

THE GRANGE VISITOR

"THE FARMER IS OF MORE CONSEQUENCE THAN THE FARM, AND SHOULD BE FIRST IMPROVED."

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SELLING THE FARM.

BY BETH DAY.

Well, why don't you say it, husband, I know what you want to say; you want to talk about selling the farm, for the mortgage we cannot pay. I know that we cannot pay it, I have thought of it o'er and o'er; for the wheat has failed on the corner lot, where he paid; and everything here's gone backward, since Willie went off to sea, to pay the mortgage and save the farm, the homestead for you and me. I know it is best to give it, it is right that the debts he paid; the debts that our thoughtless Willie, in the hours of his weakness made. And Willie would have paid it fairly, you know it as well as I. If the ship had not gone down that night when no other ship was nigh. But, somehow, I didn't quit hoping, and ever I've tried to pray— (But I know it our Will was alive on earth, he'd surely be here to-day). I thought that the merciful Father would somehow care for the lad. Because he was trying to better the past, and because he was all we had. But now I am well nigh hopeless, since hope for my boy has fled. For selling the farm means giving him up, and knowing for sure he's dead. Oh! Thomas, how can you leave it, the home we have always known. We won it away from the forest, and made it so much our own. First day we kept house together was the day that you brought me here; and no other place in the wide, wide world will ever be half so dear. Of course you remember it, Thomas—I need not ask you, I know. For this is the month and this the day—it was twenty-six years ago. And don't you remember it, Thomas, the winter the barn was made? How we were so proud and happy, for all our debts were paid— The crops were good that summer, and everything worked like a charm, and we felt so rich and contented to think we had paid for the farm. And now to think we must leave it, when here I was hoping to die. It seems as if it was breaking my heart, but the fount of my tears is dry, * * * * *

There's a man up there in the village that's wanting to buy, you say, Well, Thomas, he'll have to have it, but why does he come to-day? But there, it is wrong to grieve you, for you have enough to bear. And in all our petty troubles you have always borne your share; I am but a sorry helpmate since I have so childish grown. There, there, go on to the village, let me have it out alone. Poor Thomas, he's growing feeble, he steps so weary and slow. There is not much in his looks to-day like twenty-six years ago. But I know that his heart is youthful, as it was when we first were wed. And his love is as strong as ever for me, and for Willie, our boy that's dead. Oh, Willie, my baby Willie, I never shall see him more; I never shall hear his footsteps, as he comes through the open door, "How are you, dear little mother?" were always the words he'd say: It seems as if I would give the world to hear it again to-day. I knew when my boy was coming, he it ever so early or late. He was always a whistling "Home, Sweet Home," as he opened the garden gate. And many and many a moment, since the night that the ship went down, Have I started up at a whistle like his, out there on the road from town; And in many a night of sorrow, in the silence, early and late, Have I held my breath at a footstep that seemed to pause at the gate. I hope that he cannot see us, wherever his soul may be: It would grieve him to know the trouble that's come to father and me. Out there is the tree that he planted, the day he was twelve years old; The sunlight is glinting through it, and turning its leaves to gold; And often when I was lonely, and no one near at hand, I have talked to it hours together—as if it could understand— And sometimes I used to fancy, whenever I spoke of my boy, It was waving its leaves together, like clapping its hands for joy. It may be the man that will own it, that's coming to buy to-day. Will be chopping it down, or digging it up, and burning it out of the way. And there are the pansies yonder, and the roses he helped to tend— Why, every bush on the dear old place is as dear as a tried old friend. And now we must go and leave them—but there! they have come from town. I haven't had time to smooth my hair, or even to change my gown: I can see them both quite plainly, although it is quite late. And the stranger's a whistling "Home, Sweet Home" as he comes up from the gate. I'll go out into the kitchen now, for I don't want to look on his face; What right has he to be whistling that, unless he has bought the place? * * * * *

Why, can that be Thomas coming? he usually steps so slow;

There's something come into his footstep like twenty-six years ago. There's something that sounds like gladness, and the man that he used to be. Before our Willie went out from home to die on the stormy sea. * * * * *

What, Thomas! Why are you smiling, and holding my hands so tight? And why don't you tell me quickly—must we go from the farm to-night? What's that? "You bring me tidings, and tidings of wonderful joy." It cannot be very joyous, unless it is news of my boy. Oh, Thomas! You cannot mean it? Here, let me look in your face? Now, tell me again, is it Willie that's wanting to buy the place?

Manure.

The discussion of manures, the best methods of handling, the relative value of mineral, commercial, vegetable, or animal, has, for a decade or more, been laid aside as one of the unsolved problems. Previous to that time, every agricultural institution, the agricultural press, chemists and specialists, in this and in other agricultural countries, were struggling with this weighty theme. A system of farming, pursued in one direction for a period of years, had gradually reduced the fertility of the soil to a point where profitable agriculture was about to cease. Animal and vegetable manures, applied in the ordinary way, were insufficient for the demand. Illustrations of agricultural decadence, and its consequent results, were not wanting to add to the growing disquietude. The interest of scientific men was awakened, and experimental stations, and the minds of practical men everywhere, were turned toward solving this question of fertility, and in determining what the manure of the future was to be.

In olden times, letting the land lie fallow was the only cure for wasted energy; but the necessities of an ever increasing population, and the limited area on which the food must be grown, prevented this plan from being pursued. Deep cultivation had its advocates, but the relief could be but temporary, and the cost of production was increased, from the increased labor of preparing the soil to this greater depth. The deposits of guano were limited to a few islands of the sea, and the supply quickly exhausted. In this extremity the idea of employing mineral and chemical manures was given a new impetus. Chemical analyses of all the cereals, to determine their essential elements, were made by eminent scientists in all the great agricultural countries, with the view of finding, stored up in nature somewhere, a supply that should be a compensation for the waste of successive croppings, and which could be applied in a way to restore the virgin fertility to the earth. A vast amount of scientific agricultural knowledge was eliminated from this research, and the results of these analyses are still the basis of all the calculations of speculative agriculture.

It was found, through these questionings of Nature, that many of the essential elements of plant growth and maturity are always stored in sufficient quantity, either latent or active, to supply all drafts upon this reserve fund, while other elements were drawn upon beyond the power of Nature to restore.

Some of these learned men went so far as to formulate a chemical prescription, composed of those elements of which Nature seemed to be "short," and introduced it as a "complete manure," which should be a panacea for the ills of "sick" lands and short crops. Like the ills which flesh is heir to, the soil of no two localities needed the same treatment, and unfortunately for this "complete manure" medicine, it failed as often as it fertilized, and to-day we know nothing, practically, of its effects.

Commercial fertilizers have, to some extent, supplanted these chemical compounds, and in some soils are, no doubt, of decided benefit; but it is our opinion that a dependence on any commercial fertilizer or chemical compound whatever, to insure permanent fertility, will signally fail. We must follow Nature more closely. Stimulants will keep life in the body until Nature can be fed, and the normal conditions regained, then withdraw the stimulus, and don't over work to bring on a relapse.

Anyso-called manure that does not permanently improve the soil, is not a manure in the true sense of the word. Decomposing vegetable, or animal matter, is the only true "complete manure;" all others are stimu-

lants, and cannot be depended upon for continuous cropping. The farmer furnishes humus to the soil, which is the true basis of manure. Humus acts in a way so different from the chemical substances which have been proposed as substitutes for it, that there is no comparison. Humus gives physical qualities to the soil; it places it in relation to the forces that act upon it. It gives vital force, and regulates the rate of growth in a manner wholly unknown to mere chemical foods. Humus retains moisture in the soil. It raises the temperature above that of soil not supplied with it, by its slow decomposition, and by the darker color, which attracts the solar ray and retains its heat. Thus heat and moisture are furnished—the two great essentials to all plant growth. It renders soil more friable, and more readily penetrable by the feeding roots. It employs a chemistry of its own in its decomposition, thereby furnishing to the plant whatever of inorganic materials may be necessary for its sustenance. It absorbs and combines with ammonia, and to a less extent, with soda, potash, lime and magnesia, thus retaining these substances for the use of the plants.

BARN YARD MANURE.

Whatever can be applied to the soil that will furnish humus in the largest proportion, will the more permanently improve and soonest renovate it. Barn yard manure, and both root and top of clover, are the surest dependence for the farmer. The best method of applying yard manure has been freely discussed in the recent farmers' meetings throughout the country. The burden of proof, and our own experience, are in favor of applying all fresh animal manures directly to the surface of the soil, and spread as fast as drawn. Yard litter, straw, cornstalks, etc., should be left undisturbed as long as the yard is used for the stock, then either piled in heaps, or drawn to the fields and spread. The waste of leakings and drainage from exposed manure is very great. The red, sanguinary stream running from the manure heaps, is the best blood of the farm. If spread evenly upon the surface of the fields before this leakage begins, this otherwise wasted fertilizer is deposited where it can be fed upon by every rootlet of the future crop.

GREEN MANURE.

It is a mistaken idea that green manuring is comparatively a modern system of farming. The Romans were familiar with its beneficial effects. Rome had agricultural writers in her day. Cato and Pliny each have something to say in its favor; Xenophon, the Grecian general and philosopher, taught his countrymen the use of such manures.

The first among modern nations to grow grasses and plants for this purpose were the inhabitants of Flanders (now Belgium). They were driven to it through "necessity, the mother of invention." Their soil generally consisted of loose and porous sand, illy adapted to growing wheat, but they gradually converted this barren land into a most fertile loam. At first they cultivated to a depth of only three or four inches, but gradually worked it deeper, until they secured a very deep, rich, loamy soil, capable of producing the finest crops. In 1819 their wheat yielded 32 bushels to the acre, and oats 52 bushels. From the beginning of the 16th century to the present day, the Flemish farmers have continued models of neat, economical and profitable farming. Radcliffe, in writing about them, mentions these points: "They were careful to save and accumulate manure. They destroyed all noxious weeds, and frequently stirred and deeply pulverized the soil"; and further, that "without clover no man in Flanders would pretend to call himself a farmer." For three hundred years these Belgian lands have been cropped under this system, and to-day no finer nor more profitable farming is practiced anywhere. Their lands do not run out, but become permanently productive.

Much has been written about rye as a green manure, and many still believe in its efficacy. From a theoretical standpoint, it will bear a vast deal of demonstration as to its value. It will make a heavy growth on light soil, and can be very easily and neatly turned under. But let us look at its value as compared with clover, as a manurial product. By actual test, it has been found that the ratio of root to top in mature rye is as 10 to 136, and in mature clover it is as 10

to 15—the stubble is counted as a part of the root. Here you have half as much root as top in the clover plant, and almost 14 times as much top as root in the rye crop. As to the chemical composition of the roots of the two, this difference occurs: In an acre of roots of rye there are 62 pounds of nitrogen, and in clover 180 pounds. Of lime there are 69 pounds in the rye, and 246 in the clover. Of potash there are 30 pounds in the rye, and 77 pounds in the clover roots. Of dry vegetable matter in an acre of the roots of rye, there are 3,400 pounds, and in clover 6,580 pounds—this from soil only ten inches in depth. When the rye roots extended eight inches in depth, the clover roots were 16 inches deep. Supposing both to be turned under for a wheat crop, the rye will furnish 40 pounds more nitrogen to the acre than is required by the wheat, but the clover will give a surplus of 140 pounds. Of lime the rye fails to give enough to the acre into three pounds, while clover leaves a surplus of 174 pounds. Rye simply pays back to mother earth its indebtedness for the pabulum which it took to grow to maturity; it simply buries its talent in the earth, and restores it singly when the master comes to reclaim his own, while the clover gathers to itself other talents. It reduces insoluble matter to a soluble condition, and leaves it in a state adapted to immediate use. It pumps up fertility within the reach of shorter rooted plants. It shades the earth and fosters mold and mosses and minute lichens, which furnish acetic acid. In comparison, rye is not worth mentioning for a green manure, and any one who has tried the experiment, as we have done, will be satisfied.

This question of manure is not yet fully considered, and in another number we shall continue the discussion.

Hired Men on the Farm.

During the present month the help on the farm will be secured, and the labor for the season planned. The execution of these plans will depend largely upon the laborers employed, and it is necessary that some care be exercised in selecting competent men, who can use some degree of judgment, with foresight and care, to complement the endeavors of the farmer.

A careful, intelligent young man—one who has his thoughts upon his work, who remembers where all the tools are placed, and takes all that is necessary with him to the field, without running back for wrench, bolt or clevis; who can mend a broken harrow, or properly adjust a plow; who is not afraid to disobey orders when things are going wrong—such a hired man is worth looking after, and deserves top wages, while his opposite is only a delusion and an aggravation.

In selecting a hired man, intelligence is a qualification above mere brute strength. Brains first, rather than muscle, should govern the decision. The plodding dullard, who has worked by the month for several years, who squanders in winter the wages he earned in summer, is dear help at any price. He has learned to shirk and escape detection, and generally looks to shade and sundown as the greatest earthly bliss. Nothing can be made of him; he is satisfied with staying at the barn, and sleeping in the loft. To those who only look at help as machines to grind out labor, or as targets to swear at, these may do, and such farmers deserve no better. But there is another side—a more pleasing, yet more fanciful picture. It is that of a young man of intelligence, engaged for the season at wages satisfactory to both parties, who expects to faithfully perform his duties, respectful and respected. He should strive to perform the labor as directed, adjusting his manner of doing work to the methods observed by his employer. On the other hand, his employer should not give orders in an imperative tone, but should talk over his plans, so that the hired man may know the general program for the whole season. He should have a room where his trunk and clothing can be kept in good order, should have access to books and papers as freely as any of the family, and be treated in a friendly manner. Such a course is not merely an act of common courtesy, but it pays. No person who is treated in a manner which says, "All I want of you is the day's work that you are able to perform," will have that interest in the work, nor perform it with the zeal he would under other treatment. A man must

(Continued on eighth page.)

The Grange Visitor.

SCHOOLCRAFT, - MARCH 15TH, 1881.

Inaugural Address.

[The following address was delivered by Prof. W. J. Beal at Stockbridge, as Master of Ingham Co. Grange, Feb. 9th, 1881.]

The past year has been one of unusual prosperity. Crops have been good and these have found quick sales in ready markets, generally at reasonable prices. Manufactures and trade have revived. A usual degree of health has prevailed. We have reason to return grateful thanks to the Giver of all good that we are permitted to live in this beautiful land of plenty. We may well congratulate ourselves that we are living at this time, and that we are so situated that we can take an active part in making the progress of this age.

With few exceptions, the 14 Subordinate Granges of Ingham County are in a flourishing condition, while in our State and the Nation at large, the Grange was never more prosperous. The Pomona Grange of Ingham County continues to grow larger and stronger. Within the past year numerous additions have been made to our ranks. Just a year ago we held a farmers' Institute of two days, with a public installation of officers, at Okemos.

To-day we begin another. To this Pomona Grange is due the credit of giving the invitation and aiding in the plans for carry-out successfully the large Harvest Festival held at Lansing during the past summer. Without boasting it may be said that this Pomona Grange assumed the responsibility and ran the risk of providing for the large expenses which must necessarily be made. Fortunately the day was fine and the attendance all that could be desired. This was estimated by good judges as not far from 10,000 people. A large number of the members of Capital Grange volunteered to give their time, and with the aid of the managers and salesmen of the Grange store at Lansing sold various provisions, luxuries, and notions to those on the ground. This was so well managed that the profits were more than sufficient to pay the expenses of the meeting. No drain on the treasury of our County Grange was made. We are under great obligations to those members of Capital Grange who thus volunteered to work for the Harvest Festival. They have our sincere thanks for their efforts.

I esteem it a great privilege to belong to such an institution as the Grange, the objects of which are to advance education, temperance, and morality; to aid in forming business habits, and to encourage the social faculties of farmers; in part to do all that will help a farmer to become a good citizen.

During the coming year we shall continue to hold meetings in connection with Subordinate Granges in the county. We shall most likely soon begin to perfect all the necessary arrangements for another Harvest Festival to be held at some suitable place in the county.

Our meetings are not only disseminating useful information, but they bring together the Patrons from various parts of the county, where they form valuable acquaintances. I have named a few of the objects of a Subordinate Grange. They have often been set forth in addresses, in the papers, and in circulars, though these have often been misunderstood or misconstrued by those who think the farmer not capable of doing his own business.

It doubtless appears to some that the Grange movement has accomplished but little, but I am certain it has done a great deal, and it has only just begun to get started. Some of the old members, who had but few advantages as pioneers in a new country, have done nobly in keeping the good work moving on. It is from the younger members who have had such superior advantages, that we are even now beginning to see grand results.

During my vacations—and they are vacations only in name—I see much of our farmers; in their homes, in the farmers' clubs, at fairs, institutes, festivals, and in the Grange. Considering the favorable position which I occupy, I ought to be a good judge of the advancement which has been made by the farmers of Michigan. We cannot find a gathering of farmers at our institutes or agricultural societies, without seeing the good effects of the Grange. Farmers are chosen as presiding officers, and they preside admirably. They write many of our best essays, and deliver many of the finest addresses. They furnish appropriate music; they are quick and apt in discussion; they are impatient with those who offer mere empty words. The farmers are taking the lead in the management of our agricultural fairs, as they should do. They are rising and bound to rise much higher in public positions.

Look back ten years and make your own contrasts and comparisons. I tell you there is no mistake about it; the Grange has awakened the farmers and put them on their feet. There is yet much to be learned. The time has gone by in Michigan, when it can be said by any intelligent person that a farmer does not need a good education. We see the good effects of the Grange in the

rapid increase of the students who come to the Agricultural College. Many of these students are valuable members of the Order, and are already making themselves heard in defense of education and progressive farming as a business.

"Well," some one says, "it may be well enough for the boys to get a fine education, but the girls can all get learning enough at home, and at cheap district schools." Most of our district schools are not what they ought to be. We have little reason to feel proud of them in their present condition. There are some noble exceptions, but the majority fall far short of imparting a good education.

The president of the State Board of Health, Dr. Kedzie, says that "a large part of the sickness in this State is unnecessary, and a startling proportion of the deaths is preventable." I doubt not his statement is correct. Then why should not our girls, at least many of them, be trained in the sciences, especially in physiology, that they may know how to take care of themselves, and any others with whom they may be associated? Yes, the girls need just as good training as is given to the boys. They are going to the Agricultural College some day not far distant; if not next year, two years after, if not then, a little later. They are going at any rate. I think they will go in the spring of 1882, if they are ready and desire to. Come, girls, get on your things!

As nearly as I can tell, I am always finding fault, or giving advice. I have something to say to the members of the Granges in this county. You all want your Grange to succeed, and perhaps often wonder why it does not fully meet your expectations. You find fault. Does it occur to you that you have a work to perform, whether you are an officer or only a member in the lowest rank? For Masters and other officers too, there is no more important duty in their connection with the Grange than to be at their posts when the time arrives for the beginning of the meeting. Tardiness is one of the most common faults of farmers. A prompt Master of a Grange can do much in his neighborhood to remedy this, and yet I have known Masters to be tardy for two-thirds of the meetings during the year, and absent from part of the other third. This may not kill the Grange, but it is certainly very demoralizing. If a Grange begins its meetings late, it will close late, if much business is done. Every member not an officer should strive to perform any duty promised. I should recommend a public meeting now and then in which some of those not members be invited to participate. But no Grange meeting should be public unless plans are well matured to secure success. In some places where it has been tried, an exhibition of corn, apples, flowers, berries, roots, or other grains, fruits or vegetables has proved very profitable and interesting. Some Granges have done well in making exhibits at our fairs. To do this most successfully, a committee should now soon be appointed to make plans. Each member or family should decide what products he will raise the coming season, and turn to the common stock for exhibition. Unless a Patron plants or sows a certain kind of desirable grain or vegetable he will certainly not reap it in time of harvest. The effort of making an exhibit will be worth far more than the cost to the members.

I may state from my own experience and that of others, after trying many methods of conducting exercises, that no Grange can have interesting meetings unless the members make previous preparation. I was brought up a Quaker, and taught to believe in inspiration, but, at least so far as Granges are concerned, inspiration is only successful when sustained by good preparation. Capital Grange has tried about all the ways which any of us could think of in the plans for the meetings, and most or all the members agree that it is best to have a program for four to eight meetings in advance. By this means something will appear on the list which will be of especial interest to each member. If he cannot attend all the meetings, he will attend some of them. By having a program made for only one week ahead some will fail to get the notice, and may not come, because they will guess that the subject would not interest them. If the Grange is small, and the printing seems too expensive, buy your Lecturer a copying pad and some paper, and let him prepare some programs in this way. This is certainly worth a good trial, and has many advantages. The easiest way for a Lecturer to make up programs is to look ahead and make out most of them all at one time for the meetings in the coming year. The names of persons to speak or write can be inserted from time to time for meetings in the future. In preparing programs, there is no denying the fact that something amusing, in which the young folks take a leading part, always draws the largest crowd. People like to be amused, and it is by no means lost time.

Some one should know that it is his business to set the room in good order before every meeting, and should be paid for his work. This plan will prevent much annoyance. A neat room and a room owned by the Grange is especially to be desired.

We have come here to unite in an intellectual and social entertainment. We must

make the best possible use of our time. Our program is well filled with useful topics on a variety of interesting subjects. After each essay we want to give all present, whether Patrons or not, whether farmers or not, a chance to participate in the discussion, and hope they will avail themselves of the privilege.

I never close an address of this kind without speaking a good word for the GRANGE VISITOR. It is one of the cheapest papers any farmer can take, and a low price is a good recommendation for most people. It has recently been twice enlarged. I have an agricultural department that is ably edited. I consider myself a good judge of a paper for farmers and their interests. I know of none, all things considered, which will awaken more valuable thoughts on farming as a business, and all that pertains to a farmer's home, than the GRANGE VISITOR. It costs just 50 cents a year, and is valuable alike to Patrons, and those who are not Patrons.

Attention—How to Secure It.

There is no element of more importance to the seeker after knowledge, than attention. One may read, and frequently does, a line, a sentence, a paragraph, or even a whole page without knowing one word that has been gone over. That page of words and sentences might have been received as a part of the reader's knowledge, for the understanding of it was not difficult. It was only inattention, a kind of apathy, that had crept over the person's mind and diverted his thoughts upon a different object. He was lazily dreaming, as it were, of something more suitable to his taste, but possibly far inferior in importance to that which lay before him in written words and only waiting to be perused by an active mind to show its utility. One may think of various subjects at the same time and be benefited by those thoughts, but to undertake to hold on two subjects at the same time, especially if one be that about which he is reading, his thoughts will work detrimentally, and he will gradually be growing mentally weaker.

The weakness may not be appreciable for a time, but if he allows his thoughts to continue in that course, his incapacity to not only apply his mind to the reading matter, but to all which takes place about him in his little world will soon be discovered. But the pursuit, quietly wandering along the course, and arriving at the mental deficiency, although is capable of discovering the deficiency, is not capable of discovering a remedy. Some philanthropist must necessarily step to his aid, tell him his faults, then only by patient efforts, perhaps for years, can his original mental strength be restored. Life is short to make the best of it, and we should not fritter it away or weaken the mind, when it can, with no more endurance or privation, be increased in activity and strength.

Philosophers of the mind teach, that attention is one of the four great powers by which the memory is cultivated. Attention is not a gift of a few; all can possess it; the scientific and illiterate, the statesman and the schoolboy, the architect and hod carrier, in the same degree, if they but practice care and thought in the exercise of their faculties. Yet many are they who read or hear read productions of various kinds, as papers, lectures, essays, etc., and are incapable of relating one idea that was advanced. They may be called surface readers, or unreflectors, the mind being divided upon two or more subjects at a time and receiving no value from any.

The principles entertained by older people are derived from their younger days. Whatever the boy is the man becomes. The character of a person is generally formed from the 16th to the 20th years of age. The mind is then moulded for the future, for usefulness or for degradation, to wield a potent influence in the world's great arena, or sink into nothingness and follow the groove of base and corrupt thoughts because of a lack of stamina, and an inattention to better deeds.

The teacher's work then is important, viz.: getting the young mind started right, that it may become vigorous and powerful—full of useful thoughts, and alive to every means which will develop it into more energy, capacity, and benevolence.

There are some whose attention cannot be secured but upon a very few subjects, hence specific rules cannot be laid down, generalities only can be given. These same scholars can, if the right course be taken, be reasoned with upon these subjects, and drawing illustrations from them for other fields will gradually gather in knowledge indirectly from all sources. In a school room it will not be convenient to take each separately and ascertain the bent of mind, but the feelings can be appealed to occasionally, giving each a call as we pass around, showing that an interest is taken in what they consider their best thoughts. I believe all can be benefited most by a similar procedure, but the task for the teacher would be too great, and work to be profitable should not be burdensome.

How then to secure attention? How to train the mind that it will think and act for itself, and have the child investigate all subjects before accepting them as true, and take a deep interest in his studies? The ones most attentive are they who have been trained to strict attention from childhood

up. We have seen children who could add large columns of figures very rapidly; it was owing to their mental training. We have seen other children who could repeat whole lectures or sermons; it was because of their mental training.

Always show the scholars that you are their best friend. Fear and love cannot reign in the same heart. If the teacher is fierce and unreasonable in his corrections the scholars will shun him. During his explanation of their lessons they will be thinking how they can best escape listening to him, or will be solving a difficult problem to play a fine joke on their school-fellows. Friendliness towards the scholars and the good will of the scholars cannot be too highly estimated. Too much familiarity may be shown, but such is not the proper application of the terms friendliness and good will. The teacher's place is above all the scholars, directing them in every act, checking one and extolling another, but always in a kind and obliging manner. Never praise one at the expense of another, or where the other will see the least chance for slight.

A lively interest should at all times be maintained. To succeed in this the teacher is required to be alive and energetic; awake to everything around, and ready to give illustration or explanation whenever called upon for that purpose. The school depends upon the teacher. If he is alive the school is alive, if he is drowsy the school becomes drowsy and negligent. Then if the teacher wishes the scholars' attention, wishes to train them properly he should be stirring and enthusiastic. He should be among the scholars. The teacher's chair and desk were not placed there to be used at all times, and few successful teachers will be found to occupy that position frequently.

Plenty of employment is absolutely essential to gain children's attention. It is with scholars as with grown people—the more they know of a subject the more they want to know, and the more real interest they will take when that subject is brought forward. The less one does the greater the task when the work is to be performed. Besides, an idle mind has plenty of time to muse over evil ways. It is easier to be idle than to labor and let a child form such a habit, and the task required to dispel it will be a laborious one. Do not give children an opportunity to brood over difficulties, or dream of pleasant times. Make their work in the school-room pleasant, not severe or tiresome. Every scholar ought to have a slate and pencil, but these necessary articles are not always possessed by the smaller pupils. The blackboard can then be resorted to. The small pupil would be at the board all their spare time if allowed the privilege. Printed and written words will first be made; afterwards, if they choose to remain, and have no slate, drawings of whatever description they feel at pleasure to make, will be placed upon the board by themselves to their advantage. Others who are farther advanced in years as well as studies, who undoubtedly have slates, may have written upon the board examples in addition or subtraction, or even in multiplication and division, if far enough advanced, which they will eagerly set about to perform. Such work is deemed by them a pleasure. The same lesson if given from a book would be deemed a most tedious task. Mental strength is thus being acquired in a seeming act of play. Another student still farther advanced in his studies is caught moping or appears to be indifferent to things about him. An interesting question in some study he has passed will arouse him immediately, and set him to work. An exercise in singing will revive the whole school and duty's work will be taken up with renewed energy.

Reading. If the class are all pretty good readers the attention is not difficult to secure, but if there are some who read slowly, and mispronounce many words, the other members of the class become impatient, and the difficulty to hold their attention is not small. This difficulty can be obviated somewhat by skipping about in the class so that each will not know when his turn is coming. I think this skipping process works best in all cases. Each will be on his guard to know whether he is the next to be called upon. The tendency to read his or her particular verse before reading it aloud, instead of giving attention to the others' reading, would be suppressed. Have short reading exercises. Criticism should not be too severe, to cause displeasure and ill-feeling. Don't allow the class to criticize each other much, for no scholar can be criticised by a classmate, however friendly the criticism may be, without feeling provoked at the critic. All hard words should be talked about and their meaning explained. See if the class can answer the questions before giving an explanation. The same with historical points; give them a free discussion, and to the class a clear understanding. A little praise given occasionally, if they do extra well, only adds to their advantage.

Grammar appears to be a dry study to all students, but it should not be allowed to seem dull. If a study becomes dry and hard, the attention is diverted, and to keep up an interest may be counted among the doubtful probabilities.

The old method of having scholars learn rules and definitions simply, is rapidly, and

fortunately being laid aside and practical work is taking its place. Sentences are being corrected, analyzed and parsed. Get the sentences from things about us, things we can see and make grammar appear as real as the necessity demands. If incorrect sentences of the scholars, or of people with whom we may come in contact, were noted down and brought into the class each day for correction the work would be found interesting and profitable. The value of the study could then be seen, besides having a tendency to improve the students' language.

Arithmetic. In arithmetic, scholars want something practical, the same as in grammar to keep the attention aroused. Hardly a lesson passes but some illustration or example can be drawn from real business, from every day life, such as finding the price of a load of wheat, lumber, wool, the cost of digging a cistern, the number of shingles required to roof a house, etc.

Writing. Here again the little fellows need blackboard work, the teacher placing the letters upon the board where the scholars will first read, then write them. I always place a word or sentence upon the board for those next higher in their studies to copy on their slates.

It is absolutely necessary that the teacher be under self-control at all times, never allowing the passions to arise and assert their authority over the reason. Cool temperament, and an ample supply of self-possession are the greatest forces at his command. Threats will avail but little, while with a cool, determined manner, using words of kindness and respect, one will almost invariably appeal to the scholars' better natures, and gain their acceptance. Such an influence wielded over a school will cause hard feelings and disturbances to cease, all rules will be laid aside because of no further use, griefs and angry exclamations on the part of the scholars towards the teacher will not be known, and instead of calling the scholar's attention at each recitation, the attention will already have been won because of the great admiration and respect which the scholars have for the teacher.

Have a change. Children more than grown people desire a change. The young and active natures will not admit of their remaining continually in the same track. Have the change of so essential a character and so reasonable that it will be accepted and adopted without further inquiry. A little talk once in a while upon some important subject will interest and instruct. The old husks of the text books become dry and harsh, the mind needs mental food more enlivening, more invigorating. Text-books furnish simply the skeleton of knowledge and this framework must be clothed with flesh and blood from other sources. What is told by the teacher is retained in the memory far longer than that which is read; besides many are there who never have papers and books to read, and can derive their knowledge only from the uninteresting text-books, or from the teacher. If something pleasing and instructive be related the scholars' inquiring minds will naturally want to know more about it, and they will begin to investigate, search their books, quiz their friends and in many ways show that they are thoroughly interested.

Likewise by giving out a few questions, each night just before school closes, or once in two or three nights, for them to answer, and report their answers the next time questions are given out, will be found to work advantageously and meet the approval of the entire school. Thus the scholars' interests are aroused; the teacher's influence becomes felt, the attention is secured, and the schools progress, step by step, till all people's interests are centered in the common schools—for their elevation and their prosperity.

RAY SESSIONS.

HOW ENGLISH WIVES KEEP HOUSE.—English wives, high and low, keep household accounts in a way that would surprise many American women. Every penny spent in the house goes down in the "house-keeper's book," with which every mistress of a household is provided. Every bill is filed away carefully when received. In fact a perfect system of order prevails, which enables every man to know exactly what it costs him to keep up his home. In that country every expenditure is made to bear its proper relation to the income received. House rent must be only such a percentage, table outlay so much, servants' wages so much, children's schooling so much, alms-giving so much, and if at the end of the year it is found that the income has been exceeded, these people immediately proceed to reduce items in every department. The general style of their living remains about the same, but it is necessarily not quite so genuine.

THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATURE has passed a bill prohibiting its members from accepting passes from railroad companies.

When Tommy puts a piece of Johnny cake in his pocket for lunch he calls it an Indian reservation.

A Detroit lady called at a drug store the other day and said: "I want a tooth-brush—a real nice one. I want it for a spare bed room."

"What is your wife's particular little game?" asked a friend of a henpecked husband. "When she gets thoroughly mad it's draw poker."

When a man begins to go down hill he finds everything greased for the occasion. says a philosopher, who might have added that when he tries to climb up he finds everything greased for the occasion, too.

Communications.

Address of J. J. Woodman, before the Vicksburg Grange.

The address of the Worthy Master of the National Grange, delivered at Vicksburg, Kalamazoo County, Feb. 14th, 1881, at the public installation of the officers elect, at the County Grange, contained some remarks that ought to be read by every farmer in the United States.

He said the organization of the Grange grew out of a law passed by Congress, establishing a department of Agriculture. O. H. Kelly, a farmer, was given a place in the department, and he found that the people in every business in the United States, were organized to protect, defend, and advance their interests, except the farmer. The agricultural class, whose services are admitted by all, to be the most valuable, were not organized. Other classes had, and were receiving benefits and advantages by Congressional enactments, and it became evident and necessary that farmers, as a class, should organize, not only to advance and improve their calling, but to defend themselves, and prevent monopolies and rings already formed from robbing them of a portion of what they had honestly earned, and what justly belonged to them. Hence the organization of Patrons of Husbandry sprang into existence.

Mr. Woodman stated that there was not a single instance in the history of the world where farmers were organized to protect themselves as were other classes.

He spoke of the condition of the agricultural classes of the Old World, and said, if the farmers of this country did not organize and defend their rights and interests, they could read their fate in the history of the Old World, because, said he, the same forces are at work here in this country to-day, that have produced such a disastrous condition of affairs to the laboring classes there. It would be well if every farmer and laboring man in the United States would stop and candidly ask himself the question, what are those forces which are working to undermine sooner or later, the prosperity and the happiness of a large proportion of the American people. Nothing is more evident than that a certain class of men in the United States, who are formed into transportation, banking and perhaps some other corporations, by being favored by National and State laws, have such a grip upon the people, that they will sooner or later impoverish millions of people in this country, unless they organize and unite as one man to prevent it. These corporations seem not to care at all for the welfare and happiness of the people who create the wealth of this country, but seem to be planing and devising means to see how they can still further rob them of their honest earnings. A few men in the United States are worth to-day millions of dollars. How much of this have they fairly earned?

Mr. Woodman said, if the Congress of the United States have formed monopolies, who is to blame? If these monopolies have fixed the price of farmers' grain, reduced the value of their property and robbed them, who is to blame? His answer was, the farmers are to blame. Yes, the farmers are to blame; there are enough farmers in the United States, if they would unite and work for their own interests, as the different monopolies do, to prevent such a condition of things. If we will be governed in our political action by one of the fundamental principles of the Order, let the office seek the man, and not the man the office, we might expect more favorable legislation. But so long as we send lawyers, bankers, and railroad men to Congress, we may expect such legislation as will favor them. They will work for their interests; it is natural.

The farmers of this country do possess the ability to change many of the wrongs and abuses that now exist, and to make themselves more comfortable and prosperous, if they will but do it. Organization and unity of action is necessary to accomplish this. Shall we act wisely, independently, and for our own interests, or shall we permit the monopolies to rob us, and if we do "who is to blame?" GRANGER.

Education for General Usefulness.

[Essay read by Clark Foote, of Vermontville Grange, No. 625, Feb. 5, 1881.]

From the middle of the 16th century, and thence to the present day, literature and science have advanced chiefly by diffusion. In former ages there were giants in the literary departments; men of iron constitutions of body and mind, who, by constant industry and patient toil, treasured up in their minds and memories, such an abundance of learning as would now seem incredible. This race of giants is nearly extinct, and of learning there are no living prodigies comparable to those of earlier time; nevertheless, knowledge has rapidly progressed by the general spread. No longer confined to scholars by profession or inherited exclusively by the lordly sex, there are now of both sexes very many readers, who without any pretension to deep scholarship, have arrived at a respectable degree of useful information. The truth is there has risen up a middle class, which I will call the well informed, and you ask who are these. These are persons who, though not to be ranked with

men of deep scholastic lore, nor by any means affecting such distinction, are possessed of a large fund of useful knowledge, whether for conversation, or the various affairs of life. They are often found to have more of general practical knowledge than commonly falls to the lot of men of profound science or literature. For one who devotes himself to science alone, or to literature alone, however deeply intelligent in that single respect, must needs be ignorant as to most other things. But this middle or well informed class requires a more particular description. By no means does it include all readers, and much less all that can read; of those that can read, the greater part make very little use of this great advantage, and are very little the wiser for it. Again, of those who do read, a large proportion choose rather to be diverted or amused than instructed. They are diverted, they are amused; but informed in any respectable measure they are not. There are great readers, both male and female, who in no wise are well informed. Either their reading is futile and un-instructive, or they neglect to join with it the close exercise of their intellectual faculties, so that their judgments are not strengthened, nor their understandings enlarged. To attain a large fund of information that will contribute towards making a person generally useful to himself and others, one must read with prudent selection as to books, with an attentive exercise of one's own reason and judgment, with close application of thought, and one must improve one's own mind, not by reading only, but by a living intercourse with intelligent society. For it is not in seclusion from the world but in the bosom of well regulated and well informed society that the mind enjoys the best opportunities for obtaining expansion and vigor. Here alone, it experiences a genial warmth and powerful stimulation to laudable exertion. Here alone it is, also, that the fallacies and errors of its own crude conceptions are corrected, by means of their frequent contact, comparison and collision with the conceptions of kindred minds. The road is open, the means of information are so ample and so easy of access, that it seems to be fairly in the reach of every reader of the present day to become useful and well informed men and women.

The world subsists by means of labor; this is the philosopher's stone that turns every thing to gold, or what is much better, it nourishes and supports the whole human family. Wherefore, if speculative pursuits, whether literary or scientific, were to divert the majority from their laborious occupations, the interests of humanity would be ruined, rather than improved. If the great mass of mankind, neglecting their useful and necessary callings, should attempt to become connoisseurs in the fine arts or learned philosophers and metaphysicians, and should spend their time in viewing the sun through a telescope or insects through a microscope, it would create such a universal deluge of learning, and of minute philosophers' that would be nearly as fatal to the world, as was the deluge of water in the time of Noah.

In conclusion, if what has been said be correct, it follows that common learning, like cents and little pieces of silver, is daily and hourly needed in the general commerce of life, whereas, great and deep knowledge is like large bank bills or ingots of gold, very needful in their place, but needful to only a comparative few.

Address of Welcome.

[Delivered on the occasion of the meeting of the Pomona Grange of Hillsdale County in November last by H. H. Bradley, of Union Grange, No. 568.]

Worthy Master, Brothers and Sisters: To-day for the second time the pleasant task of entertaining Pomona falls upon Union Grange, and upon me devolves the duty of welcoming the members thereof. Now with all diffidence, I address men and women, many older and perhaps all more experienced, but I trust that you will kindly overlook a brother's mistakes.

Brothers and sisters, as I look to-day upon the faces of all friends and Patrons here assembled, my memory goes back to the time when such meetings as these were unknown, when one farmer looked upon another farmer as one to be mistrusted, and one whom he must strive to surpass in wordly matters, and with whom he had no common tie of brotherhood; no bond that held man to man as one to whom he owed more than the slightest civility.

But that time is fast passing away. To-day, as never before, farmers meet one another with the warmest and kindest feelings. To the Grange and its teachings can much if not all this change be attributed. To its wide-spread influence we owe much more than I can tell, not only in business advancement, but also in mental and social progress. This has not been brought about in a short time, nor all by the same means. Many an experiment has been tried, and some, I am sorry to say, have failed. But others have grandly succeeded, and among the most prominent of these is the Pomona Grange. Of the vast influence of the county organization too much cannot be said. That it is the most powerful of our societies for the general welfare of the tiller of the soil, in so far as the cultivation of neighborly good-feeling is concerned, is most manifest. Meeting, as it does, from Grange to Grange all may, without any great exertion on their

part, become acquainted with its workings, and sharers of its benefits. Hillsdale County Pomona has become noted for the variety and excellence of its addresses on the many topics of interest and value to the farmer.

To-day again has it assembled with its corps of able and intelligent instructors. And thus, brothers and sisters, we extend to you a most cordial welcome, hoping that no one will depart from our midst with any other than the most pleasant memories of a day profitably and agreeably passed. Worthy Master, brothers, and sisters, in the name of Union Grange, I greet you most heartily.

[This very neat address got mislaid, or it would have appeared long ago. But such are always seasonal.—Ed.]

Letter From Uncle Si.

Brother Cobb:—I had written a communication to you on "Superstition," when I received your criticism on my use of the word 'slang;' but as it was necessary to clear myself from using words the meaning of which I was ignorant, I did not send it. You advise me to look in Webster's dictionary for the meaning of the word 'slang.'

In the winter of 1839-40 I was teaching school in St. Joseph County, Ind. I had Walker's dictionary then; but the school house burned down and Walker with it. In the summer of 1840 I bought a dictionary for primary schools by Noah Webster, L.L.D. In that I find the word 'slang' defined "a low, unmeaning language." A gentleman lecturing on the English language in Kansas said, "Every word which has come into our language for 1,000 years, except technical or scientific terms have been slang words." I quoted from her letter "permeated," etc. My dictionary defines "permeate"—to pass through the interstices,—the same as perspiration passes through the pores of the skin. Now if a person (I care not how many big words that person used), should say that treason was attached to and was in every individual in the South, would that be "low, unmeaning language, or slang, or would it not? The chastest words in our language can be used as slang words, Mr. Bonner, of the Ledger, says that "grass" as applied to a woman, is slang."

I now leave that communication and your criticism, and turn to a subject which in my opinion, is eating up the substance of the farmers and mechanics of this State. I have heard some speeches in my day; also, some talk; but, so far as I can now remember, I have never heard one, who struck at the root of the matter. The subject to which I refer, is Taxes.

Once in awhile, you will hear one speak, or write about taxes, denouncing this, that, or the other tax, as a robbery, an unmitigated swindle, etc. Yet before they get through will eulogize things which require heavy taxation to support them. I am in favor of having all needed taxes raised, for all legitimate purposes, if it is laid on all property alike. But, let me ask the farmers and mechanics, those who have to obey the injunction, "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread," do you think it right to have a tax of one cent on every two hundred dollars assessment, to pay for rich men's sons to attend the University, at Ann Arbor? Bro. Beal gave the valuation of the State at \$630,000,000 which would give, at 1-20 of a mill on each dollar, over \$30,000 to the University; and yet they are not satisfied with that, but, like an overgrown calf, that institution is calling on each Legislature for more.

In 1853 the special tax, paid by banks, railroads, mining companies, peddlers, &c., was about \$75,000; in 1876, it was over \$930,000. What it is now, I have no data, but it must be, I think, \$1,000,000, or over, then add what Brother Beal says was the State tax, \$804,831, and we have the grand sum total of \$1,834,831 and over. Now, we, the tax payers, have been paying more than this for several years. What has become of it? If you see fit to publish this, I will try to continue this subject. UNCLE SI.

"Councils" Not Desirable.

The Maine State Grange disposes of the question of Councils in that State, as will be seen by the following extract from the *Dirigo Rural*.

A resolution presented by the Committee on "Good of the Order," withholding the sanction of the State Grange to the Grange meetings known as County Councils, provoked considerable discussion. Those who introduced and advocated the passage of the resolution, while they did not deny that the councils were doing a good work, contended that they were acting without proper authority, that they should be brought within scope and control of the State Grange. On the other hand many who have participated actively in these Councils felt that the results were so satisfactory that no one should wish to embarrass their operations, especially as they were working no positive injury to the Order. They claimed that two or three Patrons would certainly be doing nothing amiss to meet together, counsel with one another and learn of one another in the interest of the Grange; and the same rule that would apply to a few would apply to any larger number. And if they were making unwarranted use of the pass word, by making it a test for those who were admitted, the matter could be amended by substituting a word of their own.

After debating the matter at some length the harmonious and satisfactory conclusion was reached, that it was more conducive to the dignity and self-respect of all Grange proceedings that they be under the supervision and direction of the State Grange, that County Granges should be substituted for County Councils.

Correspondence.

Anti-Monopoly.

A large and enthusiastic mass meeting was held at Cooper Institute, New York, on Feb. 21, 1881, under the call of the National Anti-Monopoly League. Judge Black, of Pennsylvania, was present, and addressed the meeting. Congressman Reagan, the author of the Reagan Bill, was also present and explained his bill.

A letter from Senator Windom, of Minnesota, in which the abuses of the corporate rights of the railroad was well discussed, was read at the meeting.

The meeting, in its resolutions adopted, placed itself squarely on the same platform which the Michigan State Grange adopted at its session of 1879, in favor of National legislation, to compel the transportation companies to base their charges on the actual cost of service.

The Patrons now are getting abundance of help on this question, and unity of action now, as well as unity of purpose, is all that is necessary to secure a complete victory over the best organized and most aggressive monopoly that ever existed. Let us by all means act with it in a common cause. C.

The Patrons' Aid Association of Michigan.

Most of the older organized counties of this State have their Mutual Fire Insurance companies, and the farmers who are insured in these Mutual companies, can, after a few years of experience, readily see the great difference in cost, in favor of these Mutual Companies, as against the stock companies which formerly insured, so many of the farm buildings of Michigan. The fact is that under the old plan of insurance, we paid about 60 per cent, to agents and officers for receiving our premiums, and disbursing the money, while under the Mutual plan, the expenses are reduced to a mere nominal sum. What is true of fire insurance is true of life insurance, also, on the joint stock plan. Much more of the money paid for premiums by the policy holders has gone to pay the officers and agents than has gone to pay the honest losses of the companies. In the investigation of one of these companies in the State of New York, in 1877 (according to *Harper's Monthly* for January), out of \$20 paid by the policy holder, \$6 went for expenses, \$9 for reserve fund, and \$5 for mortality, thus showing that it took \$20 to pay for the same amount of insurance that \$5 would pay for in a Mutual company.

That life insurance on the mutual aid plan is very beneficial, very few will for a moment deny, and that it can be honestly and economically managed by the Patrons of Michigan, so as to bring it within reach of all the members, at a rate as cheap proportionately as our present fire insurance. I hope and believe that the working of the Patrons' Aid Association will fully demonstrate. C.

Flat Rock Grange, No. 636.

Bro. Cobb:—Our Grange is getting along swimmingly, at present. We are meeting among the members; first one Brother will entertain us, and then another, and we find it works well. We shall continue to meet in this way some time yet, and then perhaps we will be able to build a home of our own, where we can meet and conduct business as we think best. On Feb. 24, Bro. and Sister Strait, and some 22 members from Willow, and two from Grafton Grange, called on us. Bro. Strait talked to us about 30 minutes; among other good things, he said, was that he saw reason for encouragement here. C. L. METLER.

Portage Grange, No. 16.

Bro. J. T. Cobb:—As the County Grange of Kalamazoo is getting to be a large affair, numbering about two-hundred members, I should like to suggest that the County Grange pay from her fund for help to wait upon, and do the work that is necessary to be done in waiting upon so large a company; thereby relieving the sisters, so that they can be present in the Grange. I claim that after they have prepared refreshments for dinner and supper, it is all that should be required. Some will say to let this be decided in the Grange; but this takes up valuable time, and is very unpleasant for those who go a long distance to hear something better. If the Executive Committee would make some arrangement, it would be a settled affair. In many of the Granges the members are few, and if ever so willing to work for the Grange, they cannot do it. I hope that every thing will work to make the County Grange a success. The farmers' wives and their daughters have every reason to thank God for the Grange; and I have no patience with a man, who, after knowing all that the Order has done, settles down at home, and keeps his family there. Women need the Grange more than men do. There are not many days, or even hours in the day, that the farmer, especially if he is at work near the road, when he does not see some one with whom to [exchange] thoughts and views, on different subjects. But how is it with their wives? They work from early morn until late at night, perhaps for weeks, without seeing anyone. Is it to be wondered at that she becomes low-spirited and

weary of life, especially if she has a man that thinks and says that he supports her? I don't believe that there is a brother of our Order, but what thinks that his wife not only supports herself, but does just as much as he does, if not more. I would like to say to the readers of the VISITOR, outside the gate, that if they want their wives to look cheerful and happy, they must take them to the Grange. It will pay socially, and intellectually.

I was glad to see something from 'Myra's' pen in the last VISITOR. I so enjoy her articles! Her suggestions in reading last summer were good. As a member of Kalamazoo Ladies' Library, I drew the books and read them. I had read "Josiah Allen's Wife," and have since read "Samantha at the Centennial." Her books, though written in a peculiar style, are really deep and worthy of merit. I would recommend Holland's works, and also those of Rev. E. P. Roe. I would like to have given and had Aunt Kate read "The Public School Failure," by Richard Grant White, in the December number of the *North American Review*, for 1880, also an article on Education, in *Harper's* November number for 1880; also the address by Mr. W. S. George, of Lansing, in Superintendent's Report, for 1877. Many thanks to all the sisters who contribute to your paper. Yours fraternally, MRS. A. F. COX.

Revive us Again.

MILLBROOK, Mecosta Co, Mich.

Bro. Cobb:—I hardly know whether I am a Granger or not. I have attended but one meeting since last April, and have not seen a VISITOR since December. There is a Grange hall here, but the Grange has been dead for—I don't know how long. I have only been here about three months. It seems to me that a little missionary work might revive the Order here, as there are farmers enough to make a live Grange if they could be roused into action. I know nothing about the cause of its going down. I miss the Grange meetings very much but do not intend to desert the cause, if I can get to a meeting once a year. I think Bro. Whitney ought to take a trip this way, and see if anything can be done. Fraternally yours, A. FORD.

From a New Farmer.

Bro. Cobb:—I am a new farmer, that is to say I have been on a farm less than one year, and on a new farm in Northern Michigan at that. I am not a Granger, but I take the GRANGE VISITOR, which reaches me very regularly, and I assure you I take a great deal of interest in it. So much that I read and reread it over and over again, some articles as many as three and four times. I receive much information thereby. I said I was not a Granger, but I shall place myself in correspondence with Mr. Salmon Steele, of Manton, Wexford county, in a few days. I said I was a new farmer, and I am.

I am in favor of good road fences. In the issue of Feb. 15, 1881, there is an article dated Orleans, January 25, 1881, by Mont Spaulding, in which the writer gives his idea of what the farm should be. He says that the size makes no difference; the plan will work on a small as well as on a large farm. He said that in the first place he was opposed to road fences. Further on he says that if you have outside fences, two strips of fence the length of your farm is all you need, and all you can afford to support, adding, "I except orchards, yards, permanent pastures," etc. Question: why except orchard, yard—except barn-yards? Certainly the barn yard will hold your cattle during the night time, and the pasture will hold them during the daytime. Then why except the orchard, and door yard, and garden? I simply ask the question for information.

NORTHERN MICH. FARMER.

So. Boardman, Kalkaska Co.

Road and Other Fences.

Bro. Cobb:—I would beg leave to differ with Mr. Spaulding in his article on farm fences in the VISITOR of Feb. 15. He says he is opposed to road fences or the custom of maintaining them. Now, if he lived in this part of the State, where every man runs more or less stock in the road, he would change his mind.

He also says, to fence a farm of 160 acres in lots of 20 acres each, leaving out of account the outside fences would take 880 rods of fence. Now, if I can figure straight, he has that wrong, as it would only take 800 rods.

His plan is to have movable fences to fence his pastures. Here I would also differ with him. In his field of 120 acres he must raise more than one kind of crop, and almost every farmer wants to turn his stock into his wheat, or oats, or corn stubble, as the case may be, when if he had no inside fences, he cannot do it without getting more movable fences.

Now, I think that on a farm of 160 acres, after the fences are built, the cost of moving fences every time pasture is wanted on some other part of the farm, and the expense of replacing rails which will get broken in handling will keep the fences in good repairs. Yours fraternally, CHARLIE.

Fremont, Feb. 28, 1881.

The Grange Visitor.

SCHOOLCRAFT, - MARCH 15TH, 1881.

Secretary's Department.

J. T. COBB, - - - - SCHOOLCRAFT.

ANY Subscriber not receiving his paper will do us a favor by giving us notice by card or otherwise. Please do not wait two or three months before complaining.

THE FIRST GRANGE ORGANIZATION.

Bro. Cobb:—Will you please tell me through the columns of the VISITOR, when and where was the first Grange organized in this State?

Ans. H. M. TRAVERS.

In the "Circular" of the Executive Committee of the Michigan State Grange, issued April, 1875, will be found the information sought. For the benefit of several thousands of the readers of the VISITOR of 1881, who know little of its early history, we preface our answer to the inquiry of Sister Travers.

The "Circular" referred to was the first edition of the monthly paper established by authority of the Executive Committee for the purpose, as set forth in its own language at the time, of furnishing "a means of more direct and regular communication between the officers of the State and Subordinate Granges." That circular was rather unpretending, having but three columns to a page of less than twelve inches in length. But two numbers were printed under the head of "Circular," as the post office department were not disposed to recognize it with this heading as a regular periodical. It then adopted the unpretending name which it still bears, of

"THE GRANGE VISITOR."

Bro. Whitney had his Lecturer's Department in the first "Circular" of April, 1875, and we quote from that, what he said about the first Grange organized in Michigan:

Late in the fall of 1871, Edwin M. Jones, a member of the Order from Perry, Dallas county, Iowa, came to Burnside, Lapeer county, this State, to visit his brother and old friends and neighbors, having previously been a resident of that locality. Bro. Jones talked to his relations and old neighbors of the Grange, and the benefit it was to the western people where he lived, and succeeded in awakening an interest and a desire to have a Grange in the locality. Bro. Jones sought, and obtained power from the National Grange to form Subordinate Granges in Michigan. On the 10th day of January, 1872, thirty-four citizens of Burnside met and signed an application, and a Grange was duly instituted, bearing the title of

BURNSIDE GRANGE, No. 1.

Lapeer county, with Charles Cole as Master. This Grange was for nine months the only one in the State. They had but little trouble as to jurisdiction. From Lake Huron to Lake Michigan, from Mackinaw to the Ohio line, extended their limits, monarch of all yet with all this territory their existence as a Grange was not known even in their own county. They kept secret even their existence as an organization. For two years there was not a Grange within a hundred miles of them—and until the day before last Thanksgiving, they had never been visited by a member of the Order, nor had a member of this Grange visited any other Grange. On the day named the General Deputy made them an official visit—lecturing to a large audience, treating upon the general benefits and aims of the Order, and afterward meeting them as a Grange, giving them an exemplification of the unwritten work, and instructing them in the routine of business. The Deputy found the Grange very deficient in instruction—as would naturally follow from their isolation—but in energy, and faith in the final success of the Order, they merited great praise. Let members who read this think of being thus alone for nearly three years, and ask what they would have done.

Burnside Grange is located 15 miles from any railroad, with only a tri weekly stage to reach the outer world with. Bro. Charles Cole, the first Master, is the present Secretary of the Grange, being succeeded as Master by Bro. F. A. Jones, a brother to the Brother who organized the Grange. This was the only Grange formed by the Iowa Brother. We learn that the present Master had a commission from the National Grange to act as Deputy, but that he has never done any work.

The Worthy Lecturer in the second "Circular" for May, continued his "Grange History," which we copy, giving his account of the organization of

EUREKA GRANGE, No. 2.

of Waterloo, Jackson county, Michigan: Uninformed of even an effort to form a Grange elsewhere in the State, the farmers of Waterloo began to work, the result of which was Eureka, No. 2. Six months after the Grange at Burnside was put in working order, Brother B. W. Sweet, of Waterloo, a reader of the Prairie Farmer, in which was published many articles upon the Grange, and its operations in the West, saw the address of O. H. Kelley, Secretary of the National Grange, and wrote him, and received the necessary papers to organize, and was named of Special Deputy to form a Grange. Some effort was made about the last of June to form a Grange, but not being able to get names enough, the subject rested until October, when the question was again agitated. The first of November, Russel Johnson, a member of the Order from Indiana, came and made a visit to his cousin, Brother Sweet; while there another effort was made, and a meeting held on the first Friday of November, at the schoolhouse near Brother Sweet's residence. At this meeting Brother Johnson explained the objects of the Order, and nine persons put down their names for membership. One week later another meeting was held, and enough names added to the list to make fifteen in number. Another meeting was held on the 19th inst., and twenty-seven names appeared upon the list, and an organization was effected, with B. W. Sweet, as Master. The first name suggested for the Grange was Twilight, a very good one, but it did not suit all the members. On the suggestion of Eureka, by Brother J. A. Collins, it was at once adopted as the name of the Grange. In two weeks the Grange met again and had their necessary papers, but how to get the unwritten work was a question not easy to answer. In a short time, however, this question was solved by a letter from Brother J. C. Abbott, of Clarkville, Iowa, who was a National Deputy, and at that time in Kalamazoo county. Bro. Abbott had been notified by the Secretary, O. H. Kelley, of the existence of Eureka Grange in the center of the farm lands of Michigan, and directed him to go and give the necessary instruction. Arrangements were made and a meeting held the 15th of December, at which time full instructions were given by the National Deputy to this Grange, which had all the time supposed they were the first in the State, as they were the first and almost only one organized without outside aid, and which now began the tall and legitimate work of a Grange. A question came up as soon as organized—where to hold the meetings of the Grange. Fortu-

nately, Sister S. A. Boyce had an unfinished room in her house, which was offered by her, and accepted as a place of meeting by the Grange, and used as such until November, 1874, when a hall was rented in the village of Waterloo, where the Grange may now be regularly found.

THE DOINGS OF OUR LEGISLATURE.

Bro. J. T. Cobb:—You promised us reports of the doings of our legislators when the VISITOR was enlarged. Is it because they are doing nothing but idling away the time at the expense to the tax payers of \$6 or \$7 per day, that you have nothing to report or no rebuke for their disregard of the interest of the people? It is evident the lawyers are at work to secure the appointment at big salaries, of a commission to revise the tax laws, which is the duty of and should be done by a legislative committee in 30 days' time, by simply revising the law so as to tax every man for what he actually owns, no more and no less. Better dispense with the legislators entirely if they are incompetent to revise unjust laws. The lawyers also propose to create, in violation of the constitution, the office of Solicitor General,—salary, \$5,000. What do they care for the constitution when it conflicts with their official and pecuniary interests? Why don't they reduce the tariff on the railroads to two cents per mile for passengers, and on freight so that we shall not have to pay more for sending wheat from this city to Detroit, than they do from Chicago to New York; and enact a usury law which will protect unfortunate debtors from being robbed by shysters?

Dowagiac, Feb. 24, 1881. REFORMER.

"Reformer," in his brief communication calls us to account, referring to a promise made to look after legislative doings when the enlarged VISITOR gave us more room. Our correspondent well knows that in no one thing are we humans so nearly alike, as in the first impulse or disposition to justify when charged with any delinquency or wrong doing, so in obedience to that ever present desire to justify, we rise to explain.

In the first place, then, in every department of Grange work of this office, there has been a great increase within a few months.

The VISITOR, as enlarged, demands much more time to get all matter for it in such satisfactory shape as we feel willing to submit to the inspection of its friends.

Renewals to our subscription list for the VISITOR are largely in January and February, and its growth has been such that we have had to provide it with a new suit of clothes. Our old mailing book was filled up. We had to have more room, and with a new set of books and a little more work here and a little more there, added to other duties already assumed, our time has been so fully occupied that we have given the Legislature little heed.

But if we have not done all that was expected in this direction, one thing we shall claim that by the aid of our numerous contributors we have furnished a succession of excellent numbers of the VISITOR, and if "Reformer" has not got just what he expected, he has certainly got the worth of his money in something else.

From arrangements made with brother Grangers in each branch of the Legislature, we supposed we should find more opportunity to criticise its work than we have had. Judging from what seems to be a general usage with legislative bodies, the present session is no exception or material improvement on its predecessors, here or elsewhere, and justifies complaints of a prodigal waste of time often made and generally believed to be true. The great mass of the people have little confidence in the industry of our law-makers, and this want of confidence is based on the square fact that members are so often seen at home during the legislative term.

That the universal practice of accepting free transportation has much to do with prolonging legislative sessions, and squandering time paid for by the people, is undoubtedly true, and the time is not far distant when the people will demand of their representatives entire freedom from the obligations to corporations which accepting a pass imposes.

Our "Reformer" lashes away right and left, and in that kind of warfare is quite likely to hit somebody. He is evidently without faith in the Solons to whom the people have committed the important work of revising and enacting laws for their government, and we are sorry to be compelled to believe that this want of confidence in the value to the people of these biennial gatherings of their representatives, is not confined to the complainant in this case, by any means, but is very general among all classes outside of the professed politicians. With the present prospect of a five months' session, we hope "Reformer" will not give up all expectation that we shall yet, in part at least, redeem our promise.

We occasionally get a reminder, sometimes a complaint, that we do not send an extra copy to the person entitled thereto by virtue of our standing offer to send the eleventh copy to any one sending us ten names. Sometimes the fault is with this office, but often a few names are sent from time to time until the sender is entitled to an extra copy. We do not keep track of that fact and the party does not get the paper. Now if we owe anybody anything when we have the pay in hand, we are not only willing but glad to pay, and more, we take no offence at receiving a dun. Our only regret is that parties entitled to one or more copies, who do not get them, are so tardy with their complaints.

LAND PLASTER.

From Day & Taylor we learn that the sales of plaster up to the first of March were very satisfactory. They were better prepared last fall with dry rock in their sheds than ever before to meet a large demand. They have been steadily grinding the rock all winter, and have accumulated a large amount now in the very best condition for shipment, and their customers can now only be disappointed by the failure to get cars when ordered. The chances of delay to all customers depending on the L. S. & M. S. R. R., have been cut down to the lowest point, as Day & Taylor have a large warehouse on the side track of this road at Grandville station, which has been filled with plaster. Their facilities for doing business are unsurpassed by any other manufacturers. Their supply of plaster of first quality in excellent condition was never before so great as now.

We have had a good deal to do with this plaster business within the last six years. We think we have kept posted. In referring to it we don't have to do much guesswork, and we are prepared to say that the Patrons of Michigan have, as a rule, exhibited a great deal of firmness and good sense in their treatment of this plaster business.

In our business operations, our State Executive Committee have been conservative without being timid, and having always steered clear of such hazardous experiments as have nearly wrecked the Order in some other States, have maintained the confidence and support of the Order through all these years without a break. Of the Patrons of Michigan who have proved their confidence in the Committee by conforming to, and sustaining all arrangements made by it, we have certainly had occasion to feel proud.

In this last change made by Day & Taylor from a losing to a living price, under a previous arrangement with the Executive Committee, there has been but little friction.

A few have complained, more on account of finding "Day & Taylor" on a circular signed by all the other manufacturers of plaster in the Grand River Valley, and apparently in fellowship with them, than of the advance in price.

This fact need not, and should not disturb our people, while the more important fact of the history of this plaster contest at every step proves that this firm have stood by us for years, working hard and losing money to fulfill their contracts with the Executive Committee, resisting every inducement and temptation to "go back" on the Patrons which were presented by members of the old combination.

To those who know Day & Taylor as we know them, there is nothing obnoxious about that circular, and we most confidently assure our friends everywhere, that as a matter of honor, and of interest as well, the Patrons of Michigan should continue to sustain Day & Taylor, without whose faithful aid and co-operation, our effort to break "The Michigan & Ohio Plaster Association" of 1875 never would have succeeded.

PATRONS' AID SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN.

We have said but little of this organization, nor do we propose to continually press it upon the attention of the Patrons of the State. It has been brought into being in answer to that very general disposition to recognize the value of and necessity for co-operation, which has become a prominent and very marked feature of the present age.

That this should extend in a protecting way to mutual aid societies as a form of life insurance, is a natural sequence of the existing conditions of society.

We have received several applications for membership, and feel quite encouraged that this society has started out on a good basis.

In a letter received from the Secretary of the Patrons' Aid Society of New York, to whom we had applied for copies of blank forms in use by that Society, he says: "I have perused with much interest the By-Laws of your Aid Society. The plan differs materially from that of any society yet organized for the benefit of the members of Patrons of Husbandry, and in several of its important features must commend itself to the favor of not only the Patrons' of Michigan, but of other States. Several applications will doubtless be forwarded from here. * * I shall take pleasure in aiding you in any way that may be desired."

The machinery for doing the work of the society is now mostly in place, and we hope our friends who are interested in, and demanded its creation, will remember that its success can only be assured by their efforts in its behalf.

The addresses of Brothers Woodman and Beecher have been printed, as ordered by the State Grange at its late session, and are kept in our supply department. Price 25c for 12 copies of each. Please forward orders.

We are receiving some orders for the American Manual of Parliamentary Law, and we believe it is finding favor wherever introduced.

A MEMBER of Grange No. 287, writes a brief article for the VISITOR, which under the rule shutting out anonymous communications, cannot appear. The writer thinks that the Grange will retain its grip on life; gives a little brotherly advice; courts the muses; and forgets to sign his name.

REVIEW OF OUR INSIDE.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE, March 6.

We have just been looking over the inside which went to press to-day, of this issue of the VISITOR, and the conclusion we reached after the review was this: that there are so many good things on the inside and so many good things well said that we are sure to have a good paper this time.

The article of Prof. Beal has so many good, practical suggestions, and coming as they do from one who has given to those suggestions the test of trial, we hope his address will be read by every live Patron and farmer into whose hands it may fall.

"Attention—how to secure it" was evidently written by an experienced teacher and philosophical thinker. That the writer has stated many truths, and stated them well, we believe will not be disputed, and these truths are of a kind that should interest a large number of our readers. The article is lengthy, but its reading should not be passed by on that account.

That little article "How English wives keep house," seems to us seasonable. Farmers who know how much they make or lose, usually take an account of stock March 1st or April 1st, and determine the profit or loss of the previous year's business. This time of year is most favorable as a starting-point, for the reason that the stock fattened has gone to market, and the supply of coarse grain and hay has reached a point where its amount can be closely determined. The expenses incident to the crops and stock sold off the previous year have all been determined, and the bills paid, if Grange principles have been regarded. And at this time better than any other, what belongs to the business of last year and next year respectively, can be best determined.

Every farmer who carries on his farming operations on business principles knows about this time of year very nearly how much he made or lost, and if a profit, on what—whether it is in permanent improvements, ready money, or elsewhere. But we forgot—have strayed from the subject, and return only to add that if we are not very much mistaken, American women of every class have in this matter nearly everything to learn, and a very large proportion of those will set it down as quite useless or rather small business. And perhaps they are right. Let it be discussed in the Grange.

"Granger" in his review of Worthy Master Woodman's address has made some very good points, and indicated its general character, but the full house who heard him have a much higher appreciation of its value than our readers will gather from this article.

The essay, "Education for general usefulness" by Clarke Foote, is a well considered article, brief but abounding in ideas, that we may ponder with profit. If you have read it but once, read it again. Our essayist has, no doubt, great faith in learning, and we think, believes with us that an abundance of common learning for all our people is the literary currency which should flood the land, and like "the little pieces of silver" kept bright by constant interchange, may be regarded as a sure basis of social enjoyment and mental improvement, and the bed-rock of our nation's future greatness and glory.

To the next article reference is made in connection therewith. "Uncle Si" has retained a recollection of something that has appeared in the VISITOR, that we have got so far by, that we can't afford to go back and look up—would rather he would have it all his own way. His figures are formidable and we think somebody will rise and explain. We are not prepared to branch out to-day on the topics introduced.

The matter of County Councils seems to have been disposed of by the Maine State Grange in a very sensible way, and we endorse it.

Our old friend, "C," has come again under "Anti-monopoly." We are always glad to get communications from him, for his articles are right to the point—short, sharp, and decisive. He does not attempt, when he opens on a subject to exhaust it, and he wastes no words on it. Some of the rest of us who write might learn a lesson from him. He also gives our readers a few facts in relation to insurance which are worth considering, winding up with an opinion of confidence in the new Patrons' Aid Society of Michigan. The compositor, by dividing the last paragraph and putting in a period, came near spoiling the sense.

And this is not all the mistake made in the make-up of the inside of this number. "Portage Grange, No. 16," belongs in the Ladies' Department, and that is about all we are going to say about the article itself, as we are disposed to let the sisters have the floor for the discussion of the topics introduced in this communication. But we are not quite done with the printer. The Sisters sent us a very liberal supply of good articles, some of which are in type, but they must go over, as the Ladies' Department for this number is closed.

The other short articles on page three will all be read (as people read short articles) and need no reference from us. They will not only be read, but must provoke answer, as practical questions are raised that are seasonable for discussion just now.

Only one-half the inside with our review, and we come to the Ladies' Department. Looking over the poetry we report favorably. As we have decided not to meddle with this disputed question of who supports the wife, we skip to the second column, where at the foot we get such a stunning blow from the Western Rural that we are impelled to publish on another page the only good word we have yet seen in behalf of Mrs. Lizzie Cotton.

The Youths' Department is getting pretty numerous and we have just reached the conclusion that where the writer only gives his or her age, and says pa and ma belong to the Grange, and promises to say the same thing some other day, that we shall give preference to those others that ask or answer some questions. We can see that a spirit of enquiry may be awakened among a large class of boys and girls, that will, by careful direction on the part of Uncle Nine, be of great educational value.

And now we come to "President Garfield and the railroads." To any and everyone who has given this transportation question any consideration whatever, it is a matter of great satisfaction to know that the Executive officer of the United States, who has just assumed control of affairs with the sagacity of a statesman and the independence of a man, more than seven years ago put himself on record on the side of the people. This and the Impending Shadow on the seventh page shadow forth the trial of strength between the millions of the people on the one hand, and a score or so of corporations that to-day exercise autocratic control of values over unnumbered millions of the property of the people, on the other, and that trial of strength cannot be much longer postponed. That it may be precipitated under an administration that has taken such a decided position on the side of the people, the signs of the times all indicate. That such papers as the New York Evening Post and kindred papers of large circulation have espoused our cause proves that the main question has assumed such importance that the press must take sides, and with the Post, every lover of his country and her beneficent institutions will say, "Thus far shalt thou go and no farther."

PATRONS' CALENDAR.

Bro. Whitney, with commendable zeal for the good of the Order, prepared a Patrons' Calendar for 1881, and he had a few hundred printed for distribution.

For a couple of years the Patrons' calendar on a neat little card as prepared by Brother Whitney, has been printed and distributed. With commendable zeal for the good of the Order, Brother Whitney has again prepared a calendar for 1881, and he had so much to say that the card of other days would not hold it, so this time it comes as a folder, in which the VISITOR is both advertised and endorsed "numerously." We got along well enough with all of it except the last line of the first page—there we were stuck. The Prof. had got beyond our depth, and we had to resort to Webster's Unabridged for help. "Vis unita fortior," looked well enough, but did it mean anything, was what we were curious to know. In behalf of a thousand good Patrons who will receive this folder, some of whom may not conveniently reach a dictionary, we find the English of that dark line to be, "Strength united, is stronger."

We call attention to price of Digest in our "Price List of Supplies" which we have been compelled to advance from 25c to 40c, simply because we are charged so much more for the book.

We are again out of copies of the new manual, 6th edition. Our order for the third 500 since Jan. 1st, has been forwarded, and those orders last on the list not yet supplied, will not have to wait long.

We find in our drawer a brief account of an annual meeting of Ionia County Pomona Grange. The writer shows that this County Grange has been a grand success, and at four years of age has nearly 400 members, and about \$400 in its treasury, but as "A Charter Member" failed to comply with the rule of all offices, requiring the name of the writer, we cannot publish the article in full, as we find it.

Just as we go to press we learn that John T. Rich, now State Senator, has been nominated for Congress by the Republican Convention of the Seventh District. This is about equivalent to a guarantee that we shall have another farmer in Congress. Brother farmers, be not impatient. Each year shows marked progress towards securing the great objects for which we are contending.

The order for three months' subscriptions keep coming. We have already over 1,100 names—some from other States. The offer still holds good. This edition of the VISITOR reaches 7,500, and we expect the next will be 8,000.

THE VISITOR has become the best sheet for the use of advertisers of goods and implements used by farmers that is published in the State. With its increasing circulation that gives promise of reaching 10,000, read by farmers and their families, is not this the place to advertise?

IN SCHOOL DAYS.

Still sits the school house by the road, A ragged beggar sunning...

Within the master's desk is seen, Deep-scarred by raps official; The warping floor, the battered seats...

The charcoal frescoes on the wall; It's doors worn still betraying The feet that, creeping slow to school, Went storming out to playing!

Long years ago a winter sun Shone over it a setting; Lit up its western window panes, And low eaves' icy fretting.

It touched the tangled golden curls, And brown eyes full of grieving, And heard the tremble of her voice, As if a fault confessing.

For near her stood the little boy, Her childish favor singled; His cap pulled low upon a face Where pride and shame were mingled.

Pushing with restless feet the snow To right and left, he lingered; As restlessly her tiny hands The blue-checked apron fingered.

He saw her lift her eyes: he felt The soft hands light caressing, And heard the tremble of her voice, As if a fault confessing.

"I'm sorry that I spelt the word; I hate to go above you, Because," the brown eyes lower fell, "Because, you see, I love you!"

Still, memory, to a gray-haired man, That sweet child-face is showing, Dear girl! the grasses on her grave Have forty years been growing.

He lives to learn in life's hard school, How few who pass above him Lament their triumph and his loss, Like her—because they love him.

—[Whittier.]

Master's Department.

C. G. LUCE, MASTER.

A Question Answered.

In the VISITOR of Feb. 15th, a worthy brother says that a sister has been elected and installed Master of the Grange of which he is a member.

The proper manner of addressing her has not been settled to the satisfaction of all. But now this new order of things raises another question for solution, and an answer is desired through the columns of the VISITOR.

The query is this: Supposing the sister, who is Master of the Grange, should be elected delegate to the State Grange would her husband, by virtue of the relation he holds to the Master of his Grange be also a voting member, in a manner that the wife of a delegate is?

The voting members of the Michigan State Grange are: Elected "Masters or Past Masters of Subordinate Granges and their wives, or Matrons."

With this provision before me, I can not rule that the husband of a wife elected a delegate, would be a member by virtue of that relation. But the State Grange is a deliberative body. It is the proper judge of the election and qualification of its members. In its discretion, the brother might be admitted. But, as the law stands, the sister has at least, this one advantage of the brother.

The interests of agriculture deserve more attention from the Government than they have yet received. The farms of the United States afford homes and employment for more than one-half the people, and furnish much the largest part of all our exports.

NOTICE OF MEETINGS.

Bro. Cobb.—The next regular meeting of Kalamazoo County Pomona Grange, No. 27, will take place at Schoolcraft, on Thursday, the 17th day of March next, commencing at 10 A. M.

St. Joseph County Grange will hold a meeting at Centreville, Thursday, April 7th. A cordial invitation is extended to all 4th degree members.

"Give me neither poverty nor riches," said Agar; and this will ever be the prayer of the wise. Our incomes should be like our shoes, if too small they will gall and pinch us, but if too large, they will cause us to stumble and to trip.

almanac for 1884 thus stated the objects and rules of the society with regard to education: "The objects of this society are the social and intellectual advancement of its members."

Lecturer's Department.

C. L. WHITNEY, MUSKOGON.

Lecturers' Documents—Co-Operation.

The Lecturer of the National Grange sends out the following for February: Ques. 4—Co-operation applicable to Subordinate Granges, and to the Order in general?

Sag.—Concurrent action, united effort for the same objects. It requires co-operation to sustain our Subordinate Granges, and to make our meetings interesting and profitable. How to co-operate to secure our supplies, and how to dispose of products to the best advantage.

To which we add: This is a broad subject, and to it should be given more thought and study than is usual. Get out of the old rut that co-operation means buying something, and getting it cheap. The word means working together, and should be applied to do the least as well as the greatest of the undertakings that we as farmers need to engage in.

We need to co-operate to buy our seeds and fertilizers, but still more, to secure justice in the administration of government, to succeed in shaping legislation, and in molding the educational institutions of the land to suit our wants and those of the vast numbers of youth who should have such advantages as shall best develop their powers and capabilities to meet the higher positions in the truer life of advanced manhood and womanhood in which they will be called to act.

All co-operation must be in obedience to the laws of organization. Life is long and happy when in concurrence with the law of being. All co-operative effort cannot turn a river up stream to advantage. Neither can co-operation be a success, save in obedience to natural law.

To make the discussion upon this subject truly interesting and instructive, time should be taken to study up the subject, and read what has been written upon it. We would mention the report of the committees upon Co-operation in the Proceedings of State and National Granges, and also, the address of J. Semour Currey, at Evanston, Ill., in the Chicago Times of Jan. 22d. We quote some from the address:—

Co-operation is as old as civilization. It is the central fact, the fundamental idea, of civilization. Men began to rise out of the savage condition when they began to co-operate; and the highest civilization is the regular result of the most perfect co-operation.

Co-operation is defined thus: "Co-operation, in its technical sense, implies the association of any number of individuals or societies for mutual profit." Co-operation, as technically understood, occupies middle ground between the doctrines of communism and socialism on the one hand and private property and freedom on the other.

Rochdale is a city in England, of about sixty-five thousand inhabitants, and is THE MECCA OF CO-OPERATORS.

everywhere; for here, about thirty-five years ago, was begun the enterprise which has since grown and multiplied into the extensive system now known to us.

Then follows a lengthy description of this co-operative enterprise.

"Holyoak's History of Co-operation" speaks as follows of its effect upon the people who patronize the Rochdale store or stores: "These crowds of humble workmen, who never knew before when they put good food in their mouths, whose every dinner was adulterated, whose shoes let in the water a month too soon, whose new coat shone with 'devil's dust,' and whose wives wore calicoes that would not wash, now buy in the market like millionaires, and, as far as pureness of food goes, live like lords.

The secret of the success of this movement may be seen in the following announcement now a standing one in the Rochdale establishment: "The following subjects are now taught by able teachers, viz: Mathematics, geometrical and mechanical drawings, theoretical mechanics, physiology, botany, magnetism and electricity, inorganic chemistry, free hand and model drawing, geometry and perspective, acoustics, light and heat, and the French language. All members, and sons and daughters of members, who are wishful to improve their intellectual faculties should avail themselves of these courses." The

the silent Lecturer. The Declaration of Purposes, Master Woodman's Annual Address to the National Grange, Thomas K. Beecher's address before the National Grange at Canandaigua, the GRANGE VISITOR, and other Grange papers. County and Pomona Granges should act in localities where no Grange exists, and Subordinate Granges in their own jurisdiction.

Let each Pomona Grange expend \$10 in thus sending these documents, and this be followed by each Subordinate Grange expending \$2 or \$5 in a similar way. Remember that \$1 will send the VISITOR three months to ten families, which will herald the way for the Lecturer when he comes.

Let the aim of all be to make the Order useful socially, mentally, morally, and materially, and then strive to make it as universal as the calling it represents. Learn to labor and to wait. Have faith in the truest, highest sense. "Hope on, persevere ever," and success will crown all your efforts.

THE WISDOM OF THE CO-OPERATOR in recognizing the intellectual and social wants and providing for them. They were wise, because in the very beginning, while yet the movement was in the day of small things, a certain fixed percentage was provided for educational purposes.

To show the differences between communism and co-operation the address of the Bishop of Durham is quoted: "Only the other day, when the announcement appeared in the newspapers that I would address you, I received an anonymous letter advising co-operation with communism, and warning me, in consequence, to have nothing to do with it."

ONE Brother handed in seven applications for membership at the last meeting of Woodbridge Grange, No. 186, of Hillsdale county. Yet some will say the Order is dying out.

ONE Grange has sent 30 names and \$3.00 for the VISITOR to be sent to 30 families in its jurisdiction who do not belong to the Order. Could not every Grange in the State do as well?

ONE Pomona Grange has sent \$10 with one hundred names of as many families of non-Patrons in that county to whom they wish the VISITOR sent for three months. Let every Pomona Grange do as well for the farmers of its jurisdiction.

ONE Pomona Grange in Michigan has sent for 1,000 copies of the Bulletin Campaign Extra, to be circulated among the outsiders of its jurisdiction. That's business.

SPRING, maple sugar, and new life in nature is at hand. Why not have new life in the Grange? Let every Grange have a rousing meeting for the young people, to interest, instruct and please them.

A Growing Grange. Bro. Cobb:—Madison Grange is rarely represented through the columns of the VISITOR, so I write a line to say that we are alive and in a flourishing condition.

Feb. 25th was the evening set for our feast and we were favored with the presence of about 50 members from Weston Grange. They made apologies and said they did not know it was the night for our feast, but you know the Grangers always carry plenty to eat, so we fed our friends and had plenty left to carry home.

That is the question for discussion in March, as suggested by the National Lecturer, as follows: Question 5.—How can we induce farmers, not members, to unite with our Order?

Suggestions—Our true objects and purposes should be made known to all men; the necessity of thorough organization and united action should be brought to the attention of every farmer; missionary work of individual members should be made useful.

How to do it, interests the aggressive Patron but How not to do it, is also important to every member of the Order. Many think only of getting members, when they by their acts and sayings are often driving away. Remember, "Actions speak louder than words," and "Example is better than precept."

Interest and instruct by the living Lecturer, whose heart shall be in his work. Do this often, once in three or four months. Sow the seed in the shape of literature—

the silent Lecturer. The Declaration of Purposes, Master Woodman's Annual Address to the National Grange, Thomas K. Beecher's address before the National Grange at Canandaigua, the GRANGE VISITOR, and other Grange papers.

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Communications.

Another Letter from Harold Burgess.

Editor Grange Visitor:—SIR:—I spoke in a former letter of the railroad companies forming a conspiracy to charge what freights they please, and of this action amounting to actual robbery. I asked if there was nothing analogous to this in a conspiracy of farmers to force every buyer of a pound of wool to buy from them, and "could there be a more violent injustice done than this, and is it essentially different from downright robbery?"

I am prepared to argue the question of free trade and protection with Worthy Master Woodman, after he or somebody else answers my questions, showing the real operative distinction between the two cases, which I consider analogous, but till then I decline replying to his letter on the pecuniary advantages of protection. This would be to draw away the reader's attention from the point at issue.

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Yours, etc., HAROLD BURGESS, Burgoyne, Ont., Feb. 21, 1881.

The Other Side.

PARKVILLE, Mich., March 3d, 1881.

Bro. J. T. Cobb:—Dear Sir:—I would like to say, in reply to the article in the GRANGE VISITOR of Feb. 15th, by G. H. Mallory, of Decatur, calling Mrs. Lizzie Cotton a swindler, that last spring I sent her four dollars for the drawings of her hive.

In due time they came, according to my order. In the fall, I sent for her book, there was some delay about its coming, but in the mean time I received the following letter from her publishers:

"We wish to state to those who are waiting for Mrs. Lizzie E. Cotton's new book on bees, that the delay in its publication is our fault, as its printers. Our excuses are valid ones—the great scarcity of water has prevented paper mills running, and the material for the job has but just reached us. We are working our best to get the book out at an early day, and there will be only a slight delay longer. Respectfully, FULLER & JONES, Printers, Rockland, Me."

A few weeks after the receipt of this letter, I received her book, and was very much pleased with the ideas advanced therein.

I have kept bees for forty years, making a study of their habits, and endeavoring to ascertain the most successful way of caring for them through our long and often severe winters, and with all of my experience with different patent hives, I have found none to compete with this. Some of our bee journals do not like it, because it is not patented, and therefore cannot be monopolized by a few, making others pay a big price for the privilege of using it.

I am a member of Parkville Grange, No. 22, and think our brother had better look carefully, and consider all things well, before advising others, and "setting down" on Mrs. Lizzie E. Cotton.

Respectfully, F. CAMPBELL.

Wanted—Seeds.

Editor Grange Visitor:—I wish to make careful tests of clover seeds, timothy seeds, and seed corn early this spring—very soon. I shall be very glad to receive from any of your numerous readers samples by mail, a half ounce or so of clover or timothy, the corn from one-half an ear. State by same mail when and where the seed was raised, if that is known, and the address of him who sends samples. Mark name of sender on samples, so that many lots will not get mixed. I will furnish a report for the VISITOR when the tests are made. Owing to the wet autumn and early cold weather, some anticipate a good deal of poor seed corn.

West Handy Grange, No. 613.

Bro. Cobb:—This Grange is in a flourishing condition. Its members are not numerous, but I think them of the kind that will not weary in well doing. We have a good hall 20 x 36. Have had a number of socials this winter that have been well attended, and from the happy greetings and social friendliness manifest on these occasions, I am quite sure that all who attended were well paid for all time and trouble. Hoping this first brief report of our Grange will not find your waste basket, I am fraternally, M. A. DAVIS.

Fowlerville, Feb. 26, 1881.

TO TEN names not members of the Order, we will send the VISITOR three months for \$1.00.

J. H. ROSE.

Ladies' Department.

WHAT OF THAT?

Tired! Well, what of that? Did't fancy life was spent on beds of ease, Fluttering the rose leaves scattered by the breeze? Come, rouse thee! Work while it is called to-day! Coward, arise! Go forth upon thy way!

Lonely! And what of that? Some must be lonely, 'tis not given to all To feel a heart responsive rise and fall; To blend another life into its own. Work may be done in loneliness. Work on.

Dark! Well, and what of that? Did't fondly dream the sun would never set? Dost fear to lose thy way? Take courage yet. Learn thou to walk by faith and not by sight; Thy steps will be guided by, and guided right.

Hard! Well, what of that? Did't fancy life one summer holiday, With lessons none to learn and naught but play? Go, get thee to thy task! Conquer or die! It must be learned! Learn it then patiently.

No help! Nay, 'tis not so! Though human help be far, thy God is nigh. Who reads the ravens, hears His children's cry, He's near thee whereso'er thy footsteps roam. And He will guide thee, light thee, help thee home.

WOMAN IN THE GRANGE.

BY MRS. J. M. LAWRENCE, OF BUNKER HILL GRANGE.

My friends and worthy Patrons,
Come listen to my song;
Since God decreed that Matrons
Should help the world along,
Then why should feeble manhood
Expect to win the race,
Unless his help-mate—Woman—
Takes her allotted place?

It used to be the custom,
As ancient stories ran,
To think of woman, only
As a servant unto man.
She then was thought unable
Man's equal e'er to be,
In matters of great import
And sociability.

But now the noble Patrons,
The leaders of our band;
Have changed the ancient customs,
Which have ruled throughout our land.
They've given a chance to woman,
To walk with equal pride
These halls, in secret session
With our husbands, side by side.

While other noble Orders
Give woman one degree,
And that to merely satisfy
Her curiosity,
Our Order gives us equal chance
With Brothers, good and true;
To show the world by word and deed
What we intend to do.

Then, let us not be idle;
We'll see what we can do.
We'll make our presence welcome,
And our meetings pleasant, too;
We'll help our Brother Patrons
In every way we can;
Because we know their object is
To benefit our land.

The Other Side of the Question.

"Does the husband support the wife?" We answer emphatically, *yes*. There are exceptions of course, where the husband neither supports the wife nor himself, but as a general rule, we say he does. "Justice" says in the last number of the VISITOR that "the forms of the marriage ceremony, and judicial law compel men to promise to support and protect the wife; the promise made, they really believe they faithfully fulfill the same." Now, a true and honest man, (the noblest work of God) will support and protect his wife, even had he never promised to do so; his sense of honor and integrity would prompt him to it if the love he bore for her did not. In regard to the husband usurping the hard earnings of the wife and carrying the one purse, if a man does this, he does not deserve the title of husband, and should be at once struck off the list, and be filed with the selfish old bachelors. But the *true* husband divides the income with the wife, and she always has a reasonably well filled purse. A husband now, not far from here, comes to my mind, who not infrequently slips a roll of bills or a handful of silver in his wife's purse, and besides that, he always draws from his own purse when a new dress or shawl is desired. She is supported far better than she was when she depended entirely upon her resources. But you ask, "does she not perform double the amount of labor than she did then?" She does not; the larger portion of the year her husband provides a hired girl for her, (and pays the girl from his own purse). After the girl is dismissed, he hire the washing done the remainder of the year, and the wife is not required to draw from her purse to procure the groceries for the family, or to defray any household expenses, and she has hers to supply herself with the thousand and one fancy articles and notions which a woman of culture and refinement is so prone to yearn for, and I think this ease is but one among the majority. My dear sister further remarks that "men marry for the avowed purpose of getting a wife to help them earn a living, and to lay up property for future use." Let me ask, why does a woman marry? For the purpose of getting a home and having a kind, loving husband to support and protect her, and she in turn expecting to labor for and with him as he shall think proper. Woman was given to man as a companion and helpmate, and I think through the instrumentality of the order of Patrons of Husbandry, she is coming

to occupy that very position which was designed by her Creator. Only let her prove herself worthy of the position, and she will have no just reason to complain of her lot. Aunt Hattie says in regard to a wife feeling dependent and under obligations to her husband for money, she is no more under obligations to him than he is to her, and if any wife feels when she asks him for money that she is begging what does not belong to her she is to blame. If she had began right when the honey-moon was brightly shining, she would still have remained right, for, just as a young wife begins, so may she ever expect to live. Remember this secret, that a man's heart is very pliable if it is only handled *rightly*. I hope we shall hear from others in defense of these tyrannical lords of creation.

VICTORINE.

Morenci, Mich., Feb. 23rd, 1881.

A New Contributor.

Bro. Cobb:—Is there room for one more in the "Ladies' corner"? If not, I presume you have a waste paper basket. In "Sweet Brier's" appeal she said, "Come those of you with small families." Now Sweet Brier, that means me, only I am afraid the "Crystal windows" and corners free from colobes will not apply. As to writing something of interest, I expect Bro. Cobb will judge and act accordingly. I have been much interested in reading articles from my Sisters. I like "Myra" and "Aunt Kate," and would like to get better acquainted with them. I am glad Myra told us about the State Grange. I was not there, but I read her ideas, and I think she wrote something to interest, as well as "fill up." Bro. C. L. Whitney was with us a short time ago, and organized a Pomona Grange—Shiawassee County—and although the weather was bad, and snow deep, there was a good turn out, and an interesting meeting. Now, I am going to tell how much better Grangers are than other people. Last fall my husband and self were obliged to be away from home for a few days, and as we were riding through a prosperous looking country, it came dinner time, so we thought we would stop at some of the large white farm houses and get refreshments for man and beast. We tried nearly every house, until four P. M., without getting permission to stop. We were just getting thoroughly disgusted with humanity in general, when we found some *live* Grangers and we were entertained from that time until the next morning, right royally. At another place where we were entertained, the beautiful, intelligent young lady informed me that their Grange owned a hall, and had it furnished, and a nice organ therein, and so many organists that the Worthy Master had to appoint an organist a week ahead every meeting, in order that all should have their turn, and as this young lady had an organ of her own, she gave us a rare treat of beautiful music, and I concluded she was one of the many. But I have taken room enough for the first time. If this finds favor perhaps I will tell "Sweet Brier" about my fancy work next time.

MINNIE.

Grange Programs.

Below we give the balance of a program as arranged by the Vermontville Grange, No. 625, for the year 1881. It is a good idea, and should be adopted by other Granges throughout the State. They are productive of much good.

March 19.—"How shall we make farm operations most profitable?" J. R. Elsworth, H. H. Brown. Essay, "Odd jobs for rainy days," J. Davis. Essay, "Farm economy," Clark Foote. Select reading, "Mrs. M. Mowery, Mrs. L. Ward.

April 2.—"The most practical method of keeping up the fertility of our farms," Adam Boyer, J. Davis. Essay, "Fertilizers," Lockwood Ward. Essay, "Culture of flowers," Mrs. Hattie Ellsworth. Selection, Mrs. B. Smith and H. H. Gunn.

April 16.—"Does it pay to set large orchards?" G. W. Andrews and H. H. Gunn. Essay, "How to dispose of surplus fruit," M. L. Squier. Essay, "Canning and preserving fruit," Mrs. Phoebe Boyer. Selection, Mrs. G. W. Andrews and C. G. Bale.

April 30.—"Sheep vs. Cattle," Bros. Snell and Ward. Essay, "Home adornments," Sister Benedict. Selection, Mrs. A. Powless and Mrs. Ellen Stone.

May 7.—"Resolved, that it is not profitable to raise swine for a series of years." B. B. Lake and C. G. Bale. Essay, "Variety and culture of corn," Jonas Davis. Essay, "Strawberry culture, variety, &c.," Mrs. J. Mowery. Essay, "Gardening," Mrs. B. Smith.

May 21.—"Is it profitable to ship wool by agents?" Brother Smith and M. L. Squier. Essay, "Home conveniences," Mrs. L. Ward. Selection, Mrs. Jonas Davis and Mrs. N. A. Dean.

June 4.—"Are Agricultural Fairs of benefit to the farmer?" D. Hawkins and L. Ward. Essay, "How to conduct an Agricultural Fair to make it a success," B. E. Benedict. Essay, "Hints on housekeeping," Mrs. Ellen Stone. Selection, "Mrs. Phoebe Boyer and H. H. Brown.

June 18.—"Methods of harvesting. General questions and discussion." Essay, "Independence," C. Foote. Selection, Mrs. L. Ward and G. W. Andrews. Review of our work by the Lecturer. Fairs.

COOLER THAN THE WEATHER.—It is cooler than the North Pole for a paper to publish the advertisement of that very ancient and notorious fraud, "Lizzie Cotton," and then, when brought to account by a correspondent, say that the paper has been innocently publishing it. Lizzie Cotton is the worst and oldest fraud in this country, and not to know it argues a very bad state of general intelligence in some newspaper offices.—*Western Rural.*

Youths' Department.

Uncle Nine Gathers His "Children" About Him

Uncle Nine:—I am only a little girl ten years old, so you know I am too young to belong to the Grange. Pa and Ma are members of the Grange and have taken the VISITOR most five years and we like it well. I like the poetry best. I am glad you have given the children a column in the VISITOR for I know I shall like to read the letters. I go to school most of the time this winter. It is the first winter that I have ever been. I have two brothers, one eight and the other two. My little two-year old brother is so cute I know you would like to see him. We are going to build a new house next summer.

CARRIE M. HART.

Milton, Feb. 10, 1881.

Uncle Nine:—In answer to the request of "Young Florist," in the VISITOR of Jan. 15, I will say a very good selection would be: Asperula, rose aster, balsam mixed, hyacinth, larkspur, striped petunia, (nasturtium), Tom Thumb and scarlet, for border, verbenazinnia. In regard to the expense I would advise you to send to John Lewis Childs, Queens, N. B., for a free catalogue which will greatly assist you in making a selection. All annuals, 5c per paper, and here just let me say to Patrons, I have patronized this firm for several years, and find everything as represented, and bulbs arrive in the best condition.

MRS. F. V. H.

Portage, Feb. 15, 1881.

Uncle Nine:—I saw in the GRANGE VISITOR that the young folks had a column, and that you had invited them to write. I saw only one letter in the issue of Jan. 15. I hope in the other numbers there will be more. Now the first thing I want to know is, have you a waste basket; if I knew you had I would be almost afraid to send this. Pa takes the GRANGE VISITOR, Cincinnati Grange Bulletin, Patrons' Guide, and Columbus Democrat. Pa and Ma belong to Clifty Grange, No. 549. Pa has been Overseer six years; Ma is Secretary. I am 14 years old, but have not yet made up my mind to join the Grange, as I am afraid the goat will throw me. I have been trying to get Ma to tell me how they act in their Grange meetings, but she won't, so if I join they will be sure to laugh at me. I did not go to school this winter on account of being in ill health. I have an organ, but can not play much yet. We have had snow for six weeks, but it is raining today and the snow is melting fast. Pa owns a saw mill and saws a great deal of lumber in winter, and in the summer gives his attention to farming: he has 120 acres of land.

I have three canary birds, grandma gave me two of them. This being my first letter, I will quit for this time, and if you print this, I will write again.

STELLA STUCKEY.

Burnsville, Ind., Jan. 31, 1881.

Uncle Nine:—I have become very much interested in the "Youths' Department," and as Charlie has given a puzzle in the issue of Feb. 15, I will try and answer it. As I interpret it, the city is Grand Rapids. I am 13 years old and have never written a letter for publication. If you think this proper to put in the "Youths' column," I may write some other time.

DELLE.

Portage, Feb. 24, 1881.

Uncle Nine:—It is snowing to-day; it snowed about a foot last night. I have two brothers older, and one brother and two sisters younger than myself, and all but my youngest sister go to school. I will be 11 years old in April. I have no pets, but my sisters and youngest brother each have a cat and my next oldest brother has a dog. My mother and father, and oldest brother are members of Grange No. 104. We take the GRANGE VISITOR.

Yours truly,

ETHEL E. SPAULDING.

Royalton, Feb. 18, 1881.

Uncle Nine:—I think that your father must have been born in the year 1836, for 38 divided by 18 equals 2, and 6 divided by 3 equals 2, or 1 plus 8 equals 9 and 3 plus 6 equals 9. I think Bertha Damon is wrong about the longest tunnel. I think the longest tunnel is Mont Cenis in the northern part of Italy; its entire length is 7½ miles. Ma helped me find it in an encyclopaedia. I live so far from school that I cannot attend, so I study at home. I study spelling, reading, geography, practical arithmetic, and have just begun to write, but cannot write very well without making mistakes. I am a little boy 9 years old last month. I hope the next time I write to do much better.

RALPH B. DEAN.

Vermontville, Feb. 18, 1881.

Uncle Nine:—I have been reading the letters in the VISITOR, and I thought I would write to you too. I go to school. I have to do chores nights and mornings. I have one colt to feed and water, also a little calf to feed. I have a little lamb and he eats corn out of my hand. When Pa is gone to the woods to work, I have many other chores to do, such as putting up cattle, feeding sheep, watering horses, etc. Pa made me a pair of little bob-sleds, and I have to draw wood for two fires. I have two cats—Tabby and Minnie. I once saw Tabby eating a big rat. Now, if the editor don't

put this in that big basket of his, I will write again and tell how I go to the Grange sometime when they have a feast.

From your little friend,
SHERWOOD, Feb. 9.

Uncle Nine:—I noticed your request in the GRANGE VISITOR, and as my sympathies are with the Granges and young people, I take pleasure in writing to them. My daily occupation is in the school-room with the children, and as the family I board with have a number of wide-awake little folks, I like to see their column well filled. I am old enough, so that I have been a Granger for five years. You spoke of the peculiarities of the year in which your father was born, I think I have discovered the year or one that is subject to the same peculiarities, namely, "1836." Please tell me if I am correct, and if my letter is worth publishing, I may write again. I would like to ask the young readers of your paper the following question, "Why is it that wood snaps when burning in an open fire-place?"

Yours respectfully,

MAY FENTON.

Farmers P. O., Feb. 5th, 1881.

Uncle Nine:—I write you a few lines about bridges. I live in the township of Lowell, county of Kent, and State of Michigan, in the Grand River Valley. There are many bridges across that river in this county; two at Lowell, one of which is wood, and the other wood and iron, and a wooden one at Ada. While in the city of Grand Rapids, I saw three or four bridges, one is called the Bridge St. bridge, one across from Pearl St., and one from Leonard St.; the other is the new iron R. R. bridge of the D., G. H. & M. R. R. There is one iron bridge at Saranac, and a similar one at Ionia, I have heard people speak of another kind of bridge called Pontoon bridge, used in the army, in crossing the streams when upon a march. Another way of crossing streams is by a ferry boat. Uncle Nine, I would like to ask you one question, "How do people make a bridge of a boy's nose?"

U. E. S.

Lowell, Feb. 19th, 1881.

[This correspondent needs to be more careful of his spelling, and should try again. He has said nothing about the bridges below the city of Grand Rapids, where the boats run, nor did he give all in the city. Try again.]

UNCLE NINE.]

Uncle Nine:—I am not a Granger, but Uncle and Auntie are, and Auntie says she will vote to make a Granger of me when I am old enough, if I try to do as good Grangers should. I am 10 years old. I live with Uncle and Auntie now. My Ma died nearly 2 years ago. I have a little sister here too, she is nearly 2 years old; we call her Mamie. She cannot speak my name, so she calls me Abbie. If she gives me anything, she tells me to say tata. I cannot write very good, but I am having Uncle Joe teach me every night now. I did not try to write till the last two terms of school. I think teachers don't take pains enough with little scholars in writing. Uncle says they don't any way. Uncle and Auntie like your paper, and I like the letters from the little folks like me, and may be if you read this, and will publish it in the VISITOR, some one else will like to read this. I asked Uncle to write for me, and he said no, he didn't want to; as you would rather get one from the little folks themselves, and you would fix it up before it was printed. Uncle Joe writes in some of his letters when he finishes up, fraternally thine, but he says "good night" will do for this time for me. He says I must not write on both sides when I write to a paper, because they can't cut it up and give all the men that fix the type a piece to work at. Well, I must say good night.

LETTIE F. CAIGLT.

Big Rapids, Feb. 11th, 1881.

[Lettie, we thank you for this Valentine.]

UNCLE NINE.]

Uncle Nine:—In the "Youths' Department" of Feb. 15th, friend Ada wants to know more about bridges, so I will tell her about the bridge across the Firth of Tay. It is the largest structure of the kind in the world, measuring 3,420 yards; it is made entirely of iron and cost \$1,765,000; number of spans being 54. The answer to Charlie's puzzle, in the same paper, is Grand Rapids. I live on a farm of 100 acres, in Southern Michigan, about nine miles from the Ohio line. Pa and Ma belong to the Palmyra Grange, No. 212. Pa is Master, and Ma is Secretary. I am only 12 years old, so I can not be admitted to the Grange. The Grange has the use of two rooms in our house, so I attend the literary exercises, and enjoy them very much.

HATTIE COLE.

DOES IT PAY.—Have just bought through the Grange Agency, another \$35.00 sewing machine for \$17.00 cash, and the freight was about 60 cents, this is the second we have bought in a year, shall buy another in a few days. In general, sewing machines can be had through Grange Channels, for about one half what they are sold for by local or travelling agents.

AMONG the bills passed by the Senate recently was one appropriating some \$86,000 for the State Agricultural College and board of agriculture, \$25,000 of which is to be used in erecting a new building for museum, library, class room, etc.

President Garfield and the Railroads.

On the 2nd of July, 1873, President Garfield delivered an address before the literary society of Hudson College, his subject being "The future of the Republic, its Dangers and Hopes." We give a few extracts touching on the railroad question that will be of interest and should be carefully read and examined:

"There is another class of dangers, unlike any we have yet considered—dangers engendered by civilization itself, and made formidable by the very forces which man is employing as the most effective means of bettering his condition and advancing civilization. I select the railway problem as an example of this class. I can do but little more than to state the question, and call your attention to its daily increasing magnitude.

"We are so involved in the events and movements of society, that we do not stop to realize—that is undeniably true—that, during the last forty years, all modern societies have entered upon a period of change, more marked, more pervading, more radical than any that has occurred during the last three hundred years.

"The National Constitution and the Constitutions of most of the States were made for its control. Are our institutions strong enough to stand the shock and strain of this new force?

"A government made for the kingdom of Lilliput might fail to handle the forces of Broddninnag.

"It can not have escaped your attention, that all forces of society, new and old, are now acting with unusual vigor in all departments of life.

"May it not be true, that new forces are over-weighting the strength of our social and political institutions?

"The editor of the "Nation" declares the simple truth when in a recent issue he says:—

"The locomotive is coming in contact with the framework of our institutions. In this country of simple government, the most powerful centralizing force which civilization has yet produced, must within the next score of years, assume its relations to that political machinery which is to control and regulate it.

"The railway problem would have been much easier, if its difficulties had been understood in the beginning. But we have waited until the child has become a giant. We attempted to mount a columbiad on a carriage whose strength was only sufficient to stand the recoil of a twelve pound shot."

"The danger to be apprehended does not arise from the railroad, but from its combination with a piece of legal machinery known as the private corporation.

"In discussing this theme we must not make an indiscriminate attack upon corporations. The corporation, limited to its proper uses, is one of the most valuable of the many useful creations of law. One class of corporations has played a most important and conspicuous part in securing the liberties of mankind. It was the municipal corporations—the free cities and chartered towns—that preserved and developed the spirit of freedom during the darkness of the middle ages, and powerfully aided in the overthrow of the feudal system. The charters of London and of the lesser cities and towns of England made the most effective resistance to the tyranny of Charles the Second, and the judicial savagery of Jeffries. The spirit of the free town and the chartered colony taught our own fathers how to win their independence. The New England township was the political unit which formed the basis of most of our States.

"This class of corporations have been most useful, and almost always safe, because they have been kept constantly within the control of the community for whose benefit they are created. The State has never surrendered the power of amending their charters. The early English law writers classified all corporations into public and private; calling those of a municipal character public or quasi public, and all others, private corporations. The latter class, of that time, and indeed long afterward, consisted chiefly of such organizations as hospitals, colleges, and other charities supported by private benefactions. The ownership of the property, not the object of the corporation, was made the basis of classification. If the property was owned wholly by the State or the municipality, the corporation was public; if owned wholly or partly by individual citizens, the corporation was private. From this distinction, have arisen the legal difficulties attending any attempt, on the part of the community, to control the great business corporations.

"Under the name of private corporations, organizations have grown up, not for the perpetration of a great charity, like a college or hospital, not to enable a company of citizens more conveniently to carry on private industry; but a class of corporations unknown to the early law writers has arisen; and to them have been committed the vast powers of the railroad and the telegraph, the great interests by which modern communities live, move and have their being.

"Since the dawn of history, the great thoroughfares have belonged to the people—have been known as the king's highways or the public highways, and have been opened to the free use of all, on payment of a small, uniform tax or toll to keep them in repair. But now the most perfect, and the most important roads known to mankind, are owned and managed as private property, by a comparatively small number of private citizens.

"In all its uses, the railroad is the most public of all our roads; and in all the objects to which it works relates, the railway corporation is as public as any organization can be. But, in the start, it was labeled a private corporation; and, so far as its legal status is concerned, it is now grouped with eleemosynary institutions and private charities, and enjoys similar immunities and exemptions. It remains to be seen how long the community will suffer itself to be the victim of an abstract definition.

"It will be readily conceded that a corporation is really and strictly private, when it is authorized to carry on such a business as a private citizen may carry on. But when the State has delegated to a corporation the sovereign right of eminent domain, the right to take from the private citizen, without his consent, a portion of his real estate, to build its structure across farm, garden and lawn, into and through, over or under the blocks, squares, streets, churches and dwellings of incorporated cities and towns, across navigable rivers, and over and along public highways, it requires a stretch of the common imagination, and much refinement and subtlety of the law to maintain the old fiction that such an organization is not a public corporation.—*Cincinnati Grange Bulletin.*

Business Men as Legislators.

The great disparity in the lists of Congressmen in favor of members of the legal profession has often been noted as a peculiarity...

Under the inspiration of our grand system of public education, we may look forward to a period when the legal profession will not be regarded as monopolizing the prerogative of legislation...

The Impending Shadow.

"Great bodies move slowly, and the public is slower than monopolizing corporations." But a time may be conceived of, nay, even may be predicted, when the public will become swifter than corporations...

It means that the people, through the stress of ominous and accumulating events, are getting to see that they are in danger of becoming the victims of new and crushing forms of oppression.

It means yet more. It means that the people see with growing alarm and anger that the bloodsuckers are fortifying themselves so strongly in legislative bodies that relief or protection from those quarters, if sought for, may be sought in vain...

There is reason, then, for the impending shadow. There is reason for solicitude when the people, who must use the telegraph, are told they must pay dividends on eighty millions of dollars, when a quarter of that sum would replace all that the stock of the inflated corporation represents.

All this, we may be sure, is not a summer cloud that can overcome the community without causing either special fear or won-

der. It betokens a real, a menacing, a present danger. It implies that a time has come when the forces of public opinion must be set at work in earnest to breast and bear back a grievous calamity.

The proceedings of the National and State Granges are at hand, or soon will be in the hands of every Grange in the State. Read them carefully, and catching their spirit, try to infuse that spirit into all members and non-members...

THE REAPER, DEATH. CRADOCK—Worthy Patron:—We are called upon to sympathize with the family of our Worthy Brother Cradock for the loss of his daughter, and our highly esteemed Sister EMBELINE.

In the days of her health and activity, she was a helpful member of this Grange. Ever cheerful and active at home, and graceful and pleasant in society, she leaves a memory of pensive sweetness which we love to dwell upon.

Resolved, That in the death of Sister EMBELINE CRADOCK this Grange has lost an earnest, consistent member, her family an amiable Christian daughter and sister, and society a member who will not soon be forgotten.

Resolved, That we extend to the family of our departed Sister, our sincere sympathy in their affliction; that a copy of this report, under seal of this Grange be presented to them by the Secretary, and that the same be entered at large upon our records.

Resolved, That the charter of this Grange be draped in mourning for sixty days, and that the Secretary of this Grange be instructed to furnish a copy hereof to the GRANGE VISITOR for publication.

Resolved, That the angel of Death has come once more into our midst and taken from our circle, PHILIP DEITRICH, a worthy member of Ottawa Grange, No. 39, who died at his residence in town of Polkton, on the 26th day of Jan. 1881, in the 75th year of his age.

Resolved, That the charter of this Grange be draped in mourning for sixty days, and that the Secretary of this Grange be instructed to furnish a copy hereof to the GRANGE VISITOR for publication.

Resolved, That the charter of this Grange be draped for thirty days. FREEMAN FULLER, Mrs. E. FULLER, Mrs. E. NOLKS, Committee.

Resolved, That we tender our heartfelt sympathy to the family of the deceased sister, in this their time of sorrow, well knowing that the greatest consolation to sorrowing friends is the promise of a better life beyond.

Resolved, That in the death of our sister, her children have lost an affectionate mother, and the community an ever ready and willing helper in sickness and in time of need.

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No. 3.—Farmers' Organizations.—Containing the "Declaration of Purposes" of the Grange, the Constitution of the Order, How to organize a Grange, and many short, pointed and convincing arguments showing the necessity of organization by farmers.

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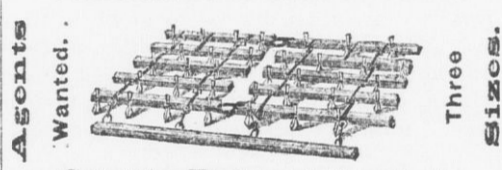
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SCHOOLCRAFT, MICH.

(Continued from first page.)

feel somehow that the work is partly his own, that the outcome of crops depends on how he works, and nothing will so stimulate this feeling, as to counsel, advise with, and sometimes accept the judgment of the hired man. No farmer is so wise but that he can learn something from his laborers. That conceit which assumes to arrogate to himself all the knowledge of farm lore, may pass current among strangers for a time, but familiarity with such a man, and witnessing his occasional mistakes and shortcomings will breed a sort of contempt and want of faith, which is fatal to a hearty co-operation in the work of the season.

A laborer by the month on a farm is in such an entirely different relation to his employer from the mechanic or factory employee, that the customs governing the relationship in the one instance are entirely out of character in the other. We often see people from other professions, either from a change of circumstances or from an uncontrollable desire to get back to nature, and to manipulate mother earth, become farmers. Their great drawback seems to be the difficulty of securing good help. They make frequent changes in the vain hope of finding that rare combination, so necessary in their estimation, that of ability and servility. If these good people would sooner learn that these two plants will not hybridize on American soil, their troubles and anxieties would sooner cease. We somehow incline to the belief that female help in the house is subject to the same influences that govern out-door labor, but we leave this open question for the ladies of the VISITOR to determine.

The Cost of Fencing and the Amount Used.

This is a question well worthy the attention of every farmer. There is an enormous amount of material used and money expended on all our farms for the old-fashioned rail fences, which were well enough in their day, but as our rail timber becomes exhausted, our fences fall into decay for want of material to replace them. For success in mixed farming it is necessary that a farm be divided into as many as eight fields, as a rotation of crops can then be secured, and pasture fields for the different kinds of stock. By this it will be seen that the amount of fencing necessary on a farm depends on the size of the farm: the larger the farm the less fencing will be required in proportion. Therefore the Bonanza farmer has the advantage in this respect. A farm of 80 acres should be divided into as many as seven fields. Divided in this way, with 80 rods of road fence and one-half of line fence and the inside fences, makes 640 rods of fence, or two miles, while a farm of 160 acres, divided in like manner, requires only 940 rods. Now as to cost: The rails at \$3.00 per hundred, stakes at \$1.50 or \$2.00 per hundred, caps at \$2.00 per hundred, and expense of drawing and building (provided we could buy them at even any figure), would be, at seven rails to the panel and not over one and one-half miles to haul them, 73 cents per rod, and this, I think, is as low an estimate as can be made.

Now, as to the advisability of splitting our timber into rails (if we should be fortunate enough to have plenty): It seems to me poor economy to do so, especially if the timber is not over five or six miles distant from a saw mill and place of transportation. The logs delivered at the former place, if oak, would net at least \$8 per thousand feet, and \$10 if 25 or 28 feet in length; ash at least \$10 per thousand, and hickory \$12. Now, an oak log that will make 25 rails would be worth, at 3 cents each, 75 cents, and would scale by measure about 175 feet, worth, at \$8 per thousand, \$1.40. Here is at least 65 cents in favor of manufacturing the rail out into lumber.

Now, admitting the foregoing figures to be correct in the main, it will be seen that we must make a new deal and substitute some other kind—tear down, as they become unfit for use, enough of our old fences to repair the balance, and replace with some other kind. What shall it be?

There are several kinds, the board fence, wire picket and barb wire. The board fence is too expensive, as it will cost at least \$1.00 per rod. The cost of the barb wire, provided we fence against sheep and hogs, is also rather expensive, but not quite so expensive as the board fence. Undoubtedly with three wires, which will effectually stop cattle and horses, it is the cheapest fence made.

The expense of the wire picket, as near as can be estimated, per rod, is: wire, 22 1/2 cents; posts, 12 feet apart, 12 cents; timber and splitting pickets, at \$2.00 per thousand, 14 cents; labor and building, 16 cents per rod—making a total of 64 1/2 cents per rod. This fence has several advantages: first, in the amount of timber required, as the material in one rod of seven-rail fence will build over three rods of this; second, almost any kind of timber that will split four feet long can be used; third, if well built, it never gets out of repair; fourth, when the posts rot off, the staples which fasten the wire can be cut, and the fence will sag enough to give room to bore a new hole, and set in another post, and the fence is as good as new. This repairing can be done without tearing the fence all down, as is the case with board fence, and we can plow close up to it, which is quite a saving of land. Lastly, it is a sat-

isfaction to see an unruly hog look through it, or a horse or cow, that have been in the habit of laughing at your tinkering up the old rail fence, to see them go up to it, look over into the corn or wheat field with longing eyes, and walk away disconsolately. Therefore, we say, if we must fence against all kinds of stock, we will take the wire picket fence, because it is the cheapest and most durable. J. F. GILCHRIST, Schoolcraft, Mich.

Inquiries Answered.

Bro. Cobb:—Allow me through the VISITOR to answer the numerous enquiries that come to me daily from all parts of the State asking for price-lists, and on what terms we deal with members of our Order. What I wish to say to these inquiring brothers and sisters is this: We publish no price-lists. They cost too much time and money. We do a business at less expense than any other house doing the same kind of business on this continent. The wholesale prices of all articles can be found in any commercial paper published in Chicago or New York, and our prices will, in many instances, be below rather than above quotations, for the quantity we buy gives us on most goods an inside price.

We are ready, so far as we are able, to fill all orders sent to us by Subordinate Granges or individual members or their purchasing agents, over the seal of the Grange, either in small or large quantities at cost, then add to the footing of the bill two, three, or four per cent, according to kinds and quantities of goods. No money need be sent with the order. When the goods are received and examined, and do not suit, they can be returned at our expense, but if the goods are all right and satisfactory, we expect the money at once. Goods ordered from us will be shipped either from this place or headquarters, as may be to the best advantage of the buyer. Kerosene oil, nails, sewing machines, and musical instruments are always sent direct, and the percentage on these is from one to two per cent. In sewing machines we handle chiefly the New Weed, cost at the factory for No. 3, with two drawers and drop leaf cover, \$17.00; all the extras, \$1.00; total, \$18.00. And the Chicago Singer nickel plated, No. 3, \$14.50; all the extras, \$1.00; total, \$15.50. To these prices the freight is to be added, and two per cent. We have arrangements whereby we get our kerosene oil and nails in any quantities at carload rates. We keep in stock groceries, dry goods, notions, boots, shoes, hats, caps, crockery, glassware, hardware, stationery, etc. Also clocks, and Roger & Bro.'s plated ware. Those who desire to buy small quantities can have them put up in such quantities as desired. For further particulars apply to A. STEGEMAN, Agent. Allegan, Feb. 28, 1881.

BACK NUMBERS.—If back numbers of last year's VISITOR are desired by any one, they can be had now by sending to this office, but in the near future it may be difficult to get them. Some of the copies of the previous years' numbers can be had.

The GRANGE VISITOR, the Cincinnati Grange Bulletin and Our Little Grangers, at three, one year for \$2. Send to C. L. Whitney, Muskegon, Mich.

SOMEBODY SHUT UP.—The baby didn't feel pretty good, anyhow, poor little thing; the car was cold and the road was rough, and everybody was cross and grim, and the baby had only one way in which to express his emotions, so it cried. And how it did cry! Twenty-eight miles of it and no sign of a let up, and the tired mother just smothering it with baby talk and rocking the little thing in her arms. Presently a testy looking old man, an old bachelor if there ever was one, turned in his seat and snarled: "Can't you shut that child up?" The light that gleamed from her eyes was dangerous, as she hugged the baby a little closer and fired back at him: "I can shut you up a good deal quicker!" The howl of approbation went up all over the car, and he shut up.

"Say, boy, say!" exclaimed a hot-looking man with a valise, "what is the quickest way to get to the cars?" "Run!" yelled the boy; and the hot looking man was so pleased with the information that if he could get near enough to the boy he would have given him something.

The NATIONAL CITIZEN-SOLDIER, an 8-page, 40-column weekly journal, published at Washington, D. C., comes to us brimful of good things for the citizen as well as for the soldier. It opposes monopoly, favors equal and exact justice to all classes, and is the special champion and defender of the rights of the soldier, his widow and orphans. Every soldier should have this paper to keep him posted. Terms: \$1.00 per year; sample copy free. Address, CITIZEN-SOLDIER Publishing Co., Box 588, Washington, D. C.

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TO 10 NAMES. NOT MEMBERS OF THE ORDER. We Will Send the "Visitor," THREE MONTHS FOR \$1.00.

TO PATRONS 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. I will continue the Commission and Purchasing business in every particular as heretofore. Make up your club orders for Garden Seeds early. Remember I have no old stock. Send for Price List if you have none. GEO. W. HILL, 80 Woodbridge St. West, DETROIT, Mich.

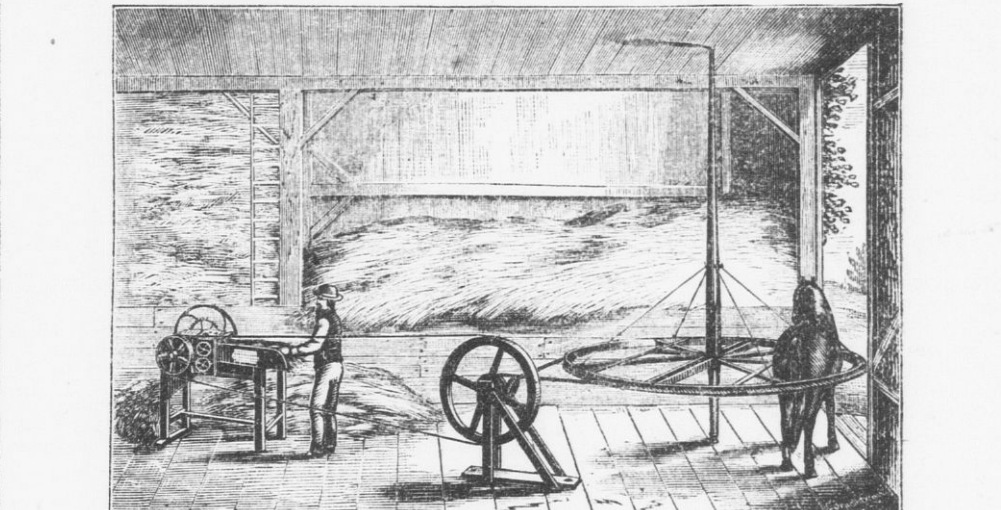
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