

# THE GRANGE VISITOR

ISSUED SEMI-MONTHLY,

BY ORDER OF THE

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



## MICHIGAN STATE GRANGE.

[Kalamazoo Publishing Co.'s Print.]

VOL. 6, - No. 24. }  
WHOLE No. 104 }

SCHOOLCRAFT, DECEMBER 15th, 1880.

{ YOUR SUBSCRIPTION  
will Expire with No.

Entered at the Post Office at Schoolcraft as Second Class matter.

### THE GRANGE VISITOR,

Is Published on the First and Fifteenth of every Month  
AT FIFTY CENTS PER ANNUM,  
Invariably in Advance.

J. T. COBB, Editor and Manager.  
To whom all communications should be addressed, at Schoolcraft, Mich.  
Remittances should be by Registered Letter, Money Order or Draft.

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#### Proper Subjects for Discussion.

The long winter evenings are about being initiated for the seasons of 1880-81, and all good Patrons and Matrons of Subordinate Granges are naturally perplexed as how to put in best the precious time at regular or special meetings. In order to help them out of the dilemma, we would suggest to their consideration the following subjects of discussion, which we clip from the *Canadian Farmer*. The questions presented are pertinent and timely, and if properly and prudently ventilated they will eliminate information that will be like "bread cast upon the waters, to return after many days." And more, an intelligent discussion of such questions by the prominent and learned members in the Order will go a great way in advancing the educational features of the Grange. Read carefully, then cut out and preserve as a memoranda.

How shall we best advance the interest of our young people in farming? Is there need for colleges devoted exclusively to agricultural training? Is the burden of taxation equally borne by all branches of business—in proportion to profit—or does the farmer bear an undue proportion? Would it not be more profitable for farmers to cultivate less acres and what they do, more thoroughly? Which is the most successful method of sowing—broadcast or drilling? Would sowing be a more advantageous method of summer-feeding stock than pasturing?

#### Secretary J. T. Cobb's Report for 1880 to the State Grange.

##### Worthy Master and Patrons:

In coming again before the representatives of the Subordinate Granges of Michigan and our visiting Brothers and Sisters of the Order, at this eighth session of this body, to render an account of our stewardship, it is our purpose to confine ourselves mainly to a statement of the business committed to our care by the laws of the Order and its Executive officers. As much of its financial management is under the direction of your Secretary, we will give it our first attention.

For its maintenance and support the Michigan State Grange has few sources of revenue. The first and only one known to the Order, are the fees and dues from Subordinate Granges, which it is required shall be paid quarterly to the Secretary of the State Grange. The second is so meagre as hardly to deserve mention, it being a fee of \$3, which by law and usage finds its way into the treasury of the State Grange for each Pomona Grange organized in the State. The third source of revenue comes from the sale of such supplies as are needed to carry on the business of a Subordinate Grange, and which for the sake of convenience we keep in our office and forward by mail or express on all cash orders. From this source we have been able annually to pay over a small sum to the State Treasurer.

The fourth source of revenue,—the publication of the GRANGE VISITOR,—was not instituted and has never been called on as a revenue measure. Though first ordered published by the Executive Committee to provide a means of communication between the State and Subordinate Granges, and relieve to some extent the Master's office from correspondence, and the Executive Committee from the expense of issuing circulars from time to time, yet we find the GRANGE VISITOR has each year come forward with its little balance to add to the general fund.

The fees and dues collected for the fiscal year 1880, amount to \$5,063 00. Amount received for the organization of four Pomona Granges was 12 00. The orders for supplies sold during the year number 637, for which we received \$553 32. Amount paid for supplies 414 02. Leaving a profit balance of 139 30.

For this total amount of \$5184 30 I hold the receipts of Treasurer Brown.

#### THE GRANGE VISITOR

now occupies an important place in the great work of the Order, as indicated by the growth and extent of its circulation. Our receipts for the fiscal year 1880, were:

From subscriptions.....	\$2,389 56
From advertising.....	403 74
Total receipts.....	\$2,793 30

#### The expense attending its publication was:

For the 24 editions.....	\$2,077 82
" wrapping paper.....	16 11
" mailing machine.....	15 50
" lists.....	35 00
" " books.....	6 00
" traveling and incidental expenses.....	50 61
" freight and drayage.....	17 26
" postage.....	227 50
" postage.....	166 20
Total cost.....	\$2,612 00
Leaving a credit balance of.....	\$181 30

This is a much better showing than we expected. The enormous advance in paper after it had been determined by the Executive Committee to enlarge the VISITOR fifty per cent, threatened to more than absorb the few hundred dollars of profit that had been saved the previous year, and nothing but the efforts of its friends in securing about 1,500 new subscribers to its list, saved it from becoming a tax upon the treasury of the State Grange.

The advanced price of paper has not been maintained, and other things being only equal, the VISITOR, if continued in size, frequency of issue and make up, as at present, should another year leave a much larger balance in the treasury.

Those of you who are familiar with the history of the VISITOR, will remember its unpretending size and meager subscription list at the end of its first volume, although we had a membership in the State at that time of several thousand more than we now have.

Unlike the Order, it was established to serve. Its growth has been gradual, each year showing a positive increase of subscribers, until, as we look back over these years of its history, it seems

to have passed from that uncertain condition of experiment that characterizes every new venture, to a state of established permanency.

From time to time it has taken on greater size and been a little more pretentious in appearance, until its claim to a respectable standing is now generally recognized, and we believe it is second to no other of the class to which it belongs, in its make up and general appearance.

In its management we have endeavored to keep within the constitutional restrictions of the Order when discussing questions about which among our readers, an honest difference of opinion exists. How well we have succeeded in this we must leave for others to determine.

That it serves a valuable purpose in maintaining the integrity of the Order, and exerts a vitalizing influence among the members wherever freely circulated, we confidently believe. The narrow views of the objects of the Order at first entertained by a large proportion of its membership, in common with the general public, can be enlarged in no other way so effectually as by continual reading of a Grange paper that claims for the farmer equal chances in the field of political preference, and persistently labors for the restoration of our power and influence in the affairs of government, to the end that our material interests now cramped and subject to unjust and capricious exactions may be secured for ourselves and those who follow our vocation in the years to come. The truisms of our Declaration of Purposes must be persistently pressed upon the attention of Patrons, and of farmers outside the gate so far as they can be reached.

The sphere of usefulness and benefit of such a paper is not confined to the Order. Whatever of benefit comes to us as Patrons, in some degree comes to our fellow farmers, by every effort of the Grange to improve the Order; and we note with satisfaction that the support from outside, is fully keeping pace with the increase from our own membership. The influence of a journal devoted to any special work is so well understood, that we have a right to expect every earnest Patron will make some effort to extend the circulation of the VISITOR beyond the confines of the Order. With that duty faithfully performed, the subscription list of the VISITOR would double within three months, and the objects sought to be attained by Patrons would be sooner secured.

We have referred to the receipts of our office from various sources, and as the report of the Executive Committee will cover all matters relating to disbursements, we see no occasion to recite what was on their report to be stated.

With the approval of the Worthy Master, who kindly consented to provide for and see to the make-up of the VISITOR during our absence, we left early in March to carry into effect a long cherished purpose of visiting the Golden State of the Pacific coast.

Returning early in May we resumed our work for the Order. Some account of our ramblings appeared from time to time in the VISITOR, though to this time we have failed to complete and publish all our record of what we made note of at the time. Other matters nearer home have so engaged our attention that we have nearly lost sight of all those new made friends and pleasant scenes that for the time engaged our attention.

At an informal meeting of the Executive Committee at the Agricultural College in June last, it was determined to accept an invitation from the Master of Ingham County Grange to hold the annual State Picnic on the grounds of the Michigan Central Agricultural Society near the city of Lansing, August 12, and we were directed to make arrangements for special rates over the several railroads touching Lansing. This work was done, and although the meeting was a pronounced success in every particular, yet we have reason to believe a thousand more people would have attended if the railroads could have furnished transportation to all those desiring to go.

The Patrons of Ingham County are deserving of great credit for their efforts to entertain friends from a distance.

These annual gatherings of Patrons from distant parts of the State into the Grange, serve to bring together for consultation and recreation large numbers of the Order, and are of such manifest advantage that we look upon annual State picnic meetings as an established institution.

The passenger agents of the several

railroads of the State no longer hesitate to make the necessary arrangements for our accommodation, so far as they are and at the uniform rate of two cents per mile each way, whenever we have occasion to ask for such arrangements.

#### PLASTER.

The plaster interest, which at each returning session has been presented as a question for discussion, offers at this time a new feature.

From Day & Taylor we learn that the manufacturers of plaster have agreed to fix the price at the uniform rate of two cents per track at Grand Rapids. This is the maximum price agreed upon between the Executive Committee and Messrs. Day & Taylor, and while it is not at all exorbitant, is probably fairly remunerative to the manufacturers. By the unwise course adopted and persisted in by the manufacturers for several years, the farmers of the State have mainly bought plaster at or below cost. The present agreement indicates that the Michigan plaster war has ended. It has been a prolonged fight. And to that loyalty to principle, fair dealing, and unflinching tenacity of Bros. Day & Taylor are the Patrons of Michigan indebted for this practical vindication of the position taken by them five years ago when the plaster association undertook to compel the intervention of an agent between themselves and the consumer. Messrs. Day & Taylor have at great expense established their business with facilities second to no other manufacturers in the State, and prepared to supply Patrons with pure finely ground plaster. That the Patrons who have stood by this firm through these years will continue both as a matter of duty and interest to give them their patronage, we cannot doubt.

#### CONDITION OF THE ORDER.

The Worthy Master and State Lecturer have been in the field, and mingled with the members of the Order throughout the State, and their reports to you, will give more exact information of the condition of the Order than we are able to give from our official standpoint.

That we have not lost ground within the year every department of our business would seem to indicate. Of fees and dues we have received \$118.47 more than for the year 1879, and of supplies, we have sold more than twice the amount of the previous year. This was partly owing to the completeness of the collection published with the revised By-Laws of the last State Grange which have found a very ready sale, and to the demand for the sixth or revised edition of the Ritual. All goods such as supplies have been in demand. These facts, taken in connection with the growth of the VISITOR—all indications of the growth of the Order—clearly point in one direction and we assume that the real working force has lost none of its faith and none of its zeal in the good work.

We have shown a small increase of receipts during the year to the treasury of the State Grange, and, as the report of the Executive Committee will show, a larger cash balance at the close of the fiscal year than for the previous year.

But with this encouraging fact before us, another fact not so flattering is often pressed upon our attention.

The demand for some help—something to stimulate the sluggish and dormant members of inactive and passive Granges, that while not dead, have little vitality, and really must have outside aid to keep them from falling into a condition of decay that will end in death—this demand comes to us so often, and with such earnestness, that we continually feel the importance of some more effective lecture system. We know that an empty treasury is a reflection upon the business management of any organization, and is a condition that should not be permitted, yet we believe no better security for its future healthy condition can be taken, than by a judicious use of some of the surplus funds on hand in the payment of competent lecturers for labor among the subordinate Granges of the State. Not in searching the unwritten work of the Order, but in lectures in Grange halls and open to the public, upon the subject of transportation, the inefficiency and expensiveness of our judicial system, and such other questions as by our Declaration of Purposes clearly come within the scope of the declared objects of this organization.

Through some legislative committee, or otherwise, before the close of this session, we shall probably ask of the representatives of the people who will soon occupy these halls, for some legislation in the interest of those we represent.

Can we not answer this demand for aid, strengthen the Order and increase its membership, maintain its financial soundness and make our influence felt, not only among the people, but by our law makers, by inaugurating some lecture system that shall not be more expensive than the State Grange treasury can safely carry?

This organization of farmers has come to be recognized, not only by its own members, who are supposed to be best understood its objects, but also by the press of the country, by other organizations of people, and by the agricultural department of this great country, as the leading spirit in the march of agricultural progress which is bringing the farmers of our land to a higher social and educational condition, and we must not rest satisfied with the routine work of regular meetings, but persist in an aggressive policy, not upon the rights of other classes, but for the recovery of our own.

It is no longer a question whether we are in earnest or not; that point has been settled. The State Lecturer has, no doubt, done what he could, but the field is large, and demands for its successful cultivation more laborers, to the end that the good seed already sown may everywhere bear fruit. No one man, however capable and faithful, can meet all the demands upon him, or do justice to the work.

We venture to submit these thoughts for your consideration, relying on that care and caution which has always characterized this body and its Executive Committee, for a safe disposition of the suggestions offered.

Two years ago, before this Capitol—the pride of our State—had received the finishing stroke of the architect, this State Grange of Michigan were in possession of this Hall, by invitation of the State officers having in charge this property of the State. These years have come and gone, as others will come and go; and to us who have devoted our time and our best energies to the work of the Order, no fact is more obviously true than this: that the spirit of progress and improvement which characterized this nineteenth century has permeated the agricultural class of this country, and even now lends brightness to the horizon of our Nation's future life. But hopeful as we are, and confident of ultimate success, we think we see in the near future a mighty struggle between the people on the one hand, and on the other, the giant corporations that have in a score of years grown to such colossal size and strength, as to threaten, by their insidious arts, venal practices, and audacious claims, to override and trample upon the rights of the people, ruthlessly appropriate the results of their labor, and give direction to the legislative departments of both the State and the National governments.

There is much work to do, and the self-assumed responsibility of leading in this work belongs to the Order of Patrons of Husbandry. It is gratifying to know that we have attracted to our aid commercial and other influences that recognize the capricious tyranny of unrestrained corporations. With such vast interests at stake, and such a large proportion of our people interested, we believe that organized effort will educate the people to such an understanding of the situation, that, at no distant day, we shall see the ripe fruits of that Declaration of Purposes which proclaimed to the world that "We mutually resolve to labor for the good of our Order, our country, and mankind."

And now, brother and sister Patrons, present or absent—not unmindful of the many evidences of your confidence and good will, and confidently believing that your devotion to the objects of the Order will successfully provide for carrying on its legitimate work—we surrender to you, for your disposal, the official responsibilities assumed by us at your command, and with no abatement of our interest in and love for this grand organization, which has undertaken so much for the American farmer with your permission we shall return again to the less exacting labors of our own private affairs.

J. T. COBB.

LOTS of people are ready to rob Peter to pay Paul, but they get tired when their job is half done: they neglect to pay Paul.

A WOMAN should never accept a lover without the consent of her heart, nor a husband without the consent of her judgment.

Master's Department

J. J. WOODMAN, PAW PAW

Master J. J. Woodman's Address before the State Grange.

Members of the Michigan State Grange, and Patrons of Michigan.

"Time flies," the years come and go, and leave their impress on our brows in deeper wrinkles and more silvery locks. But eight short years have passed since our Order came into life in this State...

This State Grange was organized April 15, 1873, with twenty Subordinate Granges, and a membership of less than 500, and at the time of the first annual meeting, held in the village of Kalamazoo, in January, 1874, there were 216 Granges...

Within the past year, I have received many letters from members of the Order, in which the writers complain of irregularities and improprieties in their respective Granges. One cause of the want of success and harmony in some of the Granges, comes from the fact that sufficient caution and care were not exercised in the admission of the first membership...

There was another class of persons who come into the Grange, who were real farmers, who imagined that to realize great pecuniary advantage it would only be necessary to take the obligation of a Patron, and receive the degrees. There is another class, comprising a great majority of the members of the Order, who, feeling the absolute necessity of organization and co-operation on the part of the farmers...

Worthy Master Brown took in the whole situation, and the above was a correct statement of the condition of the Order when I was called to the executive office.

The Granges were generally without a correct knowledge of the real purposes of the Order, or discipline in the work of the manual; and many of them were composed of an incongruous element, which could never be brought into harmony. To get members seemed to be their paramount object; and as there was no well defined rules establishing the jurisdiction of Granges, the law fixing the initiatory fees of members was disregarded, and bidding for members at very low fees was resorted to for the purpose of still swelling the number of names upon the roll book.

The Granges maintained and the laws and rules of the Order obeyed. I therefore at once established the jurisdiction of the Granges, counseled strict obedience to all laws and usages of the Order, recommended the consolidation of all weak and superfluous Granges into strong and active organizations, the building of Grange halls, organization of County and District Granges, circulation of Grange and agricultural papers, and employing efficient Lecturers for public and private meetings.

ing. I have also maintained, but as a question, not only of sound public policy but of justice and equity, the State should provide for the education of men and women for the industrial pursuits as well as for professional life.

I have urged with earnestness that Patrons should make themselves thoroughly acquainted with business, the laws of trade, and the financial operations of the speculative world; and as far as practicable co-operate for their mutual advantage, and protection from the wily tricks of traveling agents and impostors; to cultivate friendly relations with all honorable business men; to encourage home production and home manufactures; to bring producers and consumers, farmers and manufacturers into the most direct and friendly relations possible; to systematize all of the operations of the farm, and do business in a business way, discountenancing the credit system, the mortgage system, the fashion system, and every other system that leads to prodigality and bankruptcy.

In politics, I have ever maintained, that the harmony, usefulness and perpetuity of our organization can only be preserved, by adhering strictly to the principles enunciated in our Declaration of Purposes; especially in prohibiting the discussion of all partisan political questions in the Grange. And yet, every Patron should be an active, working, thinking politician, "doing all in his power legitimately, to influence for good the nation on any political party to which he belongs," attending the primary meetings and nominating conventions, and striving to secure the nomination to office of competent, faithful and honest men who will unflinchingly stand by our industrial interests, and who have carried out the principle, that the office should seek the man, and not the man the office.

STATE LEGISLATION.

The last Legislature of our State was memorialized by the State Grange, and petitioned by Subordinate Granges, for certain reforms in State laws, which without question, the interests of the State and the people demanded, but which did not come into effect, by a majority of the members of that body. Two years have passed, the records of legislators scanned, and either endorsed or condemned, and another election of representatives taken place. It seems but proper that we should renew our requests, and show by our faith and our acts that we are in earnest in our demand that the people be favored, by a noble undertaking is not yet to be written upon our banner.

I am of the opinion that the Order in this State, has sufficient influence, if properly directed, to secure wholesome reforms in legislation. Legislators are but servants of the people, exercising only delegate power, and responsible to the people for every act. As a rule they are high minded, honorable men, representing every interest, ambitious to legislate as to promote the general welfare, and will obey the wishes of their constituents if made known to them.

Our Subordinate Granges, composed of men and women of the very best element of society, are located in almost every neighborhood in the State, and their representatives are in this body. It only remains for us to recommend, point the way, and then show our faith by our works, to reach the great mass of our citizens, and enable them to speak by petitions to the Legislature of our State, and make their wants known, and their influence felt.

Two years ago we declared that the law allowing ten per cent. interest on money, under special contract should be repealed, and a penalty inflicted for exacting or taking more than legal interest, and that the attorney fee, and cost of foreclosing mortgages on real estate, be limited within the bounds of equity and reason, so as to give the unfortunate mortgagor some chance to save a small pittance, at least, of the hard earnings of a lifetime, from the avariciousness of men.

The Patrons of the State of New York, petitioned the last Legislature of that State for a reduction of the legal rate of interest to six per cent. and it was done. May we not then with confidence ask our Legislature to limit the rate to seven per cent. with restrictions from taking more.

TAXATION OF PERSONAL PROPERTY.

The fact that real estate bears an undue burden of taxation, while a very large portion of the personal property of the State pays no taxes whatever, was sufficient reason for asking the last Legislature to provide for a more just and equal assessment and taxation of all classes of personal property, including money and securities. As no definite action was taken to remedy the evil, the burden still exists, and the same reason for renewing the demand. Should it not be done?

STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

This is our institution, established to meet the requirements of a progressive agriculture. The State Grange, as well as many of the Subordinate Granges, have taken a deep interest in it from the first. We found it giving to its students, in a fuller and more systematic way, that education which it is part of

the work of the Grange to make general among all its members. Some worthy members of our Order have even ventured the opinion that the influence of a College upon the education is limited, compared with the Grange, without reflecting that the College is for the young, and gives them a thorough literary course of training, in which science is applied direct to practical agriculture. In addition to all this, experiments are made, new problems solved, hidden truths brought to light, and much other valuable and necessary work is being done, which no farmer, however intelligent, or organization of farmers, can do. Such is the diffusive nature of education, and such is its increased power when it is systematic, thorough, and comprehensive, that it is difficult to make such comparisons, both means of education are needed, and they serve to aid and supplement each other. Many graduates and students of the College are active members of our organization in this State, thus being doubly educated to love the farm, and the independent and honorable calling of the farmer.

It is most gratifying to know that at least one half of the graduates of the College engage in farming as their chosen avocation, and those that go into other employments than agriculture carry with them a familiarity and sympathy with farming interests which they would not have had under a different system of education. The general good which controls the whole educational system of colleges and universities in this country is literary and professional, rather than practical. It assumes that the students are to be physicians, lawyers, editors, teachers, clergymen, etc.; and as these professions are overcrowded, and but few of the graduates succeed in them, when they engage in an active business life begins, the want of a more practical education is keenly felt. Our Agricultural College is intended to supply this long-felt want, and to qualify its graduates for the industrial pursuits, as well as the professional. Valuable improvements are being made upon the farm, the stock, and the orchards. The botanical and horticultural departments have been put in possession of a hall for its special use. The number of students has largely increased; and the farmers' institutes, held under the auspices of the College, are highly appreciated by the farmers of the State, and are doing much to make the institution more widely and better known. The College is indeed having a healthy and steady growth, and is well worthy the support we give it.

But as the State Grange has a standing committee, on the College, which, together with the officers of the State Grange, by invitation of the State Board of Agriculture, participated in the pleasant gathering at the college, which officers of the State Agricultural Society, for present condition, wants, and prospects of the College, I will refer you to the report of that committee. But I cannot close this reference to the College, without calling your attention to the fact, that while ample provisions are made by the State for the accommodation of ladies at our State University, yet they are practically excluded from the College for want of suitable accommodations. Our sons and daughters are reared and educated together in the family, the common school, High school, University, and denominational institutions everywhere, and can anyone give a valid reason why provisions should not be made for farmers' daughters at the Agricultural College, as well as for their sons? This question demands your serious attention, and as the whole matter rests with our State Legislature, that body must be appealed to, if a change is desired.

GRANGE VISITOR.

The value of this paper to our Order cannot be overestimated. It has more than met the expectations of its originators and supporters; and the only question in relation to it seems to be, what can be done to further extend its usefulness. My convictions are, that its publication should be continued as a semi-monthly, under its present management; and that it be enlarged whenever its financial condition will warrant it, without increasing the price of subscription.

NATIONAL GRANGE.

A very important and interesting session of the National Grange was recently held in the City of Washington, the birthplace of our Order, and the home of most of its founders. The delegates from thirty-one States—more than half the States ever represented at a former session at that body—and a large number of visiting members were most cordially and appropriately welcomed by the founders of the Order. The able and interesting address of welcome by Bro. Saunders, the first Master of the National Grange, as well as the cheering and happy responses of Bro. Dardoe, and the remarks of Bro. J. R. Thompson in behalf of the founders will be read with deep interest by Patrons everywhere.

The members devoted their time and energies to the business of the session, with a directness and close application, seldom, if ever, excelled in like bodies, and the deliberations of the session were intensely interesting, and sometimes animated, yet, after full and fair discussion, harmonious and unanimous action was reached on nearly all impor-

tant questions. I herewith submit the reports of the Committees on "Transportation and Commercial Relations," "Agriculture," "Good of the Order," and "Dormant Granges," and let that they be referred to the appropriate committees for their consideration and disposition.

But one amendment to the Constitution was referred to the State Granges for ratification, and that is herewith submitted for your action. The following resolutions contain a summary of the final action of the National Grange upon the several questions therein named:

"Resolved, That the National Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry most respectfully, yet earnestly request of Congress—

"1st, That the Commissioner of Agriculture be made the Secretary of Agriculture, and a member of the President's cabinet, with the same salary as Secretaries of other departments, and that this department be sustained and encouraged by appropriations commensurate with its importance.

"2d, The enactment of a general railroad law, prohibiting all discrimination in favor of or against any class, locality, or interest in the transportation of passengers or freight; also prohibiting excessive or exorbitant rates.

"3d, Such revision of the patent laws as shall effectually protect the innocent purchaser of a patented article, or implement, and make the manufacturer or vendor alone responsible for violations of law.

"4th, The immediate enactment of a graduated income tax, to the end that all wealth may bear its just and equal proportion of the expenses of government, and that productive industry be so far relieved from the burdens of taxation as shall be consistent with strict justice to all.

"Resolved, That we will hold each Senator and Representative in Congress responsible for his action upon the subject matter herein set forth, and we pledge ourselves most cordially, and earnestly, to invite every Patron and every farmer in all our country to unite with us, to use our whole influence, both by word and ballot, wholly regardless of party ties, political associations, or personal connections, to carry out the spirit of the foregoing resolutions."

Blank petitions will be prepared and forwarded to the Secretary of the State Grange, to be by him transmitted to the Subordinate Granges, with instructions, that they be generally circulated for signers, and then forward to the member of Congress representing the district in which the petitioners reside. There is scarcely an individual in any community who will not gladly sign a petition to regulate inter-State commerce by a National law, and to protect the interests of our farmers, and to protect them from unjust prosecution and extortions; and if we desire practical results from our petitions, we must be prompt and thorough in the work of obtaining signatures, and in forwarding them.

I recommend that every Subordinate Grange in the State hold open meeting for the discussion of all questions of State or National policy on which legislation is asked by either the State or National Grange; and to appoint active canvassers, to circulate the several petitions for endorsers, through the entire jurisdiction of the Grange.

SUBORDINATE GRANGES, AND GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS.

For my views upon the general work which is needed to build up our Order and make it stronger and more useful, I refer you to the questions treated in my communication to the National Grange, under the heads of "Subordinate Granges," "Agricultural Department and Governmental Aid to Agriculture," "Patent Rights," "Transportation," and in the concluding remarks, which are herewith submitted.

The system of providing special lectures by the State Grange, inaugurated some years ago, has proved very successful, putting men and women of ability into the lecture field, and extending their usefulness beyond the sphere of their local Granges. This branch of our lecture service should be more widely extended. The results of the work of the State Lecturer among the weak and dormant Granges, the past year, has proved most satisfactory, and should be continued. The series of lectures delivered in this State by Bro. Armstrong, Master of the New York State Grange, were highly appreciated by those who had the pleasure of listening to them; and have resulted in great good.

Our annual State re-union of Patrons, held in this city, I am told, was a grand success; and the address of Worthy Master Bingham, of Ohio State Grange, able and practical. The benefits which must accrue from this interchange of public lecturers by the State Granges should not be lost sight of. From the reports that have been made to me by the special lecturers, more than two hundred and fifty Grange lectures have been delivered in the State during the year, exclusive of those delivered by the Lecturers of the County and Subordinate Granges—one hundred and five of which were delivered by the State Lecturer. And yet our members are not satisfied. They "hunger and thirst" for information upon everything which relates to the interests of Agriculture and the work of our Organization. They must have more Grange and Agricultural papers, more lectures upon subjects relating to the

interests of farmers; and they must not be disappointed.

CONCLUSION.

With this session my third term of office expires, and as I have heretofore intimated, cannot be a candidate for reelection. For six years I have devoted most of my time and energies to the work of the Order, and with what results, others must judge. I have endeavored to do my whole duty faithfully and impartially, and have the satisfaction of knowing that I am not turning over to my successor a dead, dying, or bankrupt institution. I believe the Order in this State to be in a healthy and prosperous condition, and its future full of encouragement.

In closing my official labors as Master of the State Grange, it seems but proper that I should give a summary of some of the results of our efforts as an organization.

When we organized, many of our members were isolated, and unsocial, each striving for himself, against the superior shrewdness, tact and deceptions of those who live and grow rich upon the labor of others. That isolation has been to a great extent broken up, and the families of farmers know and visit each other, and meet for social recreation and mutual improvement in the family circles, the Subordinate Granges and socials, grove meetings and neighborhood picnics, the "Harvest Feasts," the County Grange, County pic-nics and mass meetings; and in the State Grange, and annual State reunions. All are members of one great brotherhood, bound together by ties of fraternity. All are seeking each other's good, and each other's interests, all inspired by the same motives, striving for the same objects and reaping the same benefits.

Although the financial benefits accruing to farmers from the Grange are among the least in importance, yet they should not be overlooked.

We found that land plaster was being sold for \$4.00 per ton at the mills, and a combination of all the manufacturers and dealers prevented any reduction in price, or arrangement by which farmers living at a distance from the mills could deal directly with the manufacturers, and thereby save the commission of agents. This state of affairs resulted in the building of the Grange Plaster Mill, now owned and operated by Bros. Day & Taylor. As the combination was organized for a period of five years, it is fair to assume that the price of plaster would have been kept at the combination price—\$4.00 per ton—up to this time, had not the Grange mill have been built.

There has been sold during the last five years by the Grand River Valley companies, including the Grange mill, about 194,000 tons, at a saving below the combination price of \$384,000, and by other companies doing business in the State about 50,000 tons additional, making a saving in the aggregate to the farmers of this State in five years on plaster alone, of nearly \$500,000.

In 1872, and before the organization of the farmers in this State, Congress reduced the tariff on wool, which so encouraged the importation of foreign wools that the price went down from 60 to 25 cents per pound. By the united action of the Order in this, and other wool growing States, Congress was induced to restore the tariff in 1874, and the same influence has, without doubt, on two occasions prevented the passage of a bill for its subsequent reduction. Hence, all that farmers have realized above twenty-five cents a pound for their wool since the restoration of the tariff, can be set to the credit of our organization.

The sliding gate suit, which was so successfully defended in the United States Court, through our organized influence, saved not less than half a million dollars to the farmers of this State for the royalty alone, which would have been collected of every person who ever used a sliding gate.

The numerous Grange co-operative stores located in different portions of the State, some of which are doing a retail business of nearly \$100,000 annually, are saving largely to those who patronize them. Add to all these, the increased knowledge of business which farmers have acquired through the influence of the Grange—enabling them to buy and sell more judiciously, and the employment of bonded agents to sell farm produce and fill orders for Patrons; and some idea can be formed of the financial work and benefits resulting from our organization.

Who can look over our beautiful State and witness the improvements upon the farms, improved habits of farming, increased productiveness of the soil, and beautiful homes, which have been made within the last few years through the direct influence of the Grange, and say that it is an organization of no value to the farmers? Who can witness the change which has taken place in the social and business habits of farmers, their increasing want of agricultural papers, and their growing inclination to read, think, understand and act for themselves in all business transactions, and not admit that the Grange is doing a noble work?

The Grange has accomplished much in systematizing the labor of the farm and the household, thereby lightening the burden of labor, and making the daily duties of life something more than a routine. It is also cultivating a love for the beautiful, a desire for knowledge and increasing the educational advantages for farmers' children. By respecting

themselves, farmers are being respected, and the influence of our Order upon the politics of the country, is bringing farmers to the front, for positions of honor and trust. The work goes bravely on, but our ranks are not as full as they should be. Every person of good moral character, of suitable age, who is engaged in agricultural pursuits, should belong to the Grange. Then indeed would our Order have a power for good which would not only be acknowledged but felt.

For what has been accomplished, I claim but little of the honors to myself. I have been but your servant, executing the laws which you have made, and performing the duties which you have placed upon me. In my labors I have been constantly and faithfully aided by the wise counsel, and self-sacrificing devotion to the Order, of the able Executive Committee, Secretary and Lecturers of the State Grange. Perfect harmony has ever pervaded our councils, and the most friendly and fraternal relations existed among us. And last, but not least, I have been aided, encouraged and strengthened in my work, by the cordial and fraternal greetings of Patrons wherever I have been, and expressions of satisfaction and confidence that I have heard on every hand.

In retiring from the Master's office, I do not wish it to be understood that I am retiring from the work of the Order in this State, or in any way severing that friendship, and the fraternal ties which have been formed with the thousands of noble men and women all over the State, who have upheld my hands and cheered me on in my fraternal work. I shall ever bear them in kind remembrance, and continue to labor with them in building up our noble Order and elevating our class.

If the Officers and Executive Committee of the State Grange have counseled and directed wisely, you, Patrons of Michigan, have acted nobly, and performed well your part.

This is as it should be, for this Order is yours, instituted for your benefit, and will be what you make it. The officers whom you elect, are your servants, and instruments in your hands for accomplishing your purposes. They can do nothing without your aid; and I ask you to give the same support and encouragement to my successor, and the other officers of your choice, that you have given to me; and that the work so well begun, will be carried forward to grander results and more enduring good. J. J. WOODMAN.

**The Sand Blast.**

Among the wonderful and useful inventions of the times is the common sand-blast. Suppose you desire a piece of marble for a grave-stone. You cover the stone with a sheet of wax no thicker than a wafer; then you cut in the wax the name, date, etc., leaving the marble exposed. Now pass it under the blast, and the sand will cut it away. Remove the wax, and you have the raised letters. Take a piece of French plate-glass, say two feet by six, cover it with fine lace, and pass it under the blast, and not a thread of the lace will be injured, but the sand will cut deep into the glass wherever it is not covered by the lace. Now remove the lace, and you have every delicate and beautiful figure raised upon the glass. In this way beautiful figures of all kinds are cut in glass at a small expense. The workmen can hold their hands under the blast without harm, even when it is rapidly cutting away the hardest glass, iron, or stone, but they must look out for finger nails, for they will be whittled off right hastily. If they put on steel thimbles to protect the nails, it will do little good, for the sand will soon whittle them away; but if they wrap a piece of soft cotton around them they are safe. You will at once see the philosophy of it. The sand whittles away and destroys any hard substance, even glass, but does not affect substances that are soft and yielding, like wax, cotton, or fine lace, or even the human hand.

**A Good Recommendation.**

"Sir," said a lad coming down to one of the wharves, and addressing a well known merchant, "sir, have you any berth for me on board your ship? I want to earn something."

"What can you do?" asked the gentleman.

"I can try my best to do whatever I am put to," answered the boy.

"What have you done?"

"I have saved and split all mother's wood for nigh two years."

"What have you not done?" asked the gentleman, who was a queer sort of questioner.

"Well sir," answered the boy, after a moment's pause, "I have not whispered once in school for a whole year."

"That's enough," said the gentleman; "you may ship aboard this vessel, and I hope to see you the master of her some day. A boy who can master a wood pile and can bridle his tongue, must be made of good stuff."

PLAN your work and work your plans.

DR. LYMAN BEECHER said: "If I have ever accomplished anything, it has been owing to the observance of this rule, 'When you have anything to do, go right and do it.'"

**Correspondence.**

**IF I SHOULD DIE TO-NIGHT.**

MUSKOGON, Nov. 25, 1880.

Bro. J. T. Cobb:

[Several years ago I had the following poem recited during a lecture by Rev. Brown, and ever since that time I have tried to find it in print with the author's name, but I have failed to find it as yet. Will you please give it a corner in the VISITOR, with a request that any one knowing to whom to credit it may respond accordingly through the columns of said VISITOR.]

If I should die to-night,  
My friends would look upon my quiet face,  
Before they laid it in its resting place;  
And deem that death had left it almost fair,  
And, laying snow-white flowers against my hair,  
Would smooth it down with tender tenderness,  
And fold my hands with lingering care;  
Poor hands, so limply and so cold to-night!

If I should die to-night,  
My friends would call to mind, with loving thought,  
Some kindly deed the icy hands had wrought;  
Some gentle word the frozen lips had said;  
Errands on which the willing feet had sped;  
The memory of my sadness and pride,  
My hasty words would all be put aside;  
And I would be loved and mourned to-night.

If I should die to-night;  
Even hearts estranged would turn once more to me,  
Recalling other days remorsefully;  
The eyes that chill me with averted glance,  
Would look upon me as of yore; perchance,  
And soften in the old familiar way,  
For who could war with dumb, unconscious clay?  
So I might rest forgiven of all to-night.

O, friends, I pray to-night,  
Keep not your kisses for my dead, cold brow;  
When dreamless rest is mine I shall not need  
Think gently of me; I am travel worn;  
My faltering feet are pierced with many a thorn;  
Forgive, oh hearts estranged, forgive, I plead!  
When dreamless rest is mine I shall not need  
The tenderness for which I long to-night.

Parkville Grange No. 22.

PARKVILLE, Dec. 1880.

Brother J. T. Cobb:

Parkville Grange is still alive and I think would be in a healthy condition were it not for the fact that we have no hall. We are seriously considering the question of building a hall, and have taken some steps in that direction, though we hardly feel able to do so. If we build, it will be a great satisfaction to us to have a home of our own, besides it will show to those outside that we mean business.

Just now we are at a stand still. It is too late to go on with the work this year. I shall do all that I can to keep all things harmonious, and shall do my best to make the enterprise succeed, for I think the day is not far distant when we shall be fully rewarded for all our labors.

When our Grange was so dormant and we had no hall for meeting, I did all I could to revive the Grange, and freely opened my house once in two weeks for meetings.

I find that some one must be a shepherd and gather the sheep into the sheep-fold and see that none are lost, and "if one go astray, shall not the shepherd leave the ninety and nine and go out in search of the one that is lost?"

With many members there is much indifference—a willingness to let the whole thing take care of itself. Now the Grange is just what the members make it—good, or good for nothing.

We are few in number, but strong in Grange principles, and are working to promote the interests of the farmers as best we can not exactly as one might wish for. Members with plenty of stamps are what is wanted now to help build a hall. We expect to build 24x54, 22 feet high, or a two story building which will cost some five or six hundred dollars. Still I have confidence that the hall will be built within one year from date, for as the saying is now-a-days, our Grange is right on the hall boom. I am quite sure the Grange has done a great deal of good in educating the farmers in the State, and I for one should like to see every farmer within the gates of the Order, for I think as long as a majority are outside, the desired end cannot be fully obtained.

Fraternally Yours,

DAVID HANDSHAW.

**Pure Bred Merino Sheep.**

HOWELL, Dec. 7, 1880.

Worthy Sec. J. T. Cobb:

Since the great political boom is over, I thought it might interest the readers of the VISITOR to know what our worthy Bro. E. W. Hardy is doing in the line of breeding thoroughbred American merino sheep in Livingston County, Osceola township. Calling there one day last week he took me through his barns showing me first his flock of one hundred and twenty-five thoroughbred ewes (all registered), which I must say were the best I ever saw; average weight of fleece over thirteen pounds. Then his beautiful flock of eighty-eight lambs from his celebrated stock ram Maximilian No. 285, Vermont Register. Then old Maek himself, who is a model of beauty, especially when we look at his stock—besides a number of other very fine rams, also a flock of fine ewes shipped there by other parties for breeding purposes from Tuscola, Shiawassee, Ionia and Oakland Counties, besides many from our own County. A few questions revealed the fact that the sales from his flock since during the week of the State Fair amount to over twenty-six hundred dollars, besides large improvements in his flock during the year. Brother Farmers, one needs but to examine this flock to be convinced that it pays to breed from full bloods. Very many of us can double our clip by carefully breeding from the class of sheep he is handling, and I would say to all interested in sheep, give him a call, guaranteeing that you will be cordially received and entertained, and that you will be satisfied that your time was well employed.

N. J. HOLTE.

**From Wright Grange.**

WALDRON, Dec. 6, 1880.

Bro. J. T. Cobb:

We have a little Grange away down here in the south-east corner of Hillsdale county, known as Wright Grange. Isolated from all other Granges, and surrounded by the bitterest opposition, we still keep our little ship afloat and our sails unfurled. We take what I call the welcome VISITOR, and the only fault I find, is that it don't come often enough, and I would say right here if it was made a weekly paper, and contained the market reports and more agricultural reading, no one would complain at paying more for it. The course it takes in regard to politics just suits me, and in regard to this railroad business, if you are not right in demanding that the roads be subject to the control of the government, then State governments have been poking their noses in to the affairs of the people without any right to do so, for a long time. If we had fewer lawyers, bankers and railroad men in Congress and more men who have a direct interest in transportation in their places, I think some just laws might be enacted, and that the rights of the people might be protected.

My humble prayer is that the dangers towards which we seem to be drifting may be averted by the intelligent and independent action of the farmers of the country.

A. A.

**Coldwater Grange, No. 137.**

Bro. J. T. Cobb:

I see, in reading the last VISITOR, that some of the brothers and sisters want to hear how other Granges besides their own are prospering. To all such I would say that Coldwater Grange, No. 137, is living a healthy, happy life, doing its work with energy and pleasure. We meet semi-monthly, and the evenings are too short for what we have to do. We have for entertainment and instruction, discussions, essays and music. Last evening we held our seventh anniversary, and enjoyed a feast of music, toasts and responses, history of the Order, and reading of the Declaration of Purposes. A large audience listened, many outside the gates being present and all declaring themselves

well paid for coming, although the weather was very inclement. We now have a class of ten to be initiated, and a good prospect of many more before the winter is over.

If this will help to encourage any other Grange to work with greater diligence, I shall be glad. Our Grange succeeds because all work—we have no drones or sluggards,—and we have never had a case of grievance.

Fraternally,  
EMILY A. HORTON, Sec'y.  
Dec. 8, 1880.

**Favors a Weekly but Not a Change in Price.**

BUNKER HILL, Ingham Co., Mich., }  
Dec. 7, 1880.

Bro. J. T. Cobb:

A writer in a late number of our paper advises a change in the VISITOR to a weekly. That is only one voice, my vote is another, but I say hundreds are taking it who could not afford an increase in price. Don't deprive such of a paper. If any are able to pay more and want more such literature, let them do as I do, take some other paper.

Fraternally yours,  
E. H. ANGELL.

**A Correction.**

IONIA, Mich., Dec. 7, 1880.

Bro. J. T. Cobb:

In the notice sent you of the meeting of Ionia County Grange, for December, to be held with Pewamo Grange, was an error of the time. It should read, the third Tuesday and Wednesday, the 21st and 22d, instead of the 15th and 16th. Please make correction in the VISITOR and oblige. Fraternally,

J. L. FOWLE.

**Lansing Co-Operative Association.**

NORTH LANSING, Dec. 7, 1880.

Bro. Cobb:

It may be of interest to some of the readers of the VISITOR to know that the Lansing Co-Operative Association is still in good running order and, according to the report of the auditors from April 1st to Oct. 18, 1880, with a paid up capital of \$1,670.20; sold \$14,134 in goods, being an average daily sale of \$81.22; leaving a surplus of \$354.16 net profit, after paying interest on capital and all other expenses.

C. GOODNOE,  
Manager.

**Notice of Meetings.**

The annual meeting of Berrien County Pomona Grange, No. 1, for the election of officers, will be held at Berrien Center Grange Hall, on Tuesday, Jan. 11, 1881, at 10 o'clock A. M. All Fifth Degree members are expected to be present; and all Fourth Degree members are cordially invited to attend the session. A well ordered program will be prepared.

CHAS. HOGUE, Secy.  
Sodus, Dec. 4, 1880.

The Cass County Pomona Grange will hold their next quarterly meeting at Cassopolis, Jan. 12, at 10 o'clock A. M.

**PROGRAM.**

- 1.—Opening.
  - 2.—Reports from Subordinate Granges.
  - 3.—Adjourn for dinner.
- 2 O'CLOCK P. M.
- 1.—Election of officers for ensuing year.
  - 2.—Address by Worthy Master Thomas Odell, of Porter.
  - 3.—Address by Worthy Lecturer, John Barber, of Ontwa
  - 4.—Essay by Mrs. Gaylord Cory, of Silver Creek. "What is Woman?"
- 7 O'CLOCK P. M.—PUBLIC SESSION.
- 1.—Installation of officers for ensuing year.
  - 2.—Essay by Mrs. L. B. Pattison, of Pokagon. "Hired Help."
  - 3.—Address by Mr. Gilbert Conklin, of Silver Creek. "Why I am a Granger."
  - 4.—Essay by Mrs. Flora T. Moore, of Pokagon. "Amusements."
- All are cordially invited.

The annual meeting of the Clinton County Pomona Grange will be held at the Bengal Grange Hall, on Wednesday, Dec. 29. The election of officers for the coming year, and other important business, will come before the meet-

ing. The following program will also be observed.

Opening address by A. Dickinson; Paper by O.G. Pennell, subject, Grange Principles; Paper by Myron Brown, subject, Progress.

It is hoped and expected that essays previously noticed, that have not been read, will be presented at this meeting.

FRANK CONN, Secretary.

The next annual meeting of the Livingston Council will be held at Howell Grange Hall, on Tuesday, February 1, at 10 o'clock A. M. All Patrons are cordially invited.

N. J. HOLTE,  
Sec. Liv. Co. Council P. of H.

**The Farm Home.**

If the Almighty found Sodom and Gomorrah so incorrigible that he could do nothing else than wipe them out of existence, we cannot see what saves the overwhelming rascality of the present day. In all our large cities and towns nothing comes to the consumer's table which is not apt to be adulterated, except oatmeal, which thus far appears to have escaped, but exactly why we do not know. Butter, cheese, flour, coffee, tea, syrups, sugar, pepper, spices, vinegar, and even tomato catsup are adulterated. The legitimate result is that the consumption of many articles is wholly dispensed with, and of others only partially up to what they ought to be. A gentleman sitting by our side at a hotel dinner table to-day said, "I have quit eating butter; I can do without it, and I do not intend to run the risk of eating the fat of diseased animals." This sustains our frequently stated position that the sale of these adulterations must eventually injure genuine articles in every conceivable way.

But our principal object at this time was to note the fortunate position of the farmer and his family, as compared with those who are compelled to receive their food from a set of villainous middlemen and manufacturers. We do not, of course, mean to allege that all middlemen and manufacturers are of this character, but when a man high in position, deliberately says—as one wholesale grocer in Chicago does—that a merchant is a merchant, and that he will sell anything that will sell, even if it be half poison, one scarcely knows where to draw the line between honesty and dishonesty in commercial circles. People cannot eat poison without injury; they cannot consume sulphuric acid on their buckwheat cakes and in their tea and coffee without detriment to health; they cannot devour rotten fat and preserved trachinae in the shape of butter, and escape disease more or less fatal. From all these dangers the farmer is safe, except so far as he is compelled to meet them in his sugars and syrups. When he sits down at his table, he knows that his milk is pure, that his butter is pure, that his flour is pure, and that his vinegar is pure. He can eat his food without being haunted with the fear that he may be poisoned to death before another meal time shall arrive.

All this shows to our young friends especially, that the city and village are not the best places for men and women to spend their lives. It is not pleasant to think you are not only being swindled when you buy, but that there is a conspiracy to poison you by death. The life of the Czar of Russia, surrounded by those who only wait for an opportunity to sweeten his tea with arsenic, or blow him into kingdom-come with a charge of nitro-glycerine, is scarcely more embarrassing than that of a people whose health and life are plotted against by an army of glucose and lard- and tallow-butter swindlers. The man or woman in the city who does not wish every time a meal is partaken of that it could be eaten from a table in some neat farm house dining room, does not realize the danger, or else is so injuriously egotistical that they imagine they can detect the adulterations.

In one of the principal sources of health, our food, therefore the farmer has the advantage; and there are few comforts in the city which he cannot enjoy.—Exchange.

JONES gave a lawyer a bill to be collected to the amount of \$30. Calling for it, after a while he inquired if it had been collected, "Oh, yes," said the lawyer, "I have it all for you." "What charge for collection?" "Oh," said the lawyer, laughing, "I'm not going to charge you—why, I have known you since you were a baby, and your father before you; \$20 will be about right," handing over \$10. "Well," said Jones, as he meditated upon the transaction, "it's darned lucky that he didn't know my grandfather, or I shouldn't have got anything."

THE future of society is in the hands of the mothers.—De Beaufort.

THE reason why some men get along so slowly in this world is, because they spend two thirds of their time talking about what they are going to do, and during the other third they have to sleep.

THE GRANGE VISITOR.

SCHOOLCRAFT, DEC. 15, 1880.

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.

SECRETARIES' REPORTS - AND BLANKS.

We are receiving calls from Secretaries for quarterly report blanks. We like to see officers looking after their business. All do not do so as promptly as they should. But it is too soon to be getting anxious about blanks. Some Secretaries report a few weeks before the close of the quarter, forgetful of what we long ago told them, that it is not a good plan to cross a bridge till you get to it. A Secretary that reports, a month in advance, what the membership of a Grange will be at the close of a quarter, has a dead Grange to look after, or else has not taken sufficient interest in the Order to learn his duties very well.

All Secretaries will be supplied with the necessary blanks before the close of the quarter ending Dec. 31st.

One thing is not as well understood as it ought to be. It is the duty of the Secretary to make a report the first week in January. Some suppose that their successors, elected in December, but not yet installed, and therefore not yet Secretary, should make this last report of the year. But this is a mistake, and as it is one often committed, we call attention to it. We hope every Secretary will promptly make report for the current quarter between the 1st and 10th of January, to the Secretary of the State Grange, and attend to the business which they have undertaken for the Order in a prompt and business-like manner. Don't leave for others what belongs to you to do, and don't forget or neglect to report at once the names and post office address of the Master and Secretary-elect for 1881.

We don't want a list of all the officers, but should have within a week after the election the address of the Master and Secretary.

BRO. WM. S. VANDYKE, of Olive Grange, No. 358, in Clinton Co., writes us an encouraging letter, representing the Order in that jurisdiction as in good condition. New members are coming within the gates; the Grange meets every week, and its social features attract and instruct the good people of the neighborhood.

The Pomona Grange of the County is represented as in a flourishing condition, and contributing of its influence to the maintenance of the Subordinate Granges of the County.

The brother is not quite satisfied with the cheap look of the regalia of the fourth degree members, attending a session of the Pomona Grange, when the regalia of the officers presents such a striking contrast.

We sympathize with him a little in this matter, so much of the sash regalia of Subordinate Granges is in a sort of big-colored-string condition.

RAILWAY PASSES.

Nothing is more clear to our mind than this—that in the near future the people of this country will demand of their representatives such legislation as will furnish some protection from the rapacity and greed of transportation corporations. If legislators were solicitous for the public good, and casting about to see how in the exercise of their official power they could provide for and protect the interests of the people, we might expect that corporations would soon be required by legislative enactments to abandon the piratical theory and practice of exacting from the producers all their products will bear. But so long as attorneys are everywhere retained and legislators accept free transportation we shall look in vain for any voluntary move on the part of our legislators to provide salutary restraints upon these corporations that have boldly seized upon and appropriated the inherent rights of States.

The people believe that accepting a pass from a railroad company imposes some sort of an obligation upon the recipient. They see that railroad corporations seem intent in a business way on taking care of themselves, and the people therefore assume that passes are not issued by railroad companies without the expectation of some return in some way from the receiving party. What class of citizens are supplied with this sort of cheap transportation? Mainly legislators, judicial officers and lawyers. We do not happen to know any farmers who, as such, have ever been offered a railroad pass, however eminent they may have become in their profession, and however much the products of their farms furnished business for the roads.

But lawyers of every grade from first to fourth class, often travel wherever business or pleasure or business calls on a pass. Legislators fritter away the time for which they are paid with the money of the people, in going too and from their homes to the capitol.

But this usage is so well established that it will not be surrendered until we refuse to vote for any man who does not take open ground against this corrupting practice.

Of legislators, judicial officers, and others who are furnished with passes, it is sufficient to say that railroad managements expect in some way to make these things pay.

Farmers of Michigan shall your paid servants, for a paltry fare over a railroad for a few miles, forestall such independent action as you have a right to expect, yet more, a right to demand of those to whom you have committed all those material interests that depend on such wise and just laws as shall guarantee protection to the weak, and give confidence and security in the capital invested in the production of food for r-

selfes and the people of our own and other lands.

We insist that so long as the State and National legislators of the country, its judicial officers and an army of lawyers, with a sprinkling of editors, travel for business or pleasure on railroad passes, that favoritism, capricious and exorbitant rates, under the recognized rule of charging "what it will bear," will continue to work great injury to every agricultural interest, put in jeopardy the peace and prosperity of the country and corrupt its business interests.

REPRESENTATIVES TO STATE GRANGE-EIGHTH SESSION-AS FAR AS REPORTED.

Table listing representatives to the State Grange-Eighth Session, including names and locations such as ALLEGAN-S. P. Albertson, Watson, 154; M. V. B. McAlpine, Monterey, 247; L. C. Gilbert, Moline, 248; BARRY-E. B. Warner, Baltimore, 472; J. J. Hendephot, Irving, 55; BEEREN-N. M. Gast, Lehigh, 84; Sam'l Mars, Stevensville, 84; John Clark, Pipestone, 400; BRANCH-D. A. Thompson, Gilead, 400; G. W. Vanacken, Coldwater, 427; CASS-W. C. O'Connell, 427; CALHOUN-A. F. Johnson, Battle Creek, 130; John Hough, White's Station, 292; CLINTON-Courtland Hill, Bengall, 290; Nathan S. Johns, 290; Robt Hamilton, Wacoona, 370; DETROIT AND BAY CITY-Johnson Vanhousen Council, 8; EATON-Aaron Bark, 290; S. L. Bentley, 290; GENESSEE-M. Gast, Flushing, 357; HILLSDALE-L. Ranney, Allen, 77; Isaac H. Gibbs, Waldron, 285; Christian Fink, Cambria Mills, 178; GREAT ALONZO W. Nodden, Lafayette, 529; INGHAM-D. Y. Smith, Okemos, 235; W. A. Higdon, Leslie, 287; IONIA-Henry J. Hall, 15; J. Warren Peake, Portland, 15; A. S. Stearns, Lowell, 175; JACKSON-O. H. Fellows, Schoolcraft, 8; KALAMAZOO-O. H. Fellows, Schoolcraft, 61; A. B. Judson, Vicksburg, 61; KENT-G. H. Cahoun, Lowell, 350; J. J. Wall, 350; Jonathan Best, Grand Rapids, 102; Geo. D. Wood, Grattan, 170; E. C. Whitney, Rockford, 110; LAFERRE-Elijah Helt, Lehigh, 278; LENAWEE-M. G. Elmore, Kelleys Corners, 438; Martin Odell, Jasper, 278; LIVINGSTON-J. S. Briggs, Fowlerville, 613; MACOMB-J. J. Snook, Mt. Vernon, 403; MANISTEE-Geo. B. Piers, Pleasant, 326; MONTCALM-D. N. Hansen, Casnovia, 316; MONTCALM-Chas. R. Dickerson, Carson City, 496; NEWAYGO-H. W. Noble, Denver, 496; OAKLAND-E. C. Newman, Milford, 29; E. J. Hart, Clarkston, 29; W. E. Carpenter, Pontiac, 29; OTTAWA-H. D. Weatherax, Georgetown, 178; St. Joseph-Gatelius Snyder, Three Rivers 178; Daniel Reinbaugh, Burr Oak, 257; SHIAWASSEE-A. B. Clark, Morrice, 151; ST. CLAIR-E. G. Manuel, Pt. Huron, 464; SAGINAW-R. A. Willson, Chesaning, 464; TUSCOLA-Hiram R. Perry, Ellington, 548; VAN BUREN-E. B. Warner, Lawton, 23; J. D. Robinson, 23; D. W. Sias, McDonald, 26; WASHINGTON-Albert Day, Rawsonville, 59; H. Baldwin, Chelsea, 239; FIRST DISTRICT-BAY AND MIDLAND-Jas. Filker, Auburn, 635; SECOND DISTRICT-GRAND TRAVERSE, WEXFORD, AND ANTRIM-S. A. Gardner, Traverse City, 624; THIRD DISTRICT-LEELANAW AND BENZIE-Adilson P. Wheelock, Almira, 375; FOURTH DISTRICT-OCEANA AND MASON-Wm. F. Lewis, New Era, 517; FIFTH DISTRICT-MONROE AND WAYNE-N. T. Bradner, Redford, 367; SIXTH DISTRICT-MECOSTA AND OSCOLA-J. V. Armstrong, 517; SEVENTH DISTRICT-HURON AND SAGINAW-Richard F. Welwood, Marlette, 641; REPRESENTATIVES FROM POMONA GRANGES-BRANCH-A. J. Warner, 22; BEEREN-Freeman Franklin, 1; CALHOUN-S. E. Woodworth, Battle Creek, 3; CLINTON-John M. DeWitt, So. Riley, 25; DETROIT AND BAY CITY COUNCIL-Johnson Vanhousen, 8; EATON-Wm. C. Howell, Roxand, 28; HILLSDALE-R. W. Freeman, 10; INGHAM-A. A. King, Dansville, 14; IONIA-A. G. Gibbs, Portland, 16; KALAMAZOO-E. A. Strong, Vicksburg, 27; KENT-John Porter, Gr. Rapids, 18; LENAWEE-Geo. B. Horton, Weston, 29; LAFERRE-W. A. Montgomery, Burnside, 29; MANISTEE-L. D. Shirriff, 29; MONTCALM-J. P. Shoemaker, Amnsien, 24; NEWAYGO-A. Terwilliger, 11; OAKLAND-G. M. Shattuck, Pontiac, 5; OCEANA-Wm. H. Barry, Shelby, 23; St. CLAIR-M. E. Carlson, Fort Huron, 12; St. JOSEPH-C. Y. Runyan, White Pigeon, 4; TUSCOLA-A. N. Hatch, Ellington, 30; TRAVERSE-J. G. Ramsdell, Trav. City, 17; VAN BUREN-A. C. Ghidlen, Paw Paw, 9; VALLEY-Jabez Padley, Jabez Padley, 9; WASHINGTON-H. D. Platt, Ypsilanti, 7; WAYNE-Jabez H. Padley, 8; WESTERN POMONA-Thos. Wilde, Berlin, 19;

\* THE building in Detroit for the manufacture of glucose or grape sugar as it is as commonly called, has been completed, and work will begin therein early week. Glucose is made from corn and is largely used in confectionery, brewing, syrup, etc. The syrup on your buckwheat cakes this winter will be largely made from corn. The Detroit factory will use about 3,000 bushels of corn daily.

And this bogus syrup will be

sold by your grocer as pure goods. It is high time that the farmers of this country turn their attention to sugar-making, from corn, cane or beets, and supplant these intermediate frauds that are making money that may legitimately come to the pockets of the farmer. And besides, it would be some satisfaction not only to know what we are eating, but to know that it is what we bought it for.

AN AGRICULTURAL CABINET OFFICER.

We clip from the Coldwater Republican the article found below.

We have heretofore made complaint that the County press, though surrounded by agricultural interests, seldom takes ground in favor of any definite legislation for the promotion of those interests.

The County press, as a rule, is blindly partizan, and subservient to the demands of politicians, with little or no regard to the great interests of the County, except in so far as they become distinctive party measures.

We are pleased to see this endorsement of the Grange movement, and welcome these auxiliary aids to agricultural advancement.

We expect to live to see the day when the Commissioner of Agriculture will be a Cabinet officer, and take equal rank with the other Departments of the Government.

The Republican has frequently urged the propriety of raising the Department of Agriculture to a Cabinet position. It would be no more than what France has done, as she has her Minister of Agriculture. This proposition has, however, been ridiculed and opposed by some of the more important city papers; but the New York Nation, one of the ablest political journals in the country, in a careful editorial in its issue for Nov. 25, urges this subject upon the attention of Congress. It says that half the population is engaged in the production of food, and cotton and wool for clothing; the farm furnishes more than 50 per cent. of the raw material for all our manufactures, and the greater portion of the business of railroads and water transportation. Our total exports were, for the fiscal year of 1879-80, \$823,946,353, and of this amount \$529,944,779 represent the products of agriculture. Add to this the value of the raw materials in flour, provisions, timber, etc., and farm products used in other manufactured articles, and we have "the magnificent total of \$654,141,487 as the proportion of our exports to be credited to agriculture, against \$169,804,886 to manufactures, mines (except gold and silver), and fisheries. The creation of a distinct Department of Agriculture would be less a species of class legislation than the system of foreign consulates, which is chiefly of value to commerce. Besides, "manufactures," the Nation says, "which employ but one-third as many of our people as does agriculture, are nurtured by our Government more than in the most paternal of other Governments, by a gigantic system of protective tariffs and by our patent laws. In fact, the Departments of the Treasury and the Interior are, for the most part, occupied with the interests of commerce and manufactures." The protection which agriculture needs is protection from a scourge of animal diseases, from the spread of contagious diseases, from insect horde—"forces quite as harmful," the Nation says, "to our industries as 'foreign pauper labor' or 'Chinese cheap labor.'" Further it says: "Agriculture requires in foreign consuls men of sufficient ability to examine and report upon systems and methods of cultivation, as well as upon current crops and crop prospects; a coast survey in a form of a comprehensive system of experimental stations, as in France, Germany, Austria, Russia and Italy, for the testing of new plants and methods, and for other scientific research; a signal service which shall do for the farmer what is now done for commerce; and internal improvements looking to the saving of fertilizing material now wasted in city sewers; to the reclamation of the deserts and swamps of the West and South, and the protection of rich river bottoms from overflow."

If you examine this program, it will be seen that it contains a vast system of scientific machinery which would harness to the car of Agriculture the ripest scientific scholars of the day. It

calls not for a mere farm laborer, but for the most richly gifted intellect and the highest skill in manipulation—such scholars in agriculture as our best scientific schools ought to produce—to which should be super-added the skill of experience. A department properly manned and equipped for such a task will demand a large outlay. Ever since its organization in 1862, the present Department, as the Nation says, has been and "is struggling hard against destructively small appropriations and consequently incapacity in a field of vast necessities." This journal then says: A full department should comprise not only the present so-called Department of Agriculture, but also the land office, care of the public forests, and the geological survey. Its existing statistical, chemical, veterinary, entomological, botanical, and forestry divisions should be enlarged, and organized on a substantial basis, and such means provided for their work and maintenance as would tempt scientists of ability and influence to seek their direction. A veterinary division is demanded, of such scope as to include inspection at all important trade centers and ports of shipment, and with power to stamp out cattle plagues.

Perhaps it is almost too much to expect such a vast department that shall attract the best science and skill of the country; but, as the Nation says, "the first step—the elevation of the department to full rank, should be taken immediately; this is a duty which both political parties owe to the country, and which should be fulfilled for the common good, without reference to party glory."

We have given a full outline of the Nation's editorial. It evidently was written by some gentleman who had considered the subject much thoughtful consideration, and appearing in a paper that has heretofore not given much attention to the proposition, it shows conclusively that the idea is growing in the minds of the ablest political economists in our country. The whole article deserves the careful reading of every member of the committees on agriculture in both houses of Congress. Could we copy from France, as we ought, we would establish three new cabinet officers—a minister of education, a most important essential in securing our National unity upon a broader and firmer basis; a minister of commerce, to have charge of our foreign and domestic commerce, railroad and water transportation; and a minister of agriculture. And, as the Nation suggests, the latter should be looked after immediately.

The Dog Tax.

PLAINWELL, Nov. 8, 1880.

Editor Grange Visitor:

Below you will find a statement of the amount of tax on the dogs of Gun Plain township for two years:

Table with 2 columns: Year, Amount. For 1878, \$137 00; For 1879, 120 00.

Total for the two years, \$257 00

In the year 1878 the amount left after paying the justice and recording of certificates was \$57.58.

In the year 1879 the amount left after paying the necessary expenses, as above, was \$12.25.

Table with 2 columns: Description, Amount. The amount of claims for sheep killed in 1878, \$142 00; Claimed for 1879, 197 00.

Total, \$339 00

I wish you would present this to the State Grange, and invite some action. If we have a law that practically provides business for a few idlers, at the expense of the tax payers, it is high time the tax-payers knew it. We either want less legislation, or else some law that has some practical sense in it.

Yours fraternally,

A. J. EDSON.

Notice of Meetings.

MARILLA, Dec. 8, 1880.

BRO. J. T. COBB: The next annual meeting of the Manistee District Pomona Grange will be held in Sherman, Wexford Co., commencing at 2 o'clock P. M., on the first Tuesday in January, 1881. We hope that all officers will bring their Rituals—or send them, if they cannot themselves be present,—as that is the annual meeting for the election of officers. As ever, all fourth-degree members are cordially invited to attend.

MRS. JENNIE A. POPE, Sec.

GALESBURG, Dec. 10, 1880.

J. T. COBB: Owing to there being so few in attendance at the County Grange meeting, held Dec. 2, it was deemed best to defer the election of officers till Thursday, Dec. 23, at which time a meeting will be held at Arcadia Grange hall, in Kalamazoo, for the purpose of electing the officers of Kalamazoo Pomona Grange for the ensuing year.

Fraternally,  
Z. C. DURKEE, Sec.

### Proceedings of the Michigan State Grange—First Day.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, LANSING, Dec. 14, 1880.

At ten A. M., the gavel of Worthy Master J. J. Woodman called the voting members and their visiting friends to order. A few brief remarks followed by a song from the choir, a prayer by the Worthy Chaplain of the State Grange, was followed by roll call of officers. On motion, the Worthy Master appointed a Committee on Credentials. As State Lecturer Whitney knows everybody, and almost everything, he was made chairman, and aided by three brothers and as many sisters, proceeded at once to work. After an interval of an hour, which was improved at our desk by taking the names of subscribers to the VISITOR, the Committee made a report, which showed a very full attendance from the voting members, and a much larger representation from Pomona Granges answered to call of Counties than have before.

Soon after the report of the Committee, a recess was taken until half-past two, to give time for the appointing of committees. The number of voting members, all of whom are placed on committees, is so large that we give only the chairmen.

A slight innovation, it will be observed, has been made on former usage. Two important committees have sisters for Chairmen. We look for some able reports from these Committees.

The outlook for an important session was never better. Each train brings additional members, and the town will to-night be crowded to overflowing.

5 P. M.—The work of making up the committees has just been completed. While the Worthy Master, assisted by the Executive Committee, were engaged in this work, with Bro. Moore, the Worthy Overseer, in the Chair, the members, under the head of Good of the Order, were improving the time.

6 P. M.—The afternoon session has closed. The Master's address will be delivered this evening, and reports of State Officers and the Executive Committee will probably be made, preparatory for the work of the session.

#### CHAIRMAN OF STANDING COMMITTEES.

1. On Credentials—C. L. Whitney.
2. On Division of Labor—O. H. Fellows.
3. On Finance—John Porter.
4. On Good of the Order—Geo. B. Horton, of Lenawee.
5. On Resolutions—A. S. Stannard, of Ionia.
6. On Co-Operation—Freeman Franklin, of Berrien.
7. On Transportation—H. D. Platt, of Washtenaw.
8. On By-Laws of State Grange—S. A. Gardner, of Grand Traverse.
9. On Instructions to Representatives to National Grange—J. P. Shoemaker, of Montcalm.
10. On Publications—A. J. Gibbs of Ionia.
11. On Pomona Granges and their By-Laws—S. L. Bentley, of Eaton.
12. On Claims and Grievances—Courtland Hill, of Clinton.
13. On Education—Sister N. T. Bradner, Wayne.
14. On Mileage and Per Diem—G. W. Van Aiken, of Branch.
15. By-Laws of Subordinate Granges—G. M. Shattuck, of Oakland.
16. On Constitutional Amendments—W. F. Lewis, of Oceana.
17. On Agricultural Department—A. C. Glidden, of Van Buren.
18. On Dormant Granges—G. Snyder, of St. Joseph.
19. On Patent Rights—J. G. Ramsdell, Grand Traverse.

ONE thousand shingles, laid four inches to the weather will cover one hundred square feet of surface, and five pounds of shingle nails will fasten them on.

ONE-FIFTH more siding and flooring is needed than the number of square feet of surface to be covered, because of the lap in the siding and the matching of the floor.

PLAN your work and work your plan.

### RAILWAYS AS HIGHWAYS.

We find in the New York *Times* of Dec. 2d, a letter from ex Judge Black, to the Chamber of Commerce, which takes such strong ground in behalf of the people on the great question of the legal rights of corporations in railways, that we give it entire. We hope this letter will be read in open Grange by the Lecturer of every Grange in the State.

Those who do not take the VISITOR, should have it, and those who do and have read it, cannot be better employed than in hearing it again. With the people educated upon this subject and assuming an independent attitude, the politicians will suddenly discover that it is the grand question of the day. Until such time it will be ignored by politicians, political parties and legislative bodies. This letter appears at an opportune time, and will be spread broadcast over the land.

YORK, Pa., Nov. 16, 1880.  
Committee on Railroad Transportation of the N. Y. Chamber of Commerce: GENTLEMEN:—You propose a movement in favor of some legal regulation which will compel railway companies to perform their duties to the public on proper terms. I will answer your questions as directly as possible, but without observing the order in which you put them. You desire above all things to be just. The legally vested rights of railway companies, like other rights of property, are sacred, and no violation of them comes within the scope of your design. But on this question railroad men misunderstand their situation. They believe, or pretend to believe, that railways are the property of the companies authorized to run them, which is a cardinal error and the parent of much false argument. A public highway cannot be private property, and a railroad laid out and built by the authority of the State for the purpose of commerce is as much a public highway as a turnpike road, canal, or navigable river.

It is the duty of the State to promote intercourse and trade, by making highways of the best sort through their territory. To this end she may take land and materials, which is an exercise of the power of eminent domain. She can build a railway at her own expense, using the direct agency of her own officers, and after it is built she can make it free to all comers, or reimburse the cost by special tax on individuals who have occasion to use it. She can delegate the taking and the taxing powers to a corporation or a natural person, and that is what she always does when she grants a railroad charter. But in either or any case the road belongs to the State, and all the people have a right to use it upon compliance with the necessary regulations and payment of the proper tax. The corporations who have gone into the habit of calling themselves the owners of the railroads have no proprietary right, title, or claim to the roads themselves, but a mere franchise annexed to and exercisable thereon. They are the agents of the State for the performance of a public duty. If the franchise be forfeited or surrendered, or if it expire by efflux of time, the State takes possession of the road and runs it herself, or employs a new agent. The company cannot keep the road, any more than the outgoing collector of a port can appropriate to himself the custom-house where he did his official work.

The State, having need of a public highway at a particular place, makes a contract with a corporation to open and put it in condition to be used; and by way of reimbursing the builders and operators, she authorizes a tax upon those who travel or carry merchandise over it. But this tax must be reasonable, just, uniform, prescribed and fixed, so that every citizen may know beforehand exactly how much he must pay, and so that when he pays or tenders the proper amount, he will acquire an absolute and perfect right to the use of the road. The amount of the tax, toll or freight in any case is not a subject of bargain between the shipper and the corporation, but a thing to be settled, fixed, and prescribed by public authority. If the company may charge what it pleases then the road is not a public highway, the public has no rights in it at all, and the charter which authorizes the taking of land to build it is unconstitutional and void. These

principles were stated by Judge Baldwin in Bonaparte against the Camden and Amboy Railroad Company. (1 Bald. Rep., 252.) You will find a more extended discussion of them by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, in Casey against the Erie and North-east Railroad Company. (2 Casey's Rep., 287.) I do not think they are opposed by any high authority, but no doubt they have often been overlooked in judicial decisions and forensic arguments. The railroads being public property, in which all the people have equal rights and the companies that run them being public agents, it is absurd to say that the State has no right to regulate and control them in the performance of their functions by such laws as will prevent partiality, plunder and extortion. This is a power of which no free State can disarm itself by any act of its judicial, legislative or executive officers. They could as lawfully sell the State out and out and deliver up the entire population to sack and pillage. But are not the franchises property in which the company has a vested right? Yes! The privilege of taking a certain fixed, prescribed, uniform, reasonable rate of toll from all persons alike, according to the use they make of the road, is a power that the State may bestow upon any person, natural or artificial. But no lawful franchise to take toll on a public highway can exceed those limits. A charter that goes beyond this is void. Those companies will oppose any effort to bring them down to a reasonable rate with the argument that such reduction is a violation of the contract between them and the State. But on the principle laid down by Judge Baldwin in the case above mentioned a charter is inoperative which authorizes a maximum of toll or fare so high that the company is able without exceeding it to exclude the people from using their own road. In the Granger cases from Iowa and Wisconsin, the bargain was that the companies might fix their own rates. But the Supreme Court of the United States held that a subsequent law to restrain them within reasonable limits was no violation of the original contract. This principle applies to a company whose maximum rate is unreasonably high, because such a rate is practically the same thing as no limitation at all. The conclusion that all the railroad corporations in the country may be constitutionally restrained to reasonable and just charges is not merely drawn from the fact that railroads are public highways. If they owned the corpus of the road and used it in the business of a common carrier, they might be compelled to behave themselves justly to all their customers, and submit to any regulation for the public good. The unanswerable opinion of Chief Justice Waite in *Munn vs. Illinois* (109 U. S. 113) settles that.

The reasonableness of the freight tolls or taxes that may be charged upon any railway will depend on the expenses of running and repairing it and on the cost of construction. The latter will, of course, be the principal element in the calculation, for the tolls ought to be high enough to give the corporations a fair profit on the capital they have actually invested. But many of these corporations have issued large amounts of stock and mortgage bonds for which the holders have paid nothing, or much less than their nominal value. Another way of enlarging their apparent dimensions is to water their stock under the pretense of increasing their capital, while in fact, the additional shares are divided among themselves without putting a new dollar into the business. Of course, nobody thinks that the real cost of the road is to be measured by the nominal amount of these bonds and shares. It is easy for a competent engineer to tell how much any road ought to cost, supposing the work to be honestly done and liberally paid for. That being ascertained, you have the true basis of a calculation which will show how much the tolls ought to be. Most of our Western roads were built with the proceeds of public lands granted mediately or immediately by the United States to the several companies which now have them in charge. They did not really cost the stockholders anything, and in some cases they got lands worth a great deal more than all expenses of making, stocking and running the roads. The two companies between Omaha and San Francisco raised in cash out of

Government bonds, lands, and mortgages of their franchises four or five times as much as they necessarily expended upon the roads. The stockholders, without paying anything, put the enormous surplus into their pockets. These roads, thus built at the public expense and in some cases paid for by the public five times over, are now claimed as the private property of the companies, and right of the public to use them as highways is utterly denied; nevertheless, I think the claim of these companies to take reasonable tolls stands upon the same foundation as that of companies whose roads were built by the stockholders themselves at their own proper expense. The grant of the lands invested the grantees with a title which could not be revoked if the conditions of it were performed. If they sold or mortgaged the land and invested the proceeds in the construction of a railroad under a charter from a State or general Government which authorizes them to take a fair profit in the shape of tolls, they have as good a right to the tolls as if the capital to build the road had been raised themselves: that is to say, those companies which built the railroad with capital donated by the public have the same right as other companies to charge a reasonable toll, but their demand of excessive tolls though not worse in law, seems in the eye of natural reason a greater outrage.

If railroad corporations have the unlimited power which they claim, then all business is at their mercy; agriculture, commerce, manufactures, must suffer what they choose to inflict. They may rob labor of the bread it wins, and deprive all enterprise of its just reward. Though this power does not belong to them legally they have been permitted to usurp it, and I need not tell you that they have grossly abused it. They avow that they make their exactions with an eye single to their own advantage, without considering any right or interest of the public. They boldly express their determination to charge as much as the traffic will bear: that is to say, they will take from the profits of every man's business as much as can be taken without compelling him to quit it. In the aggregate this amounts to the most enormous, oppressive, and unjust tax that ever was laid upon the industry of any people under the sun. The irregularity with which this tax is laid makes it still harder to bear. Men go into a business which may thrive at present rates, and will find themselves crushed by burdens unexpectedly thrown upon them after they get started. It is the habit of the railroad companies to change their rates of transportation often and suddenly, and in particular to make the charges ruinously high without any notice at all. The farmers of the great West have made a large crop of grain, which they may sell at fair prices if they can have it carried to the Eastern ports even at the unreasonably high freights of last Summer. But just now it is said that the railway companies have agreed among themselves to raise the freight five cents per hundred weight, which is equal to an export tax upon the whole crop of probably \$75,000,000. The farmers must submit to this highway robbery, or else keep the product of their land to rot on their hands. They submit, of course, as all other classes of industrious people submit to similar impositions. Common justice imperatively requires that freights be fixed, settled, and prescribed by law, and that they be not changed at the mere will of the railroad companies. But the discriminations which make the rates unequal are the most odious feature. A grain-dealer at Baltimore gets a reduction or drawback which is denied to others, and he makes a fortune for himself, while he ruins his competitors by underselling them. A single mill at Rochester can stop the wheels of all the rest, if its flour be carried at a rate much lower. By discrimination of this kind the products of one coal mine may be quadrupled, while another, with all its fixtures and machinery, is rendered worthless. Such wrongs as these are done, not only in a few sporadic cases, but generally and habitually, on a very large scale. Certain oil men, whose refinery was on Long Island, got rebates amounting to \$10,000,000 in eighteen months, and seventy-nine houses (I believe that is the number) engaged in the same business were broken up. The creditors of the Reading Railroad having coal lands of their own made

discriminations between themselves and others which drove all competition out of the field, gave them the monopoly of the Philadelphia market, and enabled them to charge for their freight—whatever they pleased. Thus producers, dealers, and consumers all suffer together. Worse still than that the prosperity of large communities is blighted by the refusal of the railroads to carry the products of their farms, gardens, and to carry the products of their farms, gardens, and shops unless they submit to the payment of rates much larger than what are charged on similar goods from other regions much further away from the common market. The case you mention of \$4 from New York to Salt Lake, and only \$2.50 to San Francisco is perhaps not the most unrighteous, but it is as gross a violation of legal principle as can be conceived. If the railroads belong to the people, then the rights of all citizens are precisely equal, and all discriminations are unlawful. Without reference to the public right of property, they are so imperious in their general effect and in their particular consequences that no well-governed State will endure them.

These railroad and transportation companies connect themselves with everything. The promotion of commerce, internal and foreign, the interests of buyer and seller, the rights of producer and consumer, the needs of the poor, the prosperity of the rich, all cry aloud for some system of management which will compel them to do the duties they owe the public faithfully, at rates reasonable, fixed, uniform, and equal, without wanton charges, without discrimination. The laws necessary for this purpose are not difficult to frame. If you will look at the Constitution of Pennsylvania, as amended in 1873, you will find in the seventh section a series of provisions which, if carried out and enforced, would be amply sufficient. But the railroad men and their advocates have managed to impress the Legislature with the idea that they are above the Constitution. They assert that every restriction imposed upon them in the interests of justice, equality, and fair dealing is a violation of the contract embodied in their charters. All this is no doubt very false doctrine, but they contrive in some way (I really do not know how) to make the State authorities accept it as true. I maintain that all the States have a clear and indefeasible right to protect their people against such wrongs, and to exercise the power as a sacred duty. When that duty is properly performed the internal trade of each State will cease to be enslaved and crippled as it is now. But the commerce between the States will still be open to inequalities, and liable to oppression and transportation companies, unless the National Legislature does something to save it. Congress has power "to regulate commerce between the States." Is it not strictly within the scope of that authority when it makes a law forbidding carriers through the State to injure, impede, or destroy the general trade of the country by extravagant and discriminate charges? Is that not a regulation of interstate commerce, what would be? The power being conceded, an effectual mode of righting the wrongs now complained of can easily be devised.

Doubtless you are right in the belief that public opinion will be in favor of your movement. Reflecting men cannot deny its justice. But the influence of these great corporations can hardly be calculated. They have methods of defense and offense which make them almost invincible. You have referred to portions of their history which proved this. Some of the State governments are literally subjected by them now. It will require a strong organization and much labor to reduce them. Undisciplined militia in the open field make a poor fight against regulars entrenched. What are corn-stalks against cannon? Such is truth against money. You ask what I think of regulating these affairs by the agency of commissioners. In England I believe that plan has been a complete success; in California I understand it is a dead failure.

This paper is much longer than I intended to make it, and as an answer to your questions, it is less categorical than it ought to be. But you must take it as it is, and believe me your obedient servant,

J. S. BLACK.

## Lecturer's Department.

O. L. WHITNEY, - - - MUSKOGON.

## Pickings by the Way, No. 20.

The session of the National Grange at Washington had not concluded when our last notes were sent. On the 24th inst. many of the members visited Alexandria, Va., upon invitation of the Northern Virginian District Pomona Grange. In Armory Hall the meeting was held, and after the degrees were given, the whole party went to the Mansion House, and after spending an hour or more in social converse, etc., the banquet was announced ready, and to the room we repaired. The tables were lavishly spread with everything to tempt the eye and create appetite. To satisfy the latter, the meats, oysters, fruits, etc., etc., soon vanished. In the parlors a little time was spent in short speeches, Bro. David Haines of New Jersey, acting as chairman. The hour of the returning train being near, the party repaired to the depot to await its coming. Bro. D., of Massachusetts, was elevated to the top of the water tank as chairman, and stories were the order. We had a good Thing from Maine; a Dar-den from Mississippi; a Brig-ham from Ohio; a good Mule story from Missouri. Our train was late into Washington, so late that when we and lady reached the hotel, the door was locked. *Who did it?* we still ask.

## MOUNT VERNON.

Thanksgiving day came, and as no one wished to labor in a session of the Grange, nothing more appropriate could be done than to visit the home and last resting place of the "Father of his Country." As soon as the breakfast could be had, the most of the members by street car or on foot reached the dock of the steamer Col. W. W. Corcoran, upon the Potomac, and took passage for the shades of Mount Vernon. This large steamer was well loaded, and was soon steaming with the current of this historic stream, for there as often before "All was quiet upon the Potomac!" The first that took our attention was a bride and a happy party attendant. Orange blossoms were abundant, if artificial, but the color of the party was natural—they were genuine "contrabands"—but happy don't express their enjoyment. Alexandria City was soon reached; here Washington attended church; was a vestryman at the time of the building of the brick church, whose spire is seen by all—the bricks were imported from Europe. This is an old city, and much dilapidated. Soon we passed the arsenal, then the dismantled Fort Foote, then Fort Washington. Landing was made under the cover of frowning cannon upon the walls. Earthworks were often seen, marks of a strife we hope may never again be known in this country.

On board the boat was Col. Hollingshead, superintendent of the Mt. Vernon estate, and he seemed very attentive to all our wants, and when we reached the landing at Mt. Vernon, was our guide to all notable parts of the estate, showing up us into every room, and pointing out every object of interest without and within the old home of Washington.

The house, and kitchens, and greenhouse were special objects of interest to all. To give all in detail would take too much room and time, and might not interest all our readers as they did us. Several colored "gemen" were on duty upon the place, and when one was asked if a small stump we saw was the remains of the historic cherry tree, he replied that it was. A fine rustic seat beneath the shade of some thrifty young trees was pointed out to another and asked if it was not there that the General used to sit and read his morning telegrams. "It am," was the reply. Many entered the old tomb and stood in reverence before the new tomb where now rest the remains of America's first chieftain. The boat whistled all aboard and back to the city we went and had a wholesome Thanksgiving dinner. On

our bill of fare were the words, "National Grange of P. of H.—Fourteenth Annual Session."

At 3 o'clock p. m. the Master's gavel called the National Grange to labor again, and closed the day's labor late in the evening, only just in time for Bro. Whitehead and us to say good-by to the many brothers and sisters, and take train for the east; Bro. Whitehead to visit his farm, and ourselves to Wilmington, Delaware, where we had engagements.

The National Grange continued its good works and said many good words to all the Patrons everywhere, closing only on Saturday evening, the 27th of November. What the result of this session shall be, will depend much upon our members, under the direction of the several State Granges. Let all act and a "general advance be made all along the line."

We reached Wilmington after midnight, but with some rest were ready to meet Bro. Chandler, of Centreville Grange, No. 11, and go with him to his fine home up the banks, yet back from the Brandywine. This valley is filled with large manufacturing establishments, into whose owner's hands many of the finest farms have fallen, to be leased out to tenants. Already the effects of the "landlord and tenant" system are seen and felt here. Corporations for manufacturing, backed by the railroads, are trying to manage the politics of the day. A hearty dinner with Bro. Chandler and his family prepared us for the public meeting at the hall, where a goodly number came together. Bro. C. Lamborn was there and took us home with him to tea, and with his daughters in the evening to the hall of Hockessin Grange, No. 4, where another public meeting was to be held; but the hard storm that came unpitifully, made the number in attendance very slim. Bro. Lamborn is the Master of this Grange, and very much interested in the work. The evening after leaving the hall was pleasantly spent in social converse at the fireside of our host, who, accompanied with one daughter, took us to Newark the following day. Bro. Wm. Dean gave us a hearty welcome to his elegant home and sumptuous board set with dinner. Bro. Dean is chairman of the Executive Committee of the Delaware State Grange, and devotes much of his valuable time to furthering the interests of the Grange, and assisting the members.

The Order of Patrons in this State purchases through this agency large amounts of the commercial fertilizers at largely reduced prices, thereby saving much to the members who choose to patronize this business arm of the Order.

Saturday p. m. was the day for the public meeting of the Grange at Newark, and we had pleasure in addressing a large and very attentive and intelligent audience. Upon request an evening meeting was also held in the same hall, and for the short notice, was fairly attended. We met at these meetings Patrons from other Granges, and whose names we have tried to remember, but cannot, who came from Pennsylvania. This Grange has been instrumental in erecting a fine building in which they have a co-operative store, and the post-office is also in this building. On the second floor is the nicely furnished hall of the Grange, while a large public hall occupies the upper floor. In this the meetings were held, and we have seldom had the pleasure of finding an easier hall to speak in. In Bro. Dean's home we spent Sunday, and while the rain storm raged without, we passed the day very pleasantly, entertained by Bro. Dean's accomplished and pleasing daughters, who make their parents' home cheerful and happy, as we trust they may, some day in the near future, make homes of their own—and we are confident they will.

On Monday, the 29th, Bro. Dean called us to look over his factory and farm before breakfast. It was just daylight when we entered the woolen mill near his home, the smallest of the three he has. Busy spindles and cards were at work

preparing the warp and wool for a very large army contract of blue cloth. From basement to garret everything and everybody was busy. Wool was being sorted, washed and dyed. Carding, spinning, weaving and fulling were all going on, and large bales of cloth being made ready for use.

Leaving the factory we looked over the large farm. Fine crops of all kinds grow thereon, but nothing could be finer than the cabbage, which is grown by the acre. The flocks of sheep and herd of Jersey cattle all interested us. The Berkshire pigs were the best we have ever seen. Small fruits and grapes, peaches and pears, as well as apples—all claim this farmer's attention, and in all he succeeds. A successful manufacturer, a progressive farmer, and an earnest, true Patron, is Bro. Wm. Dean of Newark, Delaware.

## PORT PENN.

Our visit to mill, and barn, and farm, gave us a good relish for the substantial meal of the morning. After breakfast we reluctantly bade Sister Dean and daughters good by, and rode with our host to the depot, where we shook his hand in parting, and were borne away to Mt. Pleasant, en route for our next objective point—Port Penn.

Stepping off the train, a carriage drove up, and 300 pounds or more of man stepped out and gave us a Patron's grip and a brother's welcome. We rode a few miles to the eastward, and Sister Dilworth came to meet us at the gate, and bid us an olden time welcome to her home. Never in all our travels have we felt more at home or enjoyed a visit more than this one with Bro. and Sister Dilworth, of Port Penn. Dinner was soon served, and then came the team to show us the country, and the farm and its belongings. Bro. T. F. Dilworth has 500 acres of choice lands. Upon them he grows 80 or 90 acres of wheat, and as much corn every year. He has a dairy of 40 odd cows; Jersey and Holstein breeds, and makes butter.

We saw large apple and peach orchards; in the latter were 5,000 trees in bearing. We visited the canning factory upon this manor, where are canned each year the choicest peaches and the product of 12 acres planted to tomatoes. All the cans are made in the factory, and all the boxes in which they are packed for shipping. From the log they begin. We tasted the canned peaches, and if all were as good as those we saw, we don't wonder Bro. Dilworth finds a ready market for all his canned fruit.

Port Penn is situated upon the west bank of the Delaware river. It is a very old place, and said to be where Wm. Penn first landed in this country. The houses all show old age. One house is the one built by Baron DeKaib. Calls were made also upon some of the prominent Patrons near by, with all of whom we were much pleased. The evening brought together a fine audience at the school house. A word about the building. It resembled in all its appointments very much the one in which we learned our letters nearly 40 years ago; long desks stand around the outside next the wall. In front of the desks were the seats and benches, and to face the teacher you had to sit with your back resting against the edge of a board. This you see, is decidedly ancient to us in Michigan. The public schools are of but little account in this State. The academies are the schools of the wealthier people.

For the evening lecture we had a very intelligent audience, who seemed to appreciate the higher work of the Order as we were able to present it to them. At a late hour we retired, going up a pair of stairs said to be nearly 200 years old, to reach our chamber. On the morrow we rose at the call of the host, and after breakfast bade our hostess good-by. We have seldom met with a more intelligent woman. At one time Sister D. edited a Patron's paper in Delaware; it was good, but failed of support. She now

has the household department of the *Farm Journal*. The more such sisters we have in our Order, the better for it and all, especially for the children. With our good brother we journeyed to our first visit in the city of

## PHILADELPHIA.

To write all that we might of this busy day in the city of Brotherly Love, would take too many of these precious columns, and too much of our time. But Independence hall had a visit, of course. Our guide, Bro. D., who came with us, knows just where to find everything of interest. He has had a place here for the sale of his fresh fruit for several years, and has run two barges upon the river to bring his fruit up here, going up even to Trenton at times.

The various new public buildings are worthy of much time and space, but when finished, the press will give a better description than I can here. Millions of money have already been used and they are not half done.

The retail store of Wanamaker is a model. It takes a whole square, has four acres of space devoted to the sale of goods, requiring 1,200 busy clerks to do the business.

The Art Gallery, and many other places of which this city is justly proud, might well take some of our time to describe, but we must stop and make a visit to the enterprising and thrifty State of

## NEW JERSEY.

An early breakfast on the morning of Dec. 1, was taken to prepare us for a descent upon Mercer County, to attend the Pomona Grange. Aboard the elegant cars of the P. R. R., that run from Philadelphia to New York in two hours, we soon came to the banks of the Delaware, opposite Trenton, and here we discovered that we were watched by the Worthy Master of the State Grange of New Jersey, who had come in time to protect his subjects from the attacks of a veritable Michiganander, about to invade his jurisdiction. Unlike the General who commanded at Trenton, over a hundred years ago, Bro. N. was not sleeping at his post, but was at our side when we crossed the river. At our destination we were met and heartily welcomed by brothers and sisters, and in a few minutes were at the hall of Ewing Grange, the place of meeting. This hall is two stories in height, well built, in size 60x30 outside, and stands upon land given by the railroad company of which we have spoken. The upper story is used for the hall and large ante-rooms, while the lower story is used as a dining room and a family residence. In the hall there is a good piano. To our surprise, Bro. Whitehead met us at the inner gates. Of course we were right glad to see him, and suspect he thought we needed a little attention in our advent to the State. He knows how bashful we are, and came to encourage us.

Introductions to brothers and sisters took some time. The rain made some late, but soon the Pomona Grange opened, as it never did before, with Worthy Master Nicholson in the Master's chair, Worthy Lecturer Whitney of Michigan, in the Overseer's chair, and Worthy Past-Lecturer Whitehead, Steward. In the fifth degree the work began, and a number of candidates were passed to the court of Pomona. This labor closed, Bro. Whitehead was called to fill the time until dinner, which he did in his genial and very happy style. It seemed like old times to hear his rapid utterances in his well known tones. Dinner was announced all too soon and had to be taken when ready. After the meal was over a public meeting was the order, and we made our first bow to the people of this historic State, and on the memorable ground passed by Washington's army en route to capture the Hessians at Trenton.

The meeting was over in time, like all others, and we and Bro. Whitehead were detailed to go to tea at the home of Bro. Chas. Walker, near by. As we entered the parlor of our host, we took

notice of an old iron lock, such as we never saw before. It was eight inches long by six wide, and the knob upon the inside was upon the lock. We soon had it explained that we were in a very old home, and in that parlor General Washington ate a lunch and drank a glass of cider the morning after crossing the Delaware, when upon his way to take Trenton by surprise—a grand victory—the turning point of the Revolution, from constant defeat and discouragement—to victory and the grand result that followed.

Of course we enjoy these items of historic interest, and must beg pardon for giving them to our readers. We won't do so again—in ten lines at least.

After tea a worthy brother Green called, and we had a lengthy conversation upon the Order and its progress. We were much pleased to see that our New Jersey brothers have used the Order to purchase the concentrated manures at low rates, making great savings upon the purchases of the past. They are buying chemicals, and are making their own fertilizers, to a great extent—another step in advance.

Bro. Whitehead accompanied Bro. Green home for the night, and then came sleep and rest to us.

## TO FLEMINGTON.

The morning came all too soon, and called us to labor again. After the morning repast we took a look over surroundings. Our host's ice house, smoke house, milk house, etc., all combined, took our attention, as did many other things we saw. To the depot, was the word soon, and when there, upon the banks of the canal, we took a look at one of the numerous stone quarries of the State. Soon Bros. Whitehead and Nicholson joined us, and away we rode. We passed the identical point: where Washington crossed the Delaware en route to Trenton, to surprise its garrison; also years after, he crossed, to be greeted with flowers trewn by little girls and songs by mothers and maidens fair.

We hear them now saying in melodious song, as he passes the triple arch: "Welcome! Mighty Chief, once more, Welcome to this grateful shore; Now no mercenary foe aims again the fatal blow. Aims at thee the fatal blow; Virgins fair, and matrons grave, Whom thy conquering arm did save, Built for thee triumphal towers. Strew, ye fair, his way with flowers, Strew your hero's way with flowers." Oh, the historic scenes that imagination brings before us, as we tread the ground hallowed by the blood of patriots and heroes!

At Fleming, Hunterdon County, we met many staunch members of the Order. We liked their men, but can't say as to the sisters; we did not see any of them. We tried to talk to the men assembled in the court house, but as no inspiring glances came from sympathetic sisters, we know we failed. A word to the wise is sufficient. Be wise when we come to Hunterdon Co. again.

Bro. Whitehead had gone to his farm, and Bro. Nicholson says, "You will go home with me to-night." So we obey, as he is the Master. To Trenton, across the river to Germantown, Philadelphia, cross back, and we come into Camden, noted for having oysters so large that we can't eat a dozen. A four miles ride into the country, and we find where the Master of the New Jersey State Grange lives. From the darkness of the street, we follow the Master into the light of the home presided over by Flora of the National Grange. Home to the Master! and where Flora reigns, is always home to us—a natural home.

We were not the last to enter this home, for soon Bro. N.'s two daughters came in from a lecture. A pleasant hour passed and then we went to rest, and slept till the voice of the Master called the Lecturer to prepare for the duties of another day.

Soon Sister Nicholson bade us gather round the table, bountifully spread with material wherewith to break the

fast we had maintained since we failed to meet our dozen bivales. Bro. and Sister N., two daughters and two sons, and Bro. Harris, of the local Grange, with us, filled the table.

Breakfast being over we went to the barn to see the cows of Bro. N.'s dairy. He has between 60 and 70, all in the stables when we saw them. These stables are kept very neat and clean, and all that is gathered therefrom is carefully composted under cover near by, preparing for use upon the fields, used for growing corn, turnips, etc. Bro. N. has some fine horses, two of which he is proud, and likes to show. This farm has 180 acres in it, and many men and teams are employed to do the labor required thereon.

Turnips were being gathered in the fields near the house, and from what we saw of the stalks cut to feed, and the many other items we silently took in, we should say that Bro. Nicholson was not only a farmer, but a very thorough and successful one. Before we were half done talking and visiting, the team came to the door, and Bro. N., his daughter and ourselves took seats for Camden, and then leaving the daughter to take care of herself (and she can) Bro. N. took us aboard a train, and soon Bordentown is reached, where we are met by Bro. W. R. Hancock, a 300-lb. Jerseyman, that you can tie to, and he will never desert you in need. An hour's drive brought us to

COLUMBUS,

Our next point of attack. Here we found Sister Hancock, and several other sisters and brothers, and soon it seemed as if we had known them for years. The meeting in the public hall was a good one. Bro. Sattethwaite and Rodgers, and their wives, whom we had met in Washington, were there to greet and welcome us. Here we found some lively young folks, one of whom we promised to help halter some Michigan bachelor or widower, when she joins the Grange. It is well our intended victims don't know what we do, or they would be too easy prey.

The evening was given to instruction in the inner work of the Order, and a goodly number were present.

After the labors of the day were closed, we rode home with Bro. and Sister Hancock to their home, where we spent the night, and had an excellent rest and sleep, and woke to behold the sun shining brightly in welcome of the 13th anniversary of the

BIRTH OF OUR NOBLE ORDER.

The morning was given to writing, while Bro. H. went to Columbus for his sisters. We have here seen some of the richest portions of New Jersey. The corn crop must have been immense; often are the stalks twelve to fifteen feet in height. After dinner we took passage with Bro. and Sister Chas. DeCow to the County town of Burlington County, Mt. Holly. Here we found a good sized meeting of Patrons and farmers. Bro. Nicholson came also to attend the meeting, and Bro. and Sister David T. Haines, of Medford, also Bro. Shoul, whom we met at Washington. After a very pleasant meeting, we accompanied Bro. and Sister Haines home, and thence to Medford for the evening meeting.

The evening was all that we could ask, and we had the largest attendance yet present at any meeting in the State. Bro. David T. Haines presided, and in our introduction handsomely gave Michigan the credit of being a State of educational celebrity—proud of her celebrated schools and her sons.

Our audience seemed loth to let us conclude our lecture, but wanted it continued. We like these people, and as at Mt. Holly and Columbus, may we see more of them.

The seventh day had closed, and the first day of another week had begun, at the elegant home of Bro. Haines, ere we sought our bed, to rest.

With the morning came the rain—heavy, continuous rain. A good morning to sleep, and all took advantage of it. Breakfast was eaten at a late hour,

and still it rained too much to attempt to go to meeting, so we all remained at a truly comfortable home. Bro. H. has two daughters at home and one away at school. All three are just blooming into womanhood, and will some day rule in gentleness over wisely selected homes of their own.

These daughters, with their parents, form a most estimable, happy family. Bro. John Haines, a "bachelor free," lives with his brother David, and adds to the worthy circle another worthy member.

Bro. H. has a fine farm, and so has his brother. Cattle and sheep are largely grown by David, while John grows large crops of wheat.

Sister H. has a tastily arranged and well-filled conservatory, opening from the large family room; all of which adds to the comfort and happiness.

The best of friends must part, and so we had to leave this home and take the train to Mt. Holly, where worthy Bro. Hancock took us in charge, and after repeated changes, and rides on this, and that, and the other railroad, we reached

FREEHOLD,

the county seat of Monmouth County. Just before reaching the end of our route, we passed the battle ground, and at Freehold is the location of the old court house, used as a hospital at the time of the battle.

Just before we reached Freehold, Bro. T. Caverly and Sister Tilton, the former of Hamilton Square, and the latter of Allentown, came aboard our train, and went with us to Freehold. How these two came to be on the train, and together, is a question. Send us the solution some time, Bro. C. and Sister T.

The afternoon brought our audience to the Grange hall, which we addressed until it was time for the train to take us to Allentown, the place of the evening meeting.

Bro. Tilton met the quartette of us at the flag station—of which Jersey has many—and took us home with him, where Sister Tilton made us welcome and happy by a bountiful supper. Here we met Bro. Bruckelow and wife.

Supper over, a mule team passed everything on the road, and soon had us at the hall, which was well-filled with people when we reached there. Many brothers and sisters we have met and named before were there, and we felt quite at home.

Our meeting over, we parted regretfully, with many new friends and Patrons, whom we shall not see in some time, to say the least.

Bro. Bruckelow and wife took Bro. Hancock and ourself in care for the night, and prepare, by rest and sleep for an early start for Camden, to go thence south, into the Counties adjacent to the river.

Election Notes.

In the election of officers for the Grange, let office seek the person, male or female, and not the person, by friend or otherwise, seek the office.

The best person for each and every place is the one best qualified to fill the place.

One qualification for office in the Grange is ability; another is willingness to do the work required in the position.

Never let partisan preferences have any weight in the selection of Grange officials: disappointed office-seekers will often take any office offered them.

Workers are usually better officers than mere talkers.

Read the laws of the Order upon elections and the manner of conducting them. They are simple, and easily understood and carried out.

Put little faith in those members who come to the Grange only about election time.

SOME folks are unfortunately three-handed: They have a right hand, a left hand, and a little behind hand.

LOVE LIGHTENS LABOR.

TO BE READ BY THE HUSBANDS.

A good wife rose from her bed one morn,  
And thought, with a nervous dread,  
Of the pile of clothes to be washed, and more  
Than a dozen meals to be fed;  
There's the meals to get for the men in the field;  
And the children to school to be fixed away;  
The milk to be skimmed and churned,  
And all to be done in one day.

It had rained in the night and all the wood  
Was wet as it could be;  
The day was hot, and her aching head  
Throbbed wearily, as she said:  
"If maids only knew what good wives know,  
They would be in no haste to wed!"

"Jennie, what do you suppose I told Ben  
Brown?"  
Called the farmer from the well;  
And a blush crept up to his bronzed brow;  
And his hands fell:  
"It is this," he said, and coming near,  
Kissed from her brow the frown,  
"T'was this," he said, "that you were the  
best,  
And dearest wife in town."

The farmer went back to the field, and the  
wife,  
In a smiling and absent way,  
Sang snatches of tender little songs,  
She'd not sung for many a day,  
And the pain in her head was gone, and the  
clothes  
Were white as the foam of the sea:  
Her head was light, and her butter was sweet,  
And as golden as it could be.

"Just think," the children all called in a  
breath,  
"Tom Wood has run off to sea!  
He wouldn't, I know, if he only had  
As happy a home as we."  
The night came down and the good wife  
smiled  
To herself, as she softly said:  
"Tis so sweet to labor for those we love,  
It's not strange that maids will wed!"  
—Selected.

Ladies' Department.

PAW PAW, Dec. 6, 1880.

Some time since Sister S— stated that she did not feel called upon to write, etc. (?), but the appearance of the "Ladies' Department" in the VISITOR of Nov. 15, was too strong a reproof and suggestion, and she concluded to at least "call the roll."

How many will respond?

I apprehend the Sisters have been taking breath after that semi-annual horror—house cleaning—and trust that now they will occupy all the space allotted them by our kind-hearted editor. I hope to see many new names.

I have thus far looked in vain for communications from No. 10. Many of our members who are interested readers of the VISITOR are capable of adding to its interest, and I hope they will no longer allow an insignificant member to be their sole representative. Like many another, our Grange has diminished somewhat in numbers, but the workers are all left, and our sessions are very pleasant. Aunt Kate says, "The idea of a Patron trying to be a good Granger and not take a Grange paper is absurd?" What would she think of a Patron who took a Grange paper yet performed none of the duties of a Patron, not even attending the meetings of the Order. I know of such cases.

Some of them say, "The Grange is a good thing, and I would like to keep along with it if it would only do something."

What do they think the Grange is? Of what is it composed?

If each member staid at home and waited for that indefinite "it" to do something, how long would they have to wait?

But if there is any life in those delinquents, I think the VISITOR which they read, will arouse them, and I will leave them in his hands.

I hope Aunt Hattie will reply to the call of Sister S—, but why did not the latter give us her views on the subject she presented?

There is one subject upon which there cannot be too much said or written—education. I am aware it is a good deal discussed, but that is something that cannot be overdone. Let us keep it ever before the children and youth. Let us strive by all laudable means to arouse all their ambition, to instill into their minds a love of knowledge, and the necessity of its attainment. We should be progressive. Each generation should be wiser than the preceding one. I once heard a man say, "My ambition

has always been to know more than my father, and I try to impress upon the minds of my children that their aim should be to know more than I do."

Education does not end with our school days. Our school life is but the discipline needed to enable us to absorb and assimilate knowledge wherever found.

What an educator our Order has been to the middle aged! And now let us gather in the youth and bear them along with us. Let us teach and encourage them to have some ideal for which to labor, and to place that ideal so high that the end of life shall find them still reaching forward to grasp it.

MARY.

Bide Your Time.

Every man must patiently bide his time. He must wait. More particularly in lands like my native land, where the pulse of life beats with feverish and impatient throbs, is the lesson needful. Our National character wants the dignity of repose. We seem to live in the midst of a battle—there is such a din, such a hurrying to and fro. In the streets of a crowded city it is difficult to walk slowly, you feel the rushing of the crowd, and rush with it onward. In the press of our life it is difficult to be calm. The voices of the present say—Come! With calm and unflinching feetstep the rising tide beams against the rushing torrent up stream, and pushes back the hurrying waters.

With no less calm and solemn footstep, no less certainty, does a great mind bear up against public opinion, and push back the hurrying stream. Therefore, should every man wait,—should bide his time. Not in listless idleness, not in useless pastime, not in querulous dejection; but in constant, steady, cheerful endeavors, always willing, and fulfilling, and accomplishing his task, that when the occasion comes he may be equal to the occasion. And if it never comes, what matters it to the world whether I, or you, or another man, did such a deed, or wrote such a book, so be the deed and the book were well done. It is the part of an indiscreet and troublesome ambition to care too much about fame—about what the world says of us—to be always anxious for the effect of what we do and say; to be always shouting to hear the echo of our own voices. If you look about you, you will see men in the midst of fame, and the last we shall hear of them will be the funeral bell that tolls them to their early graves. Unhappy men, and unsuccessful, because their purpose is not to accomplish well their task, but to clutch the "tricks and phantasies of fame," but they go to their graves with their purposes unaccomplished and wishes unfulfilled. Better for them, and for the world following in their example, had they known how to wait. Believe me, the talent of success is nothing more than doing what you can do well, and doing well whatever you do—without a thought of fame. If it comes at all, it will come because it is deserved, and because it is sought after. And, moreover, there will be no misgivings, no disappointments; no hasty, feverish, exhausting excitement.

WHOM did Adam marry, and when did he marry? One Eve. What was her bridal dress? Barely nothing. Not even a ribbon? No; she had no need of one. She was a ribbon herself. When Adam and Eve were in the gardening business, what time did they commence picking apples? In the Fall. What was the first step they took in the sugar business? Raising Cain. Why did not Cain make good sugar? Because he was not Abel. Who was the wisest man? Noah. (Noah.) What did he know? He knew enough to get in out of the rain.

THE dairy butter trade is raising a fund to punish the dealers and makers of oleomargarine.

THE REAPER, DEATH.

CLARK.—Died Sept. 20th, 1880, WILLIAM H. CLARK, a member of Whitney Grange, No. 513, in the 44th year of his age.

The following resolutions of respect and condolence were adopted:

WHEREAS, The reaper death has again invaded our ranks and cut down, in the prime of life and in the full vigor of his manhood, our brother William H. Clark, thus once more reminding us of the uncertainty of life, and admonishing us to be ready for the final harvest; therefore,

Resolved, That in the death of brother Clark, the Grange has lost an earnest and consistent member, his family a kind and indulgent husband and father, and the community a worthy and useful citizen.

Resolved, That our heart-felt sympathy is extended to the family of the deceased in their great affliction, realizing how powerless are poor words of ours to comfort or heal their sorrows, we can only commend them to the care of "Him who doeth all things well."

Resolved, That these resolutions be spread upon the minutes of the Grange, a copy sent to the family of the deceased, and that the charter of our Grange be draped in mourning for sixty days.

J. Q. A. BURLINGTON,  
EDWARD PALMER,  
J. H. RICHARDSON,  
Committee.

BUCK.—Died at his residence in Fowler, of congestion of the lungs, Nov. 6th, 1880, Brother E. W. BUCK a charter member of Dallas Grange, No. 505, and its present Worthy Overseer.

WHEREAS, The scythe of time has cut from our midst one of the most zealous advocates of our cause, and one of our most faithful workers in, and supporters of our Grange; AND, WHEREAS, We realize the severe loss we have sustained; therefore,

Resolved, That we extend our heart-felt sympathy to, and mingle our tears with, our sister, the bereaved wife of our "Fraternal brother."

Resolved, That our hall be draped in mourning for the period of sixty days;

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be presented to the family of our deceased brother, offered to the county papers of this county, and be sent to the GRANGE VISITOR for publication.

"The loved and loving brother, husband, father, friend, died where manhood's shadow almost touches noon, and while the shadows were still falling to the west,

He had not passed, on life's highway, the stone that marks the highest point, but, being weary for a moment laid down, and using his burdens for a pillow, fell into that dreamless sleep that kisses his eyelids still.

While yet in love with life, he passed to silence and pathetic dust. This brave man, in every storm of life, was rock and oak, but in the sunshine he was vine and flower. The heights he sought to climb, but he looked not with envy on those above, nor with scorn on those below. With loyal heart and purest hand, he faithfully discharged all public trusts:

He sided with the weak, and was a friend to the oppressed; and, if each one for whom he performed some kind act, were to bring a blossom to his grave, he would sleep this night, beneath a wilderness of flowers."

MYRON BROWN,  
GEORGE E. BLISS,  
HENRY SHELDON,  
Committee.

PINKNEY.—Died at her residence in Keene, Iowa Co., Mich., Oct. 23d, 1880, Sister PHIBBS PINKNEY, a member of Keene Grange, No. 270, in the 33d year of her age.

WHEREAS, The reaper, death, has passed in our midst and summoned a beloved sister; therefore,

Resolved, That while we thus recognize the just hand of a Divine Master above, we must also express our sorrow in losing a kind sister, in memory of their departed sister, and our condolence with the bereaved relatives in this their hour of sorrow, draps our charter in mourning for sixty days.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be entered upon the record of the Grange, and also sent to the GRANGE VISITOR for publication.

MRS. CHAS. TAYLOR,  
LETTIE HAWLEY,  
" JAS. BEATTIE,  
Committee.

JOHNSON.—Died in Keene, Nov. 21st, 1880, Sister CARIE S. JOHNSON, wife of the Worthy Secretary, Dewitt C. Johnson, in the 36th year of her age.

Deceased being Ceres of Keene Grange, No. 270, in her death one of the brightest links of our fraternal chain has been severed, and we have been brought to mourn the loss of a dear sister, and we submissively bow to the will of the Father's chastening hand.

WHEREAS, In Sister Johnson's unerring Christian life, we see her perfect faith in God. That her Hope, was as an anchor, steadfast and sure, and by her acts of Charity, she won the love and respect of all who knew her; therefore,

Resolved, That as the All Wise Creator has seen fit to remove by death, the honored and beloved Ceres from our midst, that as a token of respect, her stand be draped in mourning, and her chair be held vacant until after the next election of officers.

Resolved, That the members of Keene Grange extend to the bereaved family, their most sincere and heart-felt sympathies; that these resolutions be entered upon our record, a copy sent to the sorrowing family, and to the GRANGE VISITOR for publication.

MRS. MARY WELCH,  
" WOODMAN,  
" ANN E. PARKS,  
Committee.

WELCH.—Died at her father's residence in Keene, Iowa Co., Oct. 28th, after a long and painful illness, Miss IDA R., youngest daughter of Vine Welch, aged twenty years.

The funeral services were held Oct. 30th, at the house, and her remains were taken to the Iowa cemetery for interment. Rev. Jas. Roberts conducted the services. The funeral was very largely attended, for her wide circle of acquaintances universally loved her, and were anxious to once more view those fair features, and shed tears o'er that loved form—tears of sorrow for their own loss, and of sympathy for the still greater sorrow of the afflicted family.

WHEREAS, Keene Grange, No. 270, has again heard an alarm at the gate, and the unbidden our fraternal chain a golden link, which can never be restored. How sadly shall we miss the young and lovely sister, whose smile was sure to greet us when we gathered here in our hall homes; who was ever ready to perform all duties assigned her, and whose good principles ever prompted her to cast her influence upon the side of right. May her memory ever be dear to our hearts, and may we emulate her virtues and endeavor to be as worthy members of this fraternity.

Resolved, That as a Grange we tender our heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved family in their severe affliction.

Resolved, That our hall be draped in mourning for sixty days, that these resolutions be entered upon our records, and a copy of them be presented to Bro. and Sister Welch, and one sent to the GRANGE VISITOR for publication.

MRS. LIVERA A. PARKS,  
" S. R. MOON,  
" E. HANCOM,  
Grange Hall, Nov. 27, 1880. Committee.

**Exercise and Rest.**

Farmers as a class are prone to forget that exercise can kill as well as cure. Many, very many hard-working, ambitious farmers, as well as farmers' wives, have hurried themselves into untimely graves by endeavoring to "keep up" when they ought to be in bed; and they do keep up, too, for so long a time that, when they take to their beds, their strength is so completely exhausted that the system has no power to rise, and they fall into a condition beyond the reach of human skill and all is lost. Who has not observed that when anything serious is the matter with domestic animals they court quietude and perfect rest. We are aware that sometimes a person feels indisposed to exercise from sheer laziness. We are not offering advice to such, but it is to those who, from fear of being classed among the idle and lazy, constantly disobey an instructive desire to sit down, and stay there, when nature demands rest. We firmly believe that in most instances, quietude would result in cure under most circumstances. If every step you take is an effort, do not take another—go to bed. If you feel the better for a walk, then walk, but stop short of great fatigue.—*Ag. World.*

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On account of ill health, H. H. Taylor, of Dowagiac, Cass Co., Mich., offers for sale, at the low price of \$8,900, his excellent grain and stock farm of 282 acres, 180 under good cultivation, balance good timber. Fine cold spring, good buildings, fences, fruit; 20 acres wheat on the ground. Located four miles from Dowagiac, half-mile north of Central Railroad. Stock and farming tools, put in at a low price, if wanted—on ten years time, for two-thirds of the purchase money. Also very cheap, a first-class business pair of horses, weighing 2,400 lbs.

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  - Membership Cards, per 100, 50
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  - Dimita, in envelopes, per doz., 25
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  - By-Laws, bound, 1 00
  - Patrons' Singing Book, with music, Single copy 15 cts. per doz., 1 80
  - Minutes, single copy, 25
  - per doz., 2 40
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