



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

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FOR SALE.—A few choice young Bulls and Heifers, all registered and from extra milk and butter strains.

Zinc Collar Pads for Horses. This is not an advertising paper, but for the good of horses we take pleasure in saying that after many conversations with horsemen and seeing many certificates of veterinary surgeons and others, we believe that for curing and preventing sores on horses, there has been no better invention than the zinc collar pads.

An Old Year Song.

BY OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES.

As through the forest, disarrayed By chill November, late I stayed, A lonely minstrel of the wood Was singing to the solitude;

When violets pranked the turf with blue And morning filled their cups with dew, Thy slender voice with rippling trill The budding April bowers would fill,

And I remember—well-a-day!— Thy full-blown summer roundelay, And when behind a broidered screen Some holy maiden sings unseen;

But now the summer's chant is done And mute the choral antiphone, The birds have left the shivering pines To flit among the trellised vines,

The snow has capped yon distant hill, At morn the running brook will still, From driven herds the clouds that rise Are like the smoke of sacrifice,

Fast, fast the lengthening shadows creep, The songless fowls are half asleep, The air grows chill, the setting sun May leave thee ere thy song is done,

Agricultural Department.

Labor.

From the very infancy of the human race labor has been of the greatest importance. Our very existence, to say nothing of comforts and enjoyments, depends upon labor.

In the opinion of too many, education means some "power whereby they may escape from hard work." We pet and praise our great educational system; and so popular has this indiscriminate eulogy of our perfect scheme of education become, that any one who ventures to administer a little wholesome criticism or to suggest improvement is looked upon as a fault-finder.

hands as well as the head and heart, as God meant that every man, woman and child should do, not only as a means of acquiring a livelihood, but as a means of acquiring an education, we shall then begin to see our way out.

Poultry Hints.

Riding along Asylum Avenue, south from Kalamazoo, recently, a long line of new buildings, with Sedgwick fencing off each side, attracted attention. The first thought was, "Poultry business on a large scale."

Off the building on each side are yards, the fencing being of the Sedgwick patent, a wire netting about six feet high. Lath is cheaper, but netting may be rolled and put away when not in use.

PREMIUM LIST.

While we believe from the assurances of our friends that they are entirely in earnest in behalf of the VISITOR, and would willingly work for it without pay, we are ready to make the offers, as stated below, of articles which will be a compensation of real value to agents.

Any one sending the names of five subscribers and \$2.50, will be entitled to a choice of the following: One copy of GRANGE VISITOR, six months. One copy of "Glad Echoes," song book. One copy of Kendall's "Treatise of the Horse."

We think that a library, filled with good agricultural books, and such other works as would be suitable for farmers, their wives, sons and daughters to read, would be a fruitful source of interest as well as profit, to any Grange.

dear school of experience? It is said that fools will learn in no other. But we are sure that "all farmers are not fools," if it be true that "all fools are farmers."

The Pollen Theory.

[Paper read by Prof. A. J. Cook, Michigan Agricultural College, before the National Bee-Keepers' Association at Detroit.]

The pollen theory as I understand it is simply this: Under certain circumstances bees may winter with less liability to diarrhoea, disease and death, in case there is no pollen or bee-bread in the hive to serve as winter food.

There are reasons drawn from experiment, I think, for the belief that facts sustain the theory. For several years we have tried to arrange our bees so that some should have abundance of pollen in their hives, while others should be destitute of the same, making a careful record in each case.

Now with the theory and these facts in mind, let us study briefly the nature of food, and see whether or no physiological science has any facts or suggestions to offer us regarding this question.

There are four kinds of food, each of which probably enters more or less largely into the food regimen of all animals. Of these the inorganic, such as water, lime, chloride of sodium, or common salt, etc., are important as entering into the structure of organs, preserving the requisite consistency of tissues, and in aiding the vital processes.

The second kind of food is known under the term carbo-hydrates. It includes all the sugars and starch. As starch, when eaten, is changed under the influence of a ferment into sugar we may well consider it with the sugars.

We have seen that stored fat in animals that hibernate, and in case of disease, will alone serve to keep up the nutrition. We have also seen that these carbo-hydrates conduce more than other food to the formation of this fat.

Let me state further that cane sugar which composes from one to eight per cent. of honey, when eaten by any animal, man included, is changed in the stomach to a sugar much like, if not identical with honey.

Again, the indigestible portion of the carbonaceous food, especially the carbo-hydrates, is very slight. Not so with pollen. We can readily see then that where the feces are to be retained in the intestines so long the pollenaceous food would be or might be irritating, and were better withheld.

point, common glucose, or grape sugar—I now mean the artificial product produced by the action of sulphuric acid on corn starch—honey, and liver sugar are usually all called glucose or grape sugar by chemists. They are chemically identical and give the same reactions with the copper salts which they all reduce, which fact furnishes one of the best tests for these sugars.

The third group of food elements consists of the fats. The higher animals obtain these largely in all vegetable and animal food. While the fats, also called by some the hydro-carbons, consist of the same chemical elements as do the carbohydrates, the oxygen is far less in amount. Actual experiment has shown that higher animals thrive poorly without some of this kind of food.

The albumenoids or nitrogenous food elements make up our last group. These have in addition to the oxygen, hydrogen and carbon, nitrogen. All protoplasm or active vital tissue, whether animal or vegetable, consists largely of this nitrogenous material.

As no animal can possibly be developed from the egg to adult life without this albumenous food, and as in all vital action some of this material in the body is used up and must be restored, it follows that brood rearing in the hive and activity of the bees necessitates the presence of these albumenoids in the food.

We know that hibernating animals, and animals long sick, often fast for months. Yet here the vital forces must be kept up and must have nourishment. We have seen that in such cases the fat is used up, and without doubt the protoplasm in muscle and other inactive tissues yield up of their substance to furnish the small amount of albumenous nutriment needed.

Again, bees are naturally very neat and do not void their excreta in the hive except under the severest stress of circumstances. I have more than once gathered all the refuse under a full colony of bees at the close of a long winter's sojourn in the cellar, and found almost no nitrogenous matter. If, then, bees are to be forced to long confinement we should spare no pains to secure the greatest possible quietude.

We thus see that from experience, from analogy, and from what we know of foods and the vital activities we may well believe that our bees were better off in many cases were pollen absent from their winter aliment.

## Horticulture.

## Horticulture for Wage Workers.

S. H. COMINGS, ST. JOSEPH, MICHIGAN

Man's first working place, we are told, was in a garden; and with all his study, it is very doubtful if he has ever found so good a place to spend most of his time and labor in.

We are reading of "danger ahead," of "strikes," "lock-outs," of "socialism," of "monopolies" that are grinding the face of the laboring man yet harder and harder each year; and we are told that the great law of supply and demand controls the price of labor as it does of everything else. The question comes home with sharp emphasis to every wage worker: How can I better my condition and become more independent?

Let me suggest my ideal for every man who works for wages.

Just as soon as possible have a piece of ground for a garden; one acre if possible, and put in your spare time there. If practicable work for wages but five days in the week, and put in the other day in the garden.

Or if possible only work for wages but eight hours per day. Take the best wages you can get for the eight hours' work, and use the rest of the day working your garden. One who has always spent all his energies in the shop or factory, will be more than surprised at the health, comfort and material benefit that can be made from such a course of life.

In a recent conversation with a prominent man who has for years been a large employer of men, I stated my theory that a wage worker, to get the most possible satisfaction out of his life, should work but eight hours for wages, and put in the balance of his time in making a garden. He said that was the only practical way out of the worst trouble with the labor question.

He spoke of one marked case: "A man who had recently closed his engagement with our Company after twenty years continuous service has saved more money than we have ever paid him in wages. He has retired well enough off to live comfortably the rest of his life. He began work at \$1.50 per day; has never had above \$2.00 per day, and usually for the last year has worked by the piece, and after earning \$2.00 would go home and work in his garden, the change to out-door work being equivalent to a rest.

"In the twenty years he has bought several lots of one to two acres of poor, cheap land, cleaned them up and made such good gardens as to nearly support his family from the products.

"After improving the lots and getting them in a high state of cultivation, he has sold them at a good profit and bought anew. By this process in the twenty years he saved more than his entire wages, supported his family well, got a great deal of enjoyment in developing the lands and fitted himself to get a great deal of enjoyment the remainder of his days in the pursuit of progressive gardening."

Such cases are not rare, and I believe if all wage workers who are employed by the day would accept eight hours' pay for eight hours' work, and with fair industry, put their spare time in work in their own garden, the day of the "conflict of labor with capital" would soon be over, and wageworkers would soon be the independent parties sought for by capital.

It is wonderful, too, how soon such work becomes very interesting to every one who goes at it. As a means of rest and recreation, its attractions for the shop worker are far ahead of the saloon or the streets.

And children brought up to study the growth of plants and flowers are educated in a way that will be most likely to make them good citizens.

At present there are too many who depend for their whole living on their daily wages. There are more workers than work, and the profits on garden stuff purchased instead of raised, takes the whole income.

The garden was man's first place of happiness, and it may be where he can yet gain the most happiness for his last work in life.—Michigan Horticulturist.

## Floral Hints for Winter.

The following suggestions for plant-growers we find in the *Gardeners' Monthly*:

What are known as Dutch bulbs need no recommendation from us as being plants particularly adapted to window culture. These are hyacinths, tulips, and crocuses, chiefly. But the class of Cape bulbs is no less desirable, though seldom seen. The amaryllis especially is a good window plant, and there are now so many species and varieties that some may be had in flower all the winter through.

A few years ago a good lady, fond of plants, and a good gardener besides, called the writer into her very successful little green-house, and somewhat in this wise did she lecture him: "I don't know that you have so written it, but all the books I get hold of tell me never to keep saucers of water standing under the pots. Now what do you think of these plants?" They certainly were charming specimens of robust health, rivalling the lady herself in this respect—and the writer received a smiling acknowledgment of the compliment of

ferred. "Now, you see I keep a saucer under each pot, and I always have water in the saucer. In the winter, when I want the plants to look fresh and green I put a little guano, or some other rich food, in the saucers, and sometimes I put water quite hot. And yet you—pardon me—your writing class, positively condemn the practice." And when we come to think of it, why should we condemn saucers under pot plants, and water in the saucers? As the lady says, authors do condemn the practice, but, after all, why? A plant with all its roots in water will not thrive unless it is an aquatic plant. Hence water must run rapidly away from the upper portion of the roots. What is called the drainage is to accomplish this, and so long as the water runs rapidly through the earth into the saucer, it is all good culture requires.

Plant growers have much trouble from insects, the little diminutive red spider especially, the work of which is often not known until the injury is done. It can readily be detected by a small pocket lens, which every plant-grower ought to have. For a few plants in a window an occasional sponging of the leaves with water in which a little tobacco has been decocted is about the best thing. In a plain cabinet, tobacco dust—snuff—scattered over damp leaves is very good, but it does not reach the under surface of leaves. Water heated to 130 degrees is very effectual, and an occasional syringing at this temperature will keep down all insects, and is much preferable to the filthy smoke and horrible compounds so often recommended.

## Communications.

## A Fence Defense.

I noticed, in the VISITOR of Nov. 16, an article from Mr. H. Whitney, of somewhere in Illinois, who indulges in a long tirade against Mr. Ewer and his fence, in which he says, "Nearly thirty years ago, I used substantially that very kind of fence," also, "There is not a single new discovery in this pretended patent." Board fences were made before Mr. Ewer was born. "Iron posts have been used longer than he can remember." "Barbed wire has not been in use very long, but he is not the patentee." He further says, "I am a granger and feel indignant and disgusted by the way farmers have been swindled, &c." The simple fact that a man proclaims himself a granger, is not proof positive that the Order has been used for "promoting the growth of knowledge and wisdom."

Mr. Whitney's "indignation and disgust" must have turned his head, for Mr. Ewer does not claim to have invented barb wire, neither does he claim to have invented board fences that "were made before he was born;" nor yet, "Iron posts that have been used longer than he can remember." He does, however, claim to have invented the method of applying a combination of boards and barb wire, in a separate, distinct and portable panel of fence; also the couples and the method of combining the iron post with it, to support the fence; yet this "seventy-five year old" man says he "used that very kind of fence," and, strange as it may appear, he then goes on to show that what he used is not "that very kind of fence" at all, but an impracticable, unhandy thing, tied up with strings or pieces of wire. Some good (?) people seem to think that if a man secures a patent on an article that they would like to use, the patent is a fraud, and the patentee a scoundrel. And the tenor of Mr. Whitney's article seems to indicate that he is one of that class. If a person use Mr. Ewer's or any other man's patent, without having given value received in some form, he is guilty of wrongfully using property that belongs to another, for property in a patent article is just as much property as that in a man's farm. There are certain practices and certain laws that are unjust. The law ought to protect the innocent purchaser of a patent article, purchased in the open market, and should make the manufacturer and vendor alone responsible for infringement, but such is not the case, and farmers are as much to blame for it as anybody. Mr. Whitney advises his brother grangers, (I suppose he means Patrons) "not to pay Mr. Ewer five cents an acre of your farm; the one I have used will answer your purpose," &c. I suppose every man will use whatever device for a fence that he finds the most convenient and profitable to use, whether it be patented by Mr. Ewer or some other person, or not patented at all. My advice to them is to use just what they please. From my own observation and experience, and the testimony of those who are using Mr. Ewer's fence on this "very small clearing in the woods" around Battle Creek, I am satisfied that the claims set forth in the advertisement of this fence in the VISITOR, (to which attention is called) are as nearly correct as it is possible to state them in—English. Now the fence that the Illinois Brother says will answer the purpose of the farmer, has been in use here, in small quantities, for a long time, and it blows down here as well as in Illinois, but the people who have been using it here, consider it not practical since they have seen Mr. Ewer's fence, and are proposing to do the very thing that Bro. W. advises them not to do, viz., to pay Mr. Ewer five cents an acre of their

farms, and remodel their old fences into Mr. Ewer's patent. The reason why the fence, used by the brother, blows down, is mainly for two reasons: It is quite difficult to drive the wooden stakes so as to make them hold; and the boards at the top furnish a sail to catch the wind and over they go. With the wire at the top of the Ewers fence, the wind has nothing to get hold of, and there is no difficulty in driving the iron post with an old axe or light sledge, even in the driest time, hence they are driven in the required length, which is two feet, and will not blow down as easily as the best stake and cap fence. Then again, instead of a clumsy looking thing, we have in this Ewer fence one that is neat and an ornament to the farm upon which it stands. Our best farmers, and men of the best judgment in this vicinity, pronounce it one of the most valuable inventions for the farmer that has ever been introduced. This is the verdict of practical men who have seen and tested this fence, and who are using it. The terms "patented patent," "swindled," "blackmailing, &c., used in connection with Mr. Ewer and his fence, by implication at least, assails his honor and integrity. Mr. Ewer is, and always has been a farmer, and invented this fence for his own use, and for upright-ness and integrity is the peer of any man in this community. Let this be my excuse, if excuse be needed, for the length of this article. E. WHITE. Calhoun County.

## Why Are We Patrons?

That there is a reason for our being Patrons is as true as is the existence of the organization. All societies are organized for the pleasure, or profit, or both, of the members; or for the purpose of uniting their forces against some evil or enemy either real or imaginary; hence we find that men of almost every profession have societies for the protection of their interests. It seems to be natural for many, having the power, to assume the right to use that power to further their special interests, irrespective of the rights or interests of others, and it is just as natural for those who exercise the freedom which makes a man a man, or a woman a woman, in the true sense to resent such usurpation of power. While we respect the rights of others, it is for the purpose of maintaining our own as tillers of the soil that we are banded together as Patrons. Who, or what class of men has a better right to be, or greater interest in being organized than farmers? We, and the many of our brethren who have not seen fit in their wisdom to join us—I say we who feed and clothe the people of this nation, produce the wealth and pay all the bills should be united and have the co-operation of every man who tills the soil, and every woman who is his helpmate. We are Patrons because the organization is a necessity to redeem a large class of men and women from the slavery which is sure to come, if we fold our hands and take our chances. The money power has gained a position where it can buy and has bought ministers, judges, legislators, politicians, and the press, and is now ready to purchase you, and you, and all of us. Are we for sale?

We must expect to meet the opposition of those who have adverse interests and even the sneers of many who should be our friends; but there never has been a great reform, religious, political, or social but has met with opposition in proportion to its importance. In proof of this I need only refer to the history of the Reformation, the American Revolution, and the Abolition of Slavery. Let us therefore as pioneers in this great work, do our duty to our country, our neighbor, and ourselves, by using every means in our power to unite the farming interests and by circulating and advocating such measures as will lead to that end.

F. A. W.

Central Leroy Grange.

## Free School Books.

EDITOR GRANGE VISITOR.—There are few measures of equal importance to the people of this State, as the one embodied in the resolution of the State Grange Committee on Education, relative to the uniformity of text books in the public schools, and their publication by the State.

In 1882 the total school enrollment was 385,504, and the total revenue necessary reached the enormous sum of nearly \$5,000,000, or an average of about \$13 for each pupil.

Placing the average cost of books per pupil at \$6.50 per annum, would make an aggregate of \$2,500,000. It would not be difficult to prove that these books might be furnished by the State at 25 per cent of the present price, which would make a total annual saving of \$1,875,000 or over one dollar per capita on the population of the State. If the foregoing is even an approximation of the result, the importance of the resolution is evident; but this resolution will meet the fate of many others equally good if the people allow it to end here and expect that the committee will devote their time, energy and money so it may be put in a practical shape. This is a matter in which every taxpayer, and especially the parents and guardians throughout the State, are interested.

There have been some members of our State Legislature seemingly interested in this question, and for several

sessions past bills have been presented covering part of the ground; but the several publishing houses were promptly represented and by the convincing arguments of the monopolists have so far changed the minds of our legislators that there is nothing to be expected from them. Indeed it is even hinted that some of our legislators become the parents of popular measures and strangle their own offspring—for a consideration. The following (or any better plan) would reach and get an expression of public opinion throughout the State, viz.: A circular setting forth the facts connected with the existing evil, and the contemplated remedy—such circular to be sent to the director of each school district in the State. There should be a meeting of such District called for such purpose of considering the points submitted in the circular. Each School District might appoint one or more delegates to a convention to be held in each Legislative District, when delegates might be elected to a State Convention if necessary, or in which each Legislative District Convention might instruct its own representative.

If the people will wake up to the importance of the proposed remedy, and the magnitude of the evil under which we have labored in the past, and demand legislation such as will for ever wipe out this monopoly our Legislators will represent us instead of monopolists.

WM. WRAY.

Calhoun County.

## Paragraphs from My Diary.

ENGLISH IN OUR HOMES AND IN OUR SCHOOLS.

Parents who use good English will find their children speaking good English. The child whose family speak and write the mother tongue with correctness and ease will naturally use better English than the child of illiterate parents. If the child then is reared at home where he hears good language, and has playmates that do not use slang (if such there could be) or bad grammar, why that child will advance in the use of correct speech. It is said that the young robin reared in any other nest than its own will learn to sing the notes of the new mother-bird. This appears to be a law of nature; and children, like birds, will learn the notes or language of the home-nest. They will learn to talk with the same degree of correctness that their parents do at home. Again, if the parents talk with more fluency than thought the child will get the facility of utterance that will be barren of ideas. For the mind grows by what it feeds on; hence if the child's intellectual food is meager, his talk will be correspondingly meager in thought. As the stream has its supply in a fountain, so the mind must have some source for its supply of thought. It took from Bruce to Burns to make the poet of Ayr. The material for thought, the things of the mind, must have been gathered for generations before a Carlyle, an Emerson, an Irving or a Hawthorne could be produced. Consequently we find that, in this connection, the home is of the greatest importance. The child learns more in the first three years of his life than he does in any period of four times that length in his after life. For he then learns how to speak his mother tongue. He then learns the use of that wonderful instrument—the English language. This is the formative period.

And as the child is father of the man it is a very important period. As the child learns to talk so will the man talk.

"Children like tender osiers take the bow, and as they first are fashioned always grow."

One great trouble with parents and teachers is in undertaking to correct too much. This discourages and disheartens. Too much pruning retards and injures the growth of the tree. Encourage more than you correct. It is not only a trite but a true saying that "courage is half the battle." Encourage first and correct as the child gets strong enough to bear it.

Teach the child to write as he thinks, to write as he talks at his play when he is the life of his little circle; and try to make him see why it is that when he takes his pen in hand his thoughts seem to desert him and he can think of nothing to write. The fact is he is not only trying to write better than he can, but more learnedly than he should. He avoids writing the plain, natural thoughts that the subject may suggest, when they are just what he should write, and perhaps the very best he could write. When the child really sees what constitutes the difference between talking and writing, he will the more readily overcome it. You perceive that the witty ones among his fellows, those who lead in all lively controversies of the tongue, the moment they sit down to the task of writing a composition they write as if they were on their good behavior at a funeral. But why cannot they write as they talk? The answer is, They can when they learn to command their thoughts with the pen as well as they do with the tongue. The ideas come from the same source in both instances. It is all a matter of expression. If the boy could use his pen as naturally as he does his tongue, it would be as voluble. But that "if" is the lion in his way. Overcome that difficulty, mostly mechanical, and the young writer is fairly started.

Spelling, punctuation and grammar should come in for attention at the proper time, but not to retard or dis-

hearten. Thought is the main thing. Get the boy to thinking first. Then let him express those thoughts in the best manner he can with his pen. And when expression of thought is well started, encourage it, keeping an eye on the mechanical as to minor errors, then to punctuation, merely to mark the natural pauses in speaking. Words are more readily got than thoughts. The difficulty with the learner is to find ideas to put into the words. To aid in this let him read a page of Scott or some other author, then see how much of it he can reproduce with the pen. Thus learning how to put the thoughts of others into words and sentences he will be the more readily enabled to commit his own thoughts to writing. V. B.

## In the Northwest.

IV.

Early last spring it was our fortune to stumble into a most charming spot. Ascending Snake River to Lewiston, near the head of navigation, on an elegantly appointed steamer of the O. R. & N. Co.'s line, we found there a village of some 1500 inhabitants, with churches, schools and hotels that would do credit to any town of like population. Soon we took the stage going to Mt. Idaho, 65 or 70 miles away. Our trail leads up from the canyon and soon we find ourselves on the beautiful, undulating prairie. Indeed, sometimes it undulates a little too much for comfortable riding. For miles and miles we ride over an uninhabited but, so far as soil is concerned, a very rich country. It is the Nez Perce reservation. This tribe numbers about 1200 and have absolute control of a territory measuring about 40 by 60 miles, and embracing land as fine as ever lay out of doors. A Chinaman on the stage noticed something wrong and asked: "No man live here? This no good?" "No," the driver replied, "this Indian have." After looking around awhile he soliloquized: "Land belly good; heap good;" "Melican dlam fool." Indeed it was dreary; 60 miles without a white settler; only one station, that at the foot of Craig's Mountain, over which we must climb. The only things to employ us are the changing and beautiful scenes, the occasional spots that have advanced so far as to bear names, as White's Grade, California Gulch, Mason's Prairie, Lawyer's Canyon, etc., and our attempts to keep our seats. The only living thing we met on that day was the down stage. If there is one thing in which our Government ought not to be niggardly it is in the compensation of these western stage-mail lines. Often the drivers are lost in the blinding snow storms and wander away from all hope of succor in the vast forest or on the treeless plains; sometimes they come with frozen feet, hands or ears; sometimes accidents happen in out of the way places; and in times of Indian hostilities they are the prominent mark for the hidden foe. They many times take their lives in their hands; yet there is a peculiar charm about driving a coach and four or six over these mountain ways. And it requires a peculiar and efficient kind of horsemanship to win success. Many times in the balmy days of summer have I seen the driver hand over the four reins to some ruddy passenger of the gentler sex perched on the outside. She wouldn't be seen driving two horses!

Toward night we descend Cottonwood Hill. What a picture is spread to view! Camas Prairie has been touched with nature's most lavish hand. What a relief as well as surprise is this scene of human activity. Only a sawmill a few miles back in the deep pine forest and the more thoroughly beaten trail gave evidence of this presence of our race. All has been untouched nature—silent, dreary, desolate.

Suddenly, at our very feet, opens a wonderful panorama of busy life. Wagon roads, plainly marked in the black soil, lead in almost every direction. They look like the ugly tracks of some giant monster on the carpet of velvety green. Away to the south 100 miles, the snow-capped Salmon Mountains meet the sky. Between their foothills and Craig's Mountain lies the beautiful Camas Prairie, 25 miles wide. Yonder, near the farther side, the white houses of two villages glisten in the sunlight; houses and cabins in every direction, with their contiguous fields of black, upturned earth or smooth, green plots of growing grain. Surely this is answering the driver's prophetic, "you'll see."

From Lewiston we have gone south-east, for the great Snake is 50 miles to the west, its presence being marked by the seven lofty, rugged, snow-covered peaks of the Seven Devils. Away to the east we plainly see the Bitter Roots, some of them no doubt 150 miles away in Montana. So clear and pure is the atmosphere that distances are much more deceiving than usual. Those villages seem only an hour's ride away; yet after riding an hour they appear just as far off as ever. That butte off to the left seems three or four miles away, yet it is nearer twenty. The prairie at our feet looks level, yet it is a succession of hills and gulches.

After a residence here of some weeks we must say that on this prairie is a most desirable place to live, that is, if one has nothing more to do than live and enjoy nature. Hemmed in by mountains, accessible by only one wagon trail; on three sides great yawning canyons of madly rushing rivers—west and south the Snake and Salmon, east

The Clearwater, with their impenetrable mountain fastnesses over which only the pack-mule can be forced to go; the nearest point of the outside world 60 miles away...

Some men are rich in stock. It is not uncommon to see herds of 200, 400 or 1,000 head on their way to the east. At Lewiston I saw a drove of 1,400 horses go through the streets of the town on their way to the Mullan road over the Rockies...

This stealing stock is pretty dangerous business, as on slight evidence of guilt the culprit is generally shot on the spot or hastily leaves the country. The recent influx of so many people, however, relegates such proceedings to things of the past, and the law takes its course...

It is a fine sight to see a troop of cowboys with their sombreros, their shapps, i. e., leather breeches, fantastically trimmed with huge fringe along the outer seams, a la Indian; great Mexican spurs that jingle like bells; fancy saddle and bridle, and the ever-present lasso, galloping over the prairie, each sitting "every inch a king..."

The hardships they undergo are exceedingly severe. They are professional riders. They break wild horses to ride or work. They will lasso the animal and get on his back while blindfolded, take off the covering and let him run, jump, buck, kick, etc., until exhausted.

Be economical, but don't be mean, be frugal, but not stingy; be provident, but not miserly.

The seeds of things are very small.—George Eliot.

Lecturer's Communication National Grange P. of H.

SUBJECT FOR FEBRUARY, 1886.

Question 82.—What are the causes of dormancy in Subordinate Granges? What is the remedy and what is the duty of Patrons towards them?

Suggestions.—Causes contributing to dormancy are numerous, but we will confine our suggestions to a few of the most prominent ones. 1st. Does not dormancy in Subordinate Granges often result from the neglect of officers in not attending Grange meetings, and when present in not properly discharging the duties assigned them, often passing them by in an easy, reckless, care-not sort of a way, making it unpleasant and discouraging to members in attendance?

2d. Dormancy in many instances has resulted from the neglect of officers in not making Grange meetings interesting or profitable; opening a Grange and passing through the usual ceremony; calling the order of business, and yet do nothing; then closing the labor of the day when no labor for any purpose has been performed. Under such circumstances the work would soon lose its charms, and discouragement and dissatisfaction is sure to follow, and what else but dormancy could be expected?

3d. Deputies, in organizing Granges, often promised too much by presenting the idea that by uniting with the Grange the social natures and the intellectual facilities of members would be rapidly developed without an effort, and the success of these features would secure great financial advantages. The latter idea was sometimes so magnified that some would suppose, by joining the Grange, they would secure a permanent passport on the highway to wealth.

4th. The true objects and mission of the Grange were not correctly taught, and Subordinate Granges were organized too frequently under an erroneous conception as to its work, and then left without further aid to work as best they could, and for the want of proper instructions and encouragement became sickly while in infancy, and failed to secure sufficient strength to reach maturity.

A sure remedy for dormancy is for officers to be prompt and regular in their attendance, study their duties and be ever ready to perform them. This will make Grange meetings interesting, and will encourage members to do their duty and take part in Grange work, which develops the intellectual faculties and Grange meetings made profitable and attractive; and so long as the interest is thus kept up there is no danger of dormancy. A preventive to dormancy is much better, cheaper and safer than a cure.

Our duty towards these dormant Granges should be fraternal and sympathetic, for there are in very many of these dormant Granges good men and women who regret the condition of affairs, for which they are not responsible, and many of these are ready to reunite at the first favorable opportunity. In the same community there are farmers possessing every qualification, and would make good members when once enlisted, and by uniting these two elements the Grange could be reorganized. In some localities it might be best to organize a new Grange and admitting members of dormant ones, or good material from different dormant ones could be consolidated into one or reorganize anew. Pomona Granges should look after this work of reorganizing in their respective counties. Subordinate Granges working within reasonable distance of dormant ones can accomplish much good by sending visiting committees to these dormant neighborhoods, to labor with dormant members, revive the work and effect organization.

H. ESHBAUGH.

Postal Greetings.

I have received two answers from my inquiry through the columns of the VISITOR in regard to the poll evil, and used one of the remedies, but, having disposed of the horse, I cannot state whether it was a cure or not. I do not see much in the VISITOR in regard to grinding grain for stock, and, if possible, would like to bring out some argument for or against the custom of grinding corn, oats, wheat, etc., for feeding stock. Does it pay a farmer to give one-tenth or one-eighth (as the case may be) of his crop to have his grain ground? I would like to hear something in regard to this from the readers of the VISITOR.

Arrived home from State Grange very tired but was well paid for going; never enjoyed myself better, but the time seemed too short. We had only time for a short acquaintance with our brothers and sisters before it was time to bid them good-bye, perhaps never to meet again. Such thoughts make us feel gloomy but we pass them by as quickly as possible and try to keep our eyes only on the bright side of the picture. We hope everyone who was fortunate enough to attend the State Grange became so imbued with such spirit of true Grange principles and enthusiasm that he can impart a portion to those who remained at home, and also to the faint-hearted ones of his Grange, if any. We know of a little Grange with about twenty members and nine of them attended the State Grange. Is there another Grange in the State that can make so good a showing as little Alto? AUNT KATE.

The Iowa State Grange has shown its good judgment in selecting the GRANGE VISITOR for its organ. Patrons of Iowa, we welcome you to a copartnership with Michigan patrons in this work. United, let us labor more zealously and with increased faithfulness for our Order, and let our efforts for the VISITOR be unceasing. It is the citadel of our faith in State work! Let us never give it over! MICHIGAN PATRON.

Last year the State Grange treasury showed a deficiency of several hundred dollars. The representatives were alarmed and a consequent reduction in salaries and expenses was voted for this year, as we have seen in their reports. But retrenching will not bridge over another year

without exertions also—strenuous exertions from the body of the organization. Some sound advice can be found here from the direction of the Spartan mother to her son. When in the thickest of the fight his sword proved too short she said to him: "Take another step forward, then, my son!" We must take another step forward—press close to the opposers, or lose another year. A. G.

New Year's resolutions have been in order for the past two weeks and some hints may not be amiss, gathered by observing this yearly custom. One says it is better to say, "I will be good this hour" than "I will be good all the year;" and, "I will write this one letter well" instead of "not a blot shall be on the whole page." Hours make days and days a year; letters form words, words make sentences, and sentences cover the sheet.

A pretty custom was practiced this year in some of our schools at the opening of the new year. I will tell it, as it could be utilized in some form in society works. Each pupil was asked by the teacher to write out his resolution for the year. Curious, original, and some very earnest resolves were penned by tiny fingers on little slips for "teacher." "I am going to be good," or "I will study better," or "Resolved to do all I can for others," or "Going to keep the Golden Rule," meant much, perhaps, to each boy or girl that chose it. How thickly are all our ways passed over with just such resolves! And how soon they break and tear up the good smooth road we had planned to tread with such ease!

"It is the reading man who makes the best success in life, for he keeps up with his business." Keep up, keep up, is the price of success; and it is true, as the above sentence suggests, that the farmer who will not read live agricultural papers is apt to have old machinery, crude conveniences, a backwood's bearing himself, children out late nights, and an "overworked" wife.

On Wednesday evening, Dec. 28, about 100 invited Patrons and friends convened at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Thoms to celebrate their crystal wedding eve. Though the night was dark without, all was joy and gladness in that happy home. After some lively remarks by Rev. Wm. Langley and the bride and groom, a bounteous supply was spread and a pleasant evening well spent by all. Some fine presents as tokens of remembrance were presented to the couple, with wishes for their future welfare. Fulon, Mich. x.

IMPORTANT FOR SECRETARIES!

- 1. To be accurate. 2. To be prompt. 3. To keep off the delinquent list. 4. To keep on the VISITOR list. 5. To report names and addresses of new Masters and Secretaries.

IMPORTANT FOR ALL!

To read the VISITOR, To write for the VISITOR, To work for the VISITOR, To pay for the GRANGE VISITOR.

Groveland Grange will install officers on the eve of Jan 9, and start out on the new year with our Grange flag at full mast. We don't intend to lower it, but increase our numbers and do our work for the good of the Order and mankind. I am sorry to see a falling off in subscribers for the VISITOR. I am sure that the Patrons of Michigan don't do their duty as Patrons if they don't take and do all in their power for it. Without it our beloved Order would go down. Go to work for it! WILLIAM CAMPBELL.

Madison Grange, No. 384, again greets the VISITOR with a full subscription list, one copy to each family, paid from the treasury, and we think it a most desirable plan. We hope in the near future every patron in Lenawee county, through their respective Granges, may have the same privilege that many now do, and a great stride in Grange work is assured. The people of Lenawee county invite the people of Michigan to be with us at the meeting of the State Horticultural Society at Adrian, Feb. 9, 10 and 11, beginning Tuesday evening and closing Thursday morning. A good attendance is solicited. Accommodations for strangers provided. E. W. A.

A Jotter in the last VISITOR proposes the plan of supplying the postal columns with "Suggestions for the good of the Order." I think the plan a good one, and that it would afford a profitable exchange of ways and means. Mine will be this—That articles from the VISITOR or other Grange papers be read and made the subjects of fifteen or twenty minute conversations in the meetings. In nearly every issue of the VISITOR the article from the pen of V. B. is a valuable one for such purposes. His writings are usually suggestive and thoroughly good reading.

At the last meeting of Otsego Grange No. 364 I was made a committee to visit the proprietors of our grist mills and learn how much absolute waste per bushel there is in flouring a bushel of wheat; how much flour, bran and shorts they give per bushel when they commute grists; how much wheat fills the mill in grinding, from hopper to bag; what they charge per bushel or per barrel for grinding wheat; how estimate the bushels of wheat for exchange for flour, bran and shorts; what difference in process between custom and merchant work, etc., etc. I suggest other Granges do this and by and by have a combined report in the VISITOR; that it be the work of Pomona Granges to combine the reports of the towns for their county and the VISITOR office combine or tabulate the county reports. I have picked up much interesting material for a report in our town; the "etc., etc." occurring above may cover much information useful to farmers. I think our Grange will order my report printed in our paper or the G. V. MILTON CHASE.

E. A. B. in his notes on the Western District Fair says that the red polled cattle are good breeders and excellent milkers. Not having seen any statistics proving such to be a fact, we ask the able writer to give a record of the best milkers of the above breed, also a record of the following breeds, viz.: Jersey, Holstein, Short horn and Ayrshires. And please give the weights of some of the good heaves compared with the weights of some of the best of the Holsteins, Short horns and Herefords. ENQUIRER.

THERE has been a fairly active movement of wool in the eastern markets the past week; and considering the season of the year, a strong tone in the trade. At Boston the sales for the past week aggregated 3,029,100 pounds of domestic and 335,500 pounds of foreign as compared with 2,711,009 pounds of domestic and 260,000 pounds of foreign the previous week and 2,571,674 pounds of domestic and 113,000 pounds of foreign for the corresponding week in 1884. The total sales of wool in Boston since January 1, 1885, have been 166,082,312 pounds against 120,768,363 for the same time last year.

THE man who goes crooked need not be surprised when he finds himself in straits.

THE successful manufacture of artificial eggs so like the original as to deceive experts is convincing proof that the day has passed away when wooden nutmegs and shoe-peg oats were considered the highest attainments of New England genius.

DOGS are making havoc with the flocks of certain parts of Lenawee County, and the dog fund is not sufficient to pay the owners. It might be, perhaps, were all the worthless pups assessed.

CUSTOM will often blind one to the good, as well as to the evil, effects of any long-established system.

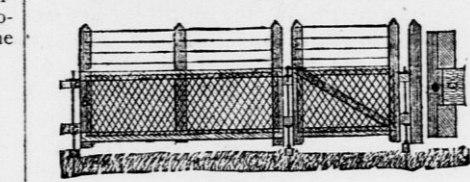
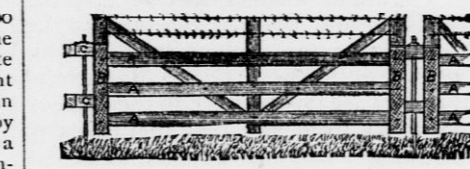
THE one thing which most agitates the world is that dreadful question of expense.

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Allen Durfee, FURNISHING FUNERAL DIRECTOR. No. 103 Ottawa Street, Grand Rapids, Mich. Residence, 193 Jefferson Ave. 17 Nov 86

We Lead—Others Follow. Time is valuable. The Grand Rapids Business College does not "flourish" in the way of birds and feathers. It is a practical trainer, and fits its pupils for the vocations of business with all that the term implies. Send for Journal. Address C. G. SWENSBURG, dec 1 m 3 Grand Rapids, Mich.

Advertisement for D. M. Ferry & Co.'s Seed Annual 1886. Will be mailed FREE to all applicants, and to customers of last year without ordering it. It contains about 130 pages, 600 illustrations, prices, accurate descriptions and valuable directions for planting all varieties of VEGETABLE and FLOWER SEEDS, BULBS, etc. Invaluable to all, especially to Market Gardeners. Send for it. D. M. FERRY & CO., Detroit, Michigan. Jan 16

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VIRGINIA FARMS Mild Climate. Cheap homes. Northern Colony. Send for circular. A. O. BLISS, Centralia, Va. Jan 11 86

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# The Grange Visitor.

Published on the First and Fifteenth of every month,

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Eleven Copies for \$5.00.

J. T. COBB, Editor and Manager,  
SCHOOLCRAFT, MICH.

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Advise this office at once of a change in your address, or if numbers fail to reach you.

MICHIGAN STATE GRANGE, P. OF H.  
MASTER'S OFFICE,  
GILEAD, Mich., Jan. 9, 1886.

I am very anxious to appoint a good active Special Deputy in each county in the State, where one or more subordinate Granges are in existence. And I very earnestly appeal to subordinate and Pomona Granges to send their choice for such deputy. We are making an earnest effort to push the work all along the line this year. For this purpose the efforts of all are invoked. A zealous energetic Special Deputy is a necessity. Appointments have been made for Emmet, Ingham, Van Buren, Genesee, Gratiot, Montcalm, Grand Traverse and Antrim Counties. The commission of all deputies expired Jan. 1st. Please send in applications as soon as possible. C. G. LUCE.

### "To Strengthen and Dignify Labor."

Such was the heading in bold capitals that greeted us three weeks after the late annual session of the State Grange in several of the daily papers of the State. This sounded so orthodox that we read what followed, and were gratified to find the facts on which this "special" was predicated so well presented to the public.

With little or no definite knowledge of the articles of faith to which a Knight of Labor subscribed when he became such, we had an impression that the organization had a protective object in view for the mutual benefit of its members.

The wonderful accumulation of capital since the war, in the hands of the few, has suggested to the thinking friends of man everywhere the "Dangers Ahead," and organizations have sprung up, many of them the outgrowth of an assumed purpose to secure for themselves the enjoyment of rights which as individuals single-handed and alone, they could never hope to attain. But these combined efforts of men for their own betterment have not always been a success. In voluntary associations there are natural leaders, and if these are wise, judicious, and imbued with real philanthropy, good results must come of organization. But some of the organizations of this age seem at times to be destitute of wise leadership, and attempted correction of existing evils has only served to widen a breach and make more difficult existing relations between those whose interests are more nearly allied than either party seemed to understand or were ready to believe.

We are not advised as to who brought before the State Grange the proposition to appoint a committee of three to confer with a like committee of Knights of Labor for the purposes so well expressed in the "special" which we give below. That the object was a laudable one seems as certain as that the author meant what he said. If the leaders in this movement are not fully equal to the work they have undertaken their efforts will tend to modify the consequences of threatening evils. As no man can take what will come of it, so no man can take exception to the objects expressed in this brief declaration of purposes:

BATTLE CREEK, Dec. 20.—[Special].—The Michigan State Grange, recently in session in Grand Rapids, took action upon a very important question. By almost a unanimous vote, a committee of three was appointed to confer with a similar committee to be appointed by the Knights of Labor, in regard to a mutual understanding and co-operation on matters of vital interest to both. The object sought, according to the resolutions adopted, are: To develop a better and higher understanding among the members of the two organizations; to foster mu-

tual understanding and co-operation; to maintain inviolate our laws; to hasten the good time coming when every man shall sit under his own vine and fig tree and reap the just reward of his labors; to oppose agrarianism, communism and socialism as these terms are generally known and accepted; to protect capital in its just rights and to oppose peacefully by our combined powers the tyranny of monopolies; to adjust as far as possible any differences that may occur between capital and labor by the peaceful means of arbitration; to put down bribery, corruption and trickery; to see that none but competent, faithful and honest men who will unflinchingly stand by our industrial interests, are nominated for all positions of trust, and to have carried out the principles which should characterize every citizen; that the office should seek the man and not the man the office, reserving the right of each to unite with any party that will best carry out these principles.

### Plaster for 1886.

By the conditions of a contract made Nov. 3, 1885, "The Michigan Plaster Agency will furnish on orders under seal of a subordinate, County, or District Grange, ground land plaster in car lots at \$2.50 per ton, free on board at their mills. The Agency agrees to make shipments free of switching charges, except over the G. R. & I. railway, which in all cases will be \$2.00 per car except to competing points; and to the Detroit, Grand Haven and Milwaukee railway the regular switch charge of \$4.00 per car will be included in the through rates from the mills made by that company." Remittances should be for the net amount of the bill as per contract. Orders will receive the same attention whether directed to the proprietor of any mill or to the Michigan Plaster Agency, Grand Rapids, as all orders are turned over to the Agency and filled from the mill that can ship without a switching charge. The exceptions made in the contract are explained in this way: There are no mills on the G. R. & I. or the D., G. H. & M. railroads; but to competing points the G. R. & I. will cut its freight charge to make the switching and freight charge equal the freight charge of a competing road. The D., G. H. & M. road includes the switching charge which it has advanced to some other road that has delivered a car of plaster on its track from some mill.

There is nothing new in the arrangement except that the contract was made with the Plaster Association instead of with an individual company, as all mills are in the Association. So at the end of nearly half a score of years, through all of which the Patrons of Michigan stood manfully by each other, and by their Executive Committee maintaining a steady, fair, one-price business against all influences and efforts to swerve them from what they believed to be right and just, we find amicable business relations, covered by contract, existing between us and the plaster manufacturers of the Grand River Valley.

Rarely have a body of men scattered over a large area of territory with a present pecuniary interest so small, subject to the temptation of lower prices, been so faithful to principle for a term of years as have the Patrons of Michigan. We have abundant reason to be proud of them for their untiring faithfulness, and we are.

### To Our Iowa Friends.

In consideration of the appreciation, good will, and aid so generously afforded by Bro. Blackford, Master of the State Grange of Iowa, we have mailed several copies of the VISITOR of January 1, to each of the Granges of that State. The appeal of the Worthy Master in the last issue of the VISITOR to the patrons of Iowa has not been in vain. Subscriptions are coming in and we have a reasonable prospect of a large addition to our list from that great State. We shall endeavor to make the paper worthy of the confidence so fully expressed by Bro. Blackford and hope the Patrons he represents as they become acquainted with the VISITOR may have no occasion to dissent from the favorable endorsement he has given the paper. With the low price at which the VISITOR is offered either singly or in clubs, we hope large numbers of Iowa Patrons may be induced to try the VISITOR for one year. The success of this effort on the part of the Master of your State Grange will depend largely on the co-operation of the Secretaries to whom we have sent packages of sample numbers. May we not confidently hope for their assistance in this endeavor to promote "The Good of the Order?"

In all the past we have not been accused of boasting of the merits of the VISITOR, nor do we intend to devote much space to that sort of commendation. But the recent action of Brother Blackford and his associates in Iowa finds such support in other states that we may be pardoned for quoting the evidence, in the hope that it will stimulate the friends of the paper everywhere to greater diligence in canvassing for it.

In renewing his subscription, Charles B. Ward, of Greenfield Mills, Ind., says: "Please send me a few specimen copies and I will try to get subscribers. I am very much interested in the paper and am satisfied it will be of greater benefit to farmers than any other with which I am acquainted. In every particular it is the farmer's friend. It gives timely warning to all its readers of the swindlers who sometimes catch even shrewd business men. I take five other papers, none of which costs less than twice as

much as the VISITOR, and some three times as much, and I get more that is of interest and value to me out of the VISITOR than any other one." An Ohio gentleman writes: "We have just organized a Grange here and wish to subscribe for some Grange papers. I asked Bro. Brigham, Master of the State Grange, what papers to take, and he said, 'After our own, subscribe for the GRANGE VISITOR of Michigan.'"

We have commendatory notices from patrons of other states, but prefer to let the paper speak for itself to those who examine its pages. We shall be glad to send a sample copy to any one on application.

We cordially invite Iowa Patrons to freely use the columns of the VISITOR subject to no other conditions than belong to the Editor's sanctum everywhere.

### Farm Accounts.

The holidays are past. The annual crop of good resolutions to do, or not to do, that belong to New Year's Day, have all been sown by young and old. It is everywhere admitted that the farmers of the country are improving as a class. It is therefore safe to assume that could we look over the farmers' mental record where these good resolutions of New Year's Day are kept on file, we should find many a promise to keep through the year 1886 all their business affairs in better shape on paper. The average farmer is a very indifferent book-keeper, and when we get a grade below the average farmer we find a man unable to write a note or receipt or charge a neighbor with an article bought or sold, in a business like manner. We need not stop to prove or illustrate this fact. It is no where denied. Farmers are every year elected to discharge important official duties, who have good sense, good judgment and good intentions, but from sheer neglect have failed to become at all familiar with the most simple forms and usages of keeping accounts. If there was a time when there was an excuse for this neglect, that time is past. The farmers of the country now come in contact with business men and affairs more than ever before and there is therefore the greater need of the little knowledge and practice necessary to keep one's business in a methodical manner. This is a favorable time not only to resolve to do better than before, but to begin, and in the Grange is a good place to discuss the subject. Those who know "By the Book" all about their farm affairs may, with profit to others, be required to state in the Grange their methods for the benefit of those who have done less or nothing in this line of work.

Let us suggest to Lecturers to assign this subject of farm accounts to some brother and by a general discussion try and awaken an interest in it. It might be well in some places to go farther—in- vite some of the younger brothers to present at the next meeting a form of promissory note, a receipt, or a debtor and credit account, for inspection and criticism. Something of this kind of work may help make practical the good resolutions of some of the older ones. No class of men having so large investments have so little exact knowledge of the annual returns their investments bring, as farmers. There are, of course, practical difficulties in the way, as the business of one year laps over on to that of another, so that the same exactness cannot be reached that can in many other kinds of business. But every person should at a set time each year take an inventory of his personal property and be able to determine from his account book something near his gain or loss. It is not absolutely necessary to take a Commercial College course to keep farm accounts well, though some system must be adopted and pursued. Every farmer's boys should improve on what their father has been doing in this matter and the father should aid and encourage as much as possible. In future numbers of the VISITOR, will not some of our readers tell us what came of their New Year's resolutions to know more of their business on paper at the end of the year?

"THE SILVER QUESTION," to which we have given considerable space in this number, is from the pen of Judge Ramsdell, of Traverse City. At the late session of the State Grange the Judge had occasion to present his views on some of the points involved under this general head to the Executive Committee.

The existence of a few conceded facts makes all that is comprised in this short phrase vastly important to the people of this country, and the Committee were of the opinion that an article upon this subject would be acceptable to the readers of the VISITOR.

The Judge kindly consented to give his views on paper. The length of the article was such that we thought best to carry a part of it over to another issue. What we have given will furnish ample material for the intervening two weeks before the other half appears. The Judge strikes out squarely, and those who differ from him will have no difficulty in finding points of attack.

CAN the Patrons of Michigan afford to discontinue the VISITOR?

### Social Life.

Neighborhoods are of most real value in which there are neighbors—real neighbors—men and women who appreciate social intercourse for what it is worth in its essence. We find this at its best in newly settled countries where population is sparse, and hardships of one sort or another are not uncommon. Isolation is favorable to friendliness. But those conditions are not essential. We speak both from experience and observation. The social character of the Grange always finds commendation from those who know even the least of its breadth of purpose.

But we took up our pencil to refer to a social event of the other day and to retrospect the past briefly. For more than a score and a half of years a few of the old pioneers of this vicinity have each year met at intervals during the winter months at our several homes for an afternoon visit, which was often extended into the evening. In addition to "the regulars," mine host invited as he pleased; not by formal note, gilded edge, and always new in style, but simply asked in homely, hearty phrase, that meant 'en more than all it said.

These social gatherings, with all the good cheer that our better halves can spread, have become an institution, without rule or law—except the imperative order, "come," when time and place is named; and here no man remembers aught of ill against his fellow, that is not light as eider-down that day.

We met the other day. All came in happy mood as heretofore. Nor did the turkey lag; he, too, came and went. But ere he with us went, an address, which we give below, was added to our bill of fare by a friend present:

Friends—The days of our lives hurry by like chariots of light, yet wreathed in smoke. We meet around this ingleside, not entirely as strangers, but as bound by chords of sympathy, of kin, or marriage covenant—which latter, more than any other tie, binds heart to heart, and is more sacred.

We, most of us, come from other inglesides, where lives, we trust, have been devoted to that which is high and happy. We are here on no strange errand.

We celebrate another year added to the crown of him, whose hospitalities we now enjoy. Standing beside him here, the oldest of us can look back over the dusty highway of life and see what we have left behind. And as we together look backward, what is the supreme revelation of the hour? Is it not that man's highest achievements are wrought out through toil, through strife, and through earnest endeavor? Is it not, too, that we can no more exclude these from our lives, than we can exclude sorrow? Have we not learned that truth's clearest lessons come in strife to men, and in war to nations?

Let us tell this to the younger of those present, while those of us that are older flatter ourselves with the mystical lore we have learned and look for the events of the future, that, we say it without sadness, are casting their shadows along our pathway.

It is good for us to be here, for whatever the past may have been, whatever our age may be to-day, we have a right to look forward to a future fuller of joy and sunshine than has been the past.

Let us say to our worthy friend here, let us say to each other, those of us who with him have reached life's full noontime meridian, as we say to those here who are yet moving upwards on the morning side of that meridian, let us say to all, continue to blow! blow the trumpet! Let the struggle come not! Let the steel in this man strike against the steel in that. Let keen flashes and bright thus continue to kinle the manhood in man.

To be sure, he is here to-night, as others of us are, with brow tinged with frosts such as life's autumn brings, but his face is fair and happy, and he has an eye that sparkles yet with a proclamation that he is always young.

There is a quiet, wise, and womanly one beside him that may have much to do with this.

If we, old boys, will but consent at times to look between the leaves of the hearts of these, our wifely guardians, we may find the golden core and read the deep, sweet influence that so unwearingly and yet so unconsciously to ourselves, has wrought the highest goodness in our lives.

At each returning anniversary of his birthday, may our friend here, and may we all, ring in the glory of the past, and may peace and good will to all be born anew. And as long as harvest times go by, as long as birthdays and rest days come and go, together let us circle round these inglesides of ours and say, with hearts as one—here we are!

"With roots of trees and flowers and fern and heather,  
May God send down and clasp our hands together."

### Delinquents.

The following is a list of Granges delinquent in reports and payment of dues for the quarter ending March 31, 1885, and all quarters since: Nos. 18, 140, 187, 219, 253, 274, 281, 285, 376, 436, 655.

For the quarter ending June 30, and all since: Nos. 21, 36, 46, 83, 91, 123, 151, 223, 316, 331, 335, 343, 390, 437, 448, 517, 526, 566, 620, 628, 648, 652.

Granges delinquent in reports and payment of dues for the quarter ending September 30, will be published in a later issue of the VISITOR.

WINTER with its comparative leisure is the favorable season for Grange work. We hope this fact will not be lost sight of by the authorized canvassers or other friends of the VISITOR. The Worthy Master has made an earnest appeal for special work. Procrastination in all this special Grange work is fatal. Spring with the work of the season will soon be here and individual affairs demand attention; hence the urgent need of prompt action.

HAVE you invited your neighbor to read a copy of the VISITOR and subscribe with you for it for a year? By so doing you may help him, his family and the Order.

# SPRING & CO., GRAND RAPIDS.

## ONE PRICE TO ALL!

### These Low Prices Tell the Story.

Good Calicos, 3c and 4c.  
Good Crash Toweling, 3c and 4c.  
Good yard wide Brown Cotton, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 cts.  
Good Bleach Cotton, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 cts.  
Ginghams, 5, 7, 9c and upward.  
Wide and fine printed Cambrics at 8, 10 and 12 1/2 cts.  
Linen Lawns 12 1/2, 15, 20, and 25c.  
Beautiful Satines, 25c.  
Fine Scotch Ginghams, 20c.  
Brocade Dress Goods, 5, 6, 9, 12 1/2c.  
Table Linen, 15, 19, 22, 25, 2c, 30c.  
Linen Towels for 6, 8, 9, 11, 13, 15, 18, and 21c.  
White Dress Goods from 5, 7, 9, 10c and upwards.  
We are closing out a large lot of fine Plaid Cambrics for 12 1/2c, worth from 15 to 25c. These are the cheapest we have ever seen. SPRING & COMPANY.

## SILKS.

Black Gros Grain for 38c, worth 56c.  
Black Gros Grain for 42c, worth 60c.  
Black Gros Grain for 48c, worth 65c.  
Black Gros Grain for 57c, worth 75c.  
Black Gros Grain for 63c, worth 75c.  
Black Gros Grain for 75c, worth \$1.  
Black Gros Grain for 93c, worth \$1.  
Black Gros Grain for \$1, worth \$1.50.  
Black Gros Grain for \$1.25, worth \$1.75.  
Black Gros Grain for \$1.50, worth \$2.00.

The Silks selling at \$1.00 \$1.25 and \$1.50 cannot be obtained elsewhere in this market at any price, as we have the exclusive agency of these goods and are entirely indemnified by the manufacturers against any reasonable damage that may occur from wear, and we make good to our customers any reasonable damage if any should occur.

We wish it were possible for us to enumerate all the different articles in our store worthy of attention.

There are thousands of dollars worth of merchandise upon our shelves and counters that is commanding great attention from customers all over the country as well as citizens of our city. The supply seems sufficient for the increased demand, and our departments were never as well supplied.

## SPRING & CO.

**FIRE. FIRE.**  
**\$25,000**  
**FIRE. FIRE.**

Is the estimate put upon the damage by fire of Sunday Sept. 13.

The loss having been adjusted by the insurance companies, we are now prepared to close out the entire stock, amounting to over

**\$75,000!**

Sale commences on MONDAY, SEPT. 21, and will continue until all goods damaged by fire and smoke

**FIRE. FIRE.**  
Are Entirely Closed Out!  
GOODS  
Sold Regardless of Value.  
**FIRE. FIRE.**

For we must make room for new goods now in process of manufacture.

All in need of

## CLOTHING

should avail themselves of this  
Chance of a Lifetime.

Come One! Come All!  
ASSURED BARGAINS

FOR EVERYONE.

**GIANT CLOTHING COMPANY.**  
Grand Rapids, Mich.

**FIRE. FIRE.**



## Ladies' Department.

### "SAVING MOTHER."

The farmer sat in his easy chair,  
Between the fire and the lamp-light's glare;  
His face was ruddy and full and fair,  
His three small boys in the chimney nook  
Coned the lines of a picture-book;

His wife, the pride of his home and heart,  
Baked the biscuits and made the tarts,  
Laid the table and steeped the tea,  
Deftly, swiftly, silently.

Tired, and weary, and worn and faint,  
She bore her trials without complaint,  
Like many another household saint—  
Content, all selfish bliss above,  
In the patient ministry of love.

At last between the clouds of smoke  
That wreathed his lips; the husband spoke:  
"There's taxes to raise an' interest to pay,  
And if there should come a rainy day,  
'Twould be mighty handy, I'm bound to say,  
'T have somethin' put by. For folks must die,  
An' there's funeral bills, an' gravestones to huy,  
Enough to swamp a man, purty nigh;  
Besides, there's Edward, and Dick and Joe  
To be provided for when we go.

So if I was you, I'll tell you what I'd do,  
I'd be savin' of wood as ever I could—  
Extra fire don't do any good—  
I'd be savin' of soap, and savin' of ile,  
And run up some candles once in awhile;  
I'd be rather sparin' of coffee an' tea,  
For sugar is high,  
And all to buy,  
And cider is good enough for me.

I'd be kind o' careful about my clo'es,  
And look out sharp how the money goes—  
Gegaws is careless, natur knows;  
Extra trimmin'  
'S the bane of women.

I'd sell the best of the cheese and honey,  
And eggs is as good nigh about 's the money;  
And as to the carpet you wanted new  
I guess we can make the old one do;  
And as for the washer and sewing machine,  
Them smooth-tongued agents 'r so pesky mean,  
You'd better get rid of them slick and clean.  
What do they know about women's work?  
Do they cal'late women were made to shirk?"

Dick, and Edward and little Joe  
Sat in a corner in a row.  
They saw the patient mother go  
On ceaseless errands to and fro;  
They saw that her form was bent and thin,  
Her temples gray, her cheeks sunk in;  
They saw the quiver of lip and chin—  
And then with a warmth he could not smother.  
Outspoke the youngest and frailest brother,  
"You talk of savin' wood and ile,  
An' tea and sugar all the while,  
But you never talk of savin' mother!"

### The Late State Grange.

A REPORT FROM A VISITOR TO HER SUBORDINATE GRANGE.

Upon receiving an urgent invitation from friends living in Grand Rapids, husband and myself thought we could give ourselves no greater pleasure than to visit them and take in the State Grange at the same time, and the results proved our anticipations four-fold realized. I had supposed that the delegates were the favored ones who garnered mostly the good results of those meetings, but I found that visitors were, like the guests in your house, the restless, unoccupied participants of feasts prepared by others' hands. Feasts they were, such as I had never enjoyed before, and at every session my heart went out after every member of this Grange with a wish that you might have been there.

The first thing that arrested my attention—on the morning of the first session—was the very full attendance of officers (of which one only was absent) and delegates who had come from almost every county in our lower peninsula as well as a large number of visitors as non-voting members. The next, was the respectable appearance, the intelligent, expectant, self-reliant air that pervaded the audience at that and every succeeding session where hundreds were in attendance and for whom chairs were pressed into service from every obtainable point in the city. It was the thirteenth annual meeting of the State Grange, and eleven years since its last meeting in Grand Rapids. I heard it remarked several times, that very many of the delegates had never been in attendance at this annual meeting before. There were many grey heads, and many young faces. The ready compliance with parliamentary rules and usages, the prompt and efficient manner in which they offered, amended, passed upon and voted on resolutions, the intelligent and confident manner in which they talked upon all discussable questions, the earnest attention given to the reading of reports, and the readiness in voting for or against all recommendations submitted to them from such reports, was a telling commentary on the educational, intellectual and business training and advantages of the Grange. To say that it was not owing to the direct influence of those advantages, would be, I think, to hit wide from the truth.

The Master's address was a soul-stirring appeal. The appointment of committees and assigning to each its proper work—by the "committee on the division of labor," was promptly executed, and as promptly entered upon. And now was my curiosity gratified as to how they could have worked enough to hold out four days of three sessions each. Each report, of which there were fifteen or twenty, contained condensed and concise accounts of work done, the results and hopes for the future. Many of them were lengthy and showed a great amount of thought and labor to have been expended upon them. I remarked to a lady near me, "some of those reports must have taken a great deal of time." "She replied, "yes, my husband has been busy every hour, and till late every night since his committee was appointed, and says he is sorry to lose so much of the sessions." And

again I congratulated myself on being a visitor and not a delegate. The Secretary's report showed a falling off of paying membership in subordinate Granges, therefore increasing the necessity on the part of the "committee on mileage and per diem, to reduce the pay of officers of the State Grange and delegates. When the report of said committee was read and voted upon, one member of it arose and offered a resolution that it go into effect at the present session, showing by that act that the committee were willing to take the same medicine they had dealt out for their successors.

The Committee on Education made a splendid report. That a thorough, practical education of the agriculturist is the aim of our Order cannot escape notice. Among many excellent recommendations was one to restrict in numbers, prices, and uniformity, text books for schools. Another—an appropriation for a dormitory to be added to the Agricultural College for the accommodation of girls as students. Reports of the Lecturer and Deputy Lecturer, showed a great amount of work done (missionary work they called it) throughout the State. Many Granges have been revived, many dormant Granges brought to life, while many are so dead that "All the King's oxen" wouldn't draw them up. (Heaven avert the calamity from this Grange.) The Committee on Co-operation made an excellent showing in behalf of co-operation in many ways, making the statement that almost every business interest in the known world has organized combinations for protection—and since then I have read that even the celery growers of Kalamazoo have combined to protect themselves from fraud.) The reading of the report was followed by remarks from Thomas Mason, Business Agent Michigan State Grange, setting forth many ways of selling produce through his agency at a saving to the producer. Immediately after came Lecturer Mayo on his hobby, riding it with a vim and earnestness that showed his motto to be "Never give up," or "Be sure you are right and then go ahead,"—his hobby being some device to protect farmers from the extortions of the "millers' combination," or, in other words, fighting for the rights of the farmers. He said that the millers in Battle Creek, and many other places, had entered into combination to do no custom work or gisting for farmers; but to exchange or sell flour for wheat, reducing the quantity of flour, bran, and middlings from time to time, until now they will give but thirty-two pounds of flour, no bran and no middlings, for sixty pounds of wheat. Considering this an extortion not to be submitted to, he, with others, obtained a large number of names pledged to take all their wheat to any one miller who would agree to grind it for the lawful toll. Such an arrangement was entered into, is working well at present, but is evidently only a question of time when the other millers will buy out the one mill, set it back at old rates, or even shut or burn it up for their own interest. And now Bro. Mayo and others propose to build a mill of their own, have a brand of their own, and, in short, "run their own machine." Having told his story for the third time during the session, a lady whispered to me, "he has used that all up but the bag strings, and I know he will whip them out this time." I laughed and made this mental ejaculation, "Well, if we can't have our lawful rights without fighting till we use the bag strings up, let 'em go."

He was followed by some remarks from Mr. Glidden, who, with his practical good sense, and level head, gave about the same showing that farmers were asking only for what was their legal right, and urging them to resist the extortion so persistently that they would get their just due. One open meeting filled the hall to its utmost capacity, and Worthy Master Luce gave a most happy and telling speech. Of one other thing I wish to speak. At every session immediately the doors were proclaimed closed by the Gate Keeper, a feeling of one interest, of unity, harmony and fraternal kindness settled down on the hearts of every one present, that made it a good place to be in. That fact convinced me more than ever, if I needed any deeper convictions than I had before, that our predecessors build wisely when they entailed a "bond of secrecy" on our Order. Under no other conditions could they work so well and so faithfully together. And now, brothers and sisters, you may think that these all sound very well on paper, but, practically, what of it? I believe that had you, one and all, been there to attend the sessions, which, from the first one to the last one, never flagged in interest or pleasure, you would have been amply repaid, your faith in the possibilities of the Grange for good would have revived, your desire to see the Order perpetuated would have incited to renewed diligence in the work and faithfulness to your solemn obligations. And last, though not least, when the Worthy Master asked every one present who had formed a determination to go home and do everything possible to further the interests of the Order, and your own Grange in particular, while every individual present rose to his feet, you would not have kept your sitting. Another thing I think you would have acceded to in all earnestness, that, even in this lengthy report, the half has not been told. MRS. C. R. A., Lecturer.

### Effects of Fictitious Reading Upon the Minds of the Young.

[Read before Detroit and Bay City Council, P. of H., by Mrs. F. E. Odell.]

We trust our listeners will pardon us, if we deviate so far from the strict limits of our subject as to touch upon the effects of such readings to a still later period in life. We understand, first, the term fictitious to apply to works of the imagination, a pen picture of characters and events which have not occurred in the exact relations presented to the reader; but we also understand the true basis of all such writings are drawn from real life, events and experiences within the scope of human possibilities. One thought, just here, we would that you all mark well in mind. To us it is an impossibility for human conception to supersede itself, even in a work of well-wrought imagination, we care not whether the story be told of the wild inhabitants of forest homes, or of the civilized representatives of modern customs and usages. Without the latent power of inherent comprehension of human attainments the mind could not attribute impossible somethings to characters and events as realities, even in fiction. As one author synoptically says: "One cannot see a thing if it isn't there;" or in other words, how can we conceive something that never existed? Granting these productions of thought are but an imaginative thread woven in the woof and web of imaginative lives, whose bearings necessarily trace some true phase or feature of life itself, what are the effects upon youthful and plastic minds? We recognize that effects ever follow causes. If we would have them beneficial, they must be of a nature to produce good instead of ill.

The simple fact of life's realities being portrayed to the minds of youth, middle age, or those well ripened in years, loses none of its weight or impress by that being the work of genius and mind, fraught with the delicate tracery of flame and gold, penciled from the inner depths of sense and feeling, calling into perceptible consciousness the hidden meanings and results of other lives, meeting responses in our own, or presented as the stern record of living transactions of the past and present.

Good results are what wise and enlightened minds are ever seeking for the pathway of young and inexperienced ones. If the question be brought plainly home to us, would we exclude all reading of a fictitious nature from the reach of the young, we should respond no; a thousand times no. But as *emphatically* should we demand the tone of such reading to be moral and pure, and its use moderate. We may wander a trifle here to present our ideas more clearly. For instance, in the use of games and amusements, we conclude from the experience and observation we have been able to glean, that the proper education should begin at home. Deny your sons and daughters the privilege of such enjoyments at your own firesides, and by that denial you convey to their minds the consciousness—you need not express the thought in words—of *harm* lurking somewhere; and, with mother-Eve-like curiosity, the chances are they will outwit you, and learn the whole mystery, better, even, than yourselves. You thus awaken desires not born of confidence and gentle, yet firm, guidance. Yours should be the hand to lead and instruct, and beneath your wiser vigilance and tender interest, those youthful minds should learn that by improper use, alone, arises *harm* in all things. Just as truly may it be said of the reading allowed the young. Beneath parental care and judgment, it were better far that they should learn of and become familiar with all sides of human nature; we would not keep them ignorant of the true character of the world, whether it be written upon the pages of history, whose record bears one long train of war, devastation and crime, from age to age, and from generation to generation, or in the more easily perceived form of the pleasing story. While we instruct the child in the geography of the earth, the processes of its formation, its latitudes and longitudes, and the nature and variety of its inhabitants, or the mathematical exactness and relation of numbers and figures to each other, we should consider it as equally essential to teach the simple story of the "egg and the custard," the moral of which has vividly followed us through childhood's sincerity to more complete years of understanding. To-day its memory brings the same weight and power that attends the principles of right taught from any standard of morality. And we realize its impress has lingered more truly than many an able and eloquent address expounded in refined grace. You will all recognize why the lesson, conveyed by the simple story, was in accordance with our growth and understanding; the moral a truth, and, therefore, it cannot become less than a truth though centuries roll away.

Feed the intellect as you nourish the body, by variety and such change as it demands. Every advancing season, why are you striving to select and cultivate the choicest fruits? Why not subsist upon such grains and vegetables as you feed your domestic animals? You have too well learned the fact that the human body requires a variety of food, and the choice and refined parts go hand in hand with the more substantial ones. The mind needs sober practicality and craves and hungers for the idealistic

colorings of voice and pen to answer the languishing wants of the higher and better part, and the more refined the more acute are these demands. We love poetry, music, song and story; we deserve contact with stern realities that we may grow stronger and more fully rounded out in proportions of thought earnest and thought sympathetic. One of America's greatest minds, teacher, statesman, warrior, and finally President—Gen. Garfield—found fictitious reading a necessity to his mental welfare. During his congressional career his mind became over-burdened by the laborious taxations of severe governmental work, and he allowed himself a change; not idleness, but a change from sober, earnest thought, to that of imagery and fiction. By that method he found rest, recuperation and restoration. We are all well aware that nearly the whole contents of the Sunday-school libraries consist of narratives of religious convictions and experiences. We cannot suppose many of them to be other than imaginative and through the form of fictitious presentation, the special teachings of each sect and belief are conveyed to the comprehension of the young. The benefits arising from the proper inculcation of imagery and poetry are recognized and taught the students of all high and advanced places of instruction. The works of Shakespeare are becoming their familiar and most pleasurable attractions. The Convent, one of the most perfect systems of training, daily exercises its pupils in minute gestures, graceful intonations of voice and speech, and the poetic and imaginary features of life and character. Even we, with silvery hairs and declining years, respond more quickly to the tender pathos and high tuned melody of life's fictitious hopes and aspirations than to the stern, cold visage of facts. Then deny not the youth or mature years the good that may be brought to their minds by readings defining the emotions of the soul. Let such books be written of love and tragedy, genius and fame, or within the precincts of lowly poverty and its severe struggles, it matters not.

Some pictured phase of human nature will catch the gleam within our own, and awaken new resolves and enkindle purer sympathies for the more unfortunate ones of earth. Destroy the reign of fictitious hopes, blot out the ever-recurring thoughts of our lives clothed with no truer vestige than our imagination, and you wrench from us one of our most secret and sacred incentives to become better men and women. And let me ask, do we not recognize this as a necessity to be met and cultivated, strengthened and developed beneath the influence of weightier minds whose pens are guided by a keener perception of life's relations and consummations? An eloquent divine, when questioned as to the merits of Dickens' novels, replied: "I have become a devout lover and appreciative reader of some of them." For the tenth time he had perused one volume, and during its last review he discovered more to admire and learn from its pages than any time previous. Remember, he had been growing in his perceptions of human nature and its relationship in those intermediate readings and when far enough to meet and grasp the true spirit of human character as represented by the masterly mind of Dickens he was thus far benefitted. Acquaint us with persons unlearned and illiterate, those wholly debarred from the knowledge of sentiments, such as we find prevailing among fictitious productions, and unless they give precedence to innate expressions of like thoughts and feelings, we would not hesitate to say of them, their lives in the main are uncouth and unrefined. Furthermore, we would as reasonably consider those literary readers who allowed no stray thoughts of sentimentality and fiction to enter their study and research devoid of the finer sensibilities and as deficient in the perfectness of their mentalities as those that indulge in extremes of fancy without the directing influence of solid sense and practical thought.

We would not have you imagine that we over-estimate the benefits accruing from fictitious readings, or that we withhold restraint over youth and likewise ourselves, in the freedom and use of those readings, or that we maintain for one moment the opinion that the voluminous mass of writings contained in the New York Ledger and kindred papers and books should be the daily indulgence of any one, young or old. Far from it. We repeat, the wiser judgment of mature years should govern in the choice of the readings of the young, while we, with added years, should apply the discreteness of proper use, and *not abuse*, in all things.

KEEP THE POT BOILING.—If farmers, generally, would follow the city fashion of beginning their dinners, as a customary thing, with some kind of soup, they would soon find it healthful as well as economical. Much meat in odds and ends is wasted in farm-houses, that might be made into good, rich soup. It is the French fashion, and certainly a wise one, to have a pot perpetually on the back of the stove or range, into which all the scraps of meats and vegetables are thrown, and sufficient water added from time to time. This is kept not boiling hard, but simmering, and the family manage to have a supply of bouillon (or broth) for their daily use.

If farmers would save their pieces of veal, and beef, and potatoes, and make use of them in the same way, they would certainly on a cold, wintry day, bless the house-wife who kept "the pot boiling."

### Stray Links.

How coy are habits! In pleasant hours they steal in with innocence and, having won our consent, stay to blight or bless; in dark days they offer diversion or cheer, and in the keeping of them we bring prosperity or poverty to our homes as they are good or ill. We are their servants and how important it is that we choose from among them good and prosperous masters, habits that shall bind us closer to ways of industry, frugality, gentleness and charity. It is true "habit is a cable, and we weave a thread of it every day till at last we cannot break it." The cobweb-like thread multiplied will resist to the last the strength that snaps one strand without an effort. Persisted in, a little act grows to a monstrous portion of our lives. It can be dashed away at first easily enough, but later it will defy all force and cannot be overcome nor destroyed.

"Seven times one are seven," whispers a sweet song to me as a bright boy's lips close around a tiny cigarette. "Seven times two" floats back with a whiff of Havana smoke over the manly shoulder of a tall form that briskly steps by. "Seven times three, four, five"—you meet them every day, multiplying over and over the first puff from that little paper roll once taken between boyish lips just "for fun." The act repeats itself again, again, till an old man bowed and gray with time and biting close the stub of an old clay pipe, seems to mutter in broken voice, "I've had my seven times seven and I can break the cord of life sooner than this habit."

Original thought is rare. A few thinkers and a few writers only do we call able to do new thinking and fresh writing. The mass of thought is what for ages has been culled and tumbled over. It is warmed over and served up anew with every generation. Perhaps a fresh relish is added to it or a different sauce poured over it, but the main substance of the dish is the same. Wherefore, then, exercise our weak minds if nothing more is to be hoped for except by a few? It is with the mind as with the body. The butcher furnishes us meat and the miller flour, but we must digest and assimilate both in order to make them into our own bone and muscle. Put together in a new way it builds up the "I" like unto none other in the world. In thought-work every mind must do its own digestion and make its own distinct growth. Here and there only new food be found that produces new thoughts and powers. Little, if anything, is ours by origin but by possible discovery all things belong to us.

A tarnished lamp burner may sometimes be restored by scalding thoroughly with salt and vinegar.—*Country Gentleman.*

Will the ladies please remember the old cry of their department. It still yearns for "more copy." We shall be glad to hear from you all.

Have you examined the *Woman's Magazine* with a view to clubbing for it with the VISITOR?

## Health and Amusement.

### Amusements.

The introduction of two new departments of work into the Michigan Grange and into the VISITOR was explained in the last issue by Mrs. Mayo in her remarks upon health. That the subject of amusements should fall to us, or we to it, seemed a most inappropriate occurrence. Neither then nor since can we look upon the work with confidence of success, scarcely with a hope of good results so far as success or results depend on our own ability. However, with a sense that it is a duty, when at all possible to,

If called to sing—sing,  
If called to soar—soar,  
If called to burrow—burrow,

we promised to do what we could.

It is a new line of duty and we work without the advantage of a precedent to model our efforts by. We must manufacture ways and means and depend largely on the support that must come up from others. Most earnestly is that help asked for. Much and in fact most, of the practical workings of the plan must rest with the Patrons in their several Granges and homes; for it was the design of the one who proposed making these new departments, that amusements should be suggested for the home as well as for the Grange. We must have the co-operation of those acquainted with the needs and difficulties in order to cover them. We shall endeavor to secure articles and letters from mothers and teachers that will be helpful in furnishing proper recreation in the homes. To this end we here invite you to send suggestions for consideration in these columns, or questions to be answered for your own or others' benefit.

Amusements in the home and in the Grange will, of a necessity, be treated in quite a different manner, but the form-

ing of this department is, in itself, a recognition that both are indispensable and are worthy of your serious consideration. In the Grange, amusement takes the form of lighter entertainment and, wisely introduced into a program, is a strong element in the success of the society. The puzzling feature in adapting it to the Grange work is the difficulty of suiting at once the pleasure of both the old and the young. Both must be gratified and a far-sighted program committee will exercise care that what amuses the one is not "silly" to the other, or the serious of the old is not "prosy" to the young members. Youth enjoys amusements because they call into play its love of active enterprise and entertainment. The middle aged need them for rest and for breathing spells and the aged find pleasure in the kindly feeling that goes round. We have thought that the want of more interest in Grange work by young members may be attributed to an oversight of these matters in the meeting of the Grange and we ask your attention to this point that it may weigh with you in making up your programs for the winter.

We do not understand that it is in the province of the Superintendent of this department to dictate—on the contrary, only to suggest. If one thing more than another in this line appears to us to need to be suggested and urged upon all organizations it is the place music should occupy in their programs. It may well be said, "A good choir can make a Grange." We would like to add, "Let every Grange make a choir." Music has powers that eloquence and debates can not reach. They cheat themselves of an artful ally who banish music from Grange halls. Shall we not strive to make this a stronger feature? Cannot the Grange be better sustained and its younger members drawn in and held by more attention to music? Can the silent Grange not sing? and the half hearted song be turned to telling tones? In short, why should not inspiring songs be a business of the Grange?

JENNIE BUELL.

**Youths' Department.**

**A WINTER SCENE.**

Winter's wild birthright! In the fretful East  
The uneasy wind moans with a sense of cold,  
And sends its sighs through gloomy mountain  
gorge,  
Along the valley, up the whitening hill,  
To tease the sighing spirits of the pines,  
And waste in dismal woods their chilly life.  
The sky is dark, and on the huddled leaves—  
The restless, rustling leaves—sits down the  
sleet,  
Till the sharp crystals pin them to the earth,  
And they grow still beneath the rising storm,  
The roofless bullock hugs the sheltering stack,  
With cringing head and closely gathered feet,  
And waits in dumb endurance for the morn.  
Deep in a gusty cavern of the barn  
The witless calf stands blatant at his chain;  
While the brute mother, pent within her stall,  
With the wild stress of instinct goes distraught,  
And frets her horns, and bellows through the  
night.  
The stream runs black; and the far waterfall  
That sang so sweetly through the Summer eves,  
And swelled and swayed to zephyr's softest  
breath,  
Leaps with a sullen roar,  
And howls its hoarse responses to the wind.  
The mill is still. The distant factory,  
That swarmed yestern with many-fingered life,  
And bridged the river with a hundred bars  
Of moiten light, is dark, and lifts its bulk  
With dim, uncertain angles to the sky.  
\* \* \* \* \*  
Yet lower bows the storm. The leafless trees  
Lash their lithe limbs, and with majestic voice  
Call to each other through the deepening  
gloom;  
And slender trunks that lean on burly boughs  
Shriek with the sharp abrasion; and the oak;  
Mellowed in fibre by unnumbered frosts,  
Yields to the shoulder of the Titan blast,  
Forsakes its poise, and, with a blooming crash,  
Sweeps a fierce passage to the smothered rocks,  
And lies a shattered ruin.

—J. G. Holland.

**"Write Oftener."**

*Aunt Prue and Cousins:*  
I picked up a newspaper the other day and noticed a not very lengthy article under a very suggestive title. Here, thought I, is a treat, and comfortably settled myself into a rocking chair prepared to fully enjoy it. The first few paragraphs were excellent and I mentally queried why has not some one thought to treat this subject in like manner before? I read on but failed to connect what I read with what preceded it. I re-read and still the same result. I became almost bewildered. Was the fault in the article or in myself? After becoming satisfied that my mental faculties were in a normal condition I began at the beginning and read to the close. Then after some deliberation I came to the following conclusion: The writer of the article was too indolent to treat the subject in a worthy manner which would have required much thought and research, and fancied he could connect a few stray thoughts that would come without effort, in such a manner that those who read would not detect the fraud.  
I felt somewhat as one does after being betrayed by an attractive introduction into reading an advertisement of some patent medicine and heartily wished the writer could have heard a lecture delivered not long ago by Dr. Storrs, wherein he said:  
"The age has no patience with triflers and abominates laziness. Nothing but solid metal will gain a hearing with an American audience for any length of time. Our people want their money's worth. 'For value received' runs their note of hand. \* \* Food is demanded, good, healthful food, so you must be

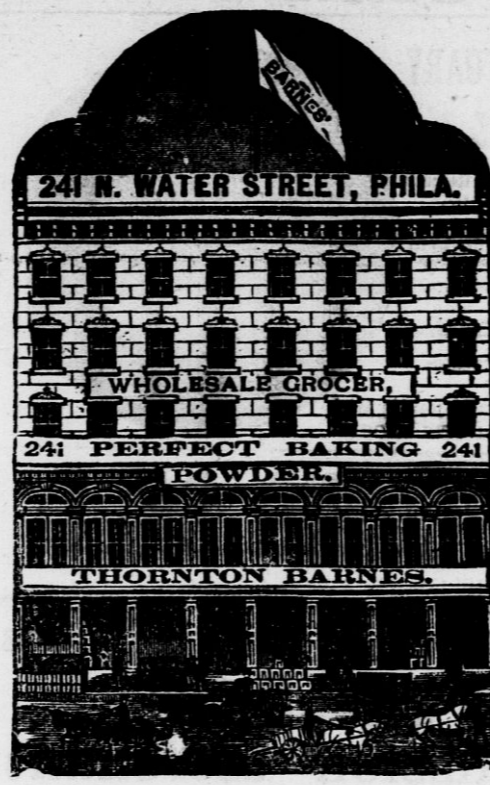
prolific thinkers. Don't be like pumps at agricultural fairs, in perpetual motion issuing the same water over and over again. In theme and treatment you must keep abreast of the times."  
So much for my grievance. Now, dear cousins, a few words to you.  
Suppose we enter into a covenant to write oftener and become better acquainted. There is much wisdom in the advice, "Whatever you do, do well." If we undertake to sustain this department let us do so in a creditable manner. I believe we might. Shall we not at least try?  
HELEN MAR.

**Our Friends.**

*Dear Nieces and Nephews:*  
Who are my most valued friends, did you say? Those in whom I place perfect trust. Those who make me feel better for having seen them. Those who bring to the surface the best I have to give, and whose presence creates a desire to always give only the best and to make that best better. Such friends ennoble. Cultivate them, for they are true friends and make possible the bond of friendship. But shun people who by some method of striking the chords strengthen in the slightest degree any temptation you desire to resist, whose influence weakens your will, the anchor on whose durability your future welfare depends.  
It is a demonstrated truth that environments have much to do with the coloring of every life. Climate stamps an indelible trace upon her children. In seasons of peace and quiet a country rears a peaceful people. In times of war a warlike race springs up. Dirt and squalor breed disease and vice. Beautiful surroundings beget beauty. Let us remember we are all more or less plastic. That we can be so metamorphosed by external influences as to be unrecognizable by our former selves. Then shall we see the necessity of cultivating such friends as will help to strengthen all our good resolves, who will cause us to aim a little higher instead of a little lower and to make our aim more sure.  
AUNT PRUE.

**Voices from Nature.**

"To him who, in the love of Nature, holds  
Communion with her visible forms she speaks  
A various language."  
You and I live in the country and long to travel and see the world and some of its rare Yosemite or Alpine scenery, its glacial North, its sunny South, the Western prairies' wondrous wealth of flowers and velvety green, the gem-like glens of the laughing water region or the sublimities of our own State. We look away and sigh, while on our tables are magazines, fresh from the metropolis, over whose cuts and illustrations we have raved with the zeal of a city born captive kept from country sights. On the pages of *Harper*, the *Century*, and other monthlies and papers are articles and illustrations drawn from the *country* country scenes. We "oh" and "ah" over them, and are perplexed that we had not sooner found more beauty in such common things as make some of the subjects for these pages. We do not look closely enough for them. Many of Nature's children walk with her a lifetime and never talk with her a day nor an hour. They little suspect of what a cheery, companionable friend they cheat themselves. I often wonder how they can help at least shaking hands with her and passing the time of day. Her friendly advances are so numerous and generous I am sure that he who overlooks them denies himself a privilege.  
The members of a family meet at breakfast one of these winter mornings after the storm king has held high revel for a night. One or two remarks are made about the ugliness of the weather or the depth of snow to be cleaned away around the barn, and that is all; and yet it is "a white morning," full of inspiration to the beauty-loving eye; "the princely park and plebian potato patch are one; their artificial barrier is blotted out in this universal baptism of beneficent whiteness." To be sure, it is cold and will grow sloppy—paths must be made, roads shoveled out, and much hard work done, but what of that? Finding pleasure or a virtue in work may seem to lighten it. Many a time my good father has called his children to see the humble evergreens, that in their uprightness bow to nothing but snow loads, or to a snow bird under cover of their long, warm arms, picking at a stray ragweed or to some curious cut in a drift. Then for hours he has done extra shoveling and tramping, because of the storm.  
The white morning blossoms often for us and the "audible silence" of a storm-bound day settles familiarly over our homes at this season. Look into the yard; strange change is there. The rolling, browned sward is level white, and heaped at the fence corners in mounds fantastic and shadowy. What sculptor so free, so bold, as he who carves our country drifts? What artist so skilled, so delicate of touch, so ethereal, withal, dares lavish art as we have it everywhere? The trees that in summer made our homes a greenwood "stand forth like athletes stripped for the contest." 'Tis now they assert their individual peculiarities. Their brawny arms never show so well as now their rugged forms and mottled colors. It was a happy thought with Mother Nature when she caught the idea of throwing the naked boles of her woodland giants against the canvas of winter.



**Thornton Barnes,**

Wholesale Grocer and Grange Selling Agent,  
241 North Water Street, Philadelphia, Penn.  
mar3yi

Most of us can number the notorious places we have ever visited and count on the fingers of one hand the art halls that we have "done"; but infinite are the times Nature has thrown open whole avenues of artists' spoils, summer and winter, and given all a right to revel there.  
A "winter scene" that I once saw, more beautiful than any painted, hangs in my memory still, though the sunshine that ravaged it faded some years ago. An errand took me for a walk early one winter morning. Fairly startled, in the midst of all that was familiar, I could have exclaimed:  
"We look upon a world unknown,  
On nothing we can call our own."  
A transformation was there; house, fence, walk and weed had budded and bloomed in a night! Frost crystals, from a needle's point to a finger size, studded everything. Crunching under foot, brushing from walls and fences, bristling and prickling, a glistening mass was all about. Each weed stalk was pricelessly jeweled, and from slender, leafless stems I plucked blossoms as if it were spring-time. Across a shimmering field a low line of trees bent their loaded branches down, heavy with flowery sprays. Fairy-land or June, holding a carnival in midwinter, could have claimed the sight. The day came on, loosened the frosty hold, and dropped heaps of shattered brilliancy about the place where it had clung.  
Nature's serial story runs on through all the year to them who look and listen. Sweetest voices and choicest pictures she deigns not to withhold from common things. Whyfore, seeing, do we see not, and hearing, hear not?  
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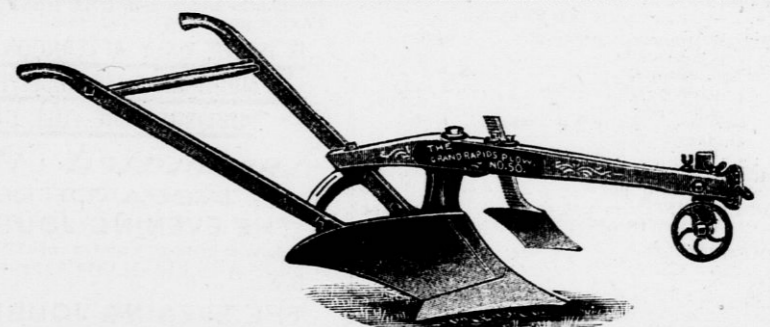
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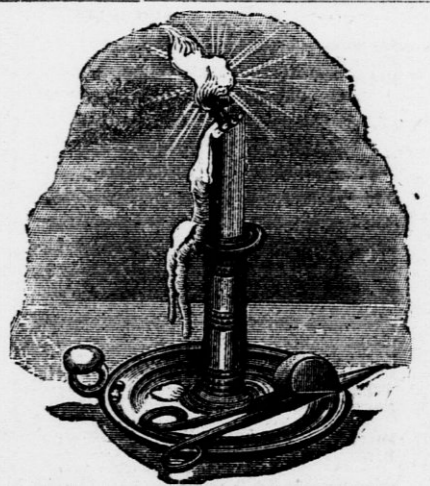
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PHILADELPHIA MARKETS.

(Corrected by Thornton Barnes, Wholesale Grocer and Range Selling Agent, No. 231 North Water St., Philadelphia, Pa.) PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 1, 1886. PURE SUGARS.

Table listing market prices for various goods like Cut Loaf per lb., Pulverized per lb., Standard Granulated per lb., etc.

SYRUP AND MOLASSES—In Barrels.

Table listing prices for sugar drips, fancy white maple drips, extra golden pure sugar, etc.

IMPORTANT—The above quotations are for syrup in whole barrels only. All syrup in half barrels 4 cents per gallon extra and no charge for package. In 5 and 10 gallon packages 5 cents per gallon additional and the cost of package.

COFFEES—GREEN AND ROASTED.

Table listing prices for various coffee types like Fancy Rio per lb., Green Rio extra choice per lb., etc.

TEAS.

Table listing prices for Imperial per lb., Young Hyson per lb., Oolong per lb., Japan per lb., Gunpowder per lb., etc.

FOREIGN DRIED FRUITS.

Table listing prices for Raisins, New Muscatells, Old Muscatells, London layers, Valencia per lb., etc.

WHOLE SPICES.

Table listing prices for Black Pepper per lb., White Pepper per lb., Ginger, Cloves, Allspice, Mace, Nutmegs, etc.

PURE GROUND SPICES.

Table listing prices for Pure Pepper, black, per lb., African Cayenne per lb., Cinnamon per lb., etc.

GROCERS' SUNDRIES.

Table listing prices for Sal Soda, Flour sulphur, Bi-carb soda, Starch, Corn starch, Rice, etc.

NOTE—The above quotations are carefully corrected every week, and all orders for groceries are filled at prices quoted.

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MICHIGAN CENTRAL RAILROAD.

DEPARTMENT OF TRAINS FROM KALAMAZOO. TIME-TABLE—MAY 18, 1884. Standard time—10th meridian. WESTWARD.

Table showing train schedules for Westward from Kalamazoo, including Kalamazoo Accommodation leaves, Evening Express, etc.

EASTWARD.

Table showing train schedules for Eastward from Kalamazoo, including Night Express, Kalamazoo Accommodation leaves, etc.

New York, Atlantic and Pacific Expresses daily. Evening Express west and Night Express east daily except Saturdays. All other trains daily except Sundays. Freight trains carrying passengers out from Kalamazoo as follows: No. 29 (east) at 5:10 P. M. and No. 30 (west) at 8:10, bringing passengers from east at 12:45, P. M.

H. B. LEVYARD, Gen. Manager, Detroit. J. A. GRIER, General Freight Agent, Chicago. O. W. RUGLES, G. P. & T. A., Chicago.

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

KALAMAZOO DIVISION TIME TABLE. Standard time—10th meridian. GOING SOUTH.

Table showing train schedules for Going South from Kalamazoo, including N.Y. & C.N.Y. & B. Express, etc.

GOING NORTH.

Table showing train schedules for Going North from Kalamazoo, including N.Y. & B.N.Y. & C. Ex. & M. Express, etc.

All trains connect at White Pigeon with trains on main line. M. E. WATLIES, Supt. Kalamazoo Division, Kalamazoo.

German Horse and Cow POWDERS!

This powder has been in use many years. It is largely used by the farmers of Pennsylvania, and the Patrons of that State have purchased over 100,000 pounds through their purchasing agents. Its composition is our secret. The recipe is on every box and 5-pound package. It is made by Dr. Oberholzer's Sons & Co., Phoenixville, Pa. 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 while molting. It is sold at the lowest possible wholesale prices by R. E. JAMES, Kalamazoo; GEO. W. HILL & CO., 80 Woodbridge St., Detroit; THOS. MASON, 181 Water St., Chicago, Ill.; and ALBERT STEGEMAN, Allegan. Put up in 60-lb. boxes (loose). Price EIGHT CENTS per lb., 30-lb. boxes of 6 1/2-lb. packages, TEN CENTS per lb.

PERCHERON HORSES.

Island Home Stock Farm, Grosse Ile, Mich. All stock selected from the get of sires and dams of established reputation and registered in the French and American Stud Books. We have a very large number of Prices reasonable. Correspondence solicited. Send for large illustrated catalogue, free by mail. Address, SAVAGE & FARMON, Detroit, Mich. Jan 15/86

FREE

Annual of all kinds of Seeds, Bulbs, Tools, etc. Contains prices, descriptions, planting directions, illustrations, colored plates, etc. PRICES LOW. SEEDS RELIABLE. Livingston's Sons, Columbus, O. Originators of Acme, Paragon, Perfection, etc. seeds and BRATTLE for 96, Sep. 25, 1885.

FREE TO F.A.M.

Fine Colored Engraving of the Old Sun Tavern in Philadelphia in which the first lodge in N. America was organized and held. Also large illustrated Catalogue of Masonic books and goods with bottom prices. Also offer of first-class business to F. A. M. REDDING & CO. jan 15/86

GREENWOOD STOCK FARM

Poland China Swine a Specialty. Breeders Stock recorded in Ohio P. C. Record. Correspondence and inspection invited. B. G. BUELL, LITTLE PRAIRIE RONDE, Cass Co., Mich. Jan 15/86



THE WORLD'S BEST!

SOLD AT WHOLESALE BY THE GUNN HARDWARE CO., 5 and 7 SOUTH IONIA STREET, And at RETAIL by W. S. GUNN & SONS, Dealers in Hardware, Stoves, House Furnishing Goods, Etc., Etc., Etc.

Examine the great bargains offered by us before you buy your Cook and Heating Stoves. We sell a No. 8 "HOME GARLAND" Cook Stove for \$15.00; No. 9 for \$17.00; older patterns 10 per cent less. The "MODEL GARLAND," our Elegant Square Coal Stove, we offer at \$25.00 for No. 33, and \$28.00 for No. 44; the same size with Oven at \$31.00.

W. S. GUNN & SONS, Grand Rapids, Mich.

CHICAGO & GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY TIME TABLE, NOV. 16, 1884.

TRAINS WESTWARD—CENTRAL MERIDIAN TIME. TRAINS EASTWARD—CENTRAL MERIDIAN TIME.

Large table showing train schedules for Chicago & Grand Trunk Railway, including stations, mail, express, and passenger times for both Westward and Eastward directions.

Reduction in Price of Paints.

THE PATRONS' PAINT WORKS have made another reduction in the price of Paints, notwithstanding they are cheaper than any other Paints in the market, even if the others cost NOTHING. Why? Because TEN THOUSAND PATRONS TESTIFY THAT THEY LAST FOUR TIMES AS LONG AS WHITE LEAD AND OIL MIXED IN THE OLD WAY.

WE DELIVER 10 GALLON ORDERS FREIGHT PAID TO YOUR DEPOT. WE SEND YOU AN ELEGANT PICTURE OF SOME OF THE LEADING MEN OF THE ORDER. A pamphlet, "Everyone their own Painter," sample of colors, references of many thousand Patrons, etc., free upon application. Masters and Secretaries, please name your title in writing.

Jan 1 112 PATRONS' PAINT WORKS, 64 Fulton St., New York.

1886 GREGORY'S SEED CATALOGUE

Believing that if a man has dealt squarely with his fellow-men his patrons are his best advisers, I invite all to make inquiry of the character of my seeds among over a million of Farmers, Gardeners and Planters who have used them during the past 47 years. Raising a large portion of the seed sold, (few seedsmen raise the seed they sell) I was the first seedsman in the United States to warrant (as per catalogue) their purity and freshness. My new Vegetable and Flower Seed Catalogue for 1886 will be sent FREE to all who write for it. Among an immense variety my friends will find it (and in none other) a new drumhead Celery, bage, just about as early as Henderson's, but nearly twice as large! James J. H. Gregory, Harbreech, Mass.

GRAPE VINES

Niagara, Empire State, and all the best varieties. Low prices for first-class stock. Jewell, Parry, May King, etc. B. H. WEBER'S, 126 North Dearborn Street, Chicago. Descriptive Catalogue, with colored glass, Free a customer \$1.50. Catalogue of plants, "OIL BURNER & SON, Merchantsville, N. J." Jan 15/86

MARK WELL!

The "Buyers' Guide," No. 38, for Fall and Winter, 1885, will be sent to any address upon receipt of 10 Cents to pay expense of mailing—we charge nothing for the book. It is now a regular Dinotherium Giganticum in size and as full of wisdom as a goat. All of the goods quoted therein (not in the goat but in the other thing) we carry in stock. Now don't delude yourself with the idea that we cannot save you money on all the goods you are obliged to buy or borrow. We are here to accomplish that end and you will find us at the business end of it every day. Morally we are of benefit to the community, because it is much cheaper to buy goods of us than to steal of any one else. We are the original Grange Supply House, organized in 1872, to supply the consumer direct with all classes of goods at Wholesale Prices in quantities to suit the purchasers. We handle about everything known to mankind and part of New Jersey, and while our stock of Tomstones is not complete just at present we will wager a nickel "with a hole in it" that we have got anything else you want. Just send for "The Guide," and see how near we come to the truth, or call and see us when in our city.

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