

What Pursuits in Life?

[An essay read before Orion Grange, No. 259, Feb. 5th, 1881, by Sarah Andrews.]

Worthy Master, Brothers and Sisters:

The subject assigned me to-day is one I scarcely understand. It is a very indefinite one, "What pursuits in life?" I certainly cannot tell what occupation each person ought to pursue, and as there are so many pursuits, I cannot, speak of them all, but I think it a matter of great interest and important to all young people, to select the occupation in life for which they are best adapted, for on this decision depends in a great measure their success in life. It is a mistaken idea, that laurels are only to be won among the professions, and that a farmer's life is shorn of all honors, and even more, bears with it a mild flavor of contempt.

Every year our colleges graduate scores of young men for the ministry, medicine and the law, who are winnily unfit for the duties they assume. They start out with bright hopes, only to see them fade slowly but surely away, and then perhaps after many weary years of waiting, they finally look about for other means of support. But they are not prepared to labor. Unsuccessful in the field in which they hoped to work, they develop but little aptness in new undertakings. The young man who has an earnest desire to succeed in life, and has a true respect for the dignity of labor, makes a wise choice, when he selects an occupation for which he has a natural ability. Let him then resolve that whatever he does, he will do it well. Let him determine not only to be master of his trade, but to excel. These purposes practically and persistently carried out will bring a rich reward.

We do not properly weigh the importance of the farmers' calling, as compared with other pursuits.

Thousands of farmers' sons are crowded into the professions. Young men by the scores forsake the farm and seek the towns and cities, where the largest proportion of them fail to achieve distinction, and many are lured by the excitement and vices which beset them into bad ways, and their early hopes and prospects are blighted.

Of the three great natural sources of wealth, agriculture, mining and fishing, the last two are comparatively insignificant, while the two great artificial sources, manufactures and commerce, depend mainly upon agriculture. The entire machinery of trade and commerce is impelled and propelled by the rural industries. They constitute the chief factors in the business of the world. Man, whatever his business or occupation, must be fed and clothed, and the food and raiment comes from the earth, through the labor and instrumentality of the farmer. Is not agriculture, then, the most important of all pursuits? Should it not occupy the first place in the estimation of mankind on this account? It has been acknowledged the most ancient, the most honorable, and the most important among the pursuits of mankind, and it certainly cannot be less so, in this age, when by the aid of science, new facts are constantly being developed and brought to light, calculated to place it upon a higher plane than it has ever before occupied. Notwithstanding all this its importance is too often underestimated, and the farm and home not made attractive enough. The cost of making homes beautiful and attractive is so very small, when compared with its advantages, that it is strange so little attention is given to this matter. Farmers who wish their sons to remain at home, and follow their occupation, and become intelligent and enterprising men, have much to do to accomplish the desired result. Home and its surroundings should be made pleasant, rather than forbidding. It is not expensive to have neat flower gardens, trees and shrubs, which delight and please the eye and make home far more attractive than costly objects, and it is economy to have neat and durable out-buildings, fences, gates, and other farm conveniences. Good books and papers should be in every house, while music and pictures help very much to make home attractive. Let the children feel that home is not merely a place in which to eat, drink and sleep, but let it be made so pleasant that they will always remember it as the dearest place on earth.

Home is a sweet world, but to make a sweet home, all must act in concert to give it both an external and internal beauty. Only by making home pleasant and attractive to both sons and daughters, can they be made to take an interest in farming, and to feel that it is one of the best pursuits in life.

Installation and Social.

LIMA, Washtenaw Co. Jan. 25, 1881. Lafayette Grange, No. 92 met at the residence of John E. Cooley Friday, Jan. 14, for the purpose of installing the officers for the ensuing year. A majority of the members were present. We had an interesting time. After social greeting and converse, we were called to refreshment, and seated around a bountifully spread table, laden with all the good things that tempt the appetite, to which we did ample justice. After supper the Grange was called to order by Bro. Carr, when Bro. J. W. Wing installed the officers elect, after which he made a very interesting speech in behalf

of the Patrons of Husbandry, followed by music, closing the exercises of a well spent evening. Yours fraternally, Mrs. V. S. CARR.

SUPERPHOSPHATE of lime is one of the best fertilizers known for melons, a half-handful being put in each hill.

PIP in poultry is a symptom of disease; it is commonly an affection of the air passages, which compels the fowl to breathe through its mouth, becoming dry in consequence. A hard substance forms at the end of the tongue, sometimes extending to the roof of the mouth. This causes the noisy breathing which produces the sound of pip.

A GENTLEMAN who has made great use of salt in growing onions, and who has been very successful, informs us that he has used as much as two barrels to the acre. He thinks that the salt adds to the growth of the onions, weakens the growth of weeds, and is very beneficial in warding off the attacks of noxious insects, but thinks that a sufficiency of salt to kill grubs and wire worms would also kill vegetable life generally.

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For further information, address A. STEGEMAN, Allegan, Mich.

J. S. BIDWELL, Sec. of C. A. of P. of H.

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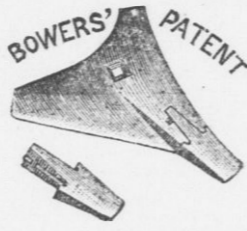
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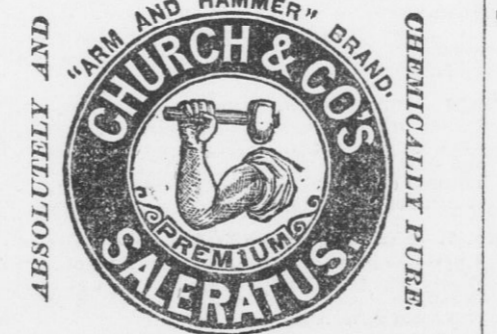
Detroit, Jan. 24, 1881. Dear Sir:—The copartnership heretofore existing under the firm name of Geo. W. Hill & Co. is this day dissolved by mutual consent. Patrons owing the late firm will make all payments to Geo. W. Hill, and please be as prompt as possible. GEO. W. HILL, A. PLATT, 80 Woodbridge St. West, Detroit, Mich.

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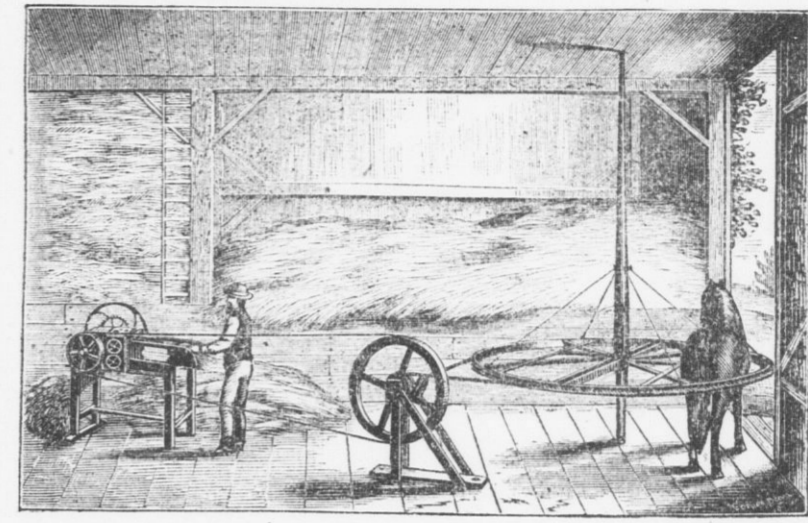
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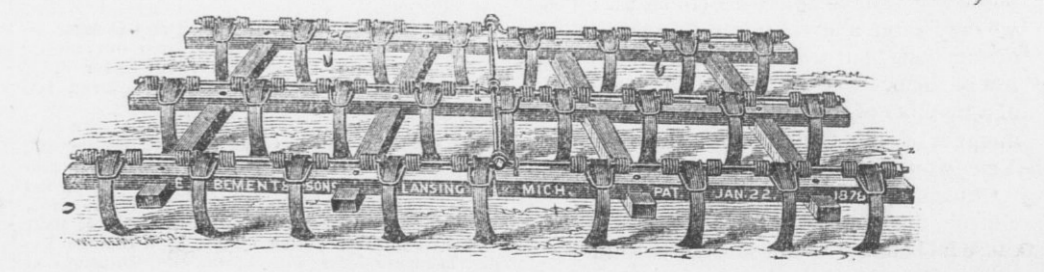
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