J. Woodman was the first name that suggested itself to my mind, but my next thought was, ought he not to represent his district in the next Congress. J. W. Childs, or Lieut. Gov. Sessions, would be very acceptable names.

Yours fraternally,
UNCLE BEN.

OXFORD, December 9th, 1879.

J. T. Cobb:
Having noticed your solicitations for articles from members to the VISITOR, I will give you a few facts about Oxford Grange.

It was organized in the spring of 1874, when Grange matters were so buoyant, with sixty charter members, all sanguine of financial and social success. Not realizing the benefits so temptingly mentioned by Bro. Whitney, our membership has been reduced until only eleven of the charter members now remain in good standing.

However some new names have been added and we have saved enough from fees and dues to build us a good comfortable hall which is paid for, but only partly furnished.

Nearly all the members we now have are good live Grangers, and determined

to help carry out and inculcate the principles of the Order.

Most of the families represented in our Grange take the VISITOR; but one brother who thought he would save the price of the VISITOR last year, was muled in the sum of six dollars by patent gate swindlers. He takes the VISITOR this year. Other members of our Grange took the advice of the paper and were not molested.

I have noticed that our best working members are those who subscribe for Grange papers, and who try to be posted in parliamentary usage; and I would here venture to assume that if the VISITOR were issued weekly, and the digest printed in pamphlet form, and distributed thoroughly among Grangers throughout the State, much good would ensue.

Yours fraternally,
J. G. NOBLE, Sec'y.

ALLENDALE, Ottawa Co., Mich.)
November 23, 1879.)

Editor Grange Visitor:

At a late meeting of Allendale Grange, No. 421, P. of H., quite a pleasant occurrence, and something out of the usual order of things, took place, namely, the presentation of five dollars to Wm. Rool, on the occasion of his retiring from the office of Secretary, which he has held for several consecutive terms.

The gift was presented in the name of Allendale Grange by Sister Amanda Cooley, as a testimonial of regard and esteem. The Worthy sister remarked that the members did not wish it to be considered as remuneration for services rendered the Grange, but as a testimonial of the high regard in which the Secretary and wife were held by the members of the Grange.

After thanking the Grange for their kind expression of regard, the Past Secretary took occasion to remind the Patrons present what the duties of a good Patron were, and urge the necessity of living up strictly to the obligations taken by each member upon joining the Grange. He also urged the cultivation of the intellect of the members by every possible means. In concluding his remarks, he urged the members to cultivate the fraternal tie enjoined in the working of the Order, and to practice in their daily walk and conversation that charity which feels for and relieves the distresses of not only the brothers and sisters of our Order, but that sympathizes with all mankind.

GRANGER.

YPSILANTI, Nov. 27, 1879.

Bro. Cobb:
Ypsilanti Grange, No. 56, took a new departure on the 1st of November—or in other words, they moved from the old hall into the new.

Our new hall is situated in the third story over the store of Harris Bros., in the new Union block erected this last summer. We have the whole upper story, consisting of hall and ante-room.

The dedicatory service was conducted by Brother Thos. F. Moore, of Adrian, and he did it in a very able manner. After the Master's address of welcome, Bro. Moore was again introduced, and his address was one that pleased all who heard it, both members of the Order and those who were not, spoke highly of it.

After partaking of refreshments, the Grange held a meeting in the evening, which was not public, and Bro. Moore was again called upon, and he made a telling speech, which I wish every member of the Order could have heard.

Bros. J. W. Wing and J. W. Childs were also called upon and ably responded. The labors of the day being over, the Grange closed.

And now Ypsilanti Grange is ready for business, at least ought to be. It was said that Ypsilanti Grange would never stand, being in the city, but we have weathered the storm so far, and have ninety-six members, and if we do not stand now it is our own fault.

Yours fraternally,
No. 56.

AN unknown man killed by the cars in Connecticut on Saturday had in his pockets 60 cents and a pair of scissors, indicating that he was connected with journalism.

MARRIED.

WOODWORTH—MASON.—In Lansing, Mich., at the Potter House, on the 9th inst., by Rev. J. Crabb, of Morenci, Bro. George W. Woodworth, Master of Morenci Grange No. 280, to Sister Alice Mason, Secretary of said Grange.

THEREAPER, DEATH.

LILLIE.—Died at her home in Talmadge, Ottawa Co., Mich., Sarah, wife of Joel Lillie, after a long illness.

She was a charter member of Ottawa Grange No. 30. While her health permitted, she was an earnest worker in the Grange, but she has left us to join the Great Grange above. She was loved while here and will long be remembered; therefore,

Resolved, That we as a Grange most earnestly sympathize with the afflicted family.

Resolved, That our charter be draped in mourning for sixty days.

Resolved, That these resolutions be spread upon the Grange record, a copy be presented to the family of the deceased, and to the GRANGE VISITOR for publication.

Mrs. THOMAS WILDE,
Mrs. JOHN SICKLES,
Mrs. L. H. CADY,
Committee.

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[Signed] J. J. WOODMAN.

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SUPPLEMENT TO THE GRANGE VISITOR

ISSUED SEMI-

MONTHLY

BY THE EXECUTIVE



COMMITTEE OF THE

Michigan State

Grange, P. of H.

[Kalamazoo Publishing Co.'s Print.]

VOL. 4.—No. 24 }
WHOLE No. 80. }

SCHOOLCRAFT, DECEMBER 15th, 1879.

YOUR SUBSCRIPTION
will Expire with No.

MASTER'S ADDRESS.

Worthy Patrons, and Members of the Michigan State Grange:

Time, in its onward march, has again called us together in our Annual Session, to consider matters relating to the present condition and future prosperity of our great agricultural organization.

The present year has been one of unusual prosperity to the husbandman. The earth has yielded a bountiful harvest as a reward for faithful and intelligent labor; and fair prices for farm produce has had a tendency to liberate capital and force it into the channels of active business.

Again we rejoice at the sound of the carpenter's hammer, the ring of the anvil, the smoke of the furnace, and the hum of the spindle. Confidence is being restored, debts paid, mortgages discharged, or reduced to a lower rate of interest, and the farmer begins to see the light behind the cloud and the "bow of promise" in the heavens.

For this returning prosperity, and other kindred blessings, let us render grateful acknowledgements to God, and invoke His aid and guidance in the work before us.

Although our Organization has had an existence of nearly twelve years in this country, and seven in this State, and our Declaration of Purposes published to the world, yet they do not seem to be well understood by those "outside the gates," and some members of our Order do not fully appreciate the importance of the high and noble purposes for which we are organized, and their bearing upon the present and future agricultural interests in this country.

If the farmers of our much favored land fail to gather wisdom from the history of the unorganized agriculture of the Old World, and permit others to do their rearing, their thinking, their writing, their speaking, their business, and their legislation, it will not require the gift of a prophet to tell what their future will be.

The history of the Old World has been but the history of oppression to the tiller of the soil. He has been deprived of the ownership of the soil he cultivates—reduced to a mere tenant, a serf, dependent upon the will of his lord and master, who fixes the price upon the products of his labor, thereby circumscribing his action and making him dependent upon his will. He is thus deprived of the right to stand up in the "image of his Maker," and pride of his manhood, and show himself the peer of others in social life, intellectual culture, business relations, and political influence.

The following, from our "Declaration of Purposes," should be well considered and understood:

"To develop a better and higher manhood and womanhood among ourselves. To enhance the comforts and attractions of our homes, and strengthen our attachment to our pursuit. To foster mutual understanding and co-operation. To buy less and produce more, in order to make our homes self-sustaining. To diversify our crops, and crop no more than we can cultivate. To condense the weight of our exports, selling less in the bushel, and more on hoof and in the fleece. To systematize our work and calculate intelligently on the probabilities. To discountenance the credit system, the mortgage system, the fashion system and every other system tending to prodigality and bankruptcy. To bring producers and consumers, farmers and manufacturers, into the most direct and friendly relations possible."

"To encourage the building of railroads, canals, and to open out the chan-

nels in Nature's great arteries, so that the life blood of commerce may flow freely.

"To remove the antagonism between capital and labor by common consent and a wise statesmanship.

"To oppose excessive salaries, high rate of interest, and exorbitant per cent profits in trade. To suppress personal, local, sectional and national prejudices, all unhealthy rivalry, and all selfish ambition. To encourage education among ourselves, and for our children, by all just means in our power, and to advocate for our Agricultural and Industrial Colleges that practical agriculture, domestic science, and all the arts which adorn the home, be taught in their courses of study. To induce farmers to take a more active part in the politics of the country, and to work for good in the political parties to which they belong, putting down bribery, corruption and trickery, and to see that honest men, who will unflinchingly stand by our industrial interests, are nominated for positions of trust, and to carry out the principle which should always characterize every Patron, *that the office should seek the man, and not the man the office.*"

For the accomplishment of these grand purposes, our Subordinate, County, State, and National Granges are laboring and inspiring their members to read, think, study, investigate, discuss, and act for themselves; to extend their acquaintance, not only among successful business farmers, but among business men engaged in other pursuits in life. The Granges are but so many schools, where questions relating to practical farming, practical business, and all the diversified interests of agriculture, are discussed; and where moral culture, social refinement, and mental powers are developed. Thro' these and other kindred influences connected with the work of our Order, farmers have been inspired with a laudable ambition to excel in their profession; and are emulating worthy examples, and utilizing practical ideas in the cultivation, management, and other business relations connected with the farm.

As the results of this work, farms are better cultivated; labor-saving implements and machinery are more generally used; fertilizers are more prudently saved, better prepared, and more intelligently applied to the soil and the growing crops; crops are more diversified, and more systematically rotated; stock upon the farms has been improved and the amount raised and kept largely increased; noxious weeds have been eradicated from the fields, the fences, and the highways; fences and buildings have been repaired, and home surroundings made more convenient, pleasant and comfortable. The cultivation of fruits and flowers have been encouraged, adding to the income of the farm and the attractions of home. Family circles are enlivened with music, and readings, and amusements, and useful conversation. Acquaintances are extended, and the social mingling of friends and neighbors increased. Family jars, and dissensions, and separations have been prevented, neighborhood disagreements have been settled, and litigation avoided.

Libraries have been established, and the reading of agricultural journals encouraged. To this record of progress must be added the interesting fact, that during the past few years, and since our organization has had an existence and an influence in this State, the productiveness of the farms has been most wonderfully increased by better cultivation and more thorough and systematic farming; and this too during a time of the greatest financial depression ever known in the history of this country.

It would be assuming too much to claim that all these results have been accomplished wholly through the influence of our Organization. Agricultural journals, societies, fairs, farmers' clubs, and our Agricultural College, with its system of farmers' institutes, have done their full share of the work, and should receive our full and earnest support; but the work and influence of these organizations and institutions are comparatively local; and in addition to all these, we want an organization perfect in all its parts through which we can unite our efforts in protecting our rights and elevating our profession, an organization, capable of grasping with great questions of public policy, command respect in both State and Nation, and make its influence felt. Such an organization is the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, and the work it has already undertaken and accomplished, has demonstrated both its influence and its necessity.

In several of the Western States the farmers subscribed liberally, creating debts and mortgaging their farms to build railroads to carry their produce to market. The managers of the roads, after absorbing the stock, raised the rates for transporting farm products so high as to absorb almost the entire profits of the farms.

True to that principle enunciated in our Declaration of Purposes, that, as an Order we shall "oppose such spirit and management of any corporation or enterprise as tends to oppress the people and rob them of their just profits," the Granges brought an influence to bear upon legislation, which resulted in the enactment of laws regulating the rates which railroad companies should be allowed to charge for transporting freight over their lines of road within the State.

These laws were resisted by the companies on the ground that they were operating under general laws or special charters, and were therefore above and beyond Legislative control. The companies were prosecuted, and a case carried to the Supreme Court of the United States, and from that high tribunal came the decree, which was hailed with joy by the people everywhere, that "railroad corporations are subject to Legislative control." The Board of Railroad Commissioners of Massachusetts, in their next annual report, after the decision was made, paid our Order this high compliment: "The Patrons of the West have done more good to the country in demonstrating that railroads are subject to legislative control than would be required to balance the whole cost of their organization."

By this just and wise decision, the power of one Legislative body to confer special franchises upon a corporation by which it could oppress and rob the people, and which a subsequent Legislature could neither modify nor repeal, was emphatically denied, and full power given to Congress to regulate inter-State commerce.

The power of a State Legislature to regulate commerce within the State was also affirmed. Hence, through the influence of this Organization, the great principle, that "the people, through their chosen representatives in Congress and the State Legislatures, can regulate and control the carrying trade of the country, has been established," and it now remains to be seen whether this power will be exercised by the people or not. As yet, the railroads control the situation, and charge just such rates as they may deem necessary to enable their roads to earn the largest possible amount of money, regardless of the rights of the people.

This has been practically demonstrated by the recent advance in freight

rates by all the great trunk lines, and by the declaration of one of the freight agents at their recent meeting in New York, in answer to the question, "What rates his road intended to fix upon a certain important article of commerce?" "Just such rates as the article will bear," responded the agent.

Since the present grain crop of the West commenced to move eastward, the freight rates from our State to the seaboard have been advanced thirty cents on each one hundred pounds, or eighteen cents on a bushel of wheat. Estimating the wheat crop of the State which goes into commerce at 20,000,000 bushels, and this will make a tax upon the farmers of this State of \$360,000 on the wheat crop alone. Add to this, twenty-five cents to each one hundred pounds of the gross weight of all the cattle, swine, sheep, dressed meat, and other farm products shipped to the Eastern market, and it will swell the amount to a sum that will be startling to contemplate. There has been a recent advance of fifteen cents a bushel on clover-seed, making the freight on a bushel of that product to New York one dollar. Why is this? Western clover seed is wanted in the Eastern market, and the advance in the market price there is added to the freight and pocketed by the railroad companies, thus robbing the Western farmers of their just profits. It is fair to presume that railroad companies were not carrying freight for less than they could afford to before the advance; and that the present high tariffs have been added simply because the freight agent decided "that the articles would bear it, and the Western farmers would stand it." It seems that this grasping avariciousness of railroad managers can only be checked by the strong arm of a National law, regulating freight upon all through lines of road. And there is no more fitting place for this great question to be considered, and measures adopted, to enlighten public sentiment upon this great wrong, and influence legislation to correct it, than this body, composed as it is of representative farmers from almost every portion of our State. It should not be approached in any spirit of hostility to the railroads, for they have rights which should be protected, but it should be considered in the light of fairness, justice, and equity. The evil can be remedied by a law of Congress, either establishing maximum rates for through lines, or by creating a National board of Control, with full power to regulate and fix such rates for transporting freight over the lines of all roads engaged in inter-State commerce, as will be just to the companies, and, at the same time, protect the rights of the people. Let this question be considered, and Congress appealed to for relief.

PATENT RIGHT LAWS.

The recent experience which the farmers of this State have had with Patent Right swindling, renders it proper for me to refer to this subject: The Patent Law now upon the statute books, as interpreted by the courts, making the innocent purchaser, or maker of any article or implement purchased or made in good faith for his own use, without any notice, or even knowledge of its being an infringement of a patent right, liable to be prosecuted for violating the United State Patent Laws, is an outrage upon common sense, a violation of every principle of justice and equity, and a disgrace to free Republican institutions.

For the past twenty years or more, the farmers of this State have been constructing and using upon their farms a cheap substitute for a farm gate, in the form of a sliding fence panel, without molestation, and with no knowledge that it had ever been pat-

ented. No one ever imagined that in using this "sliding gate," that he was liable to be prosecuted in the United States court, and be compelled to go fifty or one hundred miles from home to be tried, until they were called upon by the agent of Dale, Bagley & Root, of Ypsilanti, and notified that the said gate was patented by John C. Lee, of Ohio in 1865, and that they owned the right of this State. The royalty claimed and collected by this firm under threats of prosecution was five cents upon each acre in a man's farm. Farmers paid under protest, and all seemed to be going well with the firm, until Bro. Henry D. Platt, of Ypsilanti Grange, became satisfied that the patent under which royalty was being collected, had no legal existence; and advised the farmers to cease paying royalty, and form a Mutual Defense Association for the protection of each others interests. The association was formed, and Bro. Platt appointed agent, with power to employ counsel, and defend every suit commenced against farmers of this State for using this gate. The State Grange at its last session took action and fully endorsed the acts of the association, and appealed to the Subordinate Granges for material aid, and to Patrons everywhere, to resist payment and co-operate in mutual defense.

Twenty nine suits were commenced, and Messrs. Beaks & Cutchen, of Detroit, and E. P. Allen, of Ypsilanti, employed as counsel for the farmers. John C. Lee was found, and Ohio and other States searched for witnesses. It was found that a patent on this gate was also issued to A. C. Teal, of Illinois, prior to the Lee patent, and as early as Dec. 1st, 1863. It was also evident that the Lee Patent was an infringement upon the Teal Patent. The prosecution then it appears, purchased the Teal Patent, and came into court, with supplemental bill, to include both patents in their case. This was denied by the court, and the test case under the Lee Patent argued, and dismissed with the other case, on the ground that there was no "patentable difference between the Lee and the Teal Patents, and that the Lee was an infringement upon the Teal."

Two suits were then commenced on the Teal Patent, one against W. H. Randall, of Washtenaw County, and the other against Amos Redmore, of Tuscola County. Bro. Platt appeared with his counsel to defend both cases. After a little more than one year in court, attended with all the perplexities of litigation, the case was brought to a final hearing, and resulted in a decided victory for the farmers. The defence made but one point against the Teal Patent, and that was *prior use*, which was proved by a large number of witnesses, and to the entire satisfaction of the Court, its use dating back fourteen years before the Teal Patent was issued. The successful defense of these cases has demonstrated the necessity for organized effort, and thorough co-operation among farmers for their own protection. Bro. Platt says, "Had it not been for the Grange organization, I could have done nothing." Then let it be said to the credit and honor of this Organization that it has saved to the farmers of this State alone a sum estimated at more than half a million dollars, if computed at five cents per acre upon the farms using the gate. But these unjust extortions do not stop here. More than two hundred suits have already been commenced against persons in this State for using the Glenn & Hall clover hullers, which were bought in good faith, paid for in full, and the right to use guaranteed by the manufacturer. But now comes John C. Birdsell, claiming that these machines contained some principal or combination which infringed upon his patent previously obtained, and demand a royalty of \$100 of every man who ever owned an interest in one of these machines. He also claims that his right to collect this royalty of *innocent parties* has been confirmed by the U. S. Circuit Court of the Northern District of Ohio. Patent right agents are also preambulating the State, looking after "barbed wire" fence, and every farmer who has been persuaded to buy a pound of this *barbarous* wire, and use it upon his farm, will be *barbed*, by these *barbarous* tramps, under the operations of a most *barbarous* law. It is said that 2,400 suits have already been commenced against the farmers in Iowa for using this wire. Agents are now at work in Indiana and other States collecting a royalty of \$10 on drive wells, under threats of prosecution,

and armed with a decree of the U. S. Court of Minnesota. No person is safe in purchasing or making any article or implement and using it, if he has not positive evidence that a like article was used by his great grandfather, and that no alterations or improvements have been made to it since.

There is no question which will come before you that demands more prompt, positive, and determined action than this; and I recommend that a memorial be prepared and forwarded to our members in Congress from this State, calling their attention to this great wrong, and urging them to unite their efforts and use all honorable means to secure the necessary legislation to correct it. I also advise that blank petitions be prepared and sent out to the Subordinate Granges, to be circulated among the people for signatures, and forwarded to our members in Congress, asking that the patent laws be so amended as to protect the innocent purchasers in the use of any article or implement sold in the market, making the manufacturer and vendor alone responsible for infringements upon patent rights. Also, to so amend the law, that a person who has made an article or implement for his own use, not knowing it to have been patented, but which proves to be an infringement, shall have the right to either pay the royalty or discontinue its use, as he may choose, and thereby escape prosecution.

THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

Identified as this institution is with the interests of education and agriculture, I cannot refrain from again calling your attention to the importance of using all laudable means through the influence of our Organization to popularize the College with the farmers of the State, and make it a school, where, not only our sons, but our daughters can obtain a thorough and practical education of a high order, and at a reasonable expense. That the failure of the Legislature to make the necessary appropriations for paying the professors reasonable salaries, enlarging the chemical laboratory, and providing further and better accommodations for young ladies, has resulted in serious injury to the best interests and very existence of the College, is demonstrated by the crowded and inconvenient situation of the students in the laboratory, and the small number of lady students in attendance.

Although to the literary course in the College are added "mechanics as applied to implements, agricultural chemistry, horticulture, and such practical applications of science as are especially useful to the farmers," yet our State Legislature has not been led to see the importance of making the farm connected with the College experimental rather than remunerative. The great science of agriculture in this country is but in its infancy. There are hidden mysteries and undeveloped principles in farming, which can only be brought to light by a thorough series of experiments in the field, which no individual or association of farmers can successfully prosecute.

It is an interesting fact connected with the present state of agriculture of Europe that in those countries where the government does most to encourage practical and scientific farming, crops are more diversified, labor better economized, and the people more abundantly supplied with food of home production, than in other countries where nature has done more for agriculture, and the government less. Sweden, for example, with a rigorous climate, poor soil, and but a small portion of the land capable of cultivation, produces enough not only to supply her own people with food, but has a surplus of cereals and other farm products for exportation. This can be attributed largely to her extensive and most perfect system of Agricultural Colleges, schools, model and experimental farms, and means employed for collecting and disseminating practical and scientific facts in agriculture.

Sweden has a Royal Agricultural Academy, with a model and experimental farm attached, five schools of Agricultural chemistry and physiology, two Superior Agricultural institutes, and twenty-seven farm schools, where theoretic, practical, and scientific agriculture are taught. In addition to all these is a Government Stock farm, where well bred animals are raised and distributed among the farmers of the country; several model sheep

farms, twelve model dairy farms, and three depots of horses. Seventeen "traveling enquirers," or professors of agriculture, are constantly employed by the government among the farmers, collecting facts and giving instructions. The government recognizes the fact that "the earth is the source of all wealth, and labor develops it;" and the expenditure of so large a sum of money for the encouragement of her agriculture adds not only to the general prosperity, but proves to be a wise measure of financial policy for the government.

If poor Sweden can afford to spend so much for the encouragement of her agriculture, in schools and experimental farms, cannot the great agricultural State of Michigan afford to be liberal to our college, and sustain one farm for experimental purposes? Let this question be well considered, and such measures adopted as are necessary to produce practical results.

TENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES.

The work of taking the National Census will be commenced the coming spring, and the Subordinate Granges should be reminded of the importance of taking an active interest in this work, and render such assistance to the census takers as may be necessary to enable them to obtain full and reliable information upon all matters required. The statistics will show what progress our State has made in its agriculture during the last decade, and its present standing as compared with the other States of the Union. Every farmer should prepare, and hold in readiness for the marshal, a full and accurate statement of the acreage and amount of all crops raised the present year, also of all animals sold or slaughtered, and the number kept upon the farm. It is quite probable that the wool clip will not be shorn in time, but very accurate estimates can be made from the preceding clip. Patrons should co-operate everywhere to make the reports full, accurate, and valuable.

CO-OPERATION.

This arm of our Order seems to be in a prosperous condition. The State Agencies established in Detroit and Chicago, the two great commercial cities where most of our farm produce finds a ready market, are favorably located for the accommodation of our members. Their facilities for handling farm produce and filling orders, are full and complete; and all doing business with them can be assured of fair and honorable dealing. The Grange Co-operative stores in the State are generally prosperous, if I may judge from those which have reported to me. Where one has failed to meet the expectations of the Patrons, it has generally been caused by a want of confidence and support among the members of the Order. Every Subordinate Grange, which has not access to a co-operative store, should be provided with a purchasing fund, and a local Grange agent. Business should be encouraged by every Grange.

THE NATIONAL GRANGE.

The thirteenth session of the National Grange was held in the city of Canandaigua, N. Y., closing its labors on the 28th day of November. Twenty-nine States were represented. This session is pronounced by those competent to judge, as among the best ever held. Much of the work done was thoroughly practical, and cannot fail to result in good to our great Fraternity.

The recent unwarranted advancements in "freight rates" by transportation companies, and the flagrant extortions of patent right agents made upon innocent purchasers, received due consideration, and the several State Granges requested to use all proper means which may be necessary, to influence legislation to correct these evils. Resolutions of a high and National character were adopted, setting forth the necessity of our National Organization, for the education, protection, and elevation of American farmers; and the members of the Order urged to take a more active and decisive interest in the politics of the country, and demand of the political parties a more just and equal representation in the law-making departments of the government. Your special attention is called to these important questions, trusting that you will take such action as the interests of agriculture seem to demand.

EDUCATION.

The subject of education was fully

and ably discussed in the National Grange, and Agricultural Colleges, experimental farms, schools of technology, and agricultural chemistry endorsed, and a liberal public policy recommended towards them. It was also the sense of the National Grange that the rudiments of practical agriculture be introduced and taught in the public schools, all of which I fully endorse and submit for your consideration.

The problem which has been so long and thoroughly discussed in the Subordinate and County Granges,—“How can the facilities for a higher education among farmers' sons and daughters be brought within the reach of every farm house,” has been practically solved in this State by the establishment of Grange high schools in many of the Grange halls, where a thorough high school course can be taken by students residing at home, and at a mere nominal expense for tuition. The Lecturer of the National Grange in his recent report to that body says:

“In one county in Michigan I found seven of these schools, held in special rooms built in connection with the Grange hall, handsomely furnished; and farmers' children thus at home receiving that higher education that the expense and difficulties of sending to distant cities and towns prevented the majority in the past from bestowing upon their young people. The influence of those schools upon our Order can be realized when I state that not long since, twenty-one young men and women, above sixteen years, students in the Grange school on the first floor, at one time received the beautiful degree of our Order in the Grange hall above. Agricultural text books for all the free schools in the rural districts, to educate our children for the farm instead of from it, are being talked of, and will surely come in the near future.”

The reports which come from these schools are most encouraging, and the question of their usefulness and practicability is established beyond the admission of a doubt. It is to be hoped and expected that the time is not distant when every Grange hall located in the rural districts will be not only a place where the cultivators of the soil will meet to discuss all questions relating to agriculture, education, civil rights and political economy,—rejecting only those questions of a sectarian or partisan nature; but where the boys and girls will be educated in the higher branches of learning so necessary to qualify them not only for the duties and business of life, to but adorn society and the profession of agriculture.

COUNTY GRANGES.

The valuable work which these organizations are accomplishing in the Order must endear them to every true Patron, and as they are now entitled to representation in the State Grange, they should be required to make annual reports to the Secretary of the State Grange during the month of September, giving the membership, condition and standing of the Grange, number of meetings held during the year, number of public meetings held under its auspices, work of the Lecturer, and general condition of the Subordinate Granges under its jurisdiction. They should also report the name and address of the newly elected Master and Secretary, and a list of the same printed with the list of the Subordinate Granges.

BY-LAWS OF THE STATE GRANGE.

The wants of our Order have outgrown our By Laws, and a thorough revision is needed. The form of By-Laws recommended for Subordinate Granges also needs amending, so as to make them conform to existing laws.

DORMANT GRANGES.

It was a misfortune to the Order that so many Subordinate Granges should have been organized, and left without further instructions or encouragements, before the real objects of the Organization were well understood. That so many have ceased to work is but the result of hasty and unwise organization and limited instructions. That so large a proportion of those organized have lived and prospered, and are now meeting in their own halls and increasing their membership, fully demonstrates the correctness of our principles, and the necessity and vitality of our Organization. Many of the Granges that have ceased to work still retain their charters, and can be again put in working order if the necessary means are employed; but there is little use in attempting to resurrect a *dead* Grange. Better to

organize anew, or save all that is valuable from the membership to the living ones. One strong, active Grange is worth more to the Order than many weak ones. One Grange in a township is generally enough, and in most cases a greater number would be damaging to the interests of the Order. The strength and permanency of our Organization does not depend so much upon the number of Granges organized or set to work, as upon the stability and good work of those now in good working order, and in good standing with the State Grange. There is a great demand for good lecturers in the field, and they should be supplied by the State and County Granges. The work of reviving dormant Granges should be placed in the hands of the County and District Granges, where organized; and where necessary, the strong arm of the State Grange should be extended and render all necessary aid.

GRANGE VISITOR.

There is no occasion for me to call your attention to the value and usefulness of the GRANGE VISITOR. Its appreciation by our members is demonstrated by the success which has attended its publication, and the widespread circulation it has attained. It should be enlarged as fast as its financial standing will justify.

Many of the Subordinate Granges appropriated from the Grange Treasury a sufficient amount of money to place the GRANGE VISITOR in every family connected with the Grange, free of cost to the family, and find the investment a paying one. Let this method for encouraging its circulation be generally adopted, and the question will be no longer asked, "How can the members of the Grange be kept interested in its work?"

THE AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT AT WASHINGTON.

It is most gratifying to me to be able to announce to you with confidence, that the experiments which have been prosecuted by the present Commissioner of Agriculture, in manufacturing sugar from Sorghum Sugar Cane, and other saccharine plants, have been rewarded with success, and the interesting fact developed that sugar can be manufactured from the common sorghum, which grows so prolifically in our State, of as good a quality, and at as great a profit, as from the best sugar cane of Louisiana, thus creating a new industry for the farmers of the whole country, which must add not only to the material interests of the farmers, but to the wealth of the nation and the general prosperity of the people. Congress should be petitioned for an increased appropriation for this department, and the question of making it a Department of the Government, with its Commissioner a member of the Cabinet, should be pressed with renewed energy.

The foregoing are among the many important questions which will demand your attention. May your deliberations be harmonious, your conclusions wise, and the interests of agriculture and our Organization promoted.

J. J. WOODMAN.

Large Estates in California.

Large landed estates held by individuals is, next to the Chinese, the greatest curse of the state. The estates should be divided up into little farms. I am in favor of no person holding more than 160 acres, 500,000 farms of this size supporting from 5,000,000 to 6,000,000 people. California has vine country enough to make from \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000 per year, and support 5,000,000 people; and if Congress would give us laws encouraging the growth of vines and the making of wines and brandies, we could save to the United States \$100,000,000 every year. That is one of the remedies to employ the surplus muscle machinery drives out of our workshops. I would have the large farms cut up. The constitution should be so amended that when the owner of a large farm dies, it should be cut up and sold in 160-acre lots to the highest bidder. The hours of labor should be reduced until all the surplus labor is employed, even to five hours a day if necessary.—*Sacramento Bee.*

Arithmetical toast: The fair daughters of this land: May they add virtue to beauty, subtract envy from friendship, multiply amiable accomplishments by sweet temper, divide time by economy, and reduce scandal to its lowest denomination.

Report of Committee to examine into the Workings of the State Agricultural College.

To the Master and Members of the Michigan State Grange:

The undersigned committee appointed at our last session of the State Grange to examine and investigate the workings of the State Agricultural College would respectfully submit for your consideration the following report:— Prefacing it with a few quotations from the Constitution of 1850, and the organic acts of the State and National Legislatures through which it came into being, and from which it has and is to receive its principal support.

Our Constitution says in Article 13, The Legislature shall, as soon as practicable, provide for the establishment of an Agricultural school.

After the adoption of this Constitution the Legislature proceeded to act upon the mandate thus made in the organic law, and, with such means and facilities as they alone could originate, succeeded in opening the school under the euphonious name of "Michigan Agricultural College," in May, 1857. Making it the child of the State, and on it dependent for its support and perpetuity.

Our National Congress passed a law, which was approved July 2, 1862, donating to each State public lands to the amount of 36,000 acres for each of its Senators and Representatives in Congress according to the census of 1860, for the endowment, support and maintenance of at least one college where the leading interest shall be, without excluding the scientific and classical studies, and including military tactics, to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanical arts.

The Legislature accepted this grant and bestowed it upon the Agricultural College.

By its provisions the College has received 255,673.37 acres of land, 88,121.46 acres of which have been sold, giving a fund of \$275,104.28 the interest of which is applied to the support of the teaching force of the College.

With these preliminaries before us we may the more readily determine the benefits derived from it in the past, and its capabilities for the future, "if properly managed," for conferring a higher education for the rising generations of agriculturalists of our State, bearing in mind, as we review its history, that it was the first in its conception and organization in these United States, and obliged to rear itself without a precedent. That mistakes have been made in its management at times all admit.

That it did not meet the expectations of the agricultural and mechanical classes was a self-evident fact, the causes for which may be traced after these many years.

First, among the many causes were the varied plans among the many who had voice and took an official part in its structure.

It was first committed to the care of the State Board of Education, scarcely one of whom ever had a practical knowledge of agriculture, or would push forward with zeal and fidelity such measures as would quickest develop a well defined system for an agricultural education.

In 1861 the Legislature created the State Board of Agriculture, and vested in them the management of the College and farm. This was an improvement over the other, inasmuch as they had but this one college upon their hands, and free from all conflicting interests. This board is appointed by the Governor of the State two every two years, and it is safe to conclude that he selects the very best men for the place. We, as tillers of the soil should be satisfied, inasmuch as a majority of every board have been fully identified with us in like occupation.

Another and potent cause of estrangement on the part of many intelligent friends agricultural education, was the minor or secondary position that real agriculture occupied in the early history of the College, the location had much to do with this. The dense forest had to be cleared away before agriculture proper could be taught or developed. But we cannot shut our eyes to the fact that very indefinite and imperfect ideas prevailed for the first ten years of its existence in regard, at least, how agriculture could or should be taught. It was an experiment, and the board and faculty had to feel their way along. At the slow progress made,

many good farmers, perhaps not willing to make proper allowance for the difficulties in the way, became impatient and were prepared to turn their backs upon it and pronounce it a failure. We think this sentiment affected the College in turn, and for a time was not as agricultural in feeling as it might have been. But whatever may have been the mistake on the one side or the other in the past, we can now safely say that a bond of sympathy has been established between the College and the live, progressive farmers of the State. There is a feeling that they occupy a common platform—are laboring in a common cause.

Your Committee were present at the commencement exercises in November, and it affords us great pleasure to assure the State Grange that all of the many fine orations were intended to promote agriculture and elevate the agriculturist. They were imbued with the right spirit, and whatever the College may have been, or supposed to have been in the past, it is most surely agricultural now.

Another drawback, and it was the legitimate result of the preceding causes, was the persistent and determined effort on the part of politicians, legislators, lawyers and doctors throughout the State to build up the University at the expense of the Agricultural College, and the history of State legislation shows that where the Agricultural College has received aid from the State to the amount of a thousand dollars for building, or apparatus, the University has received five thousand or more, and this in the face of the fact that the agricultural interests of the State represent seven-tenths of its population, and more than three-fifths of its wealth.

What other causes can be assigned that will bear the light of investigation than these we have named which have worked this inequality of benefits. Where is the refined and cultivated mind, lover of rural pursuits, who does not see our hopes for the future resting largely on the intelligence of the rural population.

This element properly educated, taught to reduce their every effort to a systematic and scientific conclusion would soon change the order of society, and, we would not in the future, as in the past, blush to see our brothers and sisters in rural life belittled in their calling, or efforts made to reduce them to "hewers of wood and drawers of water" to build up the professions. We would not be humiliated any more by men we had elevated to the honorable positions of legislators, to look after the best interests of the whole people, by their persistent and undisguised opposition to every measure tending to make the profession of agriculture or mechanics the peer of any of the other professions.

Your Committee thought it proper to make the foregoing statements of facts as they have occurred in the past history of the College before entering upon the report proper.

Our first visit to the College was in May, the very last of the month. Unfortunately for us, it was vacation with the students and we were not favored with listening to their class exercises, but in place thereof we spent a day profitably to us, at least, in looking over the farm, the farm buildings, the farm improvements, the stock, the buildings and their adaptability for the uses designed; the several departments of study with their facilities, or want of facilities for illustrating them; their library for reference or general reading, and their home most dear to every student. We shall speak of these in the order named, nothing extenuating or withholding.

THE FARM

comprises some six or seven hundred acres, very little of which by nature would be classed as first quality for farming purposes, some have questioned the selection, we content ourselves with the belief that the professors of agriculture and engineering will not for these many years be obliged to go from off the farm to find suitable material from which to illustrate to their respective classes the principle of drainage in all its diversified methods, nor will the professor in agriculture lack room for experiments with all the raw and manufactured masses of manure the farm is capable of producing, with a liberal percentage of the minerals, phosphates, and super-phosphates thrown in.

By this we do not wish to be understood that the land is poor, far from it, but that it requires out-lay of time and money to take from it its surplus water,

and stimulents to bring into activity the dormant energies of its vegetable and mineral deposits, before it will rank up to many Michigan farms in fertility. To this cause alone may be traced many of the complaints that have been made against the College farming, not giving credit even to the great expense and out-lay in clearing, ditching, and reclaiming from an unbroken wilderness.

FARM IMPROVEMENTS.

These have their significance, as an index to the mind, or minds, that plan and carry into execution the general outlay or feature of any location.

For convenience and generally utility the farm has been well sub-divided, the farm buildings so located as not to interfere with the College, or garden, grounds—all easily accessible to water, and mid-way with the improved portions. Fences were well built and in good state of preservation. These improvements have been made materially with students' labor, conferring in return a money value, by which the student has been able to defray some of his expenses while pursuing his studies. Of barns, sheds, out-houses, and other conveniences, it is not necessary to speak further than to say that they are up to the requirements and wants of the farm.

STOCK.

The stock of the farm is varied in kinds, as it should be, and it would be a great pleasure for us, could we truthfully do so, to report them all as being of the very best type of their species; they have served, however, to illustrate most of the peculiarities existing between the different breeds, and the time has come when your committee believe a radical change could be made, from which students would derive equal benefits, and the farm increased profits.

Were we permitted to stock the farm for the benefit of students, and for profit to the farm and College, we would close out from the cattle everything except a cow or a heifer for each of the different breeds, and this should be of the highest type, the specimen animal. We would, secondly, add as many milch cows of the best milking breeds and strains as necessary to supply the farm and College with milk. With these we would associate the best male short-horn obtainable. From this selection they could raise some excellent beef animals, with now and then one that would replenish the dairy. The balance necessary to consume the fodder and provide manure for the farm, should be made up of thrifty young bullocks, for grazing and feeding. This practice would meet every requirement of the College, and at the close of each year the balance in the treasury, we apprehend, would be much more satisfactory than at present managed as a breeding farm for improved cattle, as personal and individual enterprise will always keep them in the background.

The flocks of the farm should be kept for the purpose of wool and mutton only, and the breed that proves most healthy and profitable for these two purposes should be adopted. The same rule will apply equally with swine.

If experiments are called for in the feeding of domestic animals (and we believe in them, and further believe that the College is the place to carry them out), they can readily be obtained, if not on hand.

COLLEGE BUILDINGS.

Some of them are inadequate to the wants of the institution, especially in case of increase, notably College Hall; this is the oldest; built when the College was started, now occupied for chapel, library, President's and Secretary's offices, museums, zoological laboratory, and class rooms for zoology and botany. It will soon be relieved of the last, as a new hall is in course of construction for the botanical department. This may possibly be utilized for the class in surveying and engineering, as the class rooms have been so fully occupied that there was no place for this only as they used the evening, when others were off duty.

DEPARTMENT STUDIES AND LABORS.

In the chemical department we made but a brief call. The reputation of Prof. Kedzie as a lecturer and teacher in this branch of science justifies us in saying that the chair is well-filled and will compare favorably with the best in the country. His analysis of Clawson wheat alone saved to the farmers of Michigan in one year more than

three-fourths of a million of dollars, estimating the retained value at five cents per bushel; and this established value has continued to the present, and to-day it is taken as extra white, instead of No. 3 red, as contemplated by the Miller's Association and the different Boards of Trade in the country.

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY AND ENTOMOLOGY.

Here we found Prof. Cook busy with the classification and arranging of the various representations of the dead past as it pertains to and comes within his scope of teaching, here giving a likeness of a certain species of the animal kingdom now nearly extinct, or there exhibiting a part of the structure, and from that determining its class, order, or family. Here, too, we find him following the anatomy of insects, their transformation, development and classification, providing remedies to check them in their devastating ravages on vegetation, thereby conferring lasting benefits to the husbandman.

Of the Department of Botany and Horticulture, your Committee can speak understandingly, for we have the work of the department visible to the senses.

We call your attention to the experimental garden of forestry. Here are some 300 species of trees and shrubs from all parts of the world, being tested and acclimated, if possible, to be of use for mechanical, ornamental, or other productive purposes.

First impressions would say that all this was of little value save for ornament.

Your committee do not look upon it in this light. With all our present resources it will be but a few years at most before many of our farms in Michigan will be perfectly denuded of timber.

Many will resort to the planting of groves, if they can do it with the assurance of success. With this problem solved beforehand, the work would be easy of accomplishment. Again, the method and conditions by which many of our trees and shrubs are propagated from seed, the long and tedious process, the period of waiting, would render hope hopeless to any but an enthusiast. We look upon this experiment, if followed up, as one that will be of great value to the coming generation.

In another place we found 175 varieties of forage plants, grasses, clovers, and millets being tested to determine their hardiness and value to propagate for general purposes in the State. And in another, a wild garden, were 400 species of wild plants, American and European, inimicable to pond, bog, shade, and sun, all interesting in their peculiarities and structure,—many of them as insectiferous plants, others for their climbing and twining habits; some for medicinal, and others for economic purposes. They are found very useful for fertilizing and hybridizing plants, a system destined in the near future to bring many new and valuable things to light.

Another valuable feature of this department is the thorough test given the feeding roots, not only in the growing, as to quality, quantity, and expense, but their comparative value for feeding, as determined by strict analysis.

In originating new varieties of potatoes from the seed the department has done a good work. Of the hundred or more sports developed by the first planting of balls, there are but few that take to improvement by successive planting; from these continued trials some 25 varieties have become so far established as to warrant their introduction to the public for a further test on the different soils in the State.

In the seedling nursery of large and small fruits many very interesting experiments are annually carried forward by the students in the practice of grafting, budding, layering, crossing, hybridizing, and fertilization, bringing out new species, improving varieties changing forms and habits, thereby giving to the horticulture of the State new theories, new practices, and new results not heretofore reached.

In the arbor we found about a hundred varieties of grapes being propagated. We learned that 41 of the varieties ripened the last fall.

The orcharding on the farm is well cared for by this department; it is only fair, probably more underdraining and manure would improve it.

Lastly in this department we came to the greenhouse, with its thousand or more of native, foreign, and exotic plants. These are selected and propa-

gated for their flowering qualities and economic purposes. Who of the people of the land, visiting the College or farm that does not pay a visit to the greenhouse? Who that enters its portals and surveys the magnificence of design, the profundity of nature, under the directing hand of the trained botanist, that does not come out a better man?

As a means to an end, and that end the elevation of thoughts and affections from things earthly to things heavenly and divine, there is nothing more powerful than flowers. They say to the boisterous, bickering spirit of unrest, *peace, be still*. To the despondent, dejected soul who has drained the cup of sorrow to its dregs, *look up, doth not our Heavenly Father watch over thee*. If He thus cares for the lillies of the field, will he less care for those he has created in His own image?

We say, then, give us the greenhouse, with all of its humanizing influences, with all of its practical facilities for testing seeds and plants, its economic value to the farmer in this particular is beyond comparison, and it can be made available to him by simply asking. Has he doubt as to the fertility of his seed for any particular crop, he can forward a sample, and have it tested, and know of a certainty whether he is sowing good seed or bad, saving to himself perhaps hundreds of dollars on one single crop.

With the new hall now being erected for this department, we see no reason why it shall not compare favorably with the best in these United States, although on a smaller scale.

Our report of the farm must necessarily be brief:

It is here that the jester has exhausted his wit, and the chronic grumbler indulged his propensity to his heart's content. By a resort to these methods undue prejudice has been aroused, often with a purpose of influencing legislation in regard to the College. We have no sympathy with the demand so often made that the College should be a paying institution, or, in other words, should return to the State in dollars, dollar for dollar, all that it receives. But that it should always teach and practice the highest type of profitable farming, we mean in crops and stock, not in its experiments.

A majority of your Committee made three visits to the farm during the crop season. We noted carefully what was being done and how it was done, and with these opportunities for observation, and as practical farmers of many years' experience, we desire to bear willing testimony to the fact that, taken as a whole, the farming is well and judiciously done.

The fields are well laid off, rotation of crops judiciously observed, all of which we cheerfully commend. Yet with all of these things before us we could not close our eyes to a few slight defects. Critics have noted some of them, have magnified them, heralded them abroad as if they were the rule, and not the exception, while the facts were the reverse. It is with the hope of removing these defects in the future that we allude to them here. These, or similar ones have been made the pretext for criticism in the past; overcome them, and the attack loses its force.

When we visited the College and farm in May, a wheel cultivator had just commenced work in the cornfield. The ground had been well prepared for the crop. The rows straight and the hills true, everything favorable for a model job of corn cultivating. It is due to truth to say that that work was not being done well. The cultivator was not run close enough to the hills, a broad space of undisturbed earth was left the whole length of the rows. We regard it of essential importance that the earth should be stirred to the plant when it is small. When we were there the last of June the field was free from weeds but the corn was small and feeble. In November we again looked over the field, the crop had been harvested. No weeds had been permitted to go to seed. We enquired after the crop and found that 39 bushels of shelled corn to the acre had been secured. We thought, and still think, that a few bushels to each acre might have been added by the best of culture when very small. We attach no importance to this so far as the income to the farm is concerned. We were told that it was an employee, and not a professor or student that was doing the cultivating, but the student was looking on, and, as we have said before, if he would attain the highest success he should have the best type before him for a model.

Some things in a pasture field struck the eye unpleasantly. The field is rather new, and the stumps not sufficiently decayed to remove with profit, but there were old logs that marred the view, and we could not suppress the wish that they were burned and out of sight.

We are aware that these are slight defects, where there is so much that is excellent, yet they mar the model.

We allude to these things in kindness for we are proud to know that this is the farmers' College. Its future depends on the farmers of the State.

Who will look after the educational interest of the three fifths of the children of the State whose calling must be that of farming, if not your brother farmers. As an Order, we lay great stress upon the education of our children, upon educating ourselves in our calling, making no distinction in sex. What provision has been made for the education of our daughters in the College? *Virtually none*, while the law did not prohibit, surrounding circumstances would not permit. No dormitories to shelter, or Matron to guide and watch over them; they might better look to the country school for aid.

While the State Board of Agriculture and the faculty of the College asked this thousands of the Order petitioned for it. Our requests were unheeded. There was value, there was merit in making female doctors, lawyers, ministers, and literary madames in the University, but there was no merit in educating a young lady in the Agricultural College to fit her for the stern duties of life as a teacher, a mother, or matron.

We thank God that in spite of unfavorable circumstances in legislation or surroundings, we have witnessed one indomitable spirit, who has surmounted every difficulty, worked her way through the prescribed course of study, and graduated at last commencement with credit to herself, and an honor to the State.

In conclusion, your committee are impressed with the importance of sustaining the Agricultural College. In it only: can we center our hopes for giving our sons and daughters a higher—scientific course of study, above the common school—a fitting that will prepare them for leaders and exemplars in any neighborhood or community in which their lot may be cast—a fitting that will exemplify to the world that true greatness, nobility of character, and genuine manhood is speeding the plow; and it, in return, through its well directed course, is upheaving new strata, new combinations on which to feed—a new element in society, REDEEMED HUSBANDRY, the peer of the professions.

We speak understandingly when we say to you that the College is worthy of your best efforts in its behalf. It is worthy of your patronage, if you design to fit your sons and daughters for the farm. Her teachings in the classroom, on the farm, in the library, in the reading room, through her cabinets and conservatories, all tend to teach you agriculture in the full acceptance of the term.

It is worthy of your united effort as tax payers and electors of the State, to see that she has equal justice done her through our Legislature, in providing buildings, in supplying apparatus, and rendering facilities for teaching commensurate with the population dependent on her for an education.

And last, but not least, cease not to work until the State has provided a chair of veterinary science, through which skillful practitioners may be raised for the relief of our dumb animals when sick. The farmers of the State are now at the mercy of empirics and mount-banks. There is no one interest of more importance before the people than this.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

F. M. HOLLOWAY,
C. G. LUCE,
J. WEBSTER CHILDS,
Committee.

The great railroad time-killer is the game of euchre. This is an amusement which four otherwise respectable and considerate citizens see which can yell the loudest and do the most to disturb a car full of passengers. The game consists in handing around a certain number of pieces of pasteboard with pictures on, and then slapping down your fists, stamping your feet, and howling in a discordant chorus every time a trick is taken. Quite appropriately is a "Jack" the best card in the game.

The Grange a Conservative Power.

When a boy of sixteen years I remember listening to a debate carried on by men with whom I was acquainted, regarding the extension of territory. Should the government purchase additional lands, thus adding to our square miles, and our Western territories become populated, one President with his constitutional advisers will be unable to control and govern the people, and this country will necessarily become divided, or, as countries of old, be divided up into petty kingdoms, and our United States of America become a name merely of the past, and this once happy people go on record as a fallen nation.

In looking back over the past years and seeing the increased prosperity of our country, the standing she has attained in comparison with other countries—yet notwithstanding this, the war of the rebellion, and later the election of president, which agitated our land, shook this nation from center to circumference.

Then the question will often arise in our minds, what assurance have we that this republic will stand to see the close of another century of its life, much less be a great political power for ages to come? Or that our great cities, destined some of them perhaps to be the great commercial cities of the world, may not become like the cities of the old world to-day, which were once great in power?

When the doctrine was promulgated that all men were born free and equal, and that the foundations of this new republic was to be laid in the principles of equal justice, every citizen endowed with the same rights and equal before the law, we find that the great men of Europe prophesying that this form of government was utopian, and would not stand the trial of a generation. This subject presents itself more forcibly to our minds when we find wise men of Europe to-day giving as their opinion that the disaster is only prolonged by increased prosperity as a nation and people. While our unfilled acres are yet unpopulated this danger will be averted; because, financial troubles may come, internal commotions may exist, but we as a people can always find relief by labor seeking our unoccupied and uncultivated lands, thus becoming purchasers as well as consumers.

Thoughtful men always look ahead and see the breakers, and at once look about them for means to avert the disaster. So in this case, look about you and see the many institutions of learning in our northern and western States. With the increase of population these institutions keep apace, educating the young to higher and nobler walks in life.

Look to the Grange in these States with its increased prosperity, Michigan adding largely to this number. This land endangered when our people are fast becoming educated, and when he casts his ballot, does so intelligently and understandingly?

The future destiny and prosperity of this nation, the honest preparation and management of her political campaigns, rests largely with the farmers. The farmer had felt that he would become contaminated, if he took an active part in political affairs. But it would seem wiser to us if he would enter the political arena, and by honest and independent action, help clear political contests of the contaminating influences which surround them. Give a man a homestead, and as soon as he realizes it is his own he becomes an independent man, and if need be he will shoulder his musket, his country's welfare to defend. When we find men in our congressional halls, who openly say, "We are not of you, neither with you, that there are no United States of America, only in name," it will awaken thoughts that one cannot avert or banish at will. This question is not partisan. We have avoided party. We are strictly prohibited political discussion in the Order, yet under this it is a well settled fact that there is a silent political power underlying the Grange. Not in making or inducing democratic or republican principles, but in diverting our minds, and all meeting on one common level to obliterate all party prejudices. May we come together as farmers and farmers' families, and help to make the Grange interesting and prosperous, thus enjoying the privileges, social and intellectual, which it extends to us.

GRANGER.

WHITE LAKE, Nov. 1st, 1879.

MASTER'S REPORT.

Worthy Patrons, and Members of the Michigan State Grange.

Time, in its onward march, has again called us together in our Annual Session, to consider matters relating to the present condition and future prosperity of our great agricultural organization.

The present year has been one of unusual prosperity to the husbandman. The earth has yielded a bountiful harvest as a reward for faithful and intelligent labor; and fair prices for farm produce has had a tendency to liberate capital and force it into the channels of active business.

Again we rejoice at the sound of the carpenter's hammer, the ring of the anvil, the smoke of the furnace, and the hum of the spindle. Confidence is being restored, debts paid, mortgages discharged, or reduced to a lower rate of interest, and the farmer begins to see the light behind the cloud and the "bow of promise" in the heavens.

For this returning prosperity, and other kindred blessings, let us render grateful acknowledgements to God, and invoke His aid and guidance in the work before us.

Although our Organization has had an existence of nearly twelve years in this country, and seven in this State, and our Declaration of Purposes published to the world, yet they do not seem to be well understood by those "outside the gates," and some members of our Order do not fully appreciate the importance of the high and noble purposes for which we are organized, and their bearing upon the present and future agricultural interests in this country.

If the farmers of our much favored land fail to gather wisdom from the history of the unorganized agriculture of the Old World, and permit others to do their reading, their thinking, their writing, their speaking, their business, and their legislation, it will not require the gift of a prophet to tell what their future will be.

The history of the Old World has been but the history of oppression to the tiller of the soil. He has been deprived of the ownership of the soil he cultivates—reduced to a mere tenant, a serf, dependent upon the will of his lord and master, who fixes the price upon the products of his labor, thereby circumscribing his action and making him dependent upon his will. He is thus deprived of the right to stand up in the "image of his Maker," and pride of his manhood, and show himself the peer of others in social life, intellectual culture, business relations, and political influence.

The following, from our "Declaration of Purposes," should be well considered and understood:

"To develop a better and higher manhood and womanhood among ourselves. To enhance the comforts and attractions of our homes, and strengthen our attachment to our pursuit. To foster mutual understanding and co-operation. To buy less and produce more, in order to make our homes self-sustaining. To diversify our crops, and crop no more than we can cultivate. To condense the weight of our exports, selling less in the bushel, and more on hoof and in the fleece. To systematize our work and calculate intelligently on probabilities. To discountenance the credit system, the mortgage system, the fashion system and every other system tending to prodigality and bankruptcy. To bring producers and consumers, farmers and manufacturers, into the most direct and friendly relations possible.

"To encourage the building of railroads, canals, and to open out the channels in Nature's great arteries, so that the life blood of commerce may flow freely.

"To remove the antagonism between capital and labor by common consent and a wise statesmanship.

"To oppose excessive salaries, high rate of interest, and exorbitant per cent profits in trade. To suppress personal, local, sectional and national prejudices, all unhealthy rivalry, and all selfish ambition. To encourage education among ourselves, and for our children, by all just means in our power, and to advocate for our Agricultural and Industrial Colleges that practical agriculture, domestic science, and all the arts which adorn the home, be taught in their courses of study. To induce farmers to take a more active part in

the politics of the country, and to work for good in the political parties to which they belong, putting down bribery, corruption and trickery, and to see that honest men, who will unflinchingly stand by our industrial interests, are nominated for positions of trust, and to carry out the principle which should always characterize every Patron, that *the office should seek the man, and not the man the office.*"

For the accomplishment of these grand purposes, our Subordinate, County, State, and National Granges are laboring and inspiring their members to read, think, study, investigate, discuss, and act for themselves; to extend their acquaintance, not only among successful business farmers, but among business men engaged in other pursuits in life. The Granges are but so many schools, where questions relating to practical farming, practical business, and all the diversified interests of agriculture, are discussed; and where moral culture, social refinement, and mental powers are developed. Thro' these and other kindred influences connected with the work of our Order, farmers have been inspired with a laudable ambition to excel in their profession; and are emulating worthy examples, and utilizing practical ideas in the cultivation, management, and other business relations connected with the farm.

As the results of this work, farms are better cultivated; labor-saving implements and machinery are more generally used; fertilizers are more prudently saved, better prepared, and more intelligently applied to the soil and the growing crops; crops are more diversified, and more systematically rotated; stock upon the farms has been improved and the amount raised and kept largely increased; noxious weeds have been eradicated from the fields, the fences, and the highways; fences and buildings have been repaired, and home surroundings made more convenient, pleasant and comfortable. The cultivation of fruits and flowers have been encouraged, adding to the income of the farm and the attractions of home. Family circles are enlivened with music, and readings, and amusements, and useful conversation. Acquaintances are extended, and the social mingling of friends and neighbors increased. Family jars, and dissensions, and separations have been prevented, neighborhood disagreements have been settled, and litigation avoided.

Libraries have been established, and the reading of agricultural journals encouraged. To this record of progress must be added the interesting fact, that during the past few years, and since our organization has had an existence and an influence in this State, the productiveness of the farms has been most wonderfully increased by better cultivation and more thorough and systematic farming; and this too during a time of the greatest financial depression ever known in the history of this country.

It would be assuming too much to claim that all these results have been accomplished wholly through the influence of our Organization. Agricultural journals, societies, fairs, farmers' clubs, and our Agricultural College, with its system of farmers' institutes, have done their full share of the work, and should receive our full and earnest support; but the work and influence of these organizations and institutions are comparatively local; and in addition to all these, we want an organization perfect in all its parts through which we can unite our efforts in protecting our rights and elevating our profession, an organization, capable of grasping with great questions of public policy, command respect in both State and Nation, and make its influence felt. Such an organization is the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, and the work it has already undertaken and accomplished, has demonstrated both its influence and its necessity.

In several of the Western States the farmers subscribed liberally, creating debts and mortgaging their farms to build railroads to carry their produce to market. The managers of the roads, after absorbing the stock, raised the rates for transporting farm products so high as to absorb almost the entire profits of the farms.

True to that principle enunciated in our Declaration of Purposes, that, as an Order we shall "oppose such spirit and management of any corporation or enterprise as tends to oppress the people and rob them of their just profits," the Granges brought an influence to bear upon legislation, which resulted

in the enactment of laws regulating the rates which railroad companies should be allowed to charge for transporting freight over their lines of road within the State.

These laws were resisted by the companies on the ground that they were operating under general laws or special charters, and were therefore above and beyond Legislative control. The companies were prosecuted, and a case carried to the Supreme Court of the United States, and from that high tribunal came the decree, which was hailed with joy by the people everywhere, that "railroad corporations are subject to Legislative control." The Board of Railroad Commissioners of Massachusetts, in their next annual report, after the decision was made, paid our Order this high compliment: "The Patrons of the West have done more good to the country in demonstrating that railroads are subject to legislative control than would be required to balance the whole cost of their organization."

By this just and wise decision, the power of one Legislative body to confer special franchises upon a corporation by which it could oppress and rob the people, and which a subsequent Legislature could neither modify nor repeal, was emphatically denied, and full power given to Congress to regulate inter-State commerce.

The power of a State Legislature to regulate commerce within the State was also affirmed. Hence, through the influence of this Organization, the great principle, that "the people, through their chosen representatives in Congress and the State Legislatures, can regulate and control the carrying trade of the country, has been established," and it now remains to be seen whether this power will be exercised by the people or not. As yet, the railroads control the situation, and charge just such rates as they may deem necessary to enable their roads to earn the largest possible amount of money, regardless of the rights of the people.

This has been practically demonstrated by the recent advance in freight rates by all the great trunk lines, and by the declaration of one of the freight agents at their recent meeting in New York, in answer to the question, "What rates his road intended to fix upon a certain important article of commerce?" "Just such rates as the article will bear," responded the agent.

Since the present grain crop of the West commenced to move eastward, the freight rates from our State to the seaboard have been advanced thirty cents on each one hundred pounds, or eighteen cents on a bushel of wheat. Estimating the wheat crop of the State which goes into commerce at 20,000,000 bushels, and this will make a tax upon the farmers of this State of \$360,000 on the wheat crop alone. Add to this, twenty-five cents to each one hundred pounds of the gross weight of all the cattle, swine, sheep, dressed meat, and other farm products shipped to the Eastern market, and it will swell the amount to a sum that will be startling to contemplate. There has been a recent advance of fifteen cents a bushel on clover-seed, making the freight on a bushel of that product to New York one dollar. Why is this? Western clover seed is wanted in the Eastern market, and the advance in the market price there is added to the freight and pocketed by the railroad companies, thus robbing the Western farmers of their just profits. It is fair to presume that railroad companies were not carrying freight for less than they could afford to before the advance; and that the present high tariffs have been added simply because the freight agent decided "that the articles would bear it, and the Western farmers would stand it." It seems that this grasping avariciousness of railroad managers can only be checked by the strong arm of a National law, regulating freight upon all through lines of road. And there is no more fitting place for this great question to be considered, and measures adopted, to enlighten public sentiment upon this great wrong, and influence legislation to correct it, than this body, composed as it is of representative farmers from almost every portion of our State. It should not be approached in any spirit of hostility to the railroads, for they have rights which should be protected, but it should be considered in the light of fairness, justice, and equity. The evil can be remedied by a law of Congress, either establishing maximum rates for through lines, or by creating a National board of Con-

trol, with full power to regulate and fix such rates for transporting freight over the lines of all roads engaged in inter-State commerce, as will be just to the companies, and, at the same time, protect the rights of the people. Let this question be considered, and Congress appealed to for relief.

PATENT RIGHT LAWS.

The recent experience which the farmers of this State have had with Patent Right swindling, renders it proper for me to refer to this subject: The Patent Law now upon the statute books, as interpreted by the courts, making the innocent purchaser, or maker of any article or implement purchased or made in good faith for his own use, without any notice, or even knowledge of its being an infringement of a patent right, liable to be prosecuted for violating the United State Patent Laws, is an outrage upon common sense, a violation of every principle of justice and equity, and a disgrace to free Republican institutions.

For the past twenty years or more, the farmers of this State have been constructing and using upon their farms a cheap substitute for a farm gate, in the form of a sliding fence panel, without molestation, and with no knowledge that it had ever been patented. No one ever imagined that in using this "sliding gate," that he was liable to be prosecuted in the United States court, and be compelled to go fifty or one hundred miles from home to be tried, until they were called upon by the agent of Dale, Bagley & Root, of Ypsilanti, and notified that the said gate was patented by John C. Lee, of Ohio in 1865, and that they owned the right of this State. The royalty claimed and collected by this firm under threats of prosecution was five cents upon each acre in a man's farm. Farmers paid under protest, and all seemed to beging well with the firm, until Bro. Henry D. Platt, of Ypsilanti Grange, became satisfied that the patent under which royalty was being collected, had no legal existence; and advised the farmers to cease paying royalty, and form a Mutual Defense Association for the protection of each others interests. The association was formed, and Bro. Platt appointed agent, with power to employ counsel, and defend every suit commenced against farmers of this State for using this gate. The State Grange at its last session took action and fully endorsed the acts of the association, and appealed to the Subordinate Granges for material aid, and to Patrons everywhere, to resist payment and co-operate in mutual defense.

Twenty nine suits were commenced, and Messrs. Beaks & Cutchen, of Detroit, and E. P. Allen, of Ypsilanti, employed as counsel for the farmers. John C. Lee was found, and Ohio and other States searched for witnesses. It was found that a patent on this gate was issued to A. C. Teal, of Illinois, prior to the Lee patent, and as early as Dec. 1st, 1863. It was also evident that the Lee Patent was an infringement upon the Teal Patent. The prosecution then it appears, purchased the Teal Patent, and came into court, with supplemental bill, to include both patents in their case. This was denied by the court, and the test case under the Lee Patent argued, and dismissed withal the other case, on the ground that there was no "patentable difference between the Lee and the Teal Patents, and that the Lee was an infringement upon the Teal."

Two suits were then commenced on the Teal Patent, one against W. H. Randall, of Washtenaw County, and the other against Amos Redmore, of Tuscola County. Bro. Platt appeared with his counsel to defend both cases. After a little more than one year in court, attended with all the perplexities of litigation, the case was brought to a final hearing, and resulted in a decided victory for the farmers. The defence made but one point against the Teal Patent, and that was *prior use*, which was proved by a large number of witnesses, and to the entire satisfaction of the Court, its use dating back fourteen years before the Teal Patent was issued. The successful defense of these cases has demonstrated the necessity for organized effort, and thorough co-operation among farmers for their own protection. Bro. Platt says, "Had it not been for the Grange organization, I could have done nothing." Then let it be said to the credit and honor of this Organization that it has saved to the farmers of this State alone a sum estimated at more than half a million

dollars, if computed at five cents per acre upon the farms using the gate. But these unjust extortions do not stop here. More than two hundred suits have already commenced against persons in this State for using the Glenn & Hall clover hullers, which were bought in good faith, paid for in full, and the right to use guaranteed by the manufacturer. But now comes John C. Birdsell, claiming that these machines contained some principal or combination which infringed upon his patent previously obtained, and demanding a royalty of \$100 of every man who ever owned an interest in one of these machines. He also claims that his right to collect this royalty of *innocent parties* has been confirmed by the U. S. Circuit Court of the Northern District of Ohio. Patent right agents are also preambulating the State, looking after "barbed wire" fence, and every farmer who has been persuaded to buy a pound of this *barbarous* wire, and used it upon his farm, will be *barbed*, by these *barbarous* *tramps*, under the operations of a most *barbarous* law. It is said that 2,400 suits have already been commenced against the farmers in Iowa for using this wire. Agents States collecting a royalty of \$10 on drive wells, under threats of prosecution, and armed with a decree of the U. S. Court of Minnesota. No person is safe in purchasing or making any article or implement and using it, if he has not positive evidence that a like article was not used by his great grandfather, and that no alterations or improvements have been made to it since.

There is no question which will come before you that demands more prompt, positive, and determined action than this; and I recommend that a memorial be prepared and forwarded to our members in Congress from this State, calling their attention to this great wrong, and urging them to unite their efforts and use all honorable means to secure the necessary legislation to correct it. I also advise that blank petitions be prepared and sent out to the Subordinate Granges, to be circulated among the people for signatures, and forwarded to our members in Congress, asking that the patent laws be so amended as to protect the innocent purchaser in the use of any article or implement sold in the market, making the manufacturer and vendor alone responsible for infringements upon patent rights. Also, to so amend the law that a person who has made an article or implement for his own use, not knowing it to have been patented, but which proves to be an infringement, shall have the right to either pay the royalty or discontinue its use, as he may choose, and thereby escape prosecution.

THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

Identified as this institution is with the interests of education and agriculture, I cannot refrain from again calling your attention to the importance of using all laudable means through the influence of our Organization to popularize the College with the farmers of the State, and make it a school, where, not only our sons, but our daughters can obtain a thorough and practical education of a high order, and at a reasonable expense. That the failure of the Legislature to make the necessary appropriations for paying the professors reasonable salaries, enlarging the chemical laboratory, and providing further and better accommodations for young ladies, has resulted in serious injury to the best interests and very existence of the College, is demonstrated by the crowded and inconvenient situation of the students in the laboratory, and the small number of lady students in attendance.

Although to the literary course in the College are added "mechanics as applied to implements, agricultural chemistry, horticulture, and such practical applications of science as are especially useful to the farmers," yet our State Legislature has not been led to see the importance of making the farm connected with the College experimental rather than remunerative. The great science of agriculture in this country is but in its infancy. There are hidden mysteries and undeveloped principles in farming, which can only be brought to light by a thorough series of experiments in the field, which no individual or association of farmers can successfully prosecute.

It is an interesting fact connected

with the present state of agriculture of Europe that in those countries where the government does most to encourage practical and scientific farming, crops are more diversified, labor better economized, and the people more abundantly supplied with food of home production than in other countries where nature has done more for agriculture, and the government less. Sweden, for example, with a rigorous climate, poor soil, and but a small portion of the land capable of cultivation, produces enough not only to supply her own people with food, but has a surplus of cereals and other farm products for exportation. This can be attributed largely to her extensive and most perfect system of Agricultural Colleges, schools, model and experimental farms, and means employed for collecting and disseminating practical and scientific facts in agriculture.

Sweden has a Royal Agricultural Academy, with a model and experimental farm attached, five schools of Agricultural chemistry and physiology, two Superior Agricultural institutes, and twenty-seven farm schools, where theoretic, practical, and scientific agriculture are taught. In addition to all these is a Government Stock farm, where finely bred animals are raised and distributed among the farmers of the country, several model sheep farms, twelve model dairy farms, and three depots of horses. Seventeen "traveling enquirers," or professors of agriculture, are constantly employed by the government, among the farmers, collecting facts and giving instruction. The government recognizes the fact that "the earth is the source of all wealth, and labor develops it;" and the expenditure of so large a sum of money for the encouragement of her agriculture adds not only to the general prosperity, but proves to be a wise measure of financial policy for the government.

If poor Sweden can afford to spend so much for the encouragement of her agriculture, in schools and experimental farms, cannot the great agricultural State of Michigan afford to be liberal to our college, and sustain one farm for experimental purposes? Let this question be well considered, and such measures adopted as are necessary to produce practical results.

TENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES.

The work of taking the National Census will be commenced the coming spring, and the Subordinate Granges should be reminded of the importance of taking an active interest in this work, and render such assistance to the census takers as may be necessary to enable them to obtain full and reliable information upon all matters required. The statistics will show what progress our State has made in its agriculture during the last decade, and its present standing as compared with the other States of the Union. Every farmer should prepare, and hold in readiness for the marshal, a full and accurate statement of the acreage and amount of all crops raised the present year, also of all animals sold or slaughtered, and the number kept upon the farm. It is quite probable that the wool clip will not be shorn in time, but very accurate estimates can be made from the preceding clip. Patrons should co-operate everywhere to make the reports full, accurate, and valuable.

CO-OPERATION.

This arm of our Order seems to be in a prosperous condition. The State Agencies established in Detroit and Chicago, the two great commercial cities where most of our farm produce finds a ready market, are favorably located for the accommodation of our members. Their facilities for handling farm produce and filling orders, are full and complete; and all doing business with them can be assured of fair and honorable dealing. The Grange Co-operative stores in the State are generally prosperous, if I may judge from those which have reported to me. Where one has failed to meet the expectations of the Patrons, it has generally been caused by a want of confidence and support among the members of the Order. Every Subordinate Grange, which has not access to a co-operative store, should be provided with a purchasing fund, and a local Grange agent. Business should be encouraged by every Grange.

THE NATIONAL GRANGE.

The thirteenth session of the Nation-

al Grange was held in the city of Canandaigua, N. Y., closing its labors on the 28th day of November. Twenty-nine States were represented. This session is pronounced by those competent to judge, as among the best ever held. Much of the work done was thoroughly practical, and cannot fail to result in good to our great Fraternity.

The recent unwarranted advancements in "freight rates" by transportation companies, and the flagrant extortions of patent right agents made upon innocent purchasers, received due consideration, and the several State Granges requested to use all proper means which may be necessary, to influence legislation to correct these evils. Resolutions of a high and National character were adopted, setting forth the necessity of our National Organization, for the education, protection, and elevation of American farmers; and the members of the Order urged to take a more active and decisive interest in the politics of the country, and demand of the political parties a more just and equal representation in the law-making departments of the government. Your special attention is called to these important questions, trusting that you will take such action as the interests of agriculture seem to demand.

EDUCATION.

The subject of education was fully and ably discussed in the National Grange, and the Agricultural Colleges, experimental farms, schools of technology, and agricultural chemistry endorsed, and a liberal public policy recommended towards them. It was also the sense of the National Grange that the rudiments of practical agriculture be introduced and taught in the public schools, all of which I fully endorse and submit for your consideration.

The problem which has been so long and thoroughly discussed in the Subordinate and County Granges,— "How can the facilities for a higher education among farmers' sons and daughters be brought within the reach of every farm house," has been practically solved in this State by the establishment of Grange high schools in many of the Grange halls, where a thorough high school course can be taken by students residing at home, and at a mere nominal expense of tuition. The Lecturer of the National Grange in his recent report to that body says:

"In one county in Michigan I found several of these schools, held in special rooms built in connection with the Grange hall, handsomely furnished; receiving that higher education that the expense and difficulties of sending to distant cities and towns prevented the majority in the past from bestowing upon their young people. The influence of those schools upon our Order long since, twenty-one young men and women, above sixteen years, students in the Grange school on the first floor, at one time received the beautiful degree of our Order in the Grange hall above. Agricultural text books for all the free schools in the rural districts, to educate our children for the farm instead of from it, are being talked of, and will surely come in the near future."

The reports which come from these schools are most encouraging, and the question of their usefulness and practicability is established beyond the admission of a doubt. It is to be hoped and expected that the time is not distant when every Grange hall located in the rural districts will be not only a place where the cultivators of the soil will meet to discuss all questions relating to agriculture, education, civil rights and political economy, rejecting only those questions of a sectarian or partisan nature; but where the boys and girls will be educated in the higher branches of learning so necessary to qualify them for the duties and business of life, so they may adorn society and the profession of agriculture.

COUNTY GRANGES.

The valuable work which these organizations are accomplishing in the Order must endear them to every true Patron, and as they are now entitled to representation in the State Grange, they should be required to make annual reports to the Secretary of the State Grange during the month of September, giving the membership, condition and standing of the Grange, number of meetings held during the year, number of public meetings held under its auspices, work of the Lecturer, and general

condition of the Subordinate Granges under its jurisdiction. They should also report the name and address of the newly elected Master and Secretary, and a list of the same printed with the list of the Subordinate Granges.

BY-LAWS OF THE STATE GRANGE.

The wants of our Order have outgrown our By-Laws, and a thorough revision is needed. The form of By-Laws recommended for Subordinate Granges also need amending, so as to make them conform to existing laws.

DORMANT GRANGES.

It was a misfortune to the Order that so many Subordinate Granges should have been organized, and left without further instructions or encouragements, before the real objects of the Organization were well understood. That so many have ceased to work is but the result of hasty and unwise organization and limited instructions. That so large a proportion of those organized have lived and prospered, and are now meeting in their own halls and increasing their membership, fully demonstrates the correctness of our principles, and the necessity and vitality of our Organization. Many of the Granges that have ceased to work still retain their charters, and can be again put in working order if the necessary means are employed; but there is little use in attempting to resurrect a *dead* Grange. Better to organize anew, or save all that is valuable from the membership to the living ones. One strong, active Grange is worth more to the Order than many weak ones. One Grange in a township is generally enough, and in most cases a greater number would be damaging to the interests of the Order. The strength and permanency of our Organization does not depend so much upon the number of Granges organized or set to work, as upon the stability and good work of those now in good working order, and in good standing with the State Grange. There is a great demand for good lecturers in the field, and they should be supplied by the State and County Granges. The work of reviving dormant Granges should be placed in the hands of the County and District Granges, where organized; and where necessary, the strong arm of the State Grange should be extended and render all necessary aid.

GRANGE VISITOR.

There is no occasion for me to call your attention to the value and usefulness of the GRANGE VISITOR. Its appreciation by our members is demonstrated by the success which has attended its publication, and the widespread circulation it has attained. It should be enlarged as fast as its financial standing will justify.

Many of the Subordinate Granges appropriated from the Grange Treasury a sufficient amount of money to place the GRANGE VISITOR in every family connected with the Grange, free of cost to the family, and find the investment a paying one. Let this method for encouraging its circulation be generally adopted, and the question will be no longer asked, "How can the members of the Grange be kept interested in its work?"

THE AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT AT WASHINGTON.

It is most gratifying to me to be able to announce to you with confidence, that the experiments which have been prosecuted by the present Commissioner of Agriculture, in manufacturing sugar from Sorghum Sugar Cane, and other saccharine plants, have been rewarded with success, and the interesting fact developed that sugar can be manufactured from the common sorghum, which grows so prolifically in our State, of as good a quality, and at as great a profit, as from the best sugar cane of Louisiana, thus creating a new industry for the farmers of the whole country and which must add not only to the material interests of the farmers, but to the wealth of the nation and the general prosperity of the people. Congress should be petitioned for an increased appropriation for this department, and the question of making it a Department of the Government, with its Commissioner a member of the Cabinet, should be pressed with renewed energy.

The foregoing are among the many important questions which will demand your attention. May your deliberations be harmonious, your conclusions wise, and the interests of agriculture and our Organization promoted.

J. J. WOODMAN.