

THE GRANGE VISITOR

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

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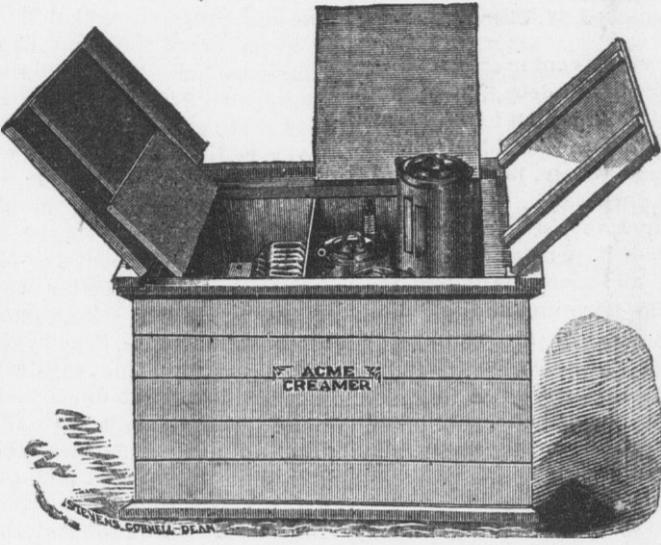
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Agricultural Department.

Contributions to this department from practical farmers are desired.—[Ed.]

Common Errors in Sheep Raising.

In the VISITOR of Feb. 15 I gave my experience in breeding ewes, what I considered a good flock and how they should be managed. I now propose to show how to care for an ordinary flock as found with three-fourths of the farmers of Michigan, for profit, commencing with the lamb when first dropped and followed to maturity. In what we have to say we do not expect to instruct professional sheep breeders or make an impression on penurious slovens calling themselves wool growers when they are in fact but cow feeders.

But our thoughts are the experience of years, and if by expressing them we can be instrumental in removing many common errors in breeding, rearing, and management of flocks we shall feel well repaid. To do this understandingly we must fix a base for a medium flock below which none should go. We will make it the average of the State in 1880, viz., five pounds. Any flock under this is only fit for the butcher as soon as they can be fattened, for the wool will not pay for the winter's keep. The flock of five pounds if vigorous and of fair age will do to build upon, if properly managed, for the profit it will be necessary to look to the increase. This should give you for the second year an average of six and a half pounds. To obtain this there are pre-requisites. First, a buck that will shear 20 pounds of A-No.-1 wool; second, your ewes must have the best of care from December to August, or until the lambs are weaned. The lambs should be learned when about two months old to eat oats and bran mixed, and they should be fed every day from a trough in a pen built in the field with strips far enough apart to let them through and hold the old ones back. In this way you are preparing them for weaning when the time comes about four months old. We are now done with the mothers so far as this brood of lambs is concerned. They are looking very nicely, and we begin to brag of them to our friends. We estimate six and one-half pounds average at first shearing. Well, we get it. All depends on your future management. You have now a flock of young things only four months old with the burning suns of August and September upon them, besides the violent rains liable at this season, added to these the myriads of flies worrying the life out of them. You ask what shall I do. Do a reasonable thing. Give them a good clover and Timothy meadow that hasn't been clipped since it was mowed. Give them their troughs with plenty of oats and bran, and build them a shelter by the fences of boards to protect from sun and storms. Continue this feed, this protection until winter, then add clover, hay, and a little shelled corn with their other grain, follow this to the first of June, then wash, shear and report results. If I mistake not your account will stand about as follows, on a basis of fifty sheep, and wool at 40 cents.

Keeping for one year as described above @ \$2.00 each.....	\$100 00
Use of fifty ewes one year.....	50 00
Service of buck @ 50c each.....	25 00
Washing, shearing, and marketing wool.....	7 50
Total expense.....	\$182 50
CONTRA.	
By 325 lbs wool @ 40c.....	\$130 00
By 25 ewes @ \$5.00 each.....	125 00
By 25 wethers @ \$2.50 each.....	62 50
Total receipts.....	\$317 50

Leaving a net profit of one hundred and thirty-five dollars as the result of one year's trial. But this is not all, you have only reached your first improvement. Your next should be equally progressive and satisfactory and so continue from year to year, if you use a better buck than the last until you have 9½ or 10 pounds of washed wool as an average of your clip.

After your third cross you will probably find it necessary to commence the weeding process among your ewes. The staple will probably be uneven, some too oily or too dry, some short and gummy, others too coarse. This comes of the sheep not being bred in line for a long period in the past. A little good judgment here will soon correct the evil. From this time forward you may not see so great change in the outward appearance of your flock yet it is there, perhaps not the large increase of wool, but in the solidifying of quality, equalizing the propensity for like to beget like and running the whole flock into an unbroken line.

We frequently meet men who are good farmers in most respects. They can raise grain, cattle and hogs to perfection, have good tidy farms and everything pleasant in their surroundings, who say that they would not bother with sheep but for their summer-fallow and the weeds springing up on stubble—entertaining but one idea of the value of a sheep, and that idea that they are the forerunners of a good wheat crop by becoming the scavengers to clear the fallows of every foul weed, brush or thistle growing upon it, and for this purpose they are put to work early in the season and kept drilling until seeding time on the nutrient derived from these foul plants. What is the result? A lot of emaciated ewes, sickly and puny lambs and the whole flock reduced to culls or scabs. How different the results and profits had a little good judgment been exercised here.

Sheep are natural scavengers and there is no flock too good to engage in the work. They will spend a morning to great advantage on a fallow, it is health to them and profit to the owner. But the afternoon should be given them in fields of good grass. A full stomach of good nutritious food when retiring at night is the sine qua non to the perfection and well being of the brute creation. Another common error with most farmers is in not providing good shelter for winter. If they try to have their flock in good condition in the spring it will be at the expense of grain more than the expense of lumber for sheds.

Another, and the greatest error is the continuing of the breeding of the native or common sheep of forty years ago, averaging hardly four pounds of wool, with no merit to speak of as mutton sheep. Their continuation cannot be for profit, and if not for profit can any good reason be given, except it be penuriousness or indifference of the owner. There is probably no State in the Union so

perfectly adapted to the breeding of fine wool sheep as Michigan. Our gravelly soils so well adapted to clover, our high altitudes giving a clear and bracing atmosphere, our more favorable winters, compared with the eastern States, are all in our favor, and there is no good reason why our common flocks should not excel the flocks of other States. Our professional breeders of fine wools can compete with New York or Vermont any day, and with more profit from their advantages in keeping, and a like result should follow with all the flocks of the State.

F. M. HOLLOWAY.

What Ensilage is.

In reply to Mrs. A. Hamilton, of Peach Belt, Michigan, I would say that ensilage is green fodder, (generally corn fodder) cut into fine bits and preserved in an apartment called a silo; generally made of solid masonry, water tight and air tight.

Steam or horse power is used in cutting the fodder, which is kept well spread and trampled down while the process of filling is going on. After the filling is completed the fodder is covered with boards reaching just to the sides of the silo, and weighted with several tons of stones or other heavy material. A slight fermentation follows, but the heavy weight soon presses the mass so solidly together that the air is almost entirely excluded, and fermentation stops for lack of oxygen to feed upon. It will then keep until winter, and when taken out to feed its green color has changed to a brown, and it has a slightly sour, but not unpleasant taste. All kinds of farm stock are exceedingly fond of it and do well on it.

Professor Johnson, director of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, states that it is valuable addition to our supply of winter fodder, that it is palatable and easy of digestion.

More exact investigations at the New Jersey agricultural experiment station prove that corn preserved in this way retains as much of its nourishing qualities as when kept by drying; and that the ensilaged corn fodder is much more digestible than the dried corn fodder. So much for science. Practice shows that the corn is not injured by the slight fermentation which it undergoes; and that as a winter fodder, especially for corn, it is equalled by few and excelled by none.

This process of keeping fodder is a French invention of recent date, and only within the last three years has it been used in this country.

Sharon, Conn., March 27, 1882.

Fruit Trees for Ornament.

Can anyone tell me why a grape vine is not a suitable ornament for a front porch, or what would be the objection to a fine standard pear or grand wide-spreading apple tree in the lawn? Was ever a blossoming shade tree more beautiful than either of these when the flowers come out? Is not the rich green of the leaves a thing of beauty all the season? When the purple clusters hang thick on the vine, and the red apples and juicy pears shine through the leaves in Autumn, it certainly could not take anything from the beauty of the scene. When one has but little space, as in a village lot, could not the useful and ornamental be profitably combined by putting in handsome fruit trees in the place of those designed only for shade? And a pretty dwarf pear or two would look well among the shrubbery. A row of young cherries before a fine house with a many pillared porch is one of the pleasant memories of my early walks to school. The old doctor who owned the property gave those trees as much care and attention as he ever did a rich patient. He was almost daily doing something for them, if it was only to pour a bucket of suds about their roots, loosen the ground a little, or bury a dish of bones under the soil. But their marvelous growth was the wonder of the village, and in a very few years they cast a deep shade over the whole sidewalk, and yielded a bountiful supply of great heart cherries. Let us give our children all such memories we can for they are healthful for mind and body both. Fruit or no fruit means riches or poverty in the minds of our little children, and there is certainly a thriftiness about a home well supplied with this luxury, which is better than an old stocking full of hard dollars in the strong chest, but only one old crab apple tree in the pasture lot.—Indiana Farmer.

VALUE OF LEMON-JUICE.—A piece of lemon bound upon a corn will cure it in a few days; it should be renewed night and morning. A free use of lemon-juice and sugar will always relieve a cough. Most people feel poorly in the Spring, but if they would eat a lemon before breakfast every day for a week—with or without sugar, as they like—they would like it better than any medicine.

Talks on Poultry, No. 5.

CHICKS.

For professional poultrymen or for raising early broilers incubators and hydro-mothers are doubtless a success, but they require time and watching, which a farmer can ill afford, and if you lose an incubator full of eggs through carelessness or inexperience the loss is too heavy. A lady acquaintance sets two hens on each nest in cold weather, thereby keeping both hens and eggs warmer. She reports good success. Some advocate raising chicks without the hen, after hatching the eggs under the hen. We prefer letting Biddy raise the chicks, and we face the charge of standing still while the world moves. She knows the trade better than you or we. While setting, the time she is off the nest for food gives the eggs the air they need, she turns the eggs daily, after the chick is hatched the two halves of the egg shell are placed one inside the other; and after hatching she knows when they are cold and damp and gathers them under her wings, and is a destroying angel to anything that would harm her brood.

We have a small building with a park at each end, and in cold weather keep the young chicks indoors, let them run in parks pleasant weather, and after chicks are a week or two old let them run with the hen as suits "their own sweet will," using a coop for each brood at night and until the sun is well up in the morning.

Feed young chicks a while before and after each of your meals—breakfast, dinner, and supper. Cornmeal stirred in water is too strong and fattening for young chicks. The *American Agriculturist* says: "It has been the cause of more death among chicks than cholera among fowls." For a few days hard boiled eggs chopped fine, and low grade rice cooked, is recommended. As they grow older give a variety of food, as oatmeal cake crumbled, seeds, sour milk cheese, barley and wheat screenings; the two latter are best fed at night. If you wish to see how chicks look when happy chop raw onions fine and see each of them running around with a piece in its bill. By raising the coops above the ground just enough to let chicks inside you can feed them five or six times a day and older fowls cannot reach the food. Have your coops and feeding places away from the house if you don't want chicks in the kitchen or on the back porch.

Some advocate giving no water to chicks. A. C. Hawkins wrote to the *Poultry World* last season from Lancaster, Mass.: "Have raised 8,000 chicks. No water!" We have never tried it. If raised in their natural state, they would get and drink water. It seems as natural for them to drink as eat. If fresh water is handy they won't drink until they wish, nor more than they need. In your solicitude for chicks don't forget the hen. She needs whole corn, and a dust bath daily when confined.

Turn in the hens and chicks and they will harrow your garden after you plow it before you plant the seed.

Grand View Farm, }
Kalamazoo, } OLD POULTRY.

Lice on Fowls.

I notice in a late number of the *Farmers' Friend*, under your agricultural department, "The Henney," "Lice on Fowls." The article is an excellent one, but for most persons too tedious of application. Please allow me to give my experience: I keep from 100 to 150 chickens in a small yard, with henhouse and shed attached enclosed for roosting and nests. The house is crowded at night with as many as can get in, the balance roosting in the shed. I have not seen any vermin about the house or shed, or on my fowls for years.

I first got gas tar, which costs about ten cents per gallon, and painted the house inside and out, the roosts, and also the roosts of the shed attached. Thereafter I washed the roosts with crude petroleum (using a common whitewash brush) every spring. There is another advantage in using the gas tar and petroleum, they are both powerful disinfectants. I have used the above remedies for a number of years, and although my fowls are very much crowded, I have had no disease among them except cholera, which they occasionally get if I let them run out. But so far I have soon stopped its ravages by keeping them in the yard and feeding them on Indian meal dough, mixed with a strong Cayenne pepper tea, which they eat greedily and which promotes their health in other ways.

I give them the above occasionally, whether they show sickness or not.

Very truly,
Grange No. 60, Maryland. w. t. s.

BEFORE THE CURFEW. 1829-1883.

OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES.

Not bed-time yet! The night winds blow. The stars are out—full well we know

No years a wakeful heart can tire; Not bed-time yet! Come, stir the fire

Not bed-time yet! We long to know What wondrous time has yet to show;

What next? we ask; and is it true The sunshine falls on nothing new;

And what if Sheba's curious queen, Who came to see—and to be seen—

And seen a rushing railway train As she looked out along the plain

See to my flat hat respond This little slumbering-fire-tipped wand—

Could you have spectroscoped a star? If both those mothers at your bar,

These births of time our eyes have seen, With but a few short years between;

If such things have been, such may be; Who would not like to see and see—

Will earth to pagan dreams return To find from misery's painted urn

Shall Faith the trodden path pursue The cruz ansata weavers know

Or shall a nobler faith return, Its fane a purer Gospel learn,

Well, let the present do its best, We trust our Maker for the rest,

Not bed-time yet! the full blown flower Of all the year this evening hour—

And when our cheerful evening past, The nurse, long waiting, comes at last,

Poison in Every Day Food.

Committees of experts tell of adulteration in food that is simply appalling. Were the ingredients which are mixed with food innocuous it would still be a very great hardship;

The manufacture of a great deal of our confectionary should be punished as a crime, for much of the candy sold to children is simply a lump of white earth, made attractive to the eye with arsenical paint, and sweetened with glucose.

The Patrons of Vermont are making an effort to start a paper in the interests of the Grange.

The Department of Agriculture—Why this Bill?

Because the bill simply proposes an act of long deferred justice. To elevate the Department to the full rank of other executive departments, with all the rights and dignity thereto belonging—why shall it not be?

The farmers of the United States, though not largely active in political strife, should be earnest in their intelligent appreciation of their influence upon the material interests, and also to the elevation of our great industry, agriculture.

The Department of Agriculture has, in spite of manifold obstacles, attained to such national importance that its just rank and representation in the cabinet cannot be defeated. I trust it may become a law this present congress. For many years the attention of Congress has been asked to the importance of an Agricultural Department worthy of its name and necessities.

Its Committee on Agriculture, instead of being useless and insignificant, should stand at the head of the committees of the Senate and House. It should be composed of the most eminent agriculturists and the most ardent and enlightened friends of the art.

The appropriations for the aid of corporations should be lessened, and those for the encouragement of agriculture should be increased. The one hundred millions given to subsidize the Pacific railroads, and the millions more to other grasping corporations, were all drawn from the sweat and toil of the tillers of the soil of the nation.

In the accomplishment of the good we seek there can be no success without thorough organization and earnest, untiring work. These things cannot be secured without money. The government, that draws all its revenues from the agricultural resources of the nation, should appropriate the money.

The department which should be established would be a head and center for all the agricultural industries and interests of the nation. The more good agricultural societies there are, the more Granges, the more agricultural schools, the more agricultural newspapers, the more legislation and work and argument in the direct line of agricultural knowledge, the sooner will come the day when the art and science of tilling the earth, which is the natural, God-given pursuit of humanity, will be brought up again to the dignity it held when the "tiller of the garden was the lord of the earth."

The bill making the Commissioner of Agriculture a cabinet officer should be passed because it is right, in view of all the consid-

erations which surround it. It should be passed because, from the lessons of the past, it is plain that agriculture develops the highest types of men, the most ardent patriots and the purest lovers of liberty, while it discourages all kinds of slavery; it develops and encourages the spirit of accumulation, both of the products of land and of land itself, and becomes thereby the pioneer and leader in national aggrandizement, wealth and growth; it discourages war, and appeals to the most potent passions of mankind in favor of peace and thrift.

The great Napoleon, nearly a century ago, called agriculture the body and soul of the empire of France. More truthfully in this day and this country, with its 30,000,000 farmers and farm laborers, and its \$12,000,000,000 investment, can it be called the body and soul of this republic.

GEO. N. MEAD. Acme Grange, No. 269.

Home Training of Children.

Read in Arcadia Grange by J. W. Pierce, March 29, 1882.

When an architect sets out to erect a building, his first care is to lay deep, broad and firm, the foundation on which to build his structure. And when an individual begins right and perseveres wisely, he seldom fails to accomplish his purpose.

And what is important in erecting a material fabric to make it permanent and secure, symmetrical and useful, is doubly important in molding, forming and building of character. To succeed in forming the character of the future man, certain impressions must be fixed in the mind of the child while he is quite young and should be among his earliest recollections, at that stage when the mind is the most impressible—for truths stamped on the mind then are longest retained. And here is where the mother's responsibility is greatest.

It therefore becomes the mother's duty to see to it that at this critical period of the life of her child the right impressions are stamped on the plastic mind.

Now I am not going into a labored treatise of the treatment of young children, for there are hardly any two writers on the subject who agree, and you will find that in practice among the best trainers of children there are as many different methods, as there are families almost. But I wish to bring the mind to bear more upon results than processes, though both must necessarily be considered to some extent.

There should be great care and judgment used as soon as children are of a teachable age to give proper direction to the young mind. One of the first things to be taught is obedience, and that rendered promptly. Here is where many mothers fail. They give a child an order and pass along or the mind is intent on its work, Johnny is going to do it pretty soon, but pretty soon he forgets it, the mother speaks to him again; he answers "Yes mother, pretty soon," and again fails to do it, and so a habit of disobedience is formed. This habit should never be allowed to be formed. It is destructive to the child's morals, and very annoying to parents.

Many resort to harsh measures every time a child disobeys and are continually cuffing or scolding, which is all wrong and cruel; some others are continually threatening to punish, but never do it. The true way to secure obedience is by giving the child to understand firmly that your authority is law and must be respected at all hazards; but at the same time let gentleness and kindness be in every act as far as possible, and be careful not to alienate the child's affections. All parents know the necessity and importance of teaching children truthfulness. But some I fear forget to teach it by example as well as precept. How often do children hear their mothers speak words of welcome to a calling neighbor, and when that same neighbor has left, hear expressions the reverse, and this gives a child a very low estimate of the value of truth. It is of the utmost importance that parents live up to the precepts that they give to their children.

The little olive branches are not as dull observers as many suppose them to be. They readily see the inconsistencies of parents and know very well that many of their acts do not correspond with their teaching. But they think that some how it must be right, for mother, and mother or father wouldn't do anything wrong. But as they grow older and their reasoning powers develop, they discover that those departures from rectitude are wrong, but they still think there must be some good reason for it, because father or mother would not do anything very wrong.

But the foundation of integrity is being sapped, and they too soon come to the conclusion, that a little deviation from the right is no great harm.

But once started in the wrong direction how soon the habit of wrong doing will predominate. Therefore parents should be very particular to teach their children integrity, by precept and example. For if the child sees at home integrity entering into every

act and thought, and trust and love naturally ensuing, he will enjoy integrity and live in it as a native of a southern climate enjoys sunshine and lives in it.

Some parents make iron clad rules which must apply to all their children alike without regard to disposition or circumstances. They might as well have all their shoes made on one last, or all their garments cut by one pattern without regard to size. Children's dispositions must be studied and understood in order to properly and successfully govern them. I have known some instances of children that seemed to be totally unmanageable by parents or teachers and were pronounced incorrigible. But some teacher who had a peculiar tact for studying character and disposition took them in hand, and having found the key to their better natures, by applying the proper treatment found them the most tractable boys in school. Many of those boys who seem vicious and incorrigible have the stuff in them for making the most valuable men. They generally have endurance and perseverance, and all that is wanted is to give tone and proper direction to bring out the latent powers of the mind, which will make them good and useful citizens, and often men of distinction. Some parents are always chiding and scolding their children, and every little fault is noticed with comments and often magnified; and the child hears a constant din of fault-finding, and consequently becomes soured in disposition, has little care whether he or she pleases the parent or not. The better way to treat the subject is, after speaking once or twice of the faults of a boy or girl, to let the matter pass for a time, say during the day or longer, and then sit down and commence a friendly conversation with them, get their attention and confidence, then gradually refer to the above noted faults, and give them to understand kindly but firmly that they must not be continued, and this course will generally convince a boy or girl of the impropriety of their faults far better than to be constantly reminded of them every time they occur. As I said in the announcement of this subject—the children of to-day are to be the men and women of the future. From among them are to be chosen the men to fill future positions of trust, from the lowest to the highest offices within the gift of the people. Mother, you do not know but your little Willie or Freddie may be chosen for governor of some State, or to sit upon the judge's bench, or for a legislator, State or National. There are thousands of offices to be filled and refilled in the future which need good, honest, intelligent, well educated men to occupy. And these men will be chosen from all ranks of society. It is not the children of the rich and influential alone that are chosen to hold the highest official positions in this country, as a glance backward at history will clearly prove. Several of the Presidents of the United States were reared in poverty. The most conspicuous were Lincoln and Garfield, and they are two who hold high places in the hearts of the American people. But they had noble mothers who molded their young minds and gave direction to them, and the labors of those mothers bore excellent fruit. J. Q. Adams said to a friend, "All there is good of me I owe to my excellent mother and her early training." It may not be generally known that Edison, the great electrician had less than two months of school education in his life. But his parents took great pains with his home training. [See People's Cyclopaedia.] Randolph Rogers' parents were poor, so that his school opportunities were quite limited. But his mother was one of the heroic women of Michigan. Although having to contend with poverty, she managed to train her sons up to noble manhood, and two of them became eminent men, and one has a world-wide fame. Many or most of the eminent men, both of the past and present ascribe their talents and success in life to the influence of their mother's teachings while young. Then what a hold the mothers of the country have upon the world. The future must be largely what the mothers make it through their influence in training and molding their sons' characters.

All well trained boys may not become eminent statesmen, or attain to eminence in the professions; but all will be better prepared to fill with honor any station in life that may be assigned to them. A good thorough early moral training of a boy will make him a better lawyer, a better doctor, a better farmer, a better neighbor, a better husband, and a better father; and it will make girls better mothers, and the latter is the great want, and the crowning glory of the country.

It is very important that every boy should be taught some useful employment, no matter what may be his station in life. The time may come when he will stand in need of the means of gaining a livelihood.

And it is just as necessary that girls should have a good knowledge of household affairs. How often are mothers of grown-up daughters found in the kitchen drudging their lives out, while their daughters are lounging in the parlor reading the last novel or drumming on the piano, to while away the tedious hours, when they ought to be helping their poor, tired, but too indulgent mothers. Then an hour or two of relaxation, spent in reading or music, would be invigorating, and the sense of having discharged a pleasant duty would give a zest to their lighter employment. In choosing an occupation for a boy, regard

should be had for the fitness of the boy for the business. As a rule the boy should be allowed to choose his own trade, business or profession; and in no case should a boy be compelled to engage in a business to which he has an aversion, for he will not be likely to succeed, and will most likely abandon it after having spent the time to learn it.

Amusements ought to be provided in every home, in which children can engage and in which parents may also engage with them. This will make parents and children companionable with each other without weakening the parents' authority, and does much to make home cheerful and cause the children, as they advance toward man and womanhood, to prefer home to many other places of doubtful propriety.

What is the effect upon children reared in the pestiferous gangrene influence of brawling, cursing and swearing parents? You may see the answer in the streets of any large town or city every day. We meet with boys who will hurl vile epithets at passers-by without any cause whatever, and if a well meaning person should see them doing some improper thing and should kindly reprove them, their answer would likely be, "Go to—" (you can supply the other word).

Well, some will say that boys will be boys, and will sow their wild oats. That is true enough, but parents too often furnish the seed. This last mentioned element of society is growing and flourishing and increasing to an alarming extent, and I for one would hail with delight some feasible means for curing the evil. There are societies for the prevention of cruelty to animals, and for the prevention of cruelty to children, etc., and we want a society for the prevention of cruelty to society. Something needs to be done to raise the fallen up out of the mire and degradation of ignorance and consequent ruin.

Miss Harriet Martineau, in a little work entitled "Household Education," in speaking of the natural powers of man, says:

"Man has a wonderful power of conceiving of things about which he cannot reason: We do not know how it is, but the more we dwell on what is beautiful and striking, the more able we become to conceive of things more beautiful, striking and noble. * * * None of our powers require more earnest and careful exercise than this grand one of imagination. Those in whom it is neglected may exercise the little power they have in a fruitless direction, while those in whom it is healthfully exercised will become as elevated and ennobled as their nature admits, and one of the human race into a higher condition. Such a power resides more or less in every infant that lies in the bosom of every family. Alas for its guardians, if they quench this power or turn it into a curse or disease by foul feeding! Then there is in man a force by which he can win and conquer his way through all opposition of circumstances. This power of the will is the greatest force on earth—the most influential over the whole human race. A strong will, turned to evil, lets hell loose upon the world; a strong will, wholly occupied with good, might do more than we can tell to bring heaven into the midst of us. * * * As human beings are born with limbs and senses whose thorough exercise brings them out in a high state of bodily perfection, they are also born with powers of the brain which, thoroughly exercised, would in like manner bring them out as great, mentally and morally, as their constitution enables them to be."

"Be Ye Courteous."

"Thank you, is a little thing to say and yet, if it isn't said, how much we miss it," said a lovely lady in apologizing for the delinquency of a friend.

Labor with what skill we may there will be always more or less friction in society. There are queer people, ill-bred people, and cross-tempered people, round whose corners, we by instinct, walk warily, but it is astonishing to observe how many, from whom we expect better things, are neglectful of the little courtesies of life.

We have heard of a barbarous South American tribe who have no word in their language for the expression of gratitude, "This will suit me very well," being the nearest approach to it.

THE REAPER, DEATH.

LOCKWOOD.—Died at his residence in Watertown, Clinton county, March 10, 1882, Brother S. A. Lockwood, aged 66 years, a worthy and respected member of Watertown Grange, No. 370.

Resolutions of respect and sympathy were adopted, and an order that our charter be draped in mourning for thirty days and that the resolutions be spread on the Grange records, was made by the Grange that suffered this great loss.

LONG.—Died March 4th, 1882, ONNA E. LONG, aged 2 years and 3 months, daughter of P. and E. Long, members of Crystal Grange, No. 441.

Yes, the little band we cherished, And shared to each our love, On earth is only parted, To meet in heaven above. Montcalm Co., Mich.

COLLINS.—After a long and painful illness Sister SARAH COLLINS, a charter member of Cheshire (Banner) Grange, No. 520, departed this life March 11, 1882, aged 39 years. Resolutions of sympathy for the bereaved family were adopted by the Grange and ordered spread upon its records, and the charter draped in mourning for the space of sixty days.

BALCH.—Died Jan. 30, 1882, at her home in Marlette, Sister BETSEY L. BALCH, aged 49, a worthy member of Montgomery Grange, No. 549.

A loved and estimable member, patient and earnest in the toils of life,—she has been called to her reward by the divine Master above.

HOPFNER.—Died at her home in Southfield, Oakland county, March 4, 1882, MARGARET, a beloved sister of our Order and wife of our worthy brother, Frank Hopfner, of Birmingham Grange, No. 323.

Resolutions of respect and sympathy were adopted by the Grange and ordered entered upon its records.

GATES.—Died, at the age of 5 years, EDITH MAY, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ephraim Gates, of Lake township.

Our Patent Laws—Are they Oppressive and Unjust? If so, What is the Remedy?

The right of man to the use of his own inventions is a property right recognized by the constitutions or codes of every civilized land.

In America patents, or protected rights, are of long standing, dating nearly from the organization of the government.

Science had not at that day thrown open her storehouse of hidden forces to that extent that an army of workers could seize upon these forces, and apply them readily to the uses of the public in ameliorating their condition, or in adding to the producing power of the world.

To-day the world is progressing with almost geometrical rapidity through the inventions of her people. It is safe to assume that the increase of the producing power of America alone in the last 20 years exceeds 500 per cent.

Viewing inventions in the light of blessings, as civilizers of the world, as a means by which life may be prolonged, and the burdens of mankind may be equalized, we come to enquire as to the nature of the laws governing this whole system of inventions, and see if they are oppressive as charged.

Our present law as now applied by the patent office is nearly of a century standing. It was passed in the interest of patentees, with no protection or safeguard to users; no provision for fixing a reasonable tax for use.

To illustrate, there are several hundred patents on the plow since the first one granted Jethro Wood. Of all of these patents there are not more than a half dozen points of variation that should be taken into account.

We are not complaining of those great inventions of a century ago, which advanced civilization in a day more than a hundred years; the cotton press, and the like, the inventors of which nearly all died poor, yet feeling that the legacy they were leaving to the world was a better compensation than all the royalty the manufacturers of the world could pay.

What we complain of and condemn is the unlimited power given patentees in forcing royalty from every individual found using his patents, however ignorant he may have been of other's rights under the law, or innocent in the possession of the patented article.

We complain of and condemn the law that permits the officials having charge of the patent office from spreading blanket rights without limitation over everything presented wherein the parties are willing to pay the fee.

We cite a few of these patents which of themselves were notorious, and entitled to reasonable royalty, but through the looseness of the law and manipulations of the courts, have been oppressive in the extreme to the citizens at large.

The Goodyear patent for the manufacture of rubber goods, being a chemical principle by which the gum was prepared and applied. The royalties on this one patent alone in the period of seventeen years making a large family millionaires, besides a large surplus for bribing its renewal for another seventeen years, and at the end of the second period, it comes before Congress with the brazen effrontery of a beggar and thief, claiming that they were all poor, that in 34 years they had not received royalties sufficient to pay for the invention, or to keep them from the poor house.

Take the Birdsell clover huller, which by

the way should never have been patented as it involves no new principle that was not in use before, but simply an improvement in applying those principles; the most that should have been done for it should have been as an improvement on some other patent, and its royalty limited.

The sewing machine patents, while there is much merit in them as labor-saving inventions, that have been the instrument of relief to thousands on thousands of females, in lightening their life's labor, and in some sense reducing the cost of clothing to the world at large, yet they have been so manipulated by patentees, manufacturers and agents that they have been made to cost more than four times the expense of manufacture.

Take the middlings purifier patent, or the roller process patent for manufacture of flour either of which enhances the value of a barrel of flour two to three dollars, a portion of which should come to you in the price of the wheat you furnish.

Take the harvester—an implement every farmer has a deep interest in, the first cost of which ranges from \$100 to \$125; add royalty, home profits, and putting on the markets, and you find a bill anywhere from \$250 to \$300.

Take the gimblet screw so universally in use in all our building operations: The pointing of it and the cutting of the thread on that point is a patent, the royalty of which adds to the cost over 100 per cent above other sources.

We could multiply cases for a half day where great injustice and extortion is being practiced through our loose and abusive patent laws. We might mention the barbed wire monopoly of Washburn & Moen, the drive wheel swindle, the patent gate swindle, the patent for wiring stakes to support corners of fences, patents for every form of fence, but they are all a general bundle of swindles, and are being demolished by the Grange as movers in the work through the courts as fast as their fictitious claims can be shown up.

What shall be the remedy for this state of wrongs that have so quietly but surely been wound around us in the past, that are to-day drawing the coils tighter and tighter? We answer, first, a better education in the science of government. It should be the duty of every voter in our land to judge carefully of the laws he is living under, see to it they are conferring the greatest good on the greatest number.

This leads us to look at our National legislature for a moment—the source from which the laws we are considering emanate. Analyzing it in education, in occupation and surroundings we can see very clearly why such discriminations are permitted a place in our land. Statistics of 1880 show 55 per cent of the population of the United States engaged in agriculture; nearly 20 per cent engaged in mechanics—a kindred art. Apply this per cent to the representation in Congress. The Senate should have 41 practical farmers, and mechanics should have 16, all other callings 19. What are the actual facts? Not a farmer in the whole body, and only four or five of other callings save lawyers. In the House there are 293 members, of which there should be 160 farmers, 58

mechanics, and 75 for all other occupations and professions. What are the actual facts? Of farmers there are 28 all told; fourth-fifths of the balance are lawyers, the residue bankers, lumbermen and miners.

Here, then, is a picture not overdrawn or colored in the least, of the American farmer to-day. Without power, without voice in the nation's laws—a cat's paw in the hands of designing politicians to pull the chestnuts from the fire while they do the eating.

As a farmer, I confess I feel humiliated over these stubborn facts; as a citizen of the State of Michigan (which is purely an agricultural state) I feel humiliated over the fact that of all the representatives we have sent to Congress there have been but three who have been in any way connected or identified with us.

We answer: yes; there is a hope. The agitation of these questions through the Grange, based upon the principles of justice as set forth in our Declaration of Purposes, will in time bear fruit.

Already we see legislators opening their eyes to these complaints. Our Michigan members have made a move in both Houses of Congress on the patent laws. They have begun in the interest of the people in the resolution and bill introduced. In doing both they forgot the people, and see only the lawyer and his interest, in that it gives the patentee or his representatives the right to bring suit against whom he will, and throws the responsibility on the defense of showing that they were innocent purchasers, or that the patent had become public property by abandonment, or outlawed before use.

I most heartily endorse the remarks and criticisms of Brother Woodman on Mr. Burrows' bill, and the amendments he recommends. Will Representative Burrows adopt them? We think not. Why? If adopted, there would be very little foundation left on which to plant an action for infringement except by manufacturers, and they and patentees are on too good terms to open to go to law.

It is true, as claimed by many politicians, that our present laws are all that could be desired in giving equal justice and protection to the people, then, verily, we are the greatest of demagogues in finding fault. If true, as we assert, that many of our laws need revision, that they are unequal, oppressive and burdensome to the producing interests of the country, fostering speculation, robbery and illegitimate gains at the expense of honest labor; then, verily, he who has been delegated to look after these interests of the people is the veriest of demagogues if he fails in doing all in his power to bring equal justice to all.

While we do not look for immediate relief from the powers that be, we are fully satisfied that the question of revision of the patent laws in particular is intensifying rapidly. It is not a month since the city of Troy, N. Y., was visited in the sum of \$53,000 for royalty on a patent cylinder valve used in steam fire engines; the patentee assigning his right to a patent lawyer of that place, he employing Ben Butler as attorney.

Since that judgment the city of Boston is called upon for \$500,000, New York for \$1,000,000, and other cities in like ratio all over the land.

Who will say after this that our complaints are not well founded? The world moves. Right corrects many wrongs. F. M. HOLLOWAY.

That Dana Family.

Stimpson, the postmaster, was expatiating on the wonderful use that might be made of the newspaper as an educator. Some one joked him, saying it was because he was postmaster and he wanted to magnify his office and increase the sale of stamps.

Jerico Jones came to Stimpson's support. "Stimpson's right," said he, "it is surprising what may be got out of a good newspaper, providing a man knows how to use it. It is like the magician's bottle which gives out seven different kinds of drink, and none of them harmful either. I know a case in point. There's that Dana family down on the Ohio river. Just now they own the finest farm in that whole region. The family is remarkable. There are three sons and two daughters. I have stopped there often over night on my commercial agency. I know all about them. George, the oldest is now 22. He is well educated, and can make a good speech and has been called on to speak at county fairs, and sometimes fills a pulpit on Sunday. Bob, the second, has developed a fine literary talent, and has in him the making of a fine writer. Sam, the youngest, has a turn for natural science; and boy though he is, people from all around the country come to him to get recipes and prescriptions of all manner of useful appliances and remedies needed on a farm. As Sam had never been away from home, they wonder how he got so much information. The two girls, Mary and Harriet, are not a whit behind the boys in their own departments. They are such splendid housekeepers; and then they are so well informed on all miscellaneous subjects that they are head and shoulders above all the other girls up and down that whole region.

And how did it all happen? There were no good schools in the neighborhood when they came here although there are now. The father is simple enough. I have heard the story in simple enough. He was a fine farmer near Pittsburg by going security for a false friend. They came down where they now are, and bought a narrow strip of cheap land along side they now own on credit. The father managed to keep one good cow, and then he subscribed for the best family paper that he knew of. The cow was to furnish some milk for his children, and the newspaper was to furnish some food for their understanding; as the father said to me with a laugh, "After having lost my other farm I started to bring up my family of five children on a cow and a newspaper."

And the father did it well. Here's the way he went about it. In the long evenings first of all he started a rousing fire in the big kitchen. They had their plain supper of milk and mush, and a few odds and ends. Then they had two good lamps lit. Whatever else they did without, the father said they must have a good fire, and a good light to make home cheery for the children. Then the father would get the newspaper, and read. He was a very intelligent man; and he would stop and explain things and tell anecdotes as he went along. Then he and the mother would often discuss things that were in the newspapers, and sometimes got the children to discuss the merits of different things in their juvenile way. This gained the attention of the children. It was surprising what interest the children soon took in the newspaper. After a time departments of the newspaper were assigned to each one. All the political and foreign news were assigned to George. He was to read them and to give a summary for the benefit of the rest. Sometimes the father got him on the floor and had him tell off in his own language the leading ideas of some fine editorial. That's what made George a speaker. Bob had all the book notices assigned to him. He told the contents of the books as reported in the newspaper notices of them. The father added all the information he had on each subject as it is brought up. In after years when they got in better circumstances the best of these books were sent for, and now that old farm house has not a large but one of the choicest libraries in the county. Besides, Bob soon found the way to get other books; and now he is preparing to write book reviews for himself.

Sam had the scientific department, and all the items about improved agriculture, and all evening it came his turn to lecture, which he sometimes did standing out on the floor, after the style of his brother George, and with a deal of mock gravity and real interest, informed the assembled family of the latest discoveries in his department. He converted a deserted smoke house into a laboratory. He tried his own experiments with the recipes in the newspaper. Some he proved to be shams. Others turned out well. Then he baffled them and passed them in a scrap book. He was an authority upon varnishes and plasters and ointments and ointments and plasters and various improvements of all kinds.

The two daughters divided up between themselves the housekeeping and the fancy articles of the newspaper. Both had a taste for decoration; and the old house from cellar to garret became ornamented with neat furnishings of their own handiwork. The household recipes they tried one after another, as they came out in the paper. Many were rejected after one trial. Others were found to be of value and were put in the scrap book. It was often said that no housekeeper in the county could put a quart of milk and a handful of meal or a half dozen eggs to as Dana girls. The neighbors who came there to supper at times were surprised at the elegant way in which the food was served up, and were always wondering why that Dana family should know so much more than other people.

Jerico ended his narrative with a thump of approbation. Stimpson resumed: "There it is; Jericho has proved what I said to be true. What a pity it is that all our farmers around here do not try to make their homes more cheery in winter evenings. Mr. Dana was right. He didn't spare the wood, and he didn't spare the oil. He furnished his children with good reading matter, and so he is making good men and women of them. There's a good deal to be said," said Stimpson, "in knowing how to select a good newspaper, and in knowing how to read it when you get it. If a man doesn't care about reading a paper himself, he ought to take some thought for his children. The man who attempts to bring up a family of children without a good and well read religious newspaper, does them a wrong which no amount of wealth bequeathed to them can ever atone for. Indeed, for lack of such a paper, many a legacy has proved a curse."—Saw-Mill Chat, in National Baptist.

At a recent meeting of Kansas growers and manufacturers of sorghum, it was unanimously agreed, as the result of experience, that syrup from this plant can be made in that State so cheaply as to compete with glucose.

H. H. TAYLOR, DOWAGIA, MICH.

Will sell on receipt of postal Orders about 50 BUSHELS of the JUSTLY

Celebrated Burbank Potatoes,

at \$1.75 FOR A SINGLE BUSHEL, or 6 bushels to one order for Nine Dollars, Sacks included. Also about 8 Bushels of

BEAUTY OF HEBRONS,

AT TWO DOLLARS PER BUSHEL.

PRICE LIST OF SUPPLIES

Kept in the office of the Secretary of the MICHIGAN STATE GRANGE,

And sent out Post Paid, on Receipt of Cash Order, under the seal of a Subordinate Grange, and the signature of its Master or Secretary.

Table listing various supplies and their prices, including Porcelain Ballot Marbles, Blank Books, Receipt Books, and various certificates.

MICHIGAN CENTRAL R. R.

DEPARTMENT OF TRAINS FROM KALAMAZOO. TIME-TABLE—MAY 9, 1880.

Table showing train schedules for Michigan Central R.R. Westward and Eastward, including stops like Le Grand Rapids, Ar. Allegan, etc.

L. S. & M. S. R. R.

KALAMAZOO DIVISION TIME TABLE. (Time 15 minutes faster than Kalamazoo.)

Table showing train schedules for L.S. & M.S. R.R. Kalamazoo Division, including stops like Le. Grand Rapids, Ar. Allegan, etc.

CHICAGO & GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY.

Corrected Time-Table—January 31, 1882.

Table showing train schedules for Chicago & Grand Trunk Railway, Westward, including stops like Le. Port Huron, Grand Trunk Junction, etc.

Table showing train schedules for Chicago & Grand Trunk Railway, Eastward, including stops like Ar. Chicago, Grand Rapids, etc.

All trains run by Chicago time. All trains daily except Sunday. Geo. B. REEVE, Traffic Manager.

S. R. CALLAWAY, General Superintendent, Agent, Schoolcraft, Mich.

A large wheat farm in Dakota has been purchased by an association of St. Louis millers.

Grange Seal Stolen—Caution—Imposter.

Some one, to me unknown, entered the apartment where the seal of the Knickerbocker Grange was kept and stole impressions of said seal on sheets of paper, and one E. A. Quarterman has been using said sheets of paper with the stolen impressions on signing himself, "Yours fraternally," when he was not even a P. of H. The letters and seal are generally used to get lists of names from Secretaries of State Granges, and to impose a point on Patrons under the idea that they are buying the celebrated Ingersoll Ready Mixed Paint. All Masters, Overseers, Lecturers, Secretaries of P. of H. are requested to read this letter to their Grange, that this imposter may be known.

Fraternally,
O. R. INGERSOLL,
Master Knickerbocker Grange.

American Newspapers in 1882.

The American Newspaper Directory, which will be issued near month by Geo. F. Rowell & Co., of New York, will contain the names of 10,611 periodicals in the United States and Territories, which is a gain of 344 in the year just passed. The number of daily papers has increased in a somewhat larger proportion, and is now represented by a total of 996 against 921 in 1881. The largest increase has been in New York—10 dailies, 29 of all sorts. Illinois and Missouri show a percentage of gain which is even greater, while Colorado leads all in the percentage of increase, both of daily and weekly issues. California, Nebraska, Nevada, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont and West Virginia have fallen behind 1881 in the total number of periodicals issued. In Georgia, Maine and Massachusetts the suspensions have exactly counterbalanced the new ventures. In every State not mentioned above, and in the Territories, there has been an increase.

EGGS FOR HATCHING!!

FROM CHOICE
White Leghorn Fowls.

From breeding pens, \$2.50 per 13. From general flock, 13 for 75 cents, 26 for \$1.25, 52 for \$2.00. Shipped in baskets, and warranted pure and fresh in all cases.

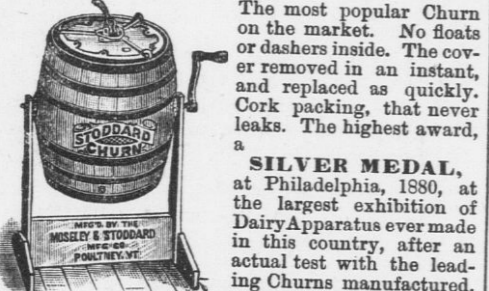
Black Java, American Sebright and White Leghorns chicks after September 1st. Also Scotch Terrier dogs and Fitch Ferrets. Three-cent stamps taken for amounts under \$1.00. Terms cash with the order. No circulars. Write for what is wanted. Address,
CHAS. F. ADAMS,
Grand Rapids, Mich.

Ornamental and Shade Trees.

Geo. Taylor & Son, at their Nurseries on Portage street, are offering for sale at very low rates, a large stock of Evergreen and Ornamental Trees, shade trees, fruit trees, grapevines, strawberry plants, etc.; 25,000 Norway spruce for hedges, from one to two feet high (transplanted trees) at \$5 to \$15 per 100. A fine stock of large evergreens at proportionate price. Nursery located on Portage street, Kalamazoo, near the old fair grounds. apr13t

"BUY THE BEST!"

THE STODDARD CHURN.



The most popular Churn on the market. No floats or dashers inside. The cover removed in an instant, and replaced as quickly. Cork packing, that never leaks. The highest award, a SILVER MEDAL, at Philadelphia, 1880, at the largest exhibition of Dairy Apparatus ever made in this country, after an actual test with the leading Churns manufactured. HIGHEST AWARDS at the leading fairs in 1881. EIGHT SIZES made, with or without pulleys, as desired. Agents Wanted. Send for Circulars to the manufacturers.
MOSELEY & STODDARD M'FG CO.,
Poultney, Vermont.
JOHN PRESTON, Pleasant, Mich.,
Imar-6t
Agent for Kent County.

Moseley's Cabinet Creamery

MANUFACTURED BY
MOSELEY & STODDARD M'FG CO.,
POULTNEY, VERMONT.



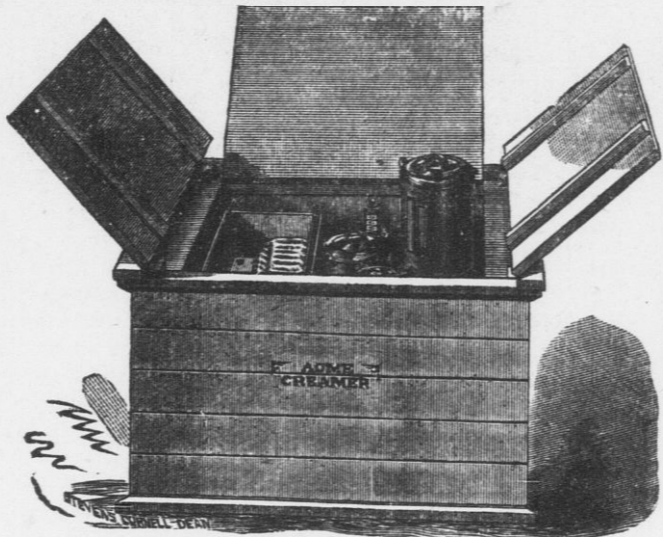
A very neat, compact, well furnished and successful dairy utensil. It is a COMPLETE SUCCESS in the dairy, and has won important awards when exhibited in competition with other Creameries. Receiving the highest award at the New England Agricultural Society for the past three consecutive years; also at the Pennsylvania State Fair, 1880, where the decision was made after a thorough test, in which milk, ice and results were carefully weighed and noted; and at New York, Ohio, and Michigan State Fairs, and at many other fairs at different times. We invite the public to give MOSELEY'S CABINET CREAMERY a careful examination, as we believe it will meet with favor with those who wish to purchase a device to raise cream by the cooling process, combined with a Refrigerator. The lower part of all sizes answers the purpose of cooling chamber. For Agencies address the manufacturers.
JOHN PRESTON, Pleasant, Mich.,
Imar-6t
Agent for Kent County.

THE KALAMAZOO

Business COLLEGE and Writing INSTITUTE,
Offers superior advantages to young Men and Women who wish to qualify for business. Send for Journal giving particulars.
W. F. PARSONS, Pres't.

ACME CREAMER & BUTTER COOLER

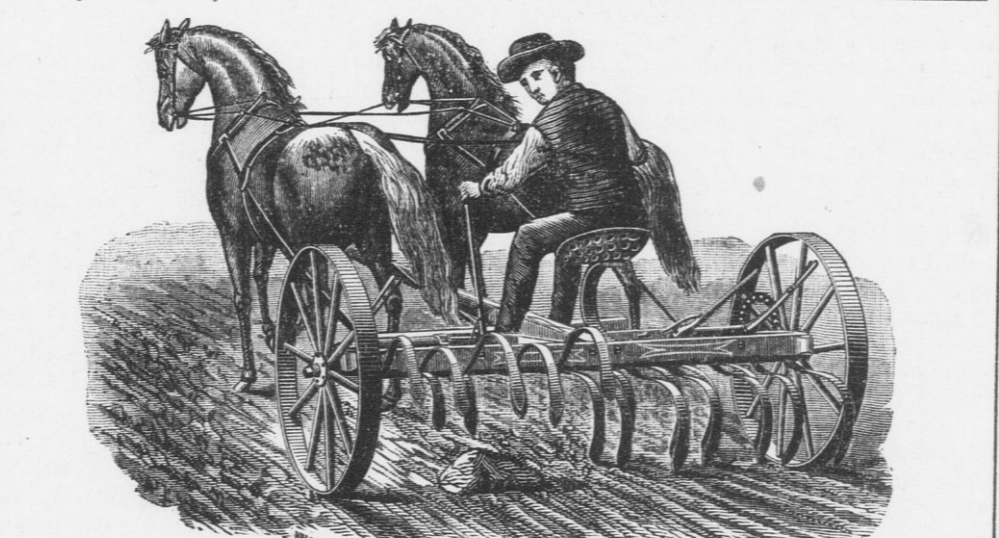
A combination that will produce an even grade of Butter, winter and summer. No Ice required. Saves two-thirds the labor. It will save its cost twice the first season. A RESPONSIBLE AGENT wanted where an Agent is not located. Correspondence solicited. Send for CIRCULARS and PRICE-LIST.



McCALL & DUNCAN, Schoolcraft, Mich.

AGENTS:

- G. W. Hunt, Mattawan, Van Buren County.
W. P. Herd, Lowell, Kent County.
A. H. Smith, Sparta, "
Charles E. Thornton, Rockford, Kent County.
Charles Pittman, Middleville, Barry County.
A. Stegeman, Allegan, Allegan County.
D. P. Newton, Watson, "
Simon Staring, Ganges, "
E. J. McNaughton, Coopersville, Ottawa County.
Gutelius Snyder, Three Rivers, St. Joseph.
Williams & Hartshorn, Owosso, Shiawassee County.
O. C. Spaulding, Royalton, Berrien County.
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John Wiebe, Bear Lake, Manistee County.
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Slayton & Son, Tecumseh, Lenawee Co.
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THE SPRING-TOOTH HARROW ON WHEELS.

is the implement that must and will supersede all others. The subscriber offers this New WHEEL HARROW to the farmers of the Country with entire confidence that for Simplicity of Construction and Perfection of Work it stands Unrivaled. Send for Circulars. Address

S. J. WING, Schoolcraft, Mich.

FOR SALE.

The MICHIGAN STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE offers for sale at reasonable prices
Three Yearling Short-Horn BULLS

Of approved breeding and from dams of good milking qualities. Also
A FEW COWS AND HEIFERS.

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The Patrons' Aid Society of Michigan

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HOME INSTITUTION OF LIFE INSURANCE

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The MUTUAL PLAN adopted by this Society provides that an Assessment shall be made ONLY when a member dies, and the amount of that assessment is fixed when a person becomes a member, and cannot be increased at any subsequent period. This assessment is graduated according to age, which is an important and distinctive feature of this Society—one which should commend it to the favorable consideration of Patrons.

If there are reasons why people should from time to time pay a small sum from their income or their earnings, in order to secure to those dependent on them in an hour of need a sum sufficient to bridge over the expenses and wants incident to that most trying period of life, those reasons hold good when applied to the Patrons of our State.

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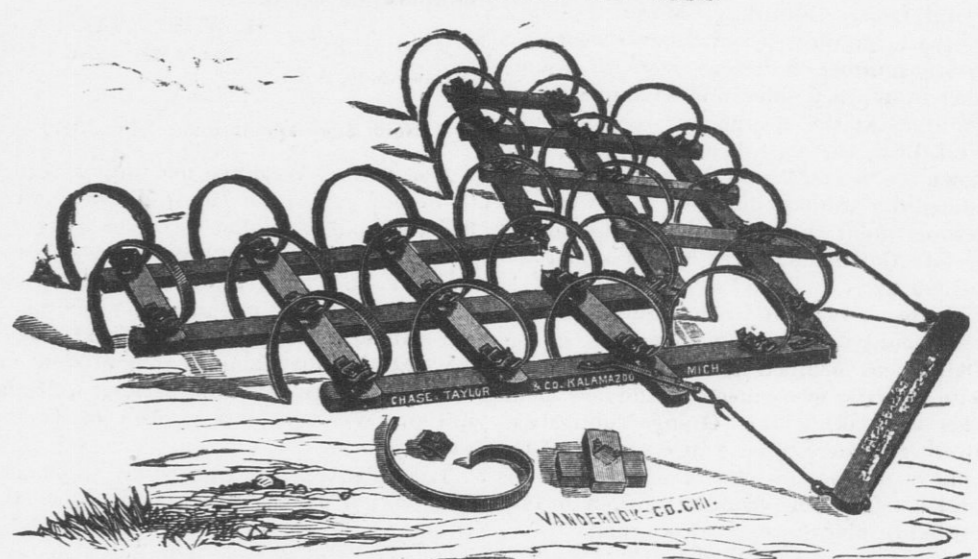
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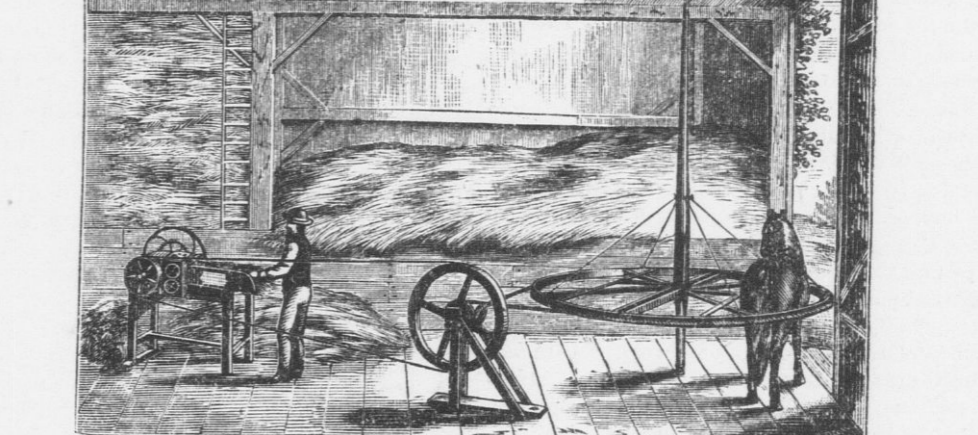
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