

THE GRANGE VISITOR

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

VOLUME 8, NO. 13. }
WHOLE NO. 141. } [Printed by Kalamazoo Publishing Co.]

SCHOOLCRAFT, MICH., JULY 1, 1882.

{ YOUR SUBSCRIPTION
{ WILL EXPIRE WITH THIS.. }

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

The Grange Visitor

(ENLARGED)

Published on the First and Fifteenth of every month.

AT FIFTY CENTS PER ANNUM,
Eleven Copies for \$5.00.

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To whom all communications should be addressed, at Schoolcraft, Mich.

Remittances should be by Registered Letter, Money Order, or Draft.

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WORMS.—No remedy equals that of turning hogs into the orchard, and then thinning out the wormy apples. This gives the fruit and worms to the appreciative swine. The fair fruit will remain on the tree, and be the better for the thinning process, and we will soon be rid of the insects. Fruit growers can be induced to do this, and it is therefore the most practical remedy. Some prefer sheep to hogs to turn into the orchard.

Agricultural Department.

THE PLANTING OF THE APPLE-TREE.

BY WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT.

Come, let us plant the apple tree,
Cleave the tough greensward with the spade;
Wide let its hollow bed be made;
There gently lay the roots, and there
Sift the dark mold with kindly care,
And press it o'er them tenderly;
As 'round the sleeping infant's feet
We softly fold the cradle sheet,
So plant we the apple tree.

What plant we in this apple tree?
Buds, which the breath of summer days
Shall lengthen into leafy sprays;
A world of blossoms for the bee,
Flowers for the sick girl's silent room,
For the glad infant's sprigs of bloom,
We plant with the apple tree.

What plant we in this apple tree?
Fruits that shall swell in sunny June,
And redden in the August noon,
And drop, when gentle airs come by,
That fan the blue September sky;
While children come, with cries of glee
And seek them where the fragrant grass
Betrays their bed to those who pass,
At the foot of the apple tree.

And when, above this apple tree,
The winter stars are glittering bright,
And winds go howling through the night,
Shall peel its fruit by cottage hearth,
And guests in prouder homes shall see
Heaped with the grape of Cindra's vine,
And golden orange of the line,
The fruit of the apple tree.

The fruitage of this apple tree,
Winds and our flag of stripes and stars
Shall bear to coasts that lie afar,
Where men shall wonder at the view,
And ask in what fair groves they grew;
And sojourners beyond the sea
Shall think of childhood's careless day,
And long, long hours of summer play,
In the shade of the apple tree.

Each year shall give this apple tree
A deeper flush of rosy bloom,
A deeper maze of verdurous gloom,
And loosen when the frost-clouds lower,
The crisp brown leaves in thicker shower,
The years shall come and pass; but we
Shall hear no longer, where we lie,
The summer songs, the autumn's sigh,
In the bow of the apple tree.

And time shall waste this apple tree,
Oh, when its aged branches throw
Thin shadows on the ground below,
Shall fraud and force and iron will
Oppress the weak and helpless still;
What shall the tasks of mercy be,
Amid the toils, the stripes, the tears,
Of those who live when length of years
Is wasting this little apple tree?

"Who planted this old apple tree?"
The children of that distant day
Thus to some aged man shall say;
And, gazing on its mossy stem;
The gray-haired man shall answer them:
"A poet of the land was he,
Born in the rude but good old times;
'Tis said he made some quaint old rhymes
On planting the apple tree."

Michigan Crop Report, June 1, 1882.

For this report returns have been received from 979 correspondents, representing 714 townships. Five hundred and ninety-three of these returns are from 399 townships in the southern four tiers of counties.

The cold, dry weather of April was followed by cold, wet weather in May. At the office of the State Board of Health, in Lansing, on the first day of May, the thermometer registered 27° F., on the second 30°, on the fifteenth 31°, and on the twenty-third 34°. The average temperature for the month was 53.10° as compared with 66.94° in May, 1881. The average temperature of May for the fifteen years, 1864-78, at the State Agricultural College, was 58.10°. Rain fell on twelve days to the amount of 4.33 inches, as compared 1.85 inches in the month of April.

Wheat, during the month of May, not only maintained its condition but, in the latter part of the month greatly increased in vitality. The estimates show the condition, June 1, to have been 41 per cent better in the southern four tiers of counties and 33 per cent better in the entire State, than on the first of June 1881. These figures are nearly identical with those obtained in comparing the condition on the first of May with the condition May 1, 1881. Seven per cent each of the wheat and corn crops, and six percent of the oats crop, of 1881, it is estimated, is still in farmers' hands.

The unfavorable weather seriously interfered with the preparation of land for corn, and unusual delay in planting. On the first of June very many fields were yet to be planted. The acreage in corn this year will doubtless exceed somewhat the acreage in 1881, but at the time the reports were sent

in it was yet too early to make satisfactory estimates.

The acreage in oats is slightly in excess, and in barley about the same as in 1881. The condition of oats is 93 per cent, of barley 94 per cent, of clover meadows and pastures 79 per cent, timothy meadows and pastures 86 per cent, and clover sowed this year 99 per cent of the condition June 1, 1881. About one-tenth of the acreage seeded to clover this year has failed to grow.

The condition of oats in the southern four tiers of counties is 93 per cent, of barley 94 per cent, of clover meadows and pastures 74 per cent, of timothy meadows and pastures 85 per cent, and of clover sowed this year 104 per cent of the condition one year ago.

In view of the very general loss by drought, of the clover seed sowed last year, and of one-third or more of the clover in meadows and pastures by winter-killing, it is safe to say that the amount of clover to be cut in Michigan the present season will be less than one-fifth the amount of an average annual yield. This deficiency must seriously affect the quantity and price of hay and the cost of carrying stock the coming winter. The suggestion is therefore offered that timely provision should be made against the great loss and inconvenience likely to arise from this deficiency by a very general resort to the several forage crops, such as sowed corn, millet, and Hungarian grass.

The prospects for apples continue favorable, but peaches now promise only 82 per cent of an average crop, as compared with 105 per cent on the first of May.

The wages for farm hands, per month, average, for the southern four tiers of counties, \$17.78 with board, and \$25.58 without board, and for the entire State \$18.55 with board, and \$27.46 without board. The wages per month in Ohio, as shown by the Ohio crop report, are \$16.67 with board, and \$25.02 without board, and in Illinois, as shown by the Illinois crop report, \$18.87 with board and \$25.52 without board.

Reports have been received of the quantity of wheat marketed by farmers during the month of May at 358 elevators and mills. Of these 290 are in the southern four tiers of counties, which is six-tenths of the whole number of elevators and mills in these counties. The total number of bushels reported marketed is 827,446, of which 228,350 bushels were marketed in the first or southern tier of counties, 286,612 bushels in the second tier, 167,981 bushels in the third tier, 119,045 bushels in the fourth tier, and 27,555 bushels in the counties north of the southern four tiers. At 44 elevators and mills, or 12 per cent of the whole number from which reports have been received, there was no wheat marketed during the month. At 257 elevators and mills the quantity of wheat marketed was 614,283 bushels, which is 78 per cent of the quantity marketed at the same places during the month of April.

Crop and stock reports received from the supervisors of 826 townships show that there were 1,810,003 sheep sheared in 1881, yielding 9,876,665 pounds of wool. This is an average of 5.46-100 pounds per head. The reports also show that the number of sheep in the same townships in 1882 was 1,879,385, which is 3.8 per cent more than the number sheared in 1881. If there has been a corresponding increase in the remaining townships, there will be 2,175,033 sheep sheared in the State the present year, and the total clip at the above average per head will be 11,875,680 pounds.

Shipping Wool to Boston.

Brother Cobb.—Noticing a short article in the VISITOR in reference to sending wool to Fenno & Manning, and believing it the only way farmers should dispose of this valuable product of the farm, I thought perhaps I might be able to add a few words that would be encouragement to some doubting minds.

Last year the members of Springville Grange commenced dealing with this firm and sent forward 5,782 lbs. of wool, and would have sent more had not the hearts of some failed them. The results were satisfactory as you may know, for every one that did so dispose of his wool has again sent it forward, and many more with them. The amount already shipped has reached 10,500 lbs., (nearly double that of last year), and more will soon follow.

Now, brother Patrons and friends, if you are tired of the pulling and hauling shirking and grumbling which you have so long been subject to in selling your wool, and would be dealt fairly with, and have your wool bring just what it is worth, send it to Fenno & Manning, Boston. Send it once and you will send it again, and in so doing you will learn what class of wool is adapted to the wants of the manufacturer, and you will be benefited in more ways than one.

Hoping this will reach the people before the wool is all sold, I remain,

Yours fraternally,
SECRETARY.

Springville Grange, No. 279. }
Springville, June 27, 1882. }

Talks on Poultry, No. 10.

We are tired of hearing so much of our own talk, and we presume readers share this feeling. The summer numbers of poultry magazines seem to be full of interest. We will first mention the name of the paper, and that may be considered as crediting to that journal the substance of the paragraph. We were not a little surprised a while ago to again see the familiar look of one of these "Talks on Poultry" copied into a prominent journal without a word of credit. Now, we are not ambitious, like Caesar was, but we could not help thinking that had they annexed the words "Grange Visitor" to that clipping, their editorial souls would have felt better at church the next Sunday.

Poultry Bulletin. In an article on duck breeding they do not consider it necessary to have water. Duck's eggs for hatching require moisture—an occasional sprinkling with tepid water. One article that caught our attention was on the Silky Fowl, so called from the feathers, which are more like hair than feathers. They are of ancient origin, and belong to the Asiatic variety. Their weight is from two to three pounds. The skin and comb are a dark purple color, but the flesh is palatable. The hens are good mothers. The males and females look almost exactly alike. Their main recommendation is that they cannot fly much more than a dog, because of the peculiar formation of their feathers. They have no beauty to recommend them, but are curiosities. The Bulletin passes its judgment in these words, "They are fair layers of small, buff-colored eggs." Another article was on the Habits of the Wild Fowl, advising poultry keepers to study and follow nature.

First, the nest, in a hollow spot of ground under a shrub, the damp earth beneath and the warm feathers of the hen above, as science has shown that successful hatching needs two temperatures. A wild fowl never gets too fat, which is as fatal an extreme for usefulness as the opposite. The formation of roosts should be like the smaller branches of a tree with room for flying up and down. American Agriculturist advances the theory that, at present prices, wheat is a cheaper, as well as a better feed for poultry than corn. Corn meal has killed more young chicks than all other causes.

Northwest Farmer, Vol. 1, No. 1, published at Traverse City, Mich., advises the use of eggs instead of meat as an article of diet. It says toast with egg and a light dressing of butter is food fit for a king, if a king deserves any better food than the rest of us, which is doubtful. Eggs boiled four minutes are more wholesome than fried eggs.

American Poultry Journal: First is the view of a cheap, practical poultry house. It has a cupola for ventilation; on the south side are large windows; along the north side is a passage way, and along the inner wall are the nests, the opening of the nests being toward the main room, except the nests in which you have sitting hens—these nests being turned around to face and give sitting hens the run of the passage way and them only. In this way hens cannot lay to those sitting. In the article Work for the Month it argues that all nests should be refilled and kerosened liberally, and that the hen house needs fumigating, as this warm weather brings vermin—an unwelcome guest; young stock are better out doors, day and night under shelter. If you set no more hens, most of the roosters may be killed as you wish them, as eggs are as good for eating as if fertilized. Another article shows the wonderful value of milk as summer food for fowls, especially young ones. Allow chicks freedom with the hen after a week or so old. Feed old hens nothing but a little grain at night with occasionally soft food, in which mix sulphur and charcoal. The Journal has more than one good word for the White Leghorn—"Most popular fowl, front rank of useful and fancy poultry, wonderful layers winter and summer, active and industrious foragers, rear easy, feather young, lay early and turn food into nice white eggs."

Poultry World: From editor Stoddard of Hartford, Connecticut, we acknowledge the receipt of his 25c series of books on subjects which interest every farmer and poultryman. We are partial to the World. Back numbers are always on hand. With the 12 numbers comes an index at the end of the year by which you can look up any subject

in the volume; no advertisements are inserted among reading matter. By remitting 75 cents extra you receive 12 chromos of fowls in life-like colors—real jems of art. The World starts the month with a plea for white wash, as the political ward bummer votes, "early and often." It asks that sitting hens be broken of the fever humanely by confinement in a place with some range, food, water, and dust baths. Cholera is on the decrease, because sanitary conditions are being better understood. The tendency this time of the year is over feeding. If you are troubled with owls, put a live chicken in a coop. Tie a dead one to a stake, set two or three steel traps near the stake. As Mr. Owl fails to get the live chick he goes for the dead one which doesn't come easy, whereupon he alights and the trap takes him into its loving embrace, and you can finish his career in the morning. It did not state whether this is practical for hawks as well. Ten illustrations are given of poultry houses in this number, with descriptions; plans of each, from one costing a few dollars to another that reaches into the hundreds. Oats are highly recommended as a food for fowls this weather. Guinea fowls keep hawks away from your premises. Salt is necessary in soft mixed food. Egg production for the different breeds ranks as follows: Leghorns, 160 eggs annually; Plymouth Rocks, 150; Brahmas and Cochins, 130. Cost of feed this year, \$1.12, or double that of last year. Another correspondent got tired of the Asiatics and purchased Leghorns and received 15 eggs from each hen per month in a flock of 15 fowls. The World sends mammoth Russian Sunflower seeds at 25 cents per package.

Grand View Farm, }
Kalamazoo, } OLD POULTRY

Bronze Turkey Eggs.

Mr. Editor:—Will you kindly tell me through your paper where I can procure eggs for hatching of the Bronze Turkey? If the description given in the VISITOR of June 15 is a true one, this must be a very desirable fowl to keep and I would like to try them. Yours respectfully,
Mrs. J. S. BIDWELL.

Allegan, June 23, 1882.

Worthy Brother Cobb.

Worthy Brother Cobb:—I thought it might be a matter of interest to the many readers of the VISITOR to learn of the health of our esteemed brother J. Webster Childs. I believe, sir, that there was no man whose whole action has told in the grange work of Michigan more effectually than that of our brother Childs. I visited him at his home on June 15th. Found him more comfortable than I expected, yet he is very feeble and weakened by his unyielding disease. He does not entirely relinquish hope, but is willing to bide the great Master's will in whatever seems best. He is able to be around, and in a great measure supervises his farm work (although he ought to delegate it to others in duty to himself.) He is the worthy master of the Grange in this locality, and the members out of respect for him, called an afternoon meeting to be held the day I visited him. It gave me much pleasure to attend this meeting with very many of his friends. Although weak and feeble, his whole heart was fired anew with the noble work of our Order, to which he has, in times past, given so much valuable labor. I can only say if it please God, may he be restored to health again. For the sake of his dear, noble wife, for the sake of his Christian influence, for the sake of humanity, and for his grand influence in our noble Order. Fraternally yours,
THOS. F. MOORE.

The Apple Worm.

The codling moth lays its eggs from the time the apples set till the last of August. The worms will be found in the fruit from some time in June till the apples are carried into the cellar. There are two broods each year, and the moths of each brood scatter along for some weeks. The worms commence leaving the fruit the first of July, or about six weeks after the trees blossom, and continue to leave until after the apples are taken to the cellar. By placing a band of woolen cloth five inches wide about the trunks of the trees, the worms will, as they leave the fruit, hide under these bands. They remain under the bands for ten or twelve days before they come out as moths. So by examining these bands every ten days, the insects may be killed. This remedy is not satisfactory unless all will practice it. So it generally fails to satisfy.

number of Granges will be established to reorganize our State Grange.
H. W. L. LEWIS, National Deputy.
Near Oayka, Miss., May 19th, 1882.

MISSISSIPPI.

From correspondents I learn that the general condition of the Order in that State is entirely satisfactory. Bro. Darden, as usual, is leading an active campaign, and is consequently most of his time away from home. In a recent letter he apologizes for the delay of his report; and closes with the following encouraging statement: "The Order is absolutely gaining strength in Mississippi. We do not intend to take any backward steps."

P. T. DARDEN, Master.

I have delayed the publication of the above reports, hoping to receive those yet back, and thus give to the Order full reports from every State. As they are generally brief and contain much valuable information and many good suggestions, I give them nearly full, omitting only such portions as do not relate directly to the subject matter contained in the above resolution. Causes of failure in Grange work are in some instances given, as well as those of success, and are equally valuable. They stand as "finger-boards" along the way, pointing to broken bridges and dangerous roads. Let their warnings be heeded, and follow only the paths that lead to success. I congratulate Patrons everywhere on the present sound and healthy condition of our great fraternal organization. Farmers read and think and understand and act as never before. The "aggressive" movement has begun in earnest; there is active work "all along the line," and onward is the rallying cry, sounded in every Grange in the land and reverberated over every hill and dale dotted by rural homes. Then let every true Patron take his place in the ranks, prepared to do duty, for this movement will go on; no halt will be ordered, no retreat sounded, and no backward step taken.

J. J. WOODMAN,
Master N. G. P. of H.

Paw Paw, Mich., June 13, 1882.

NEW YORK Herald: "The arrival at London on the 25th ult. of the sailing ship Dunedin from New Zealand, with a cargo of frozen meat, is a noteworthy event at this time when meats are so dear in our markets. The experiment of shipping meat from the antipodes to the North Atlantic ports in steamers has proved a brilliant success, but the Dunedin is the first sailing vessel that has successfully made it. Her cargo contained 5,000 dead sheep, and the long voyage across the equatorial seas consumed ninety-eight days, during which time the temperature in her hold was maintained at about twenty degrees below the freezing point by the Bell-Coleman refrigerating apparatus, and the meat delivered at London in fine condition. The commercial importance of this shipment, both in the great provision markets of the Northern and in the agricultural and pastoral countries of the Southern Hemisphere, where the exhaustless herds of cattle are valued mainly for their hides and tallow, cannot well be overrated. To say nothing of the vast supply of cheap and excellent frozen meat we might import from New Zealand and Australia, Brazil and the Argentine Republic could furnish the United States with almost any desired amount, by sailing vessels fitted with the refrigerating apparatus named, and at prices far below the average of prices that have long ranged in our markets. The London Times, commenting on the vast significance of the Dunedin experiment, warns the British country gentleman to be prepared to find "his carcasses underbid from the world below his feet," and our own stockraisers may take the warning to heart.

WHAT Horace Greeley said a dozen years ago about an evil not yet corrected: "A dozen or so railroad magnates, summoned by private message, meet from time to time in one of our great cities. They consult in secret, dine and wine satisfactorily, adjourn and go their several ways. Next morning the telegraph wires will have flashed across the land their decision that every bushel of grain going to market, every bale of goods passing inland shall henceforth pay twenty to thirty per cent. more freight than has heretofore been paid. In effect this bevy of railroad kings have arbitrarily reduced the value of every farm, every quarter section, every bushel of grain in the Great West. If they owned the whole country, and all who live in it, they could not lord it over us more tyrannically. And perhaps they will proceed next day to make a scrip dividend, or additional issue of stocks, representing nothing but their own rapacity, so as to conceal from dull and careless eyes the fact that they are exacting from their customers an annual profit of fifteen or twenty per cent. on their actual investment." What Daniel Webster said long before: "The freest government cannot long endure where the tendency of the law is to concentrate wealth in the hands of the few, while the masses are left poor and dependent." What a wise man said long ago: "He that oppresseth the poor to increase his riches shall surely come to want."

THERE is neither hope nor help for the low tone of political morals until the people who love truth, purity and justice bestir themselves to assume and perform their duties as citizens of a republic. They are in the majority in numbers, and supreme in influence and power, if they choose to exercise it. So long as they retire to the quiet of selfish ease, contenting themselves with growing at what is, making no effort to make it better, so long shall we have in all our public places those who make merchandise of public trusts, and so long will the people suffer under the impositions and outrages of a bad government. Let every man who reads these lines plight his faith to himself, that he will not shirk the post of duty where it may, but to the full measure of his ability to reform the serious duties devolving upon a citizen of a free republic.

Emmet Co., Mich.
Mr. Editor:—I have used the Ingersoll Paint, and think it the finest I ever saw, and have never seen its equal, in either covering qualities or durability.

Respectfully,
P. HERSMAN.

[See advertisement.—Ed.]

Communications.

Fences.

An original article read by Bro. E. G. D. Holden, at a regular session of Kent County Pomona Grange.

In an agricultural country there is no subject more thoroughly diversified than fences. In a literary field fences are numerous and varied. In a moral point of view, for every person, young or old, rich or poor, male or female, a fence is as indispensable as the air we breathe.

And strange as it may appear, fences of certain sorts talk: This is a peculiarity of the fence, in its most commonly accepted meanings. They have tongues and they use them. They tell tales of proprietorships, either laudatory or otherwise, according to the nature of the fence. I have seen fences that never let any one pass without saying "My master is a careless man." I have seen other fences that were always bragging of the good qualities of their owners. And others still that said but little one way or the other, because they occupied that extremely uncertain ground between a very good place and a very bad place; a sort of neutral land like that upon which Maj. Andre was captured, in Revolutionary times, that being a contested domain, situate between a very good cause and a very bad one—between liberty and despotism. Such a fence is either passably good, or negatively bad, as compared with the fences of the party who happens at any particular time to be viewing them.

Fences are as various as the conditions of men, sometimes more so. In fact they are so numerous and take up so large a space in the world's history, that it cannot be expected within the limits of a short paper, or an occasion like the present, that I shall be able to more than glance at their different habits. For instance, there is the brush fence, the log fence, the rail fence, the board fence, the portable fence, the sod fence, the picket fence, the Osage fence, the stone fence, the stump fence, the barbed wire fence, the aristocratic fence, the war fence, and no fence. Added to this list comes in very appropriately, the human fence, the political fence and—well no matter about further enumeration. We have spoken of enough for the present, and more perhaps than I shall have time to write about, or your patience to listen to.

The brush fence is essential to the condition of the Michigan pioneer. He has no time for making another at the start, and so, as with sturdy axe and tireless arm he drives back the grand ranks of trees from about his little cabin, he piles them into great universes around the outskirts of his little clearing, lops down their magnificent limbs; chinks in a little here and there, and thus protects his first crop from the predatory roaming of his nearest neighbor's stock, who lives perhaps over in the next township five miles away.

The brush fence is an honest fence. It fills its place in the history of the new farm, and on the following spring, goes up in flame and smoke, as the clearing is pushed back and gives place to the log fence or the rail fence, as the time, taste, or means of the owner may suggest.

The log fence may outlive the one of brush, yet there isn't half so much of individuality about it. But the good old fashioned rail fence is your fence for substantial character. When I was a farmer's boy and had the task of splitting 200 of these same rails per day, I thought I was almost a man, and when those same bright, new oak rails were piled up, one upon another, by myself and brothers, eight good, sound rails high, we thought we had a fence that could defy a reindeer, and we had. I can see that fence yet, worming its crooked way down by the woods, and though perhaps some dozens of times moved here and there, during the 30 years gone to the rear since then, I am prepared to bet a hat that many of them are in existence yet. Where timber is plenty the honest rail fence is perhaps the cheapest that can be built. The farmer wants the timber out of the way, and such a fence costs him nothing but labor.

I speak of earlier times. At present in this country there are perhaps but few new fences made of oak rails. The timber that will make them is worth more for something else.

But there are older men than I was, when I boosted and grunted to get the big eighth rail on top, that are justly proud of the honest old rail fence. It is not, however, a fence that will always stand alone. Now and then it must be relaid, the rotten and broken rails taken out, and thrown away or carted to the woodyard. It is not a fence, however it be, that will silently submit to be basely forgotten. It is not at all like the Irishman's stone fence—6 feet wide and 4 feet high—who when asked why he built in such proportion, replied: "Faith sur the reason is plain enough, when it tumbles down it will be two feet higher than it is now!" That argument, I am sorry to say, will not apply to rail fences. When they tumble down they stay there, that is, provided always that their owner is a sort of tumble down owner. As before intimated there is an immense amount of character in a rail fence, more perhaps than in any other kind. Most any fence will tell tales

quicker than anything else. If people knew how many tongues they had, they would be better cared for. Every rail has a tongue of its own, and when long neglected, blocks rotted out under the corners, top rails off, corners pitching this way and that, a good deal out of wind, with its natural crookedness, and every space outside and in, where the road cannot get, or the plow come: grown up to brambles, briars and bushes. Why, the rails in such a fence accost every passer-by and implore his attention to their pitiable condition. They have lost the dignity of honest rails. They feel mean because they know they are powerless to do the work they were put there to do. They know it isn't their fault, but they don't like it all the same, and they keep crying out to be put on their feet again that they may be the better able to keep the crops within, out of the crops of the cattle without. They know their business—these rails do, and they do not mean to shirk it; but, though they can look dignified or mean, look defiant or cringe at the approach of enemies, sing or weep as the occasion may be, yet there is one thing that a rail cannot do: when it gets out of place it cannot get itself back again. I have talked with a great many rails on this subject and I always believed them when they made this assertion. I have seen many very smart looking rails, but I never saw one that could move itself. I have seen them get out of the way and scatter, when the hub of some stout wagon interlocked with a corner, upon which the road had crowded too closely, but I never saw a rail that would make the least effort to get itself back into place again. That isn't their business; they doubtless regret the fact, but they know their business and they attend to it with a singleness of purpose, conveying many a good lesson to many a passer-by. A single rail amounts to nothing. A single fence board or fence post is little good on earth; a single fence picket might be placed on picket duty in vain; but just let an association of pickets or a community of fence boards and posts report themselves armed and equipped for service, and how quick danger is blocked; unruly stock made to know its place and the farmer protected from unlawful foraging. Or let a purely co-operative body of grand old fashioned fence rails acting as such, decree protection to the products of the agriculturist—and 'tis done co-operatively, fence rails and boards and pickets and all other sort of fencing material become magnificent barriers against all sorts of trespass and wrong. As co-operation must exist in the other affairs of life in order to secure effective work, so co-operation in fence rails becomes an imperative duty. Co-operative fence rails is no new thing, but it is a big thing, just the same; and the lesson that a rail fence may teach us in this respect is, barring its crookedness, a good thing for our family to remember. When I was laying up fence many years ago on father's farm I never thought that that fence was a grand co-operative society for the protection of corn and potatoes, but it was so, and so has continued even to this day. Judging from appearance sometimes, I have often thought the only thing a rail is good for after it becomes of age is to build calf pens under parlor windows, and such menial service I consider beneath the dignity of a true fence rail, and doubtless in this many good housewives will agree with me. It is much better to work them over, as in the case of some twenty year old oak rails, lately seen by the writer on the farm of Bro. John Porter, out of which a fence had been made that will last twenty years longer. The rails were laid in the ordinary way with good blocks under each corner, each corner being securely staked. At two rails high these stakes were securely wired together, and at two rails from the top wired again, thus making a fence that cannot tumble down. Do the stakes rot off in time? They cannot spread apart and let the rails loose, for they are securely wired together a foot and a half from the ground. Do the blocks rot out? The entire corner can be raised, without displacing a rail and a new one put underneath. Such a fence may be made with less "worm" than a common rail fence, and any wagon that should attempt to get a corner, on any corner of such a fence would stand a good chance of losing a spoke or two and would probably thereafter keep a respectful distance. As I do not understand that Bro. Porter has any patent on this new way of doing an old thing, I am of the opinion that his example could be wisely followed by those who have old fences to re-lay, in places where a permanent fence is needed. Moreover I do not think there is any possible objection to making a new fence in the same way.

But I fear I shall weary you with the monotonous croak of the "old rail fence." There are other fences not less useful, even though less common. The board fence is a good fence of its kind, and nothing looks better along the highway than a well made fence of this ilk. In making this kind of protection for your orchards and your fields, if you are not doing the job yourself, you want to watch the man you employ, or he will shirk on post holes, and swear they are three feet deep when not a mother's son of them is over a foot and a half. I was some years ago beat by an honest (?) fence builder in this way, and the first thing I knew,

after the spring rains, my fence seemed to be tired out and laid itself down on the grass to take a rest. I disturbed the quiet of its deep repose by a regular series of 3 feet earth preparations, and that fence is still a standing evidence of the reliability and virtue of honest post holes.

There are several kinds of portable fences, doubtless familiar to all. They are not expensive, and are an excellent thing, where it is desirable that a fence be frequently moved, for the purposes of pasturage.

Picket fences of various kinds are always neat for the door yard; and preparing the material for the same, excellent work for the barn shelter on rainy days.

The sod fence is an institution of old times in prairie States. New that railroads go everywhere, and in new countries almost in advance of the farmer, and lumber may be had at reasonable prices, the sod fences have become a thing of the past. There is one on my father's old farm in Illinois, however, that has stood the tempests of 45 years. Its crest was sown with locust seed, which in a few years formed an almost impenetrable thicket whose interlacing roots held the bank in its place against all the washouts of storms or time. That farm, in the course of time had also another old-fashioned appendage of good staying qualities. It was a mortgage and that is the reason why another owner moved in when we moved out.

Stone fences are peculiar to the old eastern States, and barbed wire fence is becoming quite popular in the new western.

There is something pleasant and thoughtful about the inestimable demeanor of a stone fence, that always interested me. I have seen miles and miles of it in New England that nobody's grandfather perhaps could tell when it was built. It stands there in a quiet, dreamy sort of way, while many generations pass by it never to return. They are a fit kind of fence to 'marvel over, and are indigenous to the country where, it is said, the sheep's noses have to be ground to a point, in order to make their pasturage available.

Barbed wire fence is a barbarous institution. I don't like it. I never shall. I always thought a wire fence of any sort looked as though they were got up on false pretenses. Pretending all the while, that there was nothing in the way when all the while there was, as any person or animal would speedily learn to their sorrow by contact, just as a man will when crossing his own yard hastily in the dark and is brought up standing with a clothes line under his chin.

Then I have heard that most all of this abominably barbarous, barbed stuff is covered 40 rods deep with patents, which the patentees don't want any one to know about, until ten thousand miles of it are sold. Then comes an oily gammon along, who will settle the matter up and keep you out of the courts if you will "C. O. D." which is "come immediately down." This is only a repetition of the gate business, and yet about this wirey subject, I do not speak for cash. I have heard these things about their manners and their ways, or else I have read it in a book. But this I do know, I would not have such a fence around a farm of mine if the wire men would put it up for nothing and donate me their royalty incomes, for all the time allotted us on earth. They ought to be abolished by law as a cruelty to animals. Aside from their barbarous barbs what a splendid thing a wire fence is for your small stock to get into the shade of on a hot afternoon! Too thin! Yes, by far too thin for a shadow.

Hedge fences are beautiful and durable when properly cared for, but it takes a long time to get them. Life is too short. They pertain to the older countries and may be properly classed with the aristocratic fence, which is unattainable for the ordinary uses of life, with people of ordinary means. The consideration of fences of this kind may on this occasion be dismissed, with "war fences" as a sort of Abatis, that the toiling masses haven't any use for in times of peace.

Here where I live the law permits us to indulge in the luxury of "no fence" if we are willing to turn ourselves into the street. That will do well enough if a man has nothing but a barren stately house, and is so lofty and exclusive that no animal, human or otherwise, dare approach him; but as for me, I like shrubbery, and flowers and fruit too well to pull down my fences, though it is an indisputable fact that my fences are of little avail against the "Young America" of my street, when harvest apples are ripening, but that is nothing here or there. I never quarrel with "young America" and fence or no fence within our corporate limits has nothing to do with the purposes of meetings like this.

I spoke of the opening of this hasty fence story of the "human fence," and I fancy some one says, "What sort of a fence is that?" To be brief, it is a sort of fence that it takes a lifetime to build, and which when once understood, no person will ever attempt to break down. Every one of us is surrounded by such a fence. It is the reputation and character, that we are all our lives building up, and such a fence encloses every reputable person on earth. It takes longer to build it than it does to grow a hedge. It is harsher than barbed wire for illegal trespassers, and if rightly built far more endur-

than the old moss grown stone fences of a century ago. The human fence is not a thing to be trifled with. If once broken down, years of sorrow and tears and trials may not rebuild it again. If sustained always by each of us to the end of life, it still stands long after we are gone as a sacred sentinel, guarding honest dust! The human fence is of our own making. It is ours alone. No one can build it for us. No one can destroy it but ourselves. Even the staunch old-fashioned rail fence cannot be compared with it. The human fence if rightly made has no "crooks" in it. It is a complete circle, stronger than steel to outside foes, and as gentle and godlike as sympathy to all inside friends. It surrounds us at all points, as we make it insurmountable to all unless we will it. It is tender of the rights of all, just to everybody, and considerate even of the welfare of the dumb animals that Providence has placed in our care. The human fence is a fragile thing, or it is a mighty thing and each day of our lives adds something to its strength and beauty, or takes something from it, either as we build or destroy. If built aright it shall surround each memory while time endures. And herein alone is text enough for a dozen lengthy sermons, but I forbear.

I must also omit the consideration of the "political fence." It might not be appropriate here, and yet might be discussed did time permit, without raising any party question. This fence at times is a sore trial to politicians, more cruel than barbed wire, because you see, these gentlemen "cannot most always tell" which side to get down on. They often fight against time, punishing themselves the while, as though the fate of the nation depended upon which side they might happen to light; when the truth is, the fate of the nation knows as little about them and their schemes as the sun does about the miserable moth that flutters for an instant in its broad rays.

I am of the opinion that the "political fence" as a thing to be held down by straddling politician is just going into disuse. Honest people certainly have no use for it, or any use for those who use it; yet in another sense there are political fences, that all have a just respect for. These are the boundary lines of our cities, towns, ships, counties, states, yet even of the nation itself. Let these never so little be trespassed upon, and somebody is instantly shouting, "get off my toes" and he has a right to. These imaginary lines divide the world into nations; wars may break down and change many of them, but in the end others are erected that are just as sacred, until other causes for conflict arise.

Worthy Master, officers and members: the subject of my story is "Fences." If I have said anything interesting or instructive it is not because I have had any time to give my subject the attention it requires, yet in either event I shall be more than repaid for the effort.

Patent Law—Resolutions.

Your committee on Resolutions, to whom was referred the question in relation to the protection of purchasers of patented articles, would respectfully submit the following Preamble and Resolutions:

WHEREAS, At the last annual meeting of the Michigan State Grange, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That the State Grange declare, through the columns of the GRANGE VISITOR, that if their representatives in Congress do not, during the present session, use their best endeavors to relieve the innocent purchaser and make the manufacturers and vendors alone responsible for the infringement of patents, they declare upon their honor as Patrons that they will never support these men again for office, and that we will vote for no man hereafter that shall not publicly declare himself in favor of such amendments.

And, WHEREAS, During the present session of Congress the following Law was passed by the House of Representatives: "Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled: That no action for damages or proceeding in equity shall be sustained, nor shall the party be held liable under sections 4919 or 4921 of the Revised Statutes of the United States, for the use of any patented article or device, when it shall appear on the trial that the defendant in such action or proceeding, purchased said article for a valuable consideration in the open market;" and

WHEREAS, It is claimed and is generally circulated among the people of Michigan as a fact, that the said law meets all of the demands of the above resolution, adopted by the State Grange; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this Grange that the said law does not meet the requirements of the above resolution, inasmuch as it does not relieve the innocent purchaser of a patented article, but compels him, at the instance of the patent-right swindler, and at far greater expense than the cost of royalty, to appear before the District Court of the United States, and prove that the article in his possession was purchased for a valuable consideration in the open market; and

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to Bro. Cobb, Secretary of the State Grange, with a request that they be published in the GRANGE VISITOR.

M. M. FOSTER, Chairman
Com. on Resolutions,
Bedford Grange, No. 65.

BEFORE a farmer can safely buy a harvester he has got to know more than the Interior Department, the Supreme Court, and all the patent right lawyers, just for the reason that Congress will not protect innocent purchasers of patent-right machinery.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

The Grange Visitor.

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THE STATE CAPITOL ENGRAVING.

We have sent several dozen lithographs of the State Capitol to those entitled to them by virtue of having sent us five or more names of subscribers and \$2.50, since our offer in the VISITOR of March 15th. If we have neglected to send to any person entitled to this fine engraving we shall promptly forward it on receipt of notice.

UNTIL WITHDRAWN THIS IS MADE A STANDING OFFER—FIVE NEW SUBSCRIBERS FOR ONE YEAR WILL ENTITLE THE PERSON SENDING US THE NAMES AND \$2.50 TO A SPLENDID LITHOGRAPH OF THE STATE CAPITOL OF MICHIGAN, SIZE OF SHEET 22x28 INCHES.

PATENT-RIGHT WISDOM—REVIEWED.

My attention has been called to an article which appeared in the *Post and Tribune* of June 5th, written by Thos. S. Sprague, of Detroit. He starts out to declare that "law, justice, and the public recognize property in invention"—a statement not denied by even the most verdant Granger. But when Mr. Sprague urges that the rights of inventors are so sacred that they must in no way be curtailed by amendment to existing statutes, he assumes at once that the constitutional provision and subsequent legislation had; cover the just and fair measure of the rights of the inventor to the protection of his acquired property rights, shutting his eyes to all past experience, and the abuses that have grown up in the last twenty-five years, and the increased liability to abuse to which the people are subject by the successful attempts of patent-right rascals, aided by lawyer partners, to extort money from innocent users of patented articles. Assuming that in the early history of the country, the operation of the law worked no injury to the people, does it follow that laws shall never be amended when the experience of later years has demonstrated that abuses are practiced under its operation—that it is a convenient shield for robbery under cover of law. That kind of pettifoggery is too paltry for serious consideration, and yet it is about the average strength of the points made by Mr. Sprague.

The fruits of experience—the results worked out by the operation of a law—determine its value as a protection. And, while the patent laws were designed to encourage invention by protecting the inventor, it will not be denied that the value of an invention lies in the use that can be made of it, and the law has not discharged its proper function, if, when it has taken care of the inventor, who is but one citizen in a thousand, it fails to protect the other nine hundred and ninety-nine.

As it stands to-day on the statute-books, it fails to adequately protect this large proportion. This has become known and been developed by experience under the law; we speak not of theories, but of solid facts. The legislation demanded by the Grange was, that the one word "user," be expunged from existing law. And we insist that the inventor would be quite as well protected in his rights as any other citizen; and why should he have such unusual opportunities to perpetuate a wrong and be protected by statute? Nor should it be forgotten that the inventors are seldom profited by the exactions made possible by the law. The assignees often crafty and unscrupulous, are far more likely to be pursuing this business of collecting royalty on patented articles that have been on the market and in use for years than the inventor.

Mr. Sprague's apprehension that manufacturers of patented articles in most cases will be found to be "utterly irresponsible," is a wild statement, uttered for effect in the first place, and wholly lacks the essential element of probability. And if it were wholly true, the inventor has his remedy in the courts, where we all have to go for the protection of our rights. We admit we don't always get them there, or if we do, they are not always to be had at reasonable cost. But no matter about that, the inventor should have only an even chance with the rest of us before these tribunals.

Besides, there is still another party that remains liable—the vendor. With these two parties, the manufacturer and the vendor liable to the inventor, we think he certainly stands an even chance for protection with other citizens of the Commonwealth.

Mr. Sprague forgot to say that nearly all

dealers are "utterly irresponsible," which leaves another weak place in his argument that might have been supplied so easily that we are inclined to think he has not given the subject very much consideration, anyway. Then he goes on to assume that farmers—"that honest and intelligent class"—whose rights he assumes Mr. Burrows has volunteered to champion, don't want anything of this sort—that his caution will protect him. He says "the farmer will not buy a farm, a horse, or any other valuable piece of property without ascertaining that the seller is the owner, or legal representative of the owner." This professional gentleman has argued this too far—the farmer has bought and will buy patented articles without knowing whether the manufacturer or dealer had any right to sell, and Mr. Sprague knows that this knowledge is practically out of the reach of this "honest and intelligent class." The *New York Tribune* put the whole thing in a nut-shell:

Before a farmer can safely buy a harvester he has got to know more than the Interior Department, the Supreme Court, and all the patent right lawyers, just for the reason that Congress will not protect innocent purchasers of patent-right machinery.

One owner in a thousand don't know whether the patented article he buys has paid its royalty to the inventor, or that he is secure from suit and liability for infringement. That talk is the weakest of nonsense, but is really no more foolish than the assumption of our wise Mr. Thomas S. Sprague, of Detroit, who has volunteered to enlighten Senator Ferry in particular, and the rest of mankind in general, that "without such a law the farmer would to-day be cradling his grain, threshing with the flail, drawing his water with a bucket and sweep, sowing his seed with the hand, hoeing his corn instead of cultivating it with a team; he would have no wind-mill, no force pump, no sulky or gang plow, no ditching machines; in fact he would be treading in the footsteps of his grandfathers, who literally earned their bread with the sweat of their brow."

The patent laws of the United States undertook, very properly, to encourage invention by protecting the inventor in his right of ownership for a term of years, but, as we have already stated in substance, the correctness of any law is determined by the results which develop under its practical operation.

In this matter it has been demonstrated that the people—not a baker's dozen of them, but hundreds of thousands of them—are all the time liable to be harassed by men who, with or without actual title to some of the many thousands of patented articles upon the market are demanding a royalty of the user of an article that he has bought and paid full value for years before. It is absurd to pretend for a moment, that a purchaser can readily know that he can with entire safety buy any of the thousands of patented articles that are everywhere sold. If bought at all the purchaser takes his chances and must. Experience under the law has most fully shown its liability to work injury to the people, and that it needs amending; and this we believe can be done without impairing the rights of the inventor. There are two classes whose business is liable to injury if the proposed amendment becomes a law—the rascals who are endeavoring to extort money from the honest user of a patented article, that was bought in the open market and paid for at its full market value, and the lawyers who, either as partners or for a consideration, are furnished with employment on account of the litigation growing out of the law.

Mr. Sprague, referring to the cases of hardship cited by Mr. Burrows, says: "I am familiar with every case he names. They nearly all relate to Birdsall's clover huller machine patent." And then he goes on to tell Mr. Ferry that this machine is a good thing—labor-saving, and so on, and that farmers would buy them. He alleges that the manufacturers, "Every one of them suddenly became irresponsible by means well known to all dishonest men." He adds that "his, ('poor Birdsall's'), only remedy was to compel the user to pay him for the use of his property."

Mr. Sprague is not satisfied with the law as it now is, for he adds: "The law should authorize him to take his stolen property wherever he could find it."

Any one who carefully read the cases cited by Mr. Burrows will remember one instance when an old, worn-out clover huller was taken in a trade for \$100—never run an hour: the owner sued for infringement by Mr. Birdsall, and paid in judgment and costs, \$417. Several of the cases cited are but little better. We think we hazard little in saying that these parties were all, or nearly all, as innocent of any trespass upon the legal rights of any one in the purchase and use of these machines, as Mr. Birdsall was wicked and unscrupulous in his prosecutions. A reliable gentleman, well acquainted with Mr. Birdsall, has informed me that he did enforce and collect his demands upon manufacturers. And for ought I know, he also collected from the infringing dealer, and then he went for the user and collected royalty from every man who at any time owned a machine, thus collecting royalty on the same machine several times over. This man Birdsall set an example of robbery that has not been overlooked by other men, who

under cover of law have been intent on getting something for nothing. But we will not pursue that matter farther with Thomas S. Sprague's letter as our target. If patentees and attorneys (and by the way, the patent right lawyers are the parties making all the noise) cannot present the case to the Senate very much better than Mr. Sprague has done in this letter, we shall have very little respect for honorable Senators who are influenced to oppose the Bill sent them by the House.

At our solicitation a friend has furnished us an article that we commend not only to the attention of our readers, but also to the consideration of Mr. Thomas S. Sprague, of Detroit.

REVIEWED.

A communication will be found on our third page criticising our comments on a certain article found in the VISITOR of April 15th. We think we can dispose of the complaint in a few words. If we did not correctly construe Bro. Reed's communication—if he did not mean Granges, as such, should by resolution or in some other manner attempt to control members in their political action; if he did not mean to take exception to the language and purpose of the constitution of the National Grange when he says "Permit us to express our regrets that restraint should be put upon Patrons in uniting their strength in the nomination and election of officers, &c., then we misapprehended his language and our remarks thereon were uncalled for. But if he meant that Patrons should do just what the constitution of the National Grange declares they shall not do, then my answer, though brief has been made.

My impression however, now is that we are not very far apart—not as far as a reader of Brother Smith's article would infer, and so thinking we deem it unnecessary to add more by way of reply.

But upon this subject of the right, duty or privilege of a Patron in his political relations we may as well repeat what we think has been said directly and indirectly, from time to time in the months and years that cover our connection with the VISITOR. We have believed, and so stated, that the educational influence of the Grange in its relation to politics was in the direction of personal independence, and that was one of its most valuable features. We have, and do ask every voter to do all that he can at the primary meeting or caucus of the political party to which he belongs to secure the nomination of men who represent his individual opinions upon questions that affect the public weal, and particularly upon all those questions that affect the agricultural class. And more—we are not so partisan as to believe in a partisan dogma that is insisted on as orthodox by the genuine politician. That is—a voter participating in a caucus of his party is bound by the action of that caucus, no matter how unworthy or incompetent the candidates may be. We have no loyalty to party that in theory or practice submits to any such rigid rule of action. If we know a candidate of our party to be dishonest, incompetent or otherwise unfit to discharge the duties of the office for which he is nominated, we feel under no obligation to support him, and if the opposing candidate of another party is known to possess the requisite qualifications to worthily fill the office, we do not hesitate to scratch the one and substitute the other. If this is political heresy then are we a heretic? We base our action on an opinion long entertained, that the people, as a whole, have a real genuine, honest respect for what they believe to be right and that the true interests of a party are promoted by defeating unworthy, dishonest, incompetent candidates. The party that can and does nominate its best men for official positions stands the best chance of continued existence—of long life.

The decade in which the Grange has flourished has done much to enlarge and broaden the views of the great agricultural class of this country; and to the Grange much of this improvement is due, and this fact is generally conceded; but while this is true very many of its members are yet strongly partisan and this fact we must not lose sight of.

Preach co-operation much as we will there are many Patrons that do not sufficiently believe in it to practice it in either business or politics. These we would not alienate by such radical talk as would give offense. At no period in the ages of the past has improvement been so marked as in these few years. Our Order has grown from the nothingness of infancy, to a position which commands respectful consideration almost everywhere. With the light and wisdom which experience brings, as Patrons we shall each year be better qualified to act our part wisely and well. Let us then with unflinching zeal, true to our Declaration of Purposes be faithful to our convictions and charitable to our fellow Patrons.

We call attention to the advertisement of a new cultivator, manufactured by S. J. Wing, of Kalamazoo. From personal acquaintance we can assure our friends that this implement ranks with the very best made. These spring-tooth harrows on wheels are a good thing.

NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW.

The *North American Review* for July comes to us with six numbers in its table of contents, presenting its usual wide range of thought on some of the most important topics of the day. Literature, art, finance, the latest explorations, and politics in the highest sense of the term, are all discussed in a manner both thorough and attractive.

The pressing question of civil service reform is treated in two papers, the one entitled *The Business of Office Seeking*, by Richard Grant White, and the other, *The Things Which Remain*, by Gale Hamilton.

The civil service question is recognized as one of those imminent and overshadowing questions, pressing upon every thoughtful mind, and yet it is so puzzling that few people have any definite theory upon the subject. Mr. White was in the public service for many years and speaks from the widest experience. There are more than two hundred thousand offices to be distributed by the general government and the states. These places have been much used as gifts and rewards for political services, with a redistribution, a sort of new deal every few years,—to add interest and excitement to the great game of politics. The appointment to office has assumed such importance in the eyes of politicians that it has become apparently, if not the great end and object of political organization, at least one that seems never to be lost sight of. A President, elected ostensibly as executive of a great nation, finds his official life is devoted to the distribution of spoils among the faithful workers of his party. The burden of official corruption which under any administration is sure to come to the surface has sprung directly or indirectly from our peculiar system of appointment in the civil service. And the evil does not stop with corruption in the administration. Questions of real political importance are purposely ignored and kept out of sight by party leaders. The aim of the statesmanship of our day is not always to secure the wisest and purest administration of the government. But the distribution of offices in such a manner as to secure a continuance of power is too often the object of all the activities of public life. Mr. White says: "Even statesmen of the highest sort find that the most and best they can do is to use the motives and direct forces of the world around them as it is,—to manage their world not to make it. How much more imperative is this necessity upon the politician whose task is limited to the single effort to get his party into power or to keep it there." Of the efforts thus far made to break up the power of office seeking, our author thinks that "they all have the fault of ignoring three things: First, the political organization of the country; next, its social and moral condition; and last, not least, human nature." He argues the most serious objections to the common theory of civil service reforms, that appointments should be made to the lower grade of offices only, and only upon competitive examination, with appointments to the higher grades only by promotions from the lower. He shows decidedly that such a plan is impractical. He believes that the only solution will be found in fixity of tenure, combined with responsibility upon heads of departments, and examinations by each principal officer as a test of fitness for positions in his department that may casually become vacant. We believe Mr. White's remedy offers the most hopeful solution and yet it may appear that he, too, ignores human nature. We can hardly conceive of politicians administering the government simply for the best interests of the people. No suggestion upon this important subject has ever been made that is not fraught with difficulties.

We can only give a mere hint in this column of the instructive and valuable articles in the *Review*. All who desire to keep up with the great current of thought upon the important topics before the people, should read the *North American Review*. It is for sale by book-sellers and news dealers generally.

QUESTIONS ANSWERED.

A Richland correspondent asks several questions in his article on page seven:

First—"What constitutes a delinquent member of our Order?"

The first paragraph of Section 4, Article 14, By-Laws Michigan State Grange, reads—"The minimum of regular monthly dues shall be ten cents from each member, paid at least quarterly." A member is delinquent who fails to comply with the provisions of this By-Law.

Second—"Does a Brother or a Sister who pays up and takes a dimit card become delinquent?"

No.

Third—"Upon the presentation of their card are they obliged to pay back dues?"

Decision No. 39, page 108, Digest National Grange, answers this enquiry. "A member suspended for non-payment of dues can be reinstated by the Grange upon the payment of all dues up to the date of reinstatement. This rule does not prevent Subordinate Granges from adopting by-laws terminating the membership, or prescribing other conditions of reinstatement, after the member has been delinquent a specified time."

This decision answers affirmatively, also, the remaining question of Brother Wood

In the VISITOR of June 1st we gave the Crop Report, in part, issued from the office of the Secretary of State for May 1st. We are sorry that we do not get the report in time for the VISITOR of the middle of the month, but so far we have not. In the report which we give at this time the facts seem so well condensed that we have omitted the table of the report, a part of which we have heretofore published. We hope our farmers will not fail to read with care these Monthly Crop reports. The statistics given are valuable and are furnished by farmers themselves who are giving the subject special attention. The whole plan is but in its infancy, but so far the outlook seems to promise good results. The diffusing of this amount of information among the people upon matters that concern them must add here a little there a little to the general stock of knowledge and raise the standard higher of general intelligence. We believe the scheme will be of advantage to the farmers of Michigan.

TO SECRETARIES.

The date of this paper commences the third quarter of 1882. If you give exact attention to your official duties within the first ten days of this month of July, you will make out and forward to this office your report for the quarter ending June 30, with the dues as shown by said report.

Will you please give this matter prompt attention? If postponed until a convenient season your official duty will not be discharged with credit to yourself or the Grange that has chosen you to take charge of its interests for this year.

To those of our readers interested in the education of young ladies, we call attention to the advertisement on our eighth page of the Michigan Female Seminary. We are not personally familiar with the school itself, but as we believe in the theory and practice of associating good honest physical labor, with the mental work of acquiring an education, we are partial to this institution. We are well acquainted with several of the parties to its management and are quite sure that the institution is in good hands.

By an oversight the "VISITOR Receipts are omitted.

We are under renewed obligations to Senator Ferry and Congressmen of the First, Third and Fourth Districts, for valuable documents.

Protection of the Courts.

Bro. Cobb.—In the last VISITOR J. L. Kinyon, of Marshall, takes issue with the pending amendment to the Patent-right Law. Patent-right agents, solicitors, and attorneys are moving heaven and earth to defeat the bill, because they claim it will accomplish just what the Brother thinks it will not. The opposition to its passage in Congress was based upon the fact that it would afford immunity and protection to the innocent purchaser and user of a patented article. I feel sure that observation and reflection will convince the Brother, and all other reasonable men, that his objection is not well-founded. He claims absolute exemption from suits at law for all users of patented articles. This is something not accorded to any man or set of men, in any of the business relations in life.

So far as the law is concerned, Bro. Kinyon may be sued by any man with whom he ever had a business transaction in life. Or he may commence suit against any one of his large number of acquaintances. The Courts are open to all. A valid defense is our protection against baseless litigation. The danger of suits or the levying of black mail by threats of prosecution, when the law steps in and declares that the suit shall not be sustained, is wholly an imaginary one.

I cannot believe that it accords with justice or reason to say to all other men: bring your claims, real or pretended, into court for adjustment; and then turn around to the inventor and say: you shall not even test your case in the courts.

Adopt Bro. Kenyon's plan and a man might steal a valuable patent, convert it to his own use, and defy the inventor with impunity. If their views should prevail, there would be some force in the objection raised by the patent-right agents (and now being circulated through the newspapers as advertisements and otherwise), that railroad and other great corporations might get hold of their patents, make and use them on a grand scale, and rob the inventor of the results of his ingenuity.

When the law provides that an action against the purchaser of a patented article in the open market for a valuable consideration, and for his own use, shall not be sustained, it goes just far enough. There must be some accessible tribunal to decide whether these conditions have been complied with. Our constitution has established the courts as such tribunal.

If we, in our purchases, are within the requirements, we are in no more danger of being sued than we are of being compelled to pay our merchant twice for a bill of goods—provided, always, that the bill which passed the House of Representatives becomes a law. To this end all our efforts should now be made. By asking for something impracticable we weaken our chances of securing lasting benefits.

C. G. LYOE.
Gilead, Mich., June 22, 1882.

Patent Law Discussion.

In the *Post and Tribune* of the 5th inst., is a long letter addressed to T. M. Ferry and containing a labored argument against the provisions of the Burrow's bill, (H. R. No. 6018,) for the protection of innocent purchasers and users of patent articles. The letter contains, perhaps, all the arguments thus far urged against the bill, either in Congress or out, and the writer exhibits the usual temper of those who are personally interested in the perpetuation of unjust and dangerous monopolies. There are but few definite points which these gentlemen endeavor to make and the writer presents them all in one form or another. The objections are:

First, that there is a property in inventions which the law recognizes and which gives the inventor or his assigns a monopoly of its manufacture, use and sale, constituting a vested right, and that the passage of an act depriving him of any one of these exclusive privileges is legalized robbery.

Second, that the result would be disastrous to the owner of the patent, because unauthorized, irresponsible parties would make a business of manufacturing useful inventions and these articles would be placed on sale throughout the country.

Third, that it is unconstitutional as impairing the obligation of a contract between the people and the inventor.

The special cases of wrong and oppression alluded to by Mr. Burrows are brushed aside with the irrelevant assertion that they relate mainly to three different inventions and that those particular inventions are extremely useful and have been a source of profit as well as convenience to all who have occasion to use such machines. If a man has been robbed of three hundred dollars, because some machine which he has purchased in good faith from his dealer, proves to have been manufactured by a person whose right has been contested and overthrown in the courts, our letter writer comforts him with the reflection that such sacrifices are necessary for the public good and if this particular privilege were not accorded to the inventor and the pleasant legal gentleman who assists him, then he would be discouraged and sulky and refuse to invent any more machines.

The first objection is the one usually set up by monopolists when about to lose any of their peculiar privileges. If Mr. Sprague's theory is correct, no law giving encouragement to trade, commerce or any particular enterprise could ever be changed, except to give greater privileges. Any shortening of the term of patents, or taking away the right of renewal would be legalized robbery. In other words the patent laws are assumed to be a grant of vested rights, never to be changed except to be made more oppressive to the people. The supposed interests of inventors must be alone considered and the interests of the people wholly disregarded.

In the case of *Kendall vs. Windsor*, 21 How. U. S. 328, the Supreme Court of the United States, explained the design of the patent laws so clearly that it ought to be a guide to all legislation on the subject. The court says that "the limited and temporary monopoly granted to inventors was never designed for their exclusive profit or advantage; the benefit to the public or community at large was another and doubtless the primary object in granting and securing that monopoly. While the remuneration of genius and useful ingenuity is a duty incumbent upon the public, the rights and welfare of the community must be fairly dealt with and effectually guarded. Consideration of individual emolument can never be permitted to operate to the injury of these."

Again the patent laws are not in themselves a grant of vested rights as the writer in the *Post and Tribune* and other interested parties so loudly assert, nor is there anything about those laws in the nature of a contract in restraint of future legislation. Cooley's Constitutional Limitations is unquestionably the highest authority upon questions of this character. In that work Mr. Justice Cooley says: "A grant of land by a State is a contract, because in making it, the State deals with the purchaser as any other vender might. But many things done by the State may seem to hold out promises to individuals, which after all cannot be treated as contracts without hampering the legislative power of the State in a manner that would soon leave it without the means of performing its proper functions, (*Cooley's Court Lim.*, p. 276). Again the same judicial writer says as to vested rights: "A right cannot be regarded as a vested right, unless it is something more than such an expectation as may be based upon an anticipated continuance of the present general laws." (*Ibid.*, p. 358). And again: "Citizens have no vested rights in the existing general laws of the State which can preclude their amendment or repeal, and there is no implied promise on the part of the state to protect its citizens against incidental injuries occasioned by changes of the law. (*Ibid.*, p. 283).

These words are from the highest authority and contain the very essence of common sense. The principles so carefully stated by the Court ought to form the basis of every discussion of this subject.

The right possessed by patentees is simply a monopoly conferred upon them by law for the purpose of encouraging invention. If

there were any natural right of property in an invention, it should not be limited by law to seventeen years, but should be perpetual.

In all the outcries against the measure introduced by Mr. Burrows, it has been assumed as a fundamental proposition, that however great the oppression and loss to any portion of the public, arising from the provisions of the patent laws, yet the grant of the privileges has been made and inventors have in good faith relied upon them, and Congress cannot therefore, withdraw any of those privileges without violating a sacred compact, and, in fact, committing legalized robbery. This is the burden of the argument in the *Scientific American*, continued from week to week, and in the open letter to which we have referred, it is the basis of every conclusion. But we have shown that such a proposition is opposed to all the settled rules of legislation and is denounced by all courts as essentially vicious and dangerous.

As a final argument Mr. Sprague says he believes the amendment to be unconstitutional, as impairing the contract between the people and the inventor. The writer is evidently possessed by the belief that the constitution of the United States prohibits Congress from passing any law impairing the obligation of contracts. Such prohibition is laid upon the legislative power of the several states, but there is no such provision relating to Congress. This can never be urged therefore, as a technical objection to the amendment, even if we should concede the absurd position that the patent laws constitute a contract.

Now, let us examine the state of things which Mr. Burrows seeks to remedy by his amendment. The design of our system of patent laws has always been to give the fullest possible protection to inventors in order to stimulate the inventive genius of the people. The letters patent grant to the patentee and his assigns the exclusive right for a period of years to the manufacture, use and sale of his invention. The Circuit Courts of the United States have original jurisdiction of all controversies arising under the patent laws without regard to the amount involved, and in suits for infringement the court can render judgment for any amount in excess of the verdict up to three times the amount of such verdict with costs of suit added. The general effect of the patent laws has proved very beneficial to all classes. But with the growth of the country and the accumulation of inventions, certain evils have sprung up which have become simply intolerable. Thousands and thousands of patents have been taken out until almost every manufactured article we use or own is covered in some way by a patent. These patents cover every variety of principle and combination, conflicting with one another in the most confusing manner, and giving rise to all sorts of questions as to disputed claims.

These questions lead to distressing and endless litigation, and are the most perplexing and difficult known to the law. Mr. Phillips terms the patent-law branch of our jurisprudence the metaphysics of the law. When a doubtful controversy is decided the weight of the misfortune falls not alone upon the defeated party to the suit, but all who may be using the article in question, although they may have obtained it from regular dealers and without knowledge of any contest, are loaded with ruinous liabilities, and may be treated as if they had deliberately pirated the invention. No person purchasing a patented article can even guess whether he has any legal right to use it. If the patent has ever had any validity, it may at any time be questioned and overthrown. It is probable that a great majority of the people in this country are liable to a greater or less extent for infringement in the use of some patented device. The system of terrorism and blackmail arising from this state of things is yet in its infancy, but the victims are so helpless, and the danger so universal, that the whole country is aroused. Indeed any scoundrel has only to lay claim to a patent, and, by combining with some unscrupulous lawyer, he can rob a whole community. The party threatened with prosecution has everything to lose and nothing to gain by litigation, and, moreover, he is working entirely in the dark. He does not know how good the claim may be against him, and he has no means of ascertaining except to contest it; and, if he wins it, he is awarded an attorney fee of \$20 while his expenses for counsel, travel and time have, perhaps, gone into the hundreds.

If he refuses to contest it and lets it go by default, and it appears that there has never been any damage to the complainant, there will be a judgment for nominal damages and costs about as follows: attorney fee, \$20; clerk's and master's fees, \$22.50; marshal's fee, from \$5 to \$25, or more, according to travel. This would be the simplest possible scale of costs, and the \$20 would be divided among the conspirators. On the other hand, the complainant runs little risk. If he has given security for costs he can easily pay from the contributions of those who have bought him off, and his legal work costs him nothing. Hundreds of farmers have gladly paid a bonus of from ten to one hundred dollars rather than engage in a contest in the dark, and, under the present law and construction put upon that law by the courts, they are wise to do so.

Mr. Burrows proposes simply to take away this extraordinary liability. The inventor is to be as completely protected as ever. He can stop manufacture and sale by injunction, which will be granted to him with costs in his favor, and he has his full remedy against the manufacturer and vendor for all damages, even for the use by the innocent purchasers, and certainly no article can be placed upon the market in quantities without exposing responsible parties somewhere between the raw material and the consumer or user.

The patent-laws are in no sense nullified by Mr. Burrows' amendment. The inventor will even be benefited by its provisions. The danger attending the purchase of patented articles must operate to injure their sale, unless something is done to make such transactions legitimate.

Moreover, the honest inventors are not crying out about this matter. The foolish and absurd objections which we have mentioned, are urged mainly by a certain class of lawyers who are getting their living by this system of legalized spoilage and blackmail.

It is to be hoped that the long suffering people will not allow their senators to blind themselves deliberately in this matter. There is no excuse for mistake, for the facts are undeniable and the principles for which we contend are beyond dispute. The liability of the innocent purchaser is worth nothing to the patentee, except as a kind of reprisal when he dares not attack wealthy and powerful manufacturers and dealers.

We appreciate fully the importance of inventive genius in this country and are in favor of the fullest possible protection consistent with the best interests of the whole people; but we are unwilling to expose entire communities to a system of wholesale plunder against which there is absolutely no available means of defense.

Speech of Hon. John T. Rich.

The House having under consideration the bill (H. R. No. 4429) to enlarge the powers and duties of the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Rich said: The bill now under consideration is one in which the farmers of this country are much interested. While the principal feature of this bill is the making of the head of the Agricultural Department a Cabinet officer, yet its effect will be to secure to this vast industry such recognition and encouragement as it has never before received at the hands of the government. The passage of this bill is a foregone conclusion, and in my opinion it will prove one of the most beneficial acts of this Congress, and the good results arising therefrom will continue as long as this government shall last.

Daniel Webster once said all national wealth depends upon an enlightened agriculture. Few will care to dispute this statement of the great statesman. If this be true—and we have to-day, as all will admit, an enlightened agriculture and enlightened agriculturists—it is equally true that the head of the Agricultural Department of a nation should be an enlightened and intelligent man. Then is not this intelligent man at the head of the great department upon which all national wealth depends worthy to be one of the advisers of the president?

Without in any way belittling our manufacturing, mining and commercial interests, it is safe to say that without our prosperous and intelligent agriculture none of them could succeed.

But some say that this is a matter of sentiment only; that the elevation of the department will be of no practical use. If I thought this I would not vote for the bill. But I believe there is no bill which we shall pass this session which will make so large returns for the appropriation made, and the good results of which will be so enduring. This department is no longer a simple seed distributing station with a clerk at its head as it has been in times past. It should be the great statistical department in regard to the condition and amount of crops both growing and harvested, with its stations so located as to secure accurate and specific information, and also have that information promptly distributed among the people, and also be able to give corresponding attention to the ravages of insects and the contagious diseases of domestic animals, and to take efficient measures to prevent the extended ravages of the insects and the spread of disease. The head of the Agricultural Department should be an officer of such recognized importance in the government that his reports and statements in regard to subjects under his supervision would be recognized abroad as the authoritative official act of the government. This recognition alone, in case of false and exaggerated reports being circulated in relation to the existence of pleuro-pneumonia, hog cholera, or any other contagious or infectious diseases, would be worth millions of dollars to this country in its influence upon foreign markets.

About one-half of all our people are engaged in agricultural pursuits, and upon the prosperity of those engaged in agriculture depends very largely our prosperity as a nation.

It was the surplus of agricultural products which more than anything else turned the balance of trade in our favor, and rendered resumption and maintenance of specie payments possible.

While there is a larger amount of capital invested in agriculture than in any other industry, yet owing to the vast area over which it extends, and the great number of owners, and the comparatively small amount owned by each, it is more difficult for those interested to concentrate their powers to influence legislation than any other industry which is of such vast importance. While railroads, manufacturers, miners, merchants, and those engaged in the carrying trade of our lakes and rivers can and do hire men versed in their several callings to appear before the committees of the legislatures and of Congress, and urge the recognition of their claims and, as they frequently state it, of their rights, the farmer not being able to state his needs as forcibly as the paid attorneys and agents of other callings, and not having the means to spend in lobbying Congress or the Legislature, his claims are oftentimes neglected and passed by.

This was clearly illustrated to any one who

attended the meetings of the Committee on Commerce while that committee was listening to the arguments on the bill to regulate inter-State commerce. The railroads were represented by the best legal talent which the country affords, who were prepared to present the railroad side of the case in its strongest and most favorable light, and at the same time meet with equal ability any arguments advanced against their interests. The arguments of these learned attorneys were supplemented by the statements of the highest officials of some of the most important railroad lines in the country, who from long experience and careful study, were able to give a plausible answer and excuse to every charge made against railroad men and railroad management, while those claiming to have been aggrieved by the manner in which railroads are managed came before the committee under more or less embarrassment and in their own way stated how, by what they claimed were unfair and unjust discriminations, their business had been injured. One farmer from somewhere in the middle of the State of New York stated that if he went to Buffalo to buy cattle to feed that he was charged more to carry a carload to his home than was charged to haul a car from Buffalo to New York. And when his cattle were fattened he was charged more to carry the cattle from his home to Albany or New York than he would have had to have paid to have them taken from Buffalo. These extra freights he claimed absorbed all his profits so that he had to abandon the business.

The statement was met by the committee with the information that this was a State matter over which Congress had no control, and by the railroads with the statement that he was charged no more than such services were actually worth, and that the rates from Buffalo were fixed by the competition of rival lines and not by the value of the service. The farmer met their reply by the statement that if he went to the Legislature he was more by the statement that the Legislature had no control of the subject; that Congress alone had control of this matter, and that, whether he was charged more by the railroads than the services were worth or not, the business of feeding cattle, once profitable, was now ruined. Now the reply of the committee and of the railroad men in this case was undoubtedly true, but whether true or not the farmer had no remedy for the evils of which he very justly complained. It was a question of which he understood very little and was not able to hire learned attorneys to argue the question for him.

While we hear a great deal said about the honest farmer it usually begins and ends in talk, so far as anything for his special interest is concerned. While Congress unhesitatingly appropriates large amounts every year for testing the strength, etc., of iron and steel, yet it was with considerable reluctance that an appropriation of \$10,000 of a twenty thousand asked for was made for the examination of cotton, wool, and other textile fabrics. The Committee on Ways and Means find no difficulty in preparing and reporting a bill to prevent the adulteration of wines and champagnes, yet has not reported a bill to prevent the adulteration of butter, an article which every man, woman, and child in the United States is interested in, either as producer or consumer.

The same committee have found time and deemed it necessary to pass under a suspension of the rules a bill to render the tax paid by manufacturers of distilled spirits less burdensome and easier paid. Yet they have not found time to report a bill for the abolition of the stamp tax on matches and bank checks, a measure which the people all over the country are interested in and anxious to have passed, as shown by the numerous petitions presented to us on that subject. Instances might be multiplied where measures for the interest of the people have had to stand aside for measures which concerned some interest that was urgent and persistent in demanding a hearing.

Twenty years ago, when the present department was created, there was the same objection urged and the necessity for such a department seriously questioned, yet the result has fully verified the predictions of its warmest advocates. President Lincoln in his first message to Congress recommends the establishment of a bureau of agriculture in the following language, which resulted in the establishment of the present bureau or department.

"Agriculture, confessedly the largest interest of the nation, has not a department nor a bureau, but a clerkship only, assigned to it in the government. While it is fortunate that this great interest is so independent in its action as to not have demanded and extorted more from the government, I respectfully ask Congress to consider whether something more cannot be given voluntarily with general advantage. Annual reports exhibiting the condition of our agriculture, commerce and manufactures would present a fund of information of great practical value to the country. While I make no suggestion as to details, I venture the opinion that an agricultural and statistical bureau might profitably be organized. The present department has only existed as a separate department for twenty years, and during much of this time it has received scanty appropriations, partly on account of the war and the necessary diversion of the revenues of the government into other channels, and the attention of Congress to more exacting, and for the time being, more vital subjects. Yet to-day, with the exception of the Post Office Department, no department of the government comes so near or interests directly so many of our people as does the Agricultural Department. It does more to convince the people that the government is interested in their welfare and to attach the people to the government and to our institutions than any other department does or can.

The elevation and encouragement of this department will render valuable assistance in obliterating the last vestige of sectionalism growing out of the late civil war. Through its influence men engaged in agriculture all over the country will be brought together to exchange views; acquaintances will be formed which with a common interest will help to bind us together and make us a united, prosperous, and happy people.

No country ever prospered long without encouraging and caring for its agriculture. It is a primary occupation. While it is one of the oldest of occupations, it seems to be a natural occupation for man. There are few men, no matter what their position in life may be, but have a desire to have spot on God's green earth which they can call their own. One is content to have a little garden where he can raise vegetables or flowers either for his own use or for sale. With another it is a farm, with broad fertile acres, where he can have a home and enjoy himself in raising grain or live stock, or both, and at the same time secure substantial returns in money. With another, who has secured an

abundance of this world's goods, it is a place to beautify and embellish, which, from a pecuniary stand-point seems to be only an opportunity for the expenditure of money without any hope of return. Yet, in either case, it satisfies the natural craving in the human breast to have some of calling that he can call his own. Now, if this calling is one in which we are all interested, and so many of us so deeply interested, is not the department of the government which represents it entitled to be one of the executive departments of the government, and its head worthy to be one of the Cabinet?

We are told that duties levied for the protection of manufacturing incidentally benefits all classes of our people by furnishing remunerative employment for our labor and a home market for our agricultural products; that while it specifically protects manufacturing and promotes its prosperity, all classes participate in the benefits derived, and it therefore promotes the general prosperity of the whole people which: I have no doubt is true. Now, while you are doing so much for the direct benefit of manufacturing and incidental benefit of agriculture, suppose we do a little for the direct benefit of agriculture and incidental benefit of manufacturing; which will be the result of increased prosperity of those engaged in agriculture which the manufacturer would obtain in the increased ability of the farmer to buy manufactured articles, and by the increased production of farm products tending to reduce the price to the consumer.

Now, a word in regard to the proposed amendment making the department a department of industry. The present Agricultural Department is an independent bureau. That is, the Commissioner reports directly to Congress or the president, as the case may be. He is not under, in any degree, the control of the Executive Departments. The department bears the same relation to the government now that it will under this bill, except that its powers will be enlarged and its head will be an officer of more recognized importance. Under the bill proposed as a substitute, instead of being elevated it would actually be degraded from its present position. Instead of being made a distinct department it would only be an insignificant part of the new department of industry and transportation, where, among the concentrated influence of hired attorneys of railroads and Bessamer steel manufacturing associations, it might as well have never been, or it would be as well to return it to the overcrowded Interior Department, from whence it came, and give it a clerkship. As one of the agriculturists of the country I know whereof I speak when I say that the farmers of this country infinitely prefer that this department should remain in its present independent, though somewhat obscure position, to having it attached to and made a part of the great, unwieldy, inharmonious department of industry.

But, it is stated that the Interior Department is overcrowded and some relief must be had for that. Also that transportation and manufacturing and other industries are entitled to some consideration. Some relief can be afforded by making the Land Office a part of the Department of Agriculture, that is, put it in the same relation to the Department of Agriculture that it now holds to the Department of the Interior. Possibly there are some other things which could with propriety be transferred to the Department of Agriculture. If this does not afford sufficient relief and it is still thought necessary to have a department of industry and transportation, then organize such a department, but do not bury agriculture under everything for which no place can be found, under the specious guise of elevating the Department of Agriculture. If you are not willing to make the Department of Agriculture an executive department without these additions, then let the Department remain as it is until Congress is willing to do justice by this most important Department of the government. [Applause.]

A NEW STONE BOAT.— It is said to be an improvement and is described as follows: Instead of having the plank composing the "boat" extend under the entire surface, and only slightly turned up at the forward end, the improvement is a stone sled, with runners six to eight inches broad, composed of two three-inch planks, sawed so as to give a rise of six inches or more at the front. On each of these runners is placed a piece of 3 by 4 inch scantling, and three lengths of the same four and a half feet long connect the two sides of the boat and form the platform on which good inch boards are laid. The whole is then spiked with wooden bolts extending through the bottom of the runners. Wooden pins are better than iron, because as the boat wears iron tears the soil. These need not be a particle of iron in the boat, if wide enough boards are used, though it is better to put in a few nails to hold down the centre. This form of boat is very strong and can be used where an ordinary stone boat would be impracticable. It is decidedly improved by putting in a tongue so as to be more readily guided. With even the slightest fall of snow it is quite as convenient as a sled. With a tongue it can be held to a tolerably steady motion on a rough road where the common stone boat would be unmanageable.

NOTICES OF MEETINGS.

The regular meeting of Eaton Co. Pomona Grange will be held at the hall of Eaton Rapids Grange on Wednesday, the 25th day of July at 10 o'clock. All fourth degree members are invited.

CHAS. E. ELLIS, Sec'y.

THE press, with the exception of that portion which is owned or subsidized, are with the people in this fight. The *New York Times*, under date of May 19, in article regarding the encroachments of corporate power, says: "It is not only absorbing and piling up wealth in the hands of the few, but it is controlling legislation and endeavoring to sway the decisions of courts in its own interest. We are now at a stage in the contest where the people may vindicate their authority and place these corporations under the regulation of law."

ONE of the many good effects of the Grange press and the Grange movement is the rebuke they administer to lazy farmers. A shiftless and lazy farmer cannot belong to a Grange and feel comfortable, for he is so outstripped by his industrious neighbors that he is not at home amongst them. There are no institutions in this country for the last half century that have contributed so much to the prosperity and improvement of the agricultural classes as the Grange.

Ladies' Department.

THE DAWNING LIGHT.

ORIGINAL.

In a far off eastern country, where the orient greets the sun, Where our simple, rude forefathers their short earth life first begun, Ere the dark faced, fierce death-angel spread his wings o'er sea and sand, To bear his countless victims to the far off spirit land. There the mother saw her children and her heart was filled with joy, And the father looked with rapture on his darling girl and boy, For they knew not of the sorrow the death angel soon would bring And that life had many shadows and the year had but one spring. But the mother saw the plague spot as it fastened on her child, And while it drooped and withered her grief grew fierce and wild, And the father learned with anguish, as he saw the deepening gloom, That our life is but a journey and its end the silent tomb. By many an ancient river and along the banks of Nile With countless years of labor they reared their funeral pile, To tell to distant ages the love which once they bore For fathers, wives and children who lived in days of yore. Old Charon with his vessel his oars forever plied, To bear across death's river the souls of those who died. But not a single echo to break the deepening gloom Returned from that far country, that land beyond the tomb. But through the mists of ages we see the coming day: The sepulchre is open, the stone is rolled away, For in night's silent watches come voices soft and sweet. There is no death for mortals; we come our friends to greet. We come from a fair country. The flowers are blooming there, And music's sweetest cadence is floating on the air, We hear no wails of sorrow, for death and pain and fear Live in the homes of mortals, but cannot enter here. For here the loving mother her child again will greet, The father and his children in happy concourse meet, And earthly bands that bound them will firmer grow with time And stronger be their tension within that happy clime. Then while we're forced to wander as pilgrims here below, Enjoying earthly blessings, we must endure earth's woe. But in our Father's kingdom are many mansions fair Where all his erring children may live beneath his care. —MILTON BELDEN. Trowbridge, May 28th, '82.

Discussion.

In the GRANGE VISITOR of May 15th, a question was proposed for discussion, viz.: "Resolved, That wives are entitled to, and should be endowed with, legal authority to hold as their own, and will or otherwise decree in case of her decease, one-third the property gained during married life." Now, I wish to state right here, that I am but poorly versed in law, but I have some idea of justice and equity, and shall try and state them accordingly. I, for one, think if the law was made in favor of the wife, as is stated in the question, it would be one step towards a reform in our laws, to bring about an equal distribution of property. As the law now is, the wife can only have the use of it, she must not dispose of anything only that which is deemed necessary for her support, unless she resorts to the Probate Court for permission to do so; and in some cases this would cost almost as much as the property was worth. Then again, if it should go to the Probate Court, some one might make objection of the wife being administrator, or even guardian to her own children. So she is not much better off after all the trouble and expense she has been to. Now, I would like to ask a question—why is it any more just for the husband to be sole heir to all of the property after the decease of his wife, than it would be for the wife to be sole heir after the husband's decease. Surely I can see no reason why she should not. I think, perhaps, that there are but few men who will agree with me in this matter, for they will say that women are not capable of managing property. Well, I will admit that, and for the very reason they have not had the privilege. Women, as a rule, know very little of the business affairs of their husbands. Many men do not consult their wives if they wish to make a disposition of property, so she is not expected to understand such things. Now, we all know this to be true in the majority of cases, yet we find exceptions. But, thanks to the Grange; it teaches women to be good managers, and that they should understand the business interests of their husbands, in case of their decease. I think a little education in this matter might settle it on this point, for who is he that will assert that a woman has not the ability to

manage property, providing she has the privilege, after she becomes acquainted with her husband's business affairs. Now, another question. Would the wife and mother be any more liable to squander the property than the husband and father? I think not; why should she? We all know that a mother will make almost any sacrifice for a child. She will even starve herself for her children, or endure the greatest of hardships to keep her children from suffering. Then, think you she would spend money more foolishly than man? Then again, women, if they had property to use, could do much better than men, if they were left without a companion. A man could not get along without a housekeeper; he must have some one to look after the children. So he has to hire, and that don't always suit. So he gets married, and ten chances to one if he has not made a bad matter worse. Frequently the children are obliged to leave home, they, of course, must go instead of the new wife. This is no uncommon case. I do not say this out of disregard or want of sympathy for step-mothers, for they have much to contend with, but to show how much better it would be for the wife to be the legal heir to all the property, after the decease of her husband, that they had earned together. Then the wife would not have to resort to the law any more than the husband. So, you see, this would save trouble and expense. We think such a change in our laws might and should be brought about, if possible. I really believe it would be better for men, as well as women. Now, my brothers, please think on these things. Please try and not be selfish while you think, and you will see that we are not asking any more than what justice and common sense requires. I would like to write more, but will not this time. I did not feel competent to take up such a subject, but rather than let the question pass without any comment, I was willing to step to the front and show my ignorance. Sister May Maple, we think you could speak well on this subject. I think we have a grand corps of Sisters as well as Brothers, who could make the discussion interesting and profitable. AUNT KATE.

House Plants.

Read at a late meeting of the Kent County Grange, by Mrs. John Preston. Worthy Master, Brothers and Sisters:—The subject assigned me by the Worthy Lecturer for this meeting is that of House Plants; and as it is an established rule of mine, if possible, to respond when called upon, I will endeavor to give you a few thoughts upon the subject. It seems to have been the design of the Great Creator to endow the mind of man with certain faculties for self-preservation, and a love for the grandeur displayed in the field of nature. And while we are in the discharge of these God-given rights, and striving to provide the substantial needed for bodily comfort, let us not neglect, starve nor degrade the higher and more refined part of our mind, the love for the beautiful flowers that ever surround us. Our dwellings should be so constructed that we may ever have a fresh supply of growing plants to soften and refine the sterner realities of life. These floral treasures should be cultivated for the cheering influence they exert, and they are now found more commonly in the rural homes than in former years. My memory recalls the time, when among my circle of acquaintances it was a rare thing to see plants in a farmer's home, and I can say with great pleasure, that now it is as rare not to see a few choice selections placed at the window, or a large conservatory of these beauties, lending their fragrance to the inmates, and ever unfolding some new surprise to please the eye. This change is due to some extent, no doubt, to new and better dwellings; though not wholly to the new dwellings am I willing to give the entire credit, for I believe that a more general knowledge in knowing how to care for these exotics, and the beauty they lend to the home is developing a taste in that direction. Some may say that this taste for house plants is running to excess. While this may be true in some instances it is the exception rather than the rule, and to guard against excess, I would suggest that time or space should never be crowded. A few choice selections well cared for will afford more pleasure than a great variety of spindling plants, crowded and poorly tended. People's tastes differ widely, and no established rule can be laid down to suit all. And circumstances alter cases. What would be suitable for culture in one home would not be in some other. Most plants require sun and light, and will not do well without these. A southeastern exposure is regarded as the most favorable situation for the proper development of foliage and flowers, while a western or northern is held to be the poorest. If plants do not have plenty of sunlight, they will grow spindling and ill-shaped. Another requisite in plant culture is a moist atmosphere. If they do not have this they are soon infested with insects of some kind. The red spider is generally the worst enemy we have to contend with, but this pest will not thrive long if the plants are kept clean (which they always should be), and the atmosphere is kept moist, by frequent syringing with a small spray of some kind. I have had con-

siderable trouble with what is known as the scale insect; have tried several remedies but still fail to get rid of them entirely; tobacco and ammonia water is good, but vigilance is the secret of success in all things relating to plant culture. Great care and judgment should be exercised at all times in the use of water, for all plants do not require the same amount. They should never be watered unless the earth is dry, then in sufficient quantity to saturate the ball, always using water the temperature of the room. Frequent and small quantities of water are detrimental to the health of the plants. We must study the nature and habits of the different plants, which as a rule we fail to do. To have a succession of bloom in the Winter season the plants must be prepared in the Summer as no plant that has blossomed all Summer will blossom through the Winter; they must have their season of rest. The most of plants should be planted out in the border during the Summer months, where they will grow luxuriant and vigorous, and if they are not allowed to bloom and are repotted early, they will give more satisfaction than if kept in the house during the Summer. From two to three weeks before the removal of the plants to the house, which should be about the first of September in this latitude, each plant should have a sharp knife or spade passed around it, leaving a ball of earth the right size to lift into a pot. New fibrous growth of the roots will start and put the plant in fine condition for steady growth, after removal. Slips of geranium, carnation, etc., should be started in July, for young plants blossom more profusely than old ones. Abutilons, fuchsias, roses, heliotropes, eupatoriums, etc., should be cut back and their buds pinched off until towards Fall to prepare them for Winter blooming. The soil for geraniums, roses, carnations, etc., should consist of one part each of sand, leaf-mould and manure, with two of turf or garden mold, with some charcoal added. Cacti should have more sand than geraniums. As to the varieties, I would have a calla, a few cacti, geraniums, primroses, speciosa and Pearl of England fuchsia, Winter blooming begonias, the small flowered, leaved abutilon with a few coleus and other variegated foliage plants and such other varieties as I had room for. The coleus require the most heat, therefore should have the warmest situations. These, with proper treatment, would furnish many flowers which will cheer the hearts of many. Thank God for the beautiful flowers, That blossom so sweetly and fair; They garnish this strange life of ours, And brighten our paths everywhere.

THE QUESTION TO BE ASKED FIRST.—A lawyer was sitting in the office the other day when a stranger appeared at the door and said: "Beg pardon, but can you tell me where Smith's office is?" "Yes, sir—next door." The stranger uttered his thanks and passed to the next door, which was locked. Returning to the lawyer he observed: "Smith seems to be out." "Of course he is. If you had asked that question in the first place I should have answered it by telling you so." The visitor had a troubled look on his face as he passed out of the building, but the look was gone when he returned next day and inquired of the lawyer: "How much will you charge me for a verbal opinion in a little matter?" "Oh, about \$5." The case was then stated and the opinion given, and the stranger was moving away when the lawyer said: "My fee, please." "I haven't a cent to pay you." "You haven't?" "Of course not. If you had asked me that question in the first place I should have answered by telling you so. Good morning, sir."

Cost of Living in Germany. From the volume of Commercial Reports for April we get the prices of labor in Germany together, with the market rates for ordinary household supplies. The tables are interesting in the comparison they afford with prices here:—

| TABLE OF WAGES. | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Bricklayers..... | \$0 45 to \$0 71 |
| Masons..... | 50 to 71 |
| Carpenters and Joiners..... | 50 to 71 |
| Gas-fitters..... | 60 |
| Painters..... | 60 |
| Plumbers..... | 60 |
| Blacksmiths..... | 67 to 71 |
| Cabinet-makers..... | 71 |
| Saddlers..... | 72 |
| Tinsmiths..... | 72 |
| Laborers..... | 43 to 57 |
| Founders and Moulders..... | 60 to 85 |
| Smiths and Locksmiths..... | 60 |
| Turners..... | 67 |
| Boiler-makers..... | 67 |
| Engine-fitters..... | 71 to 77 |
| Apprentices..... | 24 to 26 |

| TABLE OF PRICES. | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Bread, black..... | 1 lb. avoirdupois 2 |
| " brown..... | 3 |
| " white..... | 4 |
| Beef, with bones..... | 16 |
| " without bones..... | 19 |
| Veal..... | 18 |
| Mutton..... | 18 |
| Pork: with bones..... | 18 |
| " without bones..... | 21 |
| Lard..... | 17 |
| Butter..... | 28 |
| Butter, better quality..... | 30 |
| Cheese, Dutch..... | 32 |
| Coffee..... | 18 |
| Coffee, better quality..... | 40 |
| Sugar..... | 11 |
| Potatoes..... | 1 to 1 1/2 |
| Beans..... | 6 |
| Coke..... | per ton 3 88 |
| Coals..... | 2 95 |
| Petroleum..... | per liter 0 44 |

GEO. E. BULLOCK, Consul. United States Consulate, Cologne, Germany, Jan. 19, 1882.

How They "Saved the Boy." BY LANTA WILSON SMITH. "Jessie," said Mrs. Crosby to her daughter as they sat quietly sewing, one winter evening. "Why does Harry go out so much lately evenings?" "O, because other boys do. He likes to go to the reading room; there's always something new and fresh, you know. And now I think of it, he said, 'We never had any new books or anything fit to read, and if we had he never could get near the light.' Anything for an excuse, I told him." But Mrs. Crosby twinged as she remembered how often she had said, "Do sit around, Harry, and let Jessie and me get nearer the lamp; we want to sew." The room—kitchen, dining room and sitting-room—all in one, neat and pretty, and quite good enough for winter, she had said, but now came the thought—"Are not these long winter evenings the most dangerous?" She could not rest. Throwing on her wraps, she walked briskly down the street to the reading room. She looked through the window and surveyed the brilliantly lighted room. Tables here and there loaded with books and papers, pictures on the walls and a glowing fire in the great coal stove. Yes, it was cosy and attractive for the boy who was sitting at one of the tables, absorbed in a book; but how she wanted him at home. It made her heart ache when as a baby he grew out of her arms, and now, he was growing out of her home. She went on; just next door there were screens and ground-glass windows, but she knew that within there was light and warmth and music—the chief attractions a saloon has for the young, and the woman shuddered as she thought, "Perhaps her boy was even then caught in the gilded snare." She hurried home, her mind filled with new purposes. Entering the small sitting-room, she was astonished to see how dull and dark it appeared just then. "Jessie, I think this room is dark and unpleasant, don't you?" "Why, I don't know," looking around, "it is not quite so pleasant as Aunt Rachel's; but she has a coal stove and they make a room so cheerful." "We must have one, Jessie, right away." "We can't afford it, can we?" "Yes, if we save on something else. We will make our old clothes do another year, and have fewer mince pies and rich cakes for do you say?" Jessie liked nice clothes, like every young miss of seventeen, so she asked: "What is your object, mother? something new?" Then from her mother's heart came all her fears. "I tell you, Jessie," she concluded, "we must look out for Harry; we've well-nigh lost him." Very earnestly they talked over the various plans for home improvement, till footsteps in the hall announced the arrival of father and son. The next day Harry expressed a wish to visit at Uncle Howard's, out on the farm, and to his surprise permission was readily granted. Indeed, Mrs. Crosby thought it very fortunate. As he ran off to catch the stage, she called after him: "Be sure to come back Saturday, won't you?" "Yes, that's my birthday, and I shall expect a present." Scarcely was he out of sight when Jessie built a rousing fire, opened the parlor door, and peered into the frosty room. "It is too pretty to be shut up all winter; but, mother, it will ruin everything to use it common." "We'll do nothing rashly, Jessie. We can't afford to ruin our best carpet and lace curtains. Boys can't always think to be careful of such things. The rag carpet upstairs will do nicely here, and some rich-looking chintz will make pretty curtains. The pictures and ornaments on the 'what-not' may stay, but the center-table must simply hold our work-basket." "I thought Hal was to have the table." "No, father is having one made of light wood, made like a cot-bed with a brace that will do for a foot-rest. There's to be a large drawer in it for his traps; and we'll glue on the top some dark velvet—boys can't endure a spread—and a border of moulding, it will be capital. Father is real animated over it, and is going to get a hanging lamp with a shade, that will light the whole room, and what is more, he will put the cost of a new overcoat into a coal stove!" "How good of him! We shall take so much comfort. What about the furniture?" "We'll cover it with brown holland first, then make pretty filled covers to match the curtains—there's a handsome piece of cretonne at the store, that I know Harry likes and father is going to bring it up to-day. I lay awake last night and planned everything. We can afford books and periodicals if we give up the delicacies—and Harry loves books so." It was a busy week, but how they enjoyed it! It is strange how many things they thought of that Harry liked. Poor boy! his preferences had never been considered before. Saturday, the old stage rattled in from the country, bringing Harry home just as the family were at dinner. He forgot even the present he was expecting in telling of the grand times he had had. "Such a great big house!" he exclaimed, "one dares to take a long breath without fearing to burst the rooms!" giving an involuntary glance around the apartment. "Oh, by the way," he continued recollecting the day, "I thought I should find a necktie or something by my plate, seeing I'm fifteen to-day—guess you forgot!" "Your present, my son, is a pleasant room to read in; you'll find it in the parlor." Harry threw open the door and stood fixed with amazement. The great coal stove with its rosy fire gleaming through sheets of mica, and the warm, bright curtains first met his gaze. "O land of liberty! did I ever!" he exclaimed, a broad grin illuminating his face. "Oh—ho! there's that pretty calico! I wanted mother to get a dress like it, but she's dressed up the windows and chairs. And this stove! ain't it jolly?" "This table and hanging lamp are for your own especial benefit, Harry, also this drawer." Harry pulled it open and found a medley: paper, envelopes, pens, pencils, rulers, pen-

wipers, blotters, scratch-books and ink—black and red—for, as Jessie said, "Boys like to make fancy letters and such things, and a little colored ink is quite an attraction." Harry was bewildered. "How did you ever think of it, mother? I've wanted something like this so long. I don't know how to thank you!" "Just stay here and enjoy it, that will more than pay us. We have missed you evenings, Harry, and we have made this 'place' for you and for your young friends. We shall have new books soon, and hope you will learn to love this place." "It's so much nicer than the reading room, I shall never want to go there again; and if I did I'd be ashamed to own it, after you have done all this for me. But don't you fear, I shall love to stay at home, for this pretty room is the best place in the world!" —Church and Home. Agricultural College Graduates. One of the most eloquent and interesting of the triennial alumni orations of our Agricultural college was that given by George A. Farr, in 1873, in which the speaker showed that even in the interest of agriculture it was not desirable that all the graduates should become tillers of the soil. The tastes, inclination and aptitude of many would demand, on the part of wisdom, that they engage in other pursuits. More than one-half the graduates have actually become directly engaged in the line of work specially called to their attention in the very practical course of study which is marked out especially to aid the agriculturist. Yet it does not follow that the other part shall do less to promote the interests of agriculture. The speaker held that every graduate, whatever his calling, would take an active interest in agriculture. And the very fact that he was engaged in other callings would often make him more efficient to aid agriculture than if directly engaged in farming. That the graduates of the Michigan Agricultural college do possess a strong desire to serve the calling to which their attention had been so persistently directed during the four years of their course, is fully sustained by actual statistics. This is strikingly true of those who are not actually employed on the farm. Senator Farr himself remarked to the writer a short time since, that it was his ambition to possess and control one of the finest and best equipped farms in the State of Michigan, which ambition would certainly be gratified if his life was spared. Several other lawyer graduates have already secured large farms. The only graduate that has gone into the ministry as yet has written a very popular and valuable book on apiculture, and is one of the most able writers for the agricultural press. Similar remarks may be made of those graduates who have become editors and doctors. The several professors who are graduates from the college—and considering the age of the college, their number and influence is remarkable—are not lacking in this same tendency. Prof. Cook has, during the present spring, set out more than 100 trees along the highway which passes through his farm near Owosso. These are not all maples or elms, but include several of the most desirable species, such as lindens, maples, elms, walnuts, chestnuts, catalpas, larches, ashes, butternuts, willows, etc. They are not set equi-distant, in one uniform straight line, but are grouped, not so as to injure the road, but to produce a very pleasing effect. The professor has also put in nearly a mile of ditch, and has added some of the most choice cattle of the Shorthorn breed to his farm. Prof. Cook has often remarked that he desired to have one of the best herds of Shorthorns and one of the finest orchards possible. He surely seems in the way to realize his wish. A fine creek runs across the farm which has its source entirely in springs on the place. This is the seat of fine prospective fish-ponds. Has it Paid? We are asked if the organization of the Grange has paid. We answer, Yes, aside from the business transactions of trade in the Grange, which is a very narrow view of the real benefits derived, the Grange has developed a new life among our farmers and set them to reading and thinking for themselves, the result of which is worth hundreds of thousands of dollars in developing the hidden resources of our farms, systematizing the farm work, and putting more thought and brains into the crops, which puts more money into the pockets. The frequent meeting together to compare notes is beneficial. The social feature, too, has worked wonders in some of our farmers' homes. We see more music, more books and papers, and the boys and girls are not all leaving the farm for the alluring attractions of the towns and cities, there to be disappointed. The cash system, too, is another feature that alone is worth the entire expense of the Grange organization—the developing of the cash system as one of the cardinal features of the Grange—buy only what you can pay for. Farmers have fallen into the habit too much of buying whatever they can buy on a credit, whether they really need it or not; and while their farms only pay three per cent profit, they cannot afford to pay ten per cent interest. How to Cook Rice. Rice is becoming a much more popular article of food than heretofore. It is frequently substituted for potatoes at the chief meal of the day, being more nutritious and much more readily digested. At its present cost, it is really cheaper than potatoes, oatmeal or grain-grits of any kind. In preparing it only just enough cold water should be poured on to prevent the rice from burning at the bottom of the pot, which should have a close-fitting cover and with a moderate fire the rice is steamed rather than boiled until it is nearly done; then the cover is taken off, the surplus steam and moisture allowed to escape, and the rice turns out a mass of snow-white kernels, each separate from the other, and as much superior to the usual soggy mass as a fine mealy potato is superior to the water-soaked article. The above facts are of general interest to the "poor and prudent," therefore worthy of note. Respectfully, DAN TALMAGE'S SONS, New York. The House of Representatives has passed a \$100,000,000 pension bill.

Youths' Department.

SEEDS.

We are sowing, daily sowing,
Countless seeds of good and ill,
Scattered on the level lowland,

Seeds that fall amid the stillness
Of the lonely mountain glen;
Seeds cast out in crowded places,

Seeds that lie unchanged, unquicken'd,
Lifeless on the teeming mould;
Seeds that live and grow and flourish

Check the forward thoughts and passions,
Stay the hasty, heedless hands;
Lest the germs of sin or sorrow

WRECKED.

BY AUTHOR OF "CREW MUST NOT BING TO-NIGHT."

Two ships sailed out past the harbor bar
One beautiful autumn day,
More precious than all earth's jewels are

There were fond farewells and anxious sighs,
And meeting of loving lips;
There were earnest prayers, as from longing eyes

The sky was clear, and the sun shone bright,
When they left the harbor town;
But the storm king rode on the deep at night,

Two human ships set sail one day,
On a calm and sunlit sea;
From the port of home they sailed away,

There were hidden reefs of crime and sin,
O'er which his life was tossed;
There were mermaid eddies to draw him in,

When ships go down in the trackless deep,
We weep, and the church bells toll;
But Heaven mourns and the angels weep

Will Criticised.

Dear Aunt Nina.—As Will courts criticism,
and I am in the mood, I will gratify him.
I like his style; that is, I think I can comprehend his love of books.

Now, dear Auntie, I hope you will not cast me off.
I have not previously asked permission to be enrolled in this or any other order,

Will, seems to take to melancholy minds like Grey,
but I must confess his "Ode to Solitude" to me is a blue affair,

Now, as regards labor as a blessing or a curse,
Sunflower says, Labor carried to extremes is a curse.
I think not. If I get a fit of sulks and rush the churning through

Where is the independent "Sweet Briar?"
Like her prototype I opine she can prick when she chooses,
and we need something to stir us up.

Correspondence.

From the Other Side.

Editor "Grange Visitor."—I saw a piece in your paper about a "Smart Iowa Girl."

I came into Western Minnesota when there was plenty of vacant land, and took a homestead of 160 acres, and I can say it was not "so very easily acquired."

In the township I live in there was at one time fourteen or fifteen timber claims. Now there are seven or eight, and I think some of them will be abandoned.

I enclose a clipping which explains itself. L. B. Hodges has a timber claim ten miles from where I live, which is a good one and a treat to look at.

Send me your paper as long the enclosed will pay for. Yours, &c., HENRY ARMSTRONG.

Delinquent Members.

Bro. J. T. Cobb.—Having been a subscriber to the VISITOR some two months, and believing it to be a paper for the people and sustained by the people.

What constitutes a delinquent member to an order? Is it one who neglects or refuses to keep up his dues? Does a brother or sister who pays up and takes a demit card, become a delinquent?

In the May number of the VISITOR, my attention was attracted to an article on "Newspaper Independence." It is replete with facts and timely suggestions, and as I am a subscriber to others—to county papers, I am proud of being a patron of one whose editor dares express his thoughts, in a laudable endeavor to right a wrong.

The independent out-spoken journalist, who dares to utter a positive opinion outside of hackneyed flings, and gives utterance to those opinions fearlessly and often, is doing something for his readers that is worth paying for, and also builds up a journal that has some reputation and bottom."

This is too good to be forgotten. As you say, some of our newspapers are not conducted with this view. Their editors occupy a middle ground (usually sitting upon the highest seat in the synagogues), and pray, Good Lord and good devil. They smile and bow to all the conflicting creeds of the land, and their papers are filled with small talk.

I hope and trust the VISITOR will continue a fearless, out-spoken journal, with courtesy to all, but prompt to expose shams, advise restriction of all monopolies, and advise independence in voting—from the election of a Justice of the Peace to the highest Executive of the Nation.

Richland, June 3, 1882. LEVI WOOD.

Property and Matrimony.

Bro. Cobb.—The bellicose challenge of Sister L. E. Drake, if accepted and fought out, will start many questions of common interest to the sexes.

Because woman has not had a vote, it has been the policy of our legislature to favor her by special legislation. Special legislation, in the way of conferring favors, seems always to work somebody harm.

It would allow the husband to marry as much of the wife's property as the wife married of the husband's. If neither married none of the other's, then neither could claim the increase that accrued to the property of the other.

What was individual property before death the owner should have the right to dispose of by will. When the individual dies intestate, and leaves more than is needed to pay his debts, the law should be definite as to its disposition. There ought to be an inexpensive method to dispose of it.

The money or property from any or all of these sources should be made available for

these purposes before they shall become a care of the State. An incompetent husband or wife might soon scatter property left by the other, and throw children on to the State for care.

I take it that the people are ignorant of the law, or they fail to appreciate it, if they scold about it in this respect. In many respects the law is in advance of the people. The people fail to use it for what it is worth.

This letter is long enough now, and I still desire to make it many times longer. To think about, I put this out: When parents make a property present to their son or daughter, to give them a start in married life, and a few days after marriage this child dies, where ought the property in equity to go?

MILTON CHASE. Otsego, Mich., June 17, 1882.

Wrongs to Right—Answered.

Bro. J. T. Cobb.—In writing this we simply request what we have a right to demand through the Patron's paper of our State; and that is a proper equality, equity, and fairness in the expression of our opinions.

The resolution which had been discussed and unanimously adopted by us. The resolution contained nothing opposed to the principles of the Grange, and to us it seemed proper that action should be encouraged in that direction, for the elevation of labor. The following is the substance of said resolution: "We accept the present occasion as a fit opportunity to express our contempt for any and every attempt to degrade American labor to the condition of Chinese pauperism, or make it in any way subservient to capital."

"We print the above as requested." * * * But somehow we don't quite like, etc. WE DEMUR to the use of such strong language as 'The present oppressive and degrading system of government as now administered.'"

No one for a moment questions the wisdom of the founders of our government, based upon justice and equality to all, of the people, by the people and for the people. When our Grange denounces a system that has grown up under the mal-administration of the government left us by our Revolutionary fathers, and which system deprives the people of their rights and is oppressive and degrading to them, we do not feel that we can sit down and be stigmatized as denouncing the government, and such is the logical conclusion from comments in the VISITOR of April 15th.

Charity is a cardinal principle inculcated in our Order. Then why should such a construction be given to the language? With all due respect and charity we ask if the present system of government as now administered is not oppressive and degrading to the labor class? Was it not one of the grandest objects of the founders of the Order to hold in check all the monopolistic influences in our governmental affairs from opposing and degrading labor?

Another objection was opposition to all special or class legislation in every form, and the curbing of the power of monopolies gained by misguided legislation in the past. We all claim that experience is the lamp by which our steps are guided. We find in the Grange Bulletin of April 11th, 1882, something of which experience has taught Brother T. R. Smith, Secretary of Ohio State Grange. He says: "A stitch in time saves nine. Experience has shown that the politicians have easy work in the conventions, if they have set up the caucuses. The nominating season is upon us and paid correspondents are writing the Hon. Mr. A, B and C, in the great dailies and the same are being copied in the country papers of A, B and C's, districts. The party ropes are being laid, and the party machinery being oiled for the occasion, and we will just as surely be roped in in 1882, as we have been in all of the years past, unless we bestir ourselves and take the stitch in

time. It must be taken when the primary caucus is held. Spike the enemies' guns while you are fighting on your own ground. See that none but competent, faithful and honest men are nominated, men who will unflinchingly stand by our industrial interests. The harvest follows the seedtime as unerringly in politics as in physics."

Now while our Worthy Secretary, A. J. Reed, expresses our regret that restraints should be put upon Patrons in uniting their strength in the nomination and election of officers, competent, faithful and honest men, who will unflinchingly stand by our industrial interests, and work for the establishment of that system of equality for the whole people which we so much desire, you give us to understand that such a course, if tolerated in our Order, would weaken, if not destroy our organization. Yet Brother Smith, Secretary of the Ohio State Grange, from his experience urges just that course of action. Just the stitch in time saves nine. We look upon organization as the uniting of individuals for the accomplishment of some purpose that it would be impossible for an individual to do alone.

The object of organization is co operation, work together, to overcome the evils which are enslaving labor and making it subservient to capital. To work effectually we must work understandingly together and in harmony. Our organization has made us a large body, but the lack of co-operation in the right direction is making us the laughing stock of the crafty politicians.

Yours for justice, truth and fraternity, IRA SMITH, Lect. Grand Lodge, May 26, 1882.

GRANGE HORSE NETS.

We manufacture a first-class Horse Net at Charlotte, Michigan, and offer at prices as follows:—

Full Size Body, Neck, and Ear tips of 16-thread twine, by the dozen, each \$1.10
Same as above made of 20-thread twine, each 1.25
Body nets to the hames, each .75
Ear tips, by the doz. .240

When express charges exceed one dollar per doz. the excess can be charged to me. Sixty days time given on orders under seal of a Grange, and 5 per cent discount off for cash with the order.

ADDRESS: JOSEPH SHAW, Charlotte, Mich. MICHIGAN CENTRAL R. R.

DEPARTURE OF TRAINS FROM KALAMAZOO. TIME-TABLE—MAY 15, 1882.

Table with columns for WESTWARD and EASTWARD, listing train types (Night Express, Accommodation leaves, etc.) and times.

New York, Atlantic and Pacific Expresses daily. Evening Express west and Night Express east daily except Saturdays. All other trains daily except Sundays.

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

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

Table for GOING SOUTH, listing stations (Le. Grand Rapids, Ar. Allegan, etc.) and times.

GOING NORTH.

Table for GOING NORTH, listing stations (Le. Buffalo, Ar. Cleveland, etc.) and times.

All trains connect at White Pigeon with trains on main line. A. G. AMBSEN, Supt. Kalamazoo Division, Kalamazoo.

CHICAGO & GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY.

Corrected Time-Table—May 14, 1882.

Table for TRAINS WEST, listing stations (Le. Port Huron, Inlay City, etc.) and times.

TRAIN EAST.

Table for TRAIN EAST, listing stations (Ar. Chicago, Le. Valparaiso, etc.) and times.

All trains run by Chicago time. All trains daily except Sunday. GEO. B. REEVE, Traffic Manager. S. B. CALLAWAY, General Superintendent.

THE REAPER, DEATH.

EDGERTON—Died at her home in the village of Morrice, May 28, 1882, Sister Margaret A. Edgerton, aged 49 years. Sister Edgerton was a faithful member of Shiawassee Grange, No. 151.

Across the grave, across the desert sod, And through the mist of years, The strain rings on, triumphant still, "And God Shall wipe away all tears."

HARRIS—Died at her home near Clarkston, Oakland county, Sister Genie Harris, a member of Independence Grange, No. 275,—dearly beloved and deeply mourned by a large circle of friends.

Words but poorly express our sympathy for this thrice bereaved family. We know but cannot fully realize the irreparable loss that they have sustained. In many other places will Genie be missed and in none more than in our little Grange circle. With the cheerful word and smile for everyone, it always gave one happy feelings to meet her.

GROVER—Died at his residence in Charleston, May 18, 1882, in the 49th year of his age, Charles B. Grover, a worthy member of Charleston Grange, No. 203.

At a meeting of the Grange it was ordered that its charter be draped in mourning for sixty days, and resolutions of sympathy with the bereaved wife were presented, adopted and ordered spread upon the records of the Grange, and sent to the GRANGE VISITOR for publication.

Aradia Grange, No. 21, has been deprived of one of its leading members. J. N. Pierce, living three miles northwest of Kalamazoo, came to his death May 26, 1882, by the falling of a gravel bank, causing instant death. He was 64 years of age. The Grange at its next meeting passed resolutions of respect to his memory.

BEATTIE.—Died at his residence in the township of Keene, Ionia county, May 17, 1882, JAS BEATTIE, in the 57th year of his age, a charter member of Keene Grange, No. 270.

At a meeting of the Grange, resolutions of respect and sympathy were adopted and ordered sent to the family of the deceased, and spread upon the records of the Grange. "We shall meet, but we will miss him."

Fish's American Manual of PARLIAMENTARY LAW

Is the cheapest and best. The subject is made so plain that every Citizen or Society member should have a copy. Circular of commendation free. Price by mail prepaid; cloth, 50 cents; leather tucks, \$1.00. Postage stamps received. Address, J. T. COBB, Schoolcraft, or GEO. T. FISH, ROCHESTER, N. Y.

FENNO & MANNING, WOOL COMMISSION MERCHANTS,

117 Federal St., Boston. Consignments Solicited and Cash Advances Made.

A. VANDENBERG, MANUFACTURER,

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DEALER IN HARNESS, WHIPS, BLANKETS, TRUNKS, &c., 92 Monroe Street, GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.

I take pleasure in presenting to your favorable consideration my CASE PRICE LIST of Harness Work—HAND MADE—all of my own manufacture, and also to return thanks for the liberal patronage I have received from the different Granges throughout Michigan. I shall do in the future as in the past—furnish the best goods for the least money.

Farm Harness, White Trimm'd Breaching, Round Lines, Snaps, Run Straps, and spread rings, complete, \$20 00
The same without Breaching, 25 00
" " with flat Lines, 25 00
" " " without breaching, 25 00
Double Light Buggy Harness, white trimm'd, from, \$25 to 30 00
The same, Nickle Trimm'd, from, \$35 to 50 00
Single Buggy Harness, with round lines, white trimm'd, 13 00
Same with flat line, 12 00
ALL ORDERS RECEIVED UNDER SEAL OF THE GRANGE

will be shipped at once, and may be returned at my expense if not entirely satisfactory. Address all orders to A. VANDENBERG, 92 MONROE STREET, GRAND RAPIDS.

German Horse and Cow Powders.

This powder has been in use for many years. It is largely used by the farmers of Pennsylvania, and the Patrons of that State have bought over 100,000 pounds through their purchasing agents. Its composition is no secret. The receipt is on every box and 5-pound package. It is made by Dr. L. Oberholzer's Sons & Co., Phoenixville, Pa. It keeps stock healthy and in good condition. It helps to digest and assimilate the food. Horses will do more work, with less food while using it. Cows will give more milk, and be in better condition. It keeps poultry healthy, and increases the production of eggs. It is also of great value to them when molting. It is sold at the lowest wholesale price by R. E. JAMES, KALAMAZOO, GEO. W. HILL & CO., 80 WOODBRIDGE ST., DETROIT, THOS. MASON, 181 WABER ST., CHICAGO, and ALBERT STEIGMANN, GRAND RAPIDS. Put up in 60-lb. boxes (loose), price EIGHT CENTS per lb., 30-lb. boxes (of 6 5-lb. packages, TEN CENTS per lb.



Grand Rapids, Michigan, is the most popular agricultural and family paper published. This widely circulated paper, now in its sixth volume, is published weekly, and sent to subscribers at \$1.50 a year including postage. Every number contains 8 pages, 40 columns of practical agricultural and family reading matter, including full reports of the West Michigan Farmers' Club, of which it is the official organ. The publishers offer for the next thirty days to send on receipt of \$2.00 THE WORLD for one year and a copy of "Our Farmer's Account Book," containing 212 pages on fine ledger paper, a comprehensive system of book keeping adapted to the wants of practical farmers everywhere. Over 80,000 of these books have been sold within the last year, and in many instances farmers have paid itinerant book agents as high as three dollars for them. Every farmer should have one of these account books, but we advise them to send direct to the AGRICULTURAL WORLD, Grand Rapids, Mich., and receive the account book and THE WORLD for one year for less than the book costs alone. THE WORLD and Grange Visitor one year, and the account book, \$2.50. Don't fail to mention this paper when writing. Address, F. M. CARROLL, Publishers, GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.

An Agent at Buffalo.

J. T. Cobb.—I will write a few lines in regard to a resolution adopted by the St. Jo County Grange at its last meeting.

Fraternally Yours, EMANUEL HIMEBAUGH.

The Value of Drainage.

As a matter of fact, there is very little land in our country that would not be improved by drainage.

Some enterprising tile manufacturers select careful farmers who own flat lands, and make something like the following proposition:

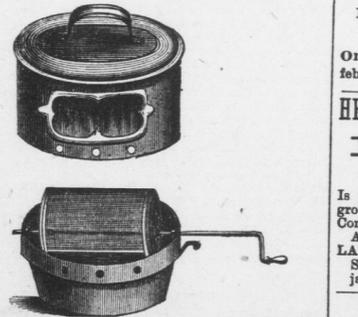
LONDON LADIES.—A word or two about the ladies of London. They are some larger than those in Michigan, and look plump, healthy and rugged.

If you wish to avoid having all the raisins you put in a pie sink to the bottom, follow this rule: Cook the raisins in a little water on the top of the stove; then, when the pudding is done, stir the raisins in.

GEORGE W. HILL, SEED and COMMISSION MERCHANT AND General Merchandise Broker.

Send for my priced and illustrated Catalogue of Rogers' Plated Ware, also prices of the New Home and Singer Sewing Machine.

EUREKA FAMILY COFFEE ROASTER The Housewife's Best Friend.



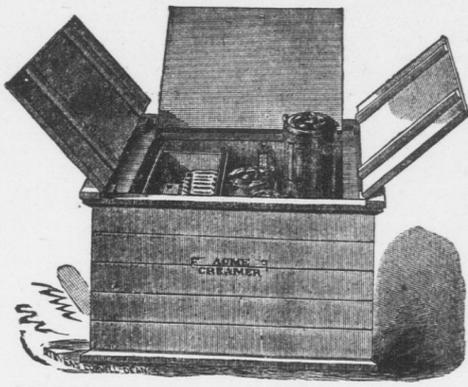
(With Cover Raised.) It sets into the stove like a kettle, has a mica window through which the coffee can be seen while in operation.

Send number of your stove when you order. GEO. W. HILL, 80 Woodbridge St. West, Detroit.

CIDER PRESS, (hand and power) GRATER, Elevator, Jelly Pans, Sorghum Mills, Circular Saw Mills.

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.



McCALL & DUNCAN, Schoolcraft, Mich.

AGENTS:

- G. W. Hunt, Mattawan, Van Buren County. W. P. Herd, Lowell, Kent County. Charles E. Thornton, Rockford, Kent County.

LIFE INSURANCE FOR PATRONS.

The Patrons' Aid Society of Michigan WAS ORGANIZED IN DECEMBER, 1880,

to give the Patrons of Michigan an opportunity to belong to a HOME INSTITUTION OF LIFE INSURANCE

that they could control. As its name indicates, it is FOR THE MEMBERS OF OUR ORDER AND FOR THEM ONLY.

Its Annual Meetings occur at the same time and place as the annual session of the State Grange.

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.

- Applications for membership may be made to JAMES COOK, J. W. EWING, Adrian, Eaton Rapids.

HEADQUARTERS FOR LAND PLASTER

LOREN DAY, Grandville, Mich.

Is prepared to furnish LAND PLASTER, fresh ground, at contract prices, made with the Executive Committee of the State Grange.

Send me your Orders direct. LOREN DAY.

WELLS, RICHARDSON & CO'S IMPROVED BUTTER COLOR A NEW DISCOVERY. For several years we have furnished the Dairymen of America with an excellent artificial color for butter...

Alabastine

Is the only preparation based on the proper principles to constitute a durable finish for walls, as it is not held on the wall with glue, etc., to decay, but is a Stone Cement that hardens with age, and every additional coat strengthens the wall.

Fifty cents' worth of ALABASTINE will cover 50 square yards of average wall with two coats; and one coat will produce better work than can be done with any other preparation on the same surface.

For sale by paint dealers everywhere. Send for circular containing the twelve beautiful tints. Manufactured only by ALABASTINE Co. M. B. CHURCH, Manager, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Teasdale Steam Fruit & Vegetable EVAPORATOR.

To the Farmers and Fruit Growers of Lenawee, Berrien, Cass, Van Buren, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, Calhoun, Branch, Hillsdale, Jackson, Washtenaw, Monroe and Wayne Counties, in the State of Michigan, and Lucas and Williams in the State of Ohio, and the entire State of California:

THE BEST, SAFEST, CHEAPEST AND THE MOST ECONOMICAL MACHINE in the line of Evaporators ever offered in any market.

- 1st. The immense amount of drying capacity for the amount of room used. 2d. There is no possibility of burning, broiling, or otherwise damaging fruit by the drying process.

Constructed of Galvanized Iron Cash orders will receive prompt attention. Agents wanted in every township and County in the State of California. Address all correspondence to R. M. BELLINGER, Blissfield, Mich.

THE 5-TON WAGON SCALES. ARE SOLD FOR \$60. All Iron and Steel. Sold on trial—freight paid by us—no money asked till tested and found satisfactory.

JONES OF BINGHAMPTON, Binghamton, N. Y. Send for Circulars and further particulars.

PAW PAW, Mich., May 18th, 1878. My Scales give entire satisfaction. I have subjected it to the most severe tests and find it not only correct in weighing large or small amounts, but perfectly reliable.

J. J. WOODMAN, 3 in—1yr

EVERY FARMER IN THE COUNTRY SHOULD EXAMINE THE New Combined Spring Tooth Sulky Harrow CULTIVATOR AND SEEDER.



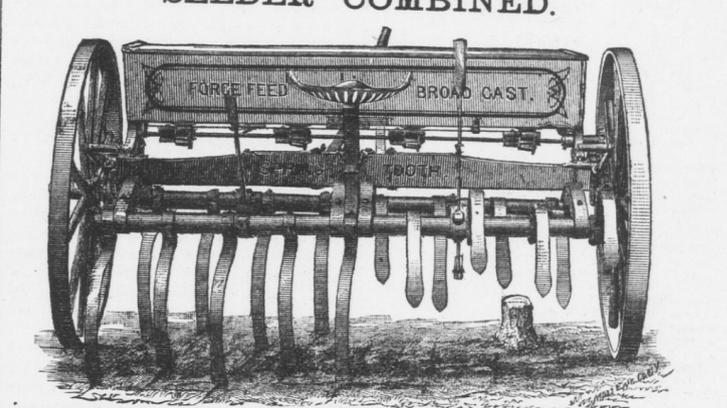
Manufactured by THE WOLVERINE HARROW AND SEEDER COMPANY, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

As a combined machine, it stands unrivalled in excellence, doing the work of a Harrow and Seed Sower most thoroughly and satisfactorily. It has taken high rank at once as ONE OF THE VERY BEST IMPLEMENTS FOR THE USES DESIGNED EVER INVENTED.

LORENZO BIXBY, Sec'y.

PATRONS' PAINT WORKS.

The New Murray Harrow Cultivator and SEEDER COMBINED.



Contains our latest improvements. For simplicity, strength, ease in handling by man and team, and quality of work, it has no equal. Send for Circulars. Address, S. J. WING, Kalamazoo, Mich.

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Consign Produce to 163 South Water St., Chicago Ill. J. M. CHAMBERS, Business Manager.

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FRUITS, VEGETABLES, BUTTER AND EGGS, POULTRY, WOOL, HIDES, PELTS, TALLOW AND DRESSED HOGS, GRAIN, HOGS AND CATTLE IN CAR LOTS.

Remittances should be sent by Draft; P. O. Order, or Registered Letter. Express, prepaid.

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for any machine hulling as much clover seed in 1 day as the VICTOR Double Huller Clover Machine hulls in 150 Bushels in ONE DAY.

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Garden, Flower and Field SEEDS,

OF EVERY VARIETY. BOXES OF ASSORTED POPPIES furnished GRANGES. Varieties not used to be returned.

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Special Prices to Patrons on Application.

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Sixty swarms in movable comb hives for sale. Write for prices. Southard & Ranney, KALAMAZOO, MICH.