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# GRANGE VISITOR

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

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## THE GRANGE VISITOR.

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PAW PAW, MICH.

Stock or Clover, which shall it be?  
[Paper read before Newaygo County Grange, Dec. 19, 1889, by M. W. Scott.]

**Worthy Master.**—Senator Ingalls, of Kansas, with his well-rounded periods, has outlined something of the poetry as well as the wealth of the grasses, when he tells us that "Grass is the forgiveness of Nature—her constant benediction. Forests decay, harvests perish, flowers vanish, but grass is immortal." That "it invades the solitude of deserts, climbs the inaccessible slopes and forbidding pinnacles of mountains, modifies climates, and determines the history, character and destiny of nations." That "it yields no fruit in the earth or air, yet should its harvest fail, for a single year, famine would depopulate the world."

While all that he claims for his tiny friend, grass, may be, and probably is, true, we can hardly afford to sit idly by and see our favorite, the associate of grass in field and meadow, and its rival, both in beauty and utility, "left out in the cold." We have no poetry to administer, but in our own humble manner shall attempt to remind brother farmers of some of the virtues of clover, as well as the neglect and shabby treatment we think it receives at their hands.

Full many a herd of Holsteins, Herefords, Devons and Short-horns, with their well-rounded forms and glossy hides, fattened on its rich juices, to day, are lazily chewing their cud, and thanking kind Nature for its bounteous store of clover. The pigs are fatter; the fleece on "Mary's Lamb" is warmer; the neigh of the Percheron and Clydesdale is louder; the step of the English Shire and Cleveland Bay is prouder and stronger; the soil of many a wheat field is richer with nitrogenous food for another year's growth of grain; while the purse and larder of the farmer is fuller and rounder, and the world's wealth greater by millions, gathered and garnered from another year's growth of clover.

With a quick and rapid plant growth—two crops in a season, both for pasture and hay,—it readily commends itself to every farmer, and no one need be reminded of its value in that direction; but that it is Nature's best, cheapest and most natural fertilizer many a good farmer is still unable to comprehend, or if he does comprehend, fails to put in practice his knowledge of it. Our attention has recently been forcibly drawn to its fertilizing properties, through the experience and suggestions of farmers from many different states and different localities. And the impression appears to be gaining ground that there is a much cheaper and easier method of maintaining the fertility of our farms than the present system of raising and handling stock.

In an article that I have now before me, the writer claims to have succeeded in raising, for a series of years, nearly 40 bushels of wheat per acre, still maintain-

ing the original fertility of his soil, and deriving an ample income for the support of his family from the sale of wheat, clover seed and potatoes. He says that his experience has convinced him that the use of commercial fertilizers and stable manure is not a necessity on his farm; and that it matters little to him what the "great authorities" say, as long as he knows that he can "make money and live the easiest" by the method he is pursuing. He says that he "could probably cut 50 tons of hay and rowen on his farm this fall, but that it will neither be cut nor pastured—rather all should be used to increase directly the fertility of his farm."

With no greater expense than that of plowing under the plant growth that Nature seems to have destined for that purpose, an average yield of almost 40 bushels of wheat per acre has been reached. Does anyone know of another system that has accomplished equal results, with the same labor and expense? It does not cost anything to see clover grow, and it costs no more for taxes, no more for seed, no more for plowing and harrowing, and but a trifle more for harvesting and threshing an acre that yields 40 bushels than it does one that yields only the average of 15 or 18 bushels; and, while the average crop at present prices will perhaps barely pay expenses, the crop of 40 bushels will leave a clear profit of fifteen dollars.

A recently published article on "Chemistry, as applied to Agriculture," says that "a wise provision of Nature has withheld from man the ability to exhaust land more than to a limited extent. The farmer can, indeed, so far exhaust the soil as to render it incapable of producing a remunerative crop, but even when such is the case there is an amount of latent fertility left, sufficient to sustain the population of ages."

If this statement is true—and we see no reason for doubting its truth—then the question, with every practical farmer is, in what manner is this "latent" fertility to be brought into use at the least expense? Every crop we take from our farms exhausts some portion of its fertility, and must be restored, in some manner, or our capital will be gone in time. Either the original fertility must be maintained, or else this "latent" fertility must be available in some manner.

Looking in this direction, two widely different systems seem to be practiced to some extent; and the question with us to-day is, which shall it be, "Stock or Clover?" But many a farmer begins at once to talk about "Economy," when he sees these fine fields of clover turned out of sight with the plow. "Better cut it for hay, feed it to your stock, and then fertilize your fields with the manure you have made."

Well, suppose you do go through with all the work and expense of haying, pasture your cattle through the summer, feed and take care of them through our long, cold winters, haul what refuse you have made back again into the field where it grew, and then sell your beef for \$2.00 or \$2.50 per hundred, how much have you made in the operation? In short, why try to make our little farms compete with Armour and the "Big Four," of Chicago, in this direction? It is my opinion the farmers of Michigan will

grow poorer just as long as they keep it up.

And where, by this process, are you going to "get even" with our friend who raises his 40 bushels of wheat per acre, with a far less labor than you are expending your stock? The fact is, we can never put back in the soil, by this method, one-half we take off in the clover. Do the best we can, and still the evaporation and drainage will take out more than half its fertilizing properties. Some, I know, do not "take much stock" in this idea of plowing under a growth of clover; think the "roots and sod" will do all that is necessary. I remember hearing a member of our County Grange—and, by the way, a good farmer, too,—say there was no more value in the "clover plant," to plow under, than there was in "potato tops." This would be a shabby way, indeed, for one to treat an old friend like clover. But he did not even stop there. If I recollect rightly, he quoted Prof. Kedzie as his authority. Rather of a left-handed compliment to science, and to the professor, too. I find he is not the only farmer who has the impression that Prof. Kedzie makes the clover plant of but little value as a fertilizer. I'll bet that he did say. He says that "the roots of the clover plant are worth more than the plant itself."

But even this was not all that he said. In the analysis, in one case reported from the chemical department, the experiment showed that an acre of clover (air dried) weighed 5,417 pounds, and contained 91.50 pounds of nitrogen. The roots, dried in the same manner, weighed 2,068 pounds, and contained 47.36 pounds of nitrogen; the plants weighing more than twice as much as the roots, and containing more than twice as much nitrogen.

Neither do I suppose that Prof. Kedzie expected us to understand him as saying that it was the nitrogen alone that made clover valuable to the farmer as a fertilizer. But while clover had the faculty of absorbing nitrogen and storing it ready for the growth of the plants, particularly that of wheat, it also had many other valuable fertilizing qualities. Quoting again from "Chemistry as applied to Agriculture," we are told that "the dormant power of fertility which exists in the soil is practically unlimited; that all naturally good soils contain within themselves fertilizing elements sufficient to bring forth good crops for hundreds of years, and that clover, acting as a chemical agent on this inert matter, has the ability, far beyond that of any known plant, of liberating and converting these insoluble substances of the soil into food suitable for the growth of other plants and grains; that it brings into practical working form and life all the elements of the soil necessary for plant food; that it improves the texture of the soil when plowed; renders it clean, light, retentive of moisture, more easily tilled, gradually developing the elements of fertility, until the soil is capable of producing other crops profitably, without the necessity of applying other fertilizers."

Now, if any of you want to know how far these theories are true, and what "clover tops" will do for land, go to work and plow under a good, generous growth of clover, sow or plant it to any crop you choose, and then at the proper time turn it back, thor-

oughly pulverize the soil with the harrow or cultivator, and then see what you have got—see the change that has been made in the color, texture and fertility of the soil.

Four years ago a neighbor of mine, who had sown a field of mammoth clover by mistake—thinking it too large and coarse for hay—left it and finally turned it under. The effects are still plainly visible in the fine, mellow condition and deep, rich color of the soil, and equally visible in the crops he harvests from the field. A wide contrast, indeed, from the methods most of us have been pursuing—cutting the first crop for hay, the second crop for seed, and then, either turning over what little is left and sowing it to wheat, or else pasturing it until there is not a green clover leaf left, plowing up the sod for corn or oats, and trying to make ourselves believe that we are raising clover to improve our farms. It is my impression that we will never be able to cheat Nature that way. She knows too well when she is well used, and in the end will pay us back in our own coin.

"But," says someone, "what are you going to do when clover won't grow?" And that reminds me that I heard a member of our Potawamie Grange say, not long

ago, that he had sown three hundred dollars' worth of clover seed in the last few years, and hadn't got a decent catch yet. "Expensive, isn't it? Well, we all have our hobbies. I have mine about this clover seed business. I don't believe there is any use of throwing away clover seed. Don't you lose clover seed? Plenty of it! I too have been following the old ruts the fathers made; and, worse than that, have made too little effort to get out of them. But I believe that any naturally good soil, if not too heavily stocked with cattle, can be made so fertile by the use of clover, and so filled with seed, that a failure to get a good seeding of clover would be practically out of the question."

During every one of the extremely dry seasons of 1886, '87, and '88, we have seen fields come through the season with as fine a "catch" as any farmer could wish, while all around them hundreds of other fields failed to develop a single clover plant. Now, this wasn't the work of chance; neither was it because Nature favored that particular field in any manner; but it was the condition and preparation given to the field by the owner before seeding. And, in all cases where we have had an opportunity of knowing the circumstances, they were fields where very little pasturing was done or stock kept.

In some localities a plan has recently been adopted of seeding with rye and pasturing, and, we believe, has almost invariably proved successful, even in the driest seasons—treading of the ground tending to keep the soil compact and moist, bringing the clover through in fine condition. If this system proves to be what its friends claim for it, there are thousands of acres of idle and apparently worthless land in our county that can be converted into fine, productive farms. It is so practical and cheap—within the reach of everyone. No high-priced fertilizers to be paid for, no expensive hauling of manure, the pasture and the crop of rye paying for all the expense. The plan seems well worthy of a thor-

ough trial, especially on our light lands.

Large outlays of either money or labor, with the present prices of farm products, are not supposed to be very paying investments, and whatever is handled must be handled with economy. I, for one, have a very favorable opinion of the man, as well as his theory, who claims to be harvesting, on an average, nearly forty bushels of wheat per acre, because he seems to be doing it with so little labor and expense. Clover, wheat, sheep and hogs are all of them better than beef—are handled with less money and work, and keep our farms in better condition.

"The most money with the least work" is what we are after; and, as a basis for the future, we propose to "change off" a little from the old system and start, at first, in a small way with clover. A field of nine acres, mowed the first time this season, has been left since haying without a hoof on it, with a fair second-growth of clover, and probably from one to two bushels of well-ripened seed to the acre, which we intend to turn over and sow to oats in the spring. Some of my neighbors suggested to me that "the clover will all be dead in the spring and of no value for any purpose." But, quoting again from "Chemistry as applied to Agriculture,"

"The experience of practical men that one crop allowed to perfect itself and die where it grew, and then turned under, is equal to any two crops turned under green." And the reason assigned is, that "dry plants give more organic matter than green—green plants ferment, dry plants decay. The one is a quick, consuming fire, from which a large portion escapes rapidly in fermentation, in the form of gas; while the other is a slow, smoldering ember, giving off slowly, during all its processes, gases which feed plants and decompose the silicates of the soil."

How much there may be in this theory we are unable to tell at present, but we propose to turn under the clover, test the theory as far as we can, and report the result to the Grange—good or bad. But one thing we do feel tolerably sure of, when we turn it back again next fall for wheat, after the oats are off, we expect to get as fine a "catch" of self-seeded clover as any farmer could wish to look at. Then we expect there will be seed enough left in the soil after that to go through the same process again, without sowing any more seed. Perhaps, some of you think we are a "little off" on this question of seeding. Please test it yourselves, brother farmers, and at some of our future meetings we will compare notes.

Another field, from which there has been but one crop taken since seeding, we are going to plow under next June, when the blossoms and foliage are at their best, and then summer fallow for fall wheat. "But," says one, "I thought you was recommending, just now, the plan of turning clover under, after it had fully perfected and ripened its entire growth!" Yes, I was; but the fact is, I am so much "in love" with clover that I will take it either way—green or dry. Testing it both ways we shall then have experience to back our faith.

In short, we mean to follow up what we have recommended: sowing more clover, feeding the sec-

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### "Ef You Don't Watch Out."

The farmers they has risen up to take a hand in things,  
Ter fix a price on what they buy, an' what ther produce brings;  
Ter regulate the railroads, an' counteract each trust,  
An' git ther share of offices, an' other things, er bust,  
An' all us other fellers—we had better give 'em play,  
An' let 'em run this thing awhile, now mind yer what I say,  
An' listen ter the grievances 'at ther tellin' us about,  
Er the Grangers 'ill git you, ef you don't watch out.  
Oncet ther was a railroad man, whose roadbed had been laid  
By the land the people give him, an' the tax the people paid—  
An' then it had been bonded for more'n it had cost,  
The stock was duly watered, an' the people's money lost;  
But when the people asked for rates, so they could live an' thrive,  
He said he "didn't have to,"—he was skinin' 'em alive;  
But they yanked away his profits, 'fore he knowed what he's about,  
An' the Grangers 'ill git you, ef you don't watch out.  
An' oncet ther was a senator, who wouldn't mind the prayer  
An' the interests of his people—he was a millionaire;  
His office was a boughten one, with corporation wealth,  
Of a set of legislators as dishonest as himself,  
But jest when he war'n't lookin' the people got the scent  
Of the dirt 'at he was playin', an' his underpinnin' went,  
An' down he come kerwollep, 'fore he knowed what he's about,  
An' the Grangers 'ill git you, ef you don't watch out.

—Foglass, Kas., Tribune.

### Utilization of Waste.

[Read by Wesley Johnson at the Farmers' Institute held at Lowell, Feb. 3rd and 4th, 1890.]

In nearly every kind of business there is more or less waste; that is, material that is, or has been, considered nearly or quite worthless. Within a few years quite a practice of utilizing waste has sprung up, until now, much of what was once considered valueless has become a profitable adjunct of business.

Many of those present remember when every mill yard was cumbered with slab piles, and slabs went begging for an owner. Now some large mill owners boast of saving everything that will make a pail stove, and the refuse below that is utilized for fuel. Indeed, where saw mills are now at Manistee, Ludington, Bay City and Saginaw, even the sawdust is thus utilized, and the manufacturers claim that they could not manufacture salt profitably, at present prices, if the fuel cost anything.

Years ago charcoal was burned in a primitive sort of way by piling the prepared wood in a conical pile and then covering it with earth and leaves, leaving draft and vent holes, which were closed after combustion had well started. After a time kilns were constructed of firebrick and mortar; and, presently, a bright genius thought there might be something of value in the vast clouds of smoky vapor that arose from the charring of the wood. Investigation and experiments followed, until now, at the large charcoal works in the northern parts of Wisconsin and our own state, the profit derived from wood alcohol, acetate of lime, and other smoke products, rival those of the charcoal itself.

About two miles from where I was brought up lived Herman Artus. He went to Milwaukee daily and gathered up waste, bones, ears, pieces of stale meat, etc., from the butcher shops, dead horse, dog, cat or any other animal he might chance to hear of. These he hauled home, where he had a large kettle, set in a furnace, in which he boiled the mass, then allowed it to cool and skimmed off the grease, which he sold at six cents a pound. He then fed the boiled meat to hogs. The hogs got fat and Artus got rich. I don't know what was done with the grease, but, presumably, it was used in making oleomargarine.

Large fortunes have been made by gathering and dealing in rags, bones and scrap iron; and in the large cities, even the cigar stubs are gathered up by "gutter snipes," sold to persons who deal in them; dried, cleaned and re-manufactured into cigarettes and other forms of commercial tobacco. Probably, the inveterate tobacco chewer can thus account for the smoky flavor often perceptible in his favorite brand of plug tobacco.

When the slaughtering establishments were first started in the Menominee Valley, the refuse was dumped into the river; presently this produced an unhealthy state of affairs; then began a study how to utilize it. Now the blood and entrails are manufactured into commercial fertilizers. The hogs bristles are bleached, cleaned and made into brushes. One establishment advertises "pigs feet and tripe," and apparently does a thriving business. Another sign reads, "Goiz for saie." Rather indefinite, perhaps, but a sample, fluttering in the breeze, makes it plain that the proprietor is engaged in cleaning, preparing and disposing of the outside of bologna sausage. I could mention many other cases of utilizing waste, but think I have presented enough to show that the disposal of refuse adds not a little to the profits of many kinds of business.

How is it with farming? I have sometimes thought there was no other business under the sun that would stand so large a percentage of waste as agriculture is burdened with. I have said, and believe it, that if a thrifty "Pollock," with his dozen girls and boys, were to move into our neighborhood, and simply be allowed to gather up and utilize what goes to waste on the surrounding farms, he would, in fifteen years' time, be able to pay cash for the best farm in Lowell township. I will mention some of the wastes of our system of farming, which are well worth looking after.

A large portion of the vinegar retailed in Western Michigan—aye, even in this small village of Lowell—comes from Milwaukee, and is manufactured from distillery and brewery waste, while enough apples rot in the orchards of Michigan, nearly every year, to make all the vinegar this state can use, and export thousands of barrels.

Injudicious feeding is a source of much waste. On Christmas Day, while driving past a farmer's barn, I saw the farmer come out to feed his sheep. The barnyard was a perfect sea of mud, before the stable door, and around the edges of this he scattered nice bright hay for his sheep. Any farmer, who has had experience with sheep, knows that at least half of that hay was wasted, and that, even with the present abundance and low prices of feed, if those sheep are fed in that way all winter, they might better have been given away last fall. And yet, I doubt not, a great many farmers in Kent county were feeding sheep and other stock in a similar manner Christmas morning, 1889.

One of the most prodigious wastes on the farm is the waste of fertilizers. All through this section of country are thousands of loads of manure in barnyards, bleaching and washing this open winter, so that when hauled out next spring, fully fifty per cent. of its value will be gone—run away to the roadside; collected in hollows about the yard, to raise a dense growth of weeds next summer, or leached down through the earth, to contaminate the wells of the farm or neighborhood. If manure is to be kept over until spring, keep it under cover. Go into almost any stable and the first thing that greets you is the scent of escaping ammonia. There is a valuable element of fertility going to waste, and destroying the harness on its way out. If the farmers of Lowell township could be confronted with figures showing the commercial value of the fertilizer that escapes from their stables, in a gaseous form, or runs through the floor as liquid, to contaminate all the atmosphere of the vicinity, they would be perfectly astounded. The plan I am pursuing this winter answers very well, but is susceptible of much improvement. My stable has no floor, other than clay packed solid. Last summer, when muck was dry as tinder, I drew in enough to cover the ground of my stables a foot or fifteen inches deep, and stored up a quantity besides. Its good points are—

It absorbs all the liquid manure. There is no escape of gases by fermentation, and the manure is in excellent mechanical condition to apply to any crop.

It keeps stock dry and clean. It doubles the amount of manure. The muck itself being a valuable fertilizer is much improved by combination with the animal manure, and the animal manure is improved by combination with the muck.

As I have no place to store the compost, under shelter, I am hauling it directly from the stable and spreading it on the fields, which is at least a great saving of labor. I am satisfied it would be better if I had a good gravel-cement floor to my stable. I am also satisfied that it would be less wasteful of manure, but more expensive, to store the compost under cover until spring. Dry sawdust, loam and sods are good absorbents, but are not, in themselves, fertilizers as is the muck.

The greatest waste of farm produce comes in marketing it, and the success of merchants often gives a good illustration of the profits of utilizing this waste. It usually comes about through the ignorance and indifference of the farmer, or the duplicity of the dealer. I have seen an article of produce sold in this village for just half its market value in Grand Rapids, just because the farmer neglected to post himself, and the dealer took dishonest advantage of his ignorance. *Remedy*—Take the papers and study them. When you have a quantity of produce to market get commercial price lists from Detroit, Chicago, Milwaukee, and especially, Grand Rapids. If you don't feel like doing this yourself, bring it up in the Grange, and have the secretary send for them for the use of the members. Any reliable commission man will send them to you for little or nothing, if he thinks there is a prospect of consignments.

As an example of utilizing waste I will relate a couple of instances (out of many) in my own experience. One fall, after marketing our cranberries, we had two bushels of defective berries, (softened by frosts, etc.), which we had sorted out. As berries, they were worthless. I bought jelly, sugar and sugar, made them up into an excellent article, cranberry jelly, which sold for enough to make the berries net over \$3 per bushel.

One fall, after frosts came, we gathered two wagon-loads of frosted tomatoes, and fed them out to pigs, (cattle, sheep, or horses like them just as well). The pigs did well on them, and that wasn't all, next spring I sold over five dollars' worth of tomato plants out of that hog yard.

But the greatest waste on farms, and that which most urgently needs attention, is the waste of human intellect. "The farmer is of more importance than the farm." Many years ago good, old Lyman Beecher exclaimed: "We must educate. We must educate! We must educate, or we must perish!" Would that this cry could ring daily, and hourly, in the ears of our farmers, until they give heed thereto. Do not infer that I consider all farmers ignorant and uncultivated. Do not infer that I consider the mass of farmers unintelligent. Far from it; the clearest intellects and the most truly cultured and refined people of America to-day, may be found among her farmers. But, alas! the opposite conditions prevail to a large extent. If farmers but realized it, there is no other calling on the face of the earth, that furnishes greater scope for the cultivation of a keen intellect, than agriculture. But alas! in how many cases its advantages are entirely neglected. "As iron sharpeneth iron, so the countenance of a man sharpeneth the face of his friend," saith the wise man. Farmers, keep yourselves polished up. Join some farmers' organization, (preferably, the Grange, as that is the most nearly complete in its ritual and organization). Attend all the meetings, and take part every time. But you say, "I can't afford it." My friend, you cannot afford to remain out of it. I joined the Grange two years ago. It has cost me \$5.40, and I would not forego the benefit I have received for ten times that amount. It has not only paid well in social enjoyment and intellectual culture, but it has paid well in dollars and cents.

I have often seen, and so have

you, a farmer, with a two-story brain, completely muddled, and (figuratively) done up in brown paper, and labeled "Green," to his own financial detriment, by a dapper little dry goods grocery clerk who hadn't brains enough to fill a small-sized coconut shell, simply because the clerk had acquired a knack of conversation and specious argument which the farmer, through diffidence and the non-cultivation of his social and argumentative powers, was not able to meet and combat. When, next day about his work, the farmer thinks it all over, and wishes someone would kindly take him out behind the barn and kick him a few times, just to stir up his wits a little.

Practical farmers are rarely called upon to do the oratorical at farmers' gatherings. This is our own fault. When we have a State fair, we get a Horace Greeley, or a Brick Pomeroy, or a somebody else equally well posted to come and tell us to "go west and get rich" raising pumpkins or pasturing stock on Canada thistles. When we have a farmers' picnic we get Judge Morse to come out and tell us how to raise onions. In the Grange and in the Farmers' Institutes we do talk a little, but even here we get lawyers, school-teachers and clergymen to instruct in the fine arts of our calling, and then take it very kindly indeed, that they let us down so easily.

Brother farmers, let us improve ourselves; let us study and investigate every detail of our business, and let us show the world that we are capable of having just as many, and just as good thoughts, and just as fluent methods of expressing them as persons in any other calling. Let us brush off the cranberry vines and moss, and get down to the solid shell underneath. Let us gather up the fragments, that nothing be lost.

### How Deep Shall We Plow?

Early teachings in agriculture were all in favor of deep plowing. "Plow as deep as possible. Plow the manure under, no matter how deep, the plants will find it and get the benefit of it," was the advice given. This rule was followed on my place almost without variation for a number of years, supposing that upon the whole it was the best that could be done. The first practical illustration to the contrary was demonstrated nearly 25 years ago. A piece of land became my property that had been in grass for a number of years, in fact, a portion of it had never been plowed. I hired one of my neighbors who had two yoke of oxen to plow it as near 12 inches deep as possible. It was plowed in the fall. It was good land, with a very strong, heavy sod. Some good manure was put into the bottom of the furrows as the plowing was being done, and it was buried not less than 10 inches deep. Fortunately, as it latterly proved, there was not enough of it to go over the entire piece of land. The following season the entire piece was planted with potatoes. They were as well cultivated and cared for as possible. Waiting and watching with a great deal of interest to see what would be the result upon the manured portion of the field, I noticed none. I have long since ceased to watch for any difference in the crops upon that particular portion of the field where the manure was buried so deep and apparently so secure from any evaporation or loss. It is now a part of my garden, and I do not believe that I have ever received one dollar's worth of benefit from it, except that it set me to thinking and studying upon that particular branch of agriculture, viz: deep plowing and manuring. The conclusion of my experiments is, that like almost everything else in agriculture, no mathematical rule can be given that will apply under all circumstances; still a general rule may be given which is almost an invariable one, and that is, never turn up the subsoil except very lightly. I am a firm believer in a deep, rich soil. At the same time, I dislike very much to have more than half an inch of subsoil turned up at any one time. In other words if the soil was not more than three

inches deep, I would not plow more than three and one-half inches deep at first. If the soil was twelve inches deep I should not hesitate to plow from six to ten inches deep, the depth depending somewhat upon the crops that were to be grown upon it. But in every case (I cannot now remember an exception) where the subsoil of my land has been turned up a couple of inches or more deep, at a single plowing, the result has been very unfavorable. No matter how much manure was put on, a full crop seems to be impossible, whether it be corn, potatoes, cabbage, or something else. Some grains or vegetables seem to be affected more unfavorably than others, but the difference is only one of degree, the fact of at least a partial loss of the crop, holds good in every single case. Another fact I have noticed in this connection, is where the manure is thoroughly incorporated with the subsoil, it does not seem to decompose as rapidly as when well incorporated with the surface soil at the same depth. What should make the difference? I do not know. I wish I did know that, as well as the answers to a great many other questions that I could ask. After many years of close study of my own experiments, reading of those of others, and close observation, I have come to the conclusion that deep plowing is by no means a certain panacea for poor crops, neither is it wise to recommend deep plowing or deep cultivation under all circumstances. It may, and should always be thorough, but not always deep. If the soil is shallow it may, and ought to be made a deep and a wide one, but it must be the work of years. I know by experience that fairly good crops may be grown upon a rather light soil, with the right kind of fertilizing; but if very large yields are to be made the rule instead of the exception, it is the work of years to so deepen, enrich, and prepare the soil that it can be accomplished.—J. M. Smith, in *Farmers' Review*.

### Oiling Harness.

If the harness is kept soft and pliable it will not only wear much longer, but also be less liable to gall the horses. Hanging it up in the stable behind the horses, or being wet, tends to harden the leather, and if the most wear is secured, pains must be taken to keep it well oiled. This is especially the case in the spring, when usually they are subject to more or less rain and then to a warm sun. Harness ought to be kept clean, and should be oiled whenever it begins to get stiff. With harness, no set time can be given as to how often they should be cleaned up and oiled, as this depends almost entirely upon the way they are used. Whenever the leather gets stiff it is inclined to break and crack. Before oiling, the leather should be thoroughly cleaned, washing with warm water and a cloth if necessary, and then wiping dry before applying the oil. There are a number of harness oils put up especially for this purpose, but linseed oil and lampblack makes a very good oil for harness. The better plan is to take the harness all apart, as the work can be done easier and more thoroughly than is possible with them together. The oil should be rubber in, and if the harness is old and dry it will be better to go over it the second time. Ordinarily, there is but little danger of oiling too much, and especially on the farm where once a year is as often as the harness gets oiled, and in consequence they are usually hard and dry. After they are thoroughly oiled, it will be a good plan to go over them and repair wherever necessary. A box of assorted rivets, a leather punch and a good hammer will be useful in making repairs, and will often save considerable time and expense.—N. J. Shepherd, in *American Farmer*.

It would take as many bushels of wheat, at present prices, to pay what is left of the national debt as it would have taken at the close of the war in 1865 at the price at that time to have paid the entire debt.

The great duty of life is not to give pain.—Frederika Bremer.

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### In Case of Accident.

Accidents do, indeed, happen in the best regulated families. Especially is this the case where there are little people toddling about, ready to fall into all kinds of danger upon the slightest—often upon no provocation. Every housekeeper, especially every mother, should know just what to do for bruised heads, cut fingers, burned hands, and so on through the list of ills to which children especially are subject. The further away one is from physicians and pharmacies, the more necessary it is that the household should be sufficient unto itself. There should be a medicine chest—better still, a medicine closet—in every home. This does not mean an assortment of drugs, but merely a collection, in one place, where they are at hand when needed, of the simple remedies that are always in demand in a home. If one waits for money and time to fit up a medicine closet outright, the chances are there will never be one, but it is a simple matter to establish a nucleus, and that once done, the collection grows almost without one's knowing when. In stead of having to turn the house upside down for a bit of cotton wool when Sally has the toothache, or keeping Simon screaming with the colic while the peppermint-bottle is hunted up, it is a much more sensible plan to have a case or closet, provided with a lock and key, set apart for all such articles. The necessity for toothache drops, by the way, can be done away with by having a reputable dentist look at one's teeth—children's and grown people's—every few months. He can find cavities long before they get to the aching stage, and a dollar's worth of filling then, saves five dollars' worth, perhaps the necessity for false teeth later on.

But if there are toothache drops in the house, have a place to keep them in, and see to it that they are there, alone with some absorbent cotton. If the bits of fine, old linen are rolled up and put in the medicine chest as they come to hand, it will save many a precious minute some day when they are needed, and that at once. There should be some lint kept on hand, and a bottle of linseed oil and lime-water in equal parts. The oil must be bought; the water can be made by putting a piece of unslacked lime the size of a very large walnut into a common-sized wine-bottle of cold water. Shake the bottle a few times, let the contents settle and pour off the water, which is then ready for use. It cannot be made too strong, as the water will take up but a certain quantity of the lime.

In cases of burns, wet a soft cloth in the mixture of limewater and linseed oil which is sold under the name of caron-oil and lay over the burn. Put a dry cloth or flannel over this, and secure it with a smooth light bandage. Keep the burned surface from exposure to the air—this is the important treatment. Wet the inner cloth, as directed, from time to time; when the inflammation subsides (that is, "when the fire is out,") and that depends upon the extent of the burn, apply a simple ointment. One of the best is made from common whiting, such as tins are cleaned with, mixed with common lard that is free from salt. This cannot be kept for any great length of time, but the ingredients should be kept at hand. If, through bad management, there is no limewater and linseed oil on hand when wanted, make a dressing of a pint of hot water and milk—one-half pint of each—and a small teaspoonful of bicarbonate of soda—common baking soda. Do not put pastes of flour, soda, and so on, on a burn; they cake and are very harsh and irritating.

Slight cuts often bleed profusely, and no one should be frightened out of her wits at the sight of face, hands and frock covered with blood. However

serious or slight the wound, one needs her wits for action. Wash the injured surface clean by squeezing water from a sponge upon it, not by moping it with a cloth. Then dry the surface gently, press the edges of the wound together and secure them with strips of court plaster; a good quality, known as surgeon's plaster, should be kept on hand always.

A wound must not be covered by a piece of the plaster, but cut narrow strips and fasten the ends securely on the uninjured flesh. Lay a little dry lint over the cut, and secure with a bandage. After a few hours there may be swelling enough to make the pressure of the plaster painful. In that case slash the edges of the plaster a little on either side of the cut.

Bruises are best kept covered with cold, wet cloths till the pain subsides, and then with hot, wet clothes to prevent discoloration. Stings of insects need cold, wet applications. Wet earth is a good remedy to bind on.

For the nose bleed, let the person afflicted sit up straight and bathe the neck and face with cold water. Snuffing a solution of alum water, or vinegar and water, is also good.

When a person is choking, a small slap with the open hand, upon the back between the shoulders, will, in nine cases out of ten, loosen the obstruction by the forcible ejection of wind from the lungs. In the tenth case, look down the throat to see if the matter lodged there cannot be reached by the finger; if not, give the person (unless, of course, and infant) some bread or potato to swallow, and afterward a drink of something. If these fail, induce vomiting by giving a quantity of warm water to drink, in which a little mustard has been stirred, introducing the finger into the throat to induce gagging.

In serious accidents, or those that threaten to be, a physician should be at once sent for, but there are innumerable times, where there are children, when a little rational treatment of the trouble is all that is necessary, and it can be done as well by the mother, or elder sister, as by the learned doctor. To know, however, just what to do, and how to do it in an emergency, it is necessary to have found it all out beforehand, and to have such simple remedies as have been mentioned on hand, ready for use at an instant's notice. It is inhuman, to say the least, to be ignorant of the proper methods of caring for the bruises, cuts and burns so common to children, and which, if not dangerous, are often very painful. The best known remedies are extremely simple, as has been suggested, but they are as unavailing as if written only in an unknown tongue, unless they are learned, and the various healing agents are ready when needed.

DINAH STURGIS.

We cannot know, until we become old ourselves, how lonely old people feel. Their early friends have passed away, and young people have but little interest in the society of the aged. The poor old pilgrims feel themselves a burden, not really wanted anywhere. The world seems empty and desolate, and they feel as one old lady often said, "It is a misfortune to live to be old." O, let us all be kind to the aged. They have borne heavy burdens, and prepared the way for us, and have labored hard to make our paths smoother than those in which they walked. We are reaping where they sowed. Our old age is coming; now is the time to practice the golden rule, and "God bless us, every one.—Ee.

There are just two sides to the temperance question: a right side and a wrong side. It is hardly probably that the saloon keepers, gamblers and other criminals are on the right side. If you are with them, look well to your footing.

### About Plants.

Those who love their plants truly, to whom every fresh new leaf is a pleasure, and every flower bud a delight, study their habits and likes and dislikes, individual requirements and eccentricities almost as closely as those of their human friends, even if the conservatory is only a small window filled with a meager allowance of plants, their welfare is just as dear to you, as the wealthiest amateur's collection, and their little corner in your heart, a shrine of beauty, purity and innocence, and you cannot help a craving for some knowledge of the larger plant world that your delicate blossoms belong to; while if you have a large and flourishing collection, some medium of information concerning new plants and modes of cultivation is indispensable.

No Lethe was ever more omnipotent for blotting out woman's woes, than an honest love for flowers, and the sweet labor of tending them. I have forgotten the worst headache while reading my "Vick" and buried the worst fit of blues while digging among my flower beds. So, oh ye cynical maidens and house wives! who indulge in arrant finery to the exclusion of flowers, I entreat you to give them a trial, to give up your catch-penny love story papers for more frequent glimpses of a beautiful "Garden," that shall help you to love and understand them, and then see if at the end of such a year you are not a nobler woman, with a nature more refined.—Kate Ellicott, South Carolina, in Household.

The moment a girl has a secret from her mother, or has received a letter she dare not let her mother read, or has a friend her mother does not know, she is in certain danger. A secret is not a good thing for a girl to have. The fewer secrets that lie in the hearts of women at any age the better. It is almost a test of purity. She who has none of her own is best and happiest. In girlhood, hide nothing from your mother; do nothing that, if discovered by your father would make you blush.—Ee.

In one of the city schools a teacher, with all the patience and powers of persuasion she could command, was endeavoring to instruct a class about a right angle triangle. After several attempts she called the scholars to account for inattention, with the remark that what she was saying seemed to go in one ear and out the other. Again she repeated her description, following it by asking: "Who can tell me what a right angle triangle is?" Up went a hand and the bright boy to whom it belonged shouted: "Something which goes in one ear and out the other."

The New York Experiment Station, upon the question of comparative profits in present and past farming in that State, arrives at this result: Taking five principal crops—corn, wheat, oats, potatoes, and hay—aggregating in value 92 per cent of all the leading crops, the average yield since the period from 1862 to 1870 has fallen off 8.8 per cent, while the market value of these crops has fallen to about 67½ per cent of the value then. Yet the labor to produce these crops costs just as much now as it did then, while selling for about two-thirds as much.

To be at work, to do things for the world, to turn the currents of the things about us at our will, to make our existence a positive element, even though it be no bigger than a grain of sand in the great system where we live, that is a new joy of which the idle man knows no more than the mole knows of the sunshine, or the serpent of the eagle's triumphant flight into the upper air. The man who knows indeed what it is to act, to work, cries out, "This, this alone is to live!"—Phillips Brooks.



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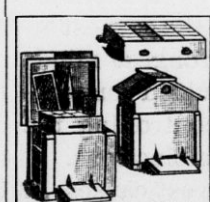
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## Agricultural Depression.

Secretary Rusk, of the Department of Agriculture, has just issued a bulletin on the above subject. He urges farmers to educate themselves and to practice the business methods employed in other successful avocations, and says: "A successful farmer must be as well trained and careful in business as the storekeeper, and his equal in intelligence and general education. The farmer must look with suspicion upon any attempt to abridge the sources of his information."

He states a fact very tersely, in speaking of "farm mortgages," when he says: "At present prices the farmer finds that it takes more of his products to get a dollar, wherewith to pay back the dollar he borrowed, than it did when he borrowed it." This state of facts has been confronting the farmer all along, and now everybody seems to have found it out and to be looking for a remedy.

The Secretary touches upon transportation in a tender sort of a way, and gives the farmer a pointer or two upon highways, as a prelude to his apology to the railroads for saying anything at all.

To the "middle man" and his constantly increasing tribe, the Secretary attributes the "wide gulf between the high prices charged to the consumer and the low prices paid to the producer." He very wisely advises the farmer to become familiar with the market value of what he has to sell, and advocates cooperation among them, both in the sale of crops and the purchase of necessary supplies.

"Gambling in farm products" is a strong text for a short practical sermon. He says: "The frequent and extreme fluctuations of price, occasioned by the operation of irresponsible speculators, is the bane of the producer. These fluctuations are carefully calculated to raise prices when the goods are no longer in the producers' hands, and to depress them when they are. Unquestionably legislation is needed to remedy this evil, and it should be based upon the principle that the evil is not a necessary one, requiring regulation, but an utterly inexcusable one, to be cured by eradication."

He believes that the earnest attention of our strongest minds will eventually result in some adequate means of controlling the gigantic evil of combinations.

One of the gravest causes, in his opinion, of the agricultural depression, is the importation of products which come in competition with the productions of the farm. These importations, he

says, amount to nearly 115 million dollars yearly, and this amount could be produced upon our own soil under favorable conditions. A list of these imports is given, with the amount paid for each product, and includes wool and hides, fruits, barley, hay, hops, rice, tobacco, oils, eggs, vegetables and cheese. If the list is extended to include all purely agricultural products imported last year, they amount to the enormous sum of 356 millions—an increase of 400 per cent. since 1850, while our population has increased less than 300 per cent.

In conclusion, upon the subject of taxation, he says:

"It seems to me that our system of taxation demands improvement in certain directions. The cost of supporting the government needs to be more equitably adjusted among the different classes of our people. At present, in many states, the burden of local taxation presses heavily upon farm property—its very nature rendering it easily assessable. Every corporation created by the state, and to whom special privileges are granted either by state, county, or incorporated village or city, should be taxed in proportion to its earnings, and in all ways the principle of taxation should be to place the burden of maintaining the government, whether state, municipal or national, upon the luxuries and comforts which the wealthy enjoy and to reduce it to a minimum in its application to the hardly earned property of the poor man."

## Planting and Marking Corn Ground.

Since the time when the early settlers of western New York planted their corn with an axe by chopping into the mould of the logging field and dropping the seed in the cleft, there has been a steady improvement in the method of preparing the soil and putting in the seed. When the heavy blacksmith-made hoe was supplanted by the horse-cultivator, rows, which before were unthought of, became a necessity.

More than enough is written about preparation of land for corn, but there is not sufficient understanding yet about the needs of the plant after it begins to grow. The quantity of seed for a given surface, to correspond to the strength of the soil, is still an undetermined factor. Whether too much seed be planted or the rows be too close together, the result is the same—there will always be fodder at the expense of grain. Seed must be regulated to strength of soil. This, often the last thing considered, is of vital importance. There are the best of reasons for saying that 3 ft. 8 in. is a standard for width of corn rows. The acre is the unit of measurement in farming. All the newer States are accurately surveyed into squares with right angles. Counties are divided into townships, townships into sections and sections into fourths which make the ideal farms of the country. If we split these quarter-sections in equal halves we have 80-acre farms, twice as long as they are wide. These divided into equal squares make 40 acres, which being again subdivided make the ideal field—40 rods wide and 80 rods long. Now if this field is to be planted to corn, it is very desirable to the farmer who lays out his plans with some degree of regularity, to so subdivide each acre into rows that they may be uniform and at such distance apart as best to facilitate after-cultivation. Somewhere between 3½ and 4½ ft. will be chosen.

Now 3 ft. 8 in. apart for the rows gives exactly 18 rows to the acre across the field from side to side, and 9 rows to the acre the

long way of the field. In the after-cultivation of the crop, the modern two-horse cultivators will work to the center of the row, while at 4 ft. or wider, there will always be a strip in the center that the cultivator-teeth will not disturb. If the corn be cut up 9 hills square, each acre will have just 40 shocks; by husking four adjoining shocks in different parts of the field, the product will be 1-10 the yield of an acre. Thus accuracy can be determined, which to the thinking farmer is worth something. The value of this distance is perceived after the crop is gathered in, and when the field is to be ploughed again. Every ploughman knows how difficult it is to turn cornstubble under well, unless the furrow before turning the hill comes up close to the outside of it. Rows 4 ft. apart require three 16-inch furrows to compass the space. This is too wide for ordinary ploughs; four inches less space permits three furrows to turn the soil completely. The above practice on our own farm for several years is so satisfactory that we know it will be adopted by others after a year's trial. The distance named gives 518 hills to the acre more than at 4 ft. and requires less seed to the hill. We aim to know that the seed will germinate before planting, and the rule is to plant just two kernels to the hill, and never less. If three are dropped occasionally we do not require one to be picked out, but we would as soon the accident of one kernel to the hill be made as to have four planted. Too large a growth of stalk is fatal to best results in the product of grain. As will be inferred, we are slow enough still to prefer the hoe to a power planted, as we plant only about twenty acres a year.

We never yet have seen a planter that could count the kernels; five small ones or three large is the rule for a planter. The ground is marked accurately both ways, and 20 acres can be planted in two days with three hands. We are pretty well satisfied when a field is well planted, with just the right amount of seed to the hill, trusting to thorough cultivation afterward to perfect a job well begun.

There is a surfeit of opinions on the cause of the present depression in agriculture. The clerk on a government salary, with a healthy tenure in view, says the farmers are all blamed fools, and if they would exhibit more sense their circumstances would improve. But let his salary be cut down one half, and we then should see some very lively skirmishing around to investigate the cause of the depression in clerk-culture as well. When we desire to know the state of a people—to learn the effect of laws within the commonwealth, we do not go to the well-to-do nor to the millionaires to know how the common people fare, but to the people themselves. If they are happy and contented, well. If there are complaints, there are grounds for them, occasioned by some inequality in the working of the laws or some adjustment that needs attention. Theories originating behind a desk are of very little worth. The place to begin investigation for a disease is at the sorest spot, and the patient is the best judge of what is hurting him. So, when our millionaire friends come around for our votes, and have a panacea for our ills to hand out as a prelude, let us ask them how long since the "grippe" got hold of them, and if they have been taking

their own medicine for the disease. The chances are that their diagnosis is false, their remedy a sham and their real errand extremely cheeky.

You, who intended to send the names of some of your friends on a postal card, to have sample copies of the VISITOR sent them, and then forgot it after reading the last number, do it now, while the impulse is fresh and strong. Look to your own paper, also, and see if the label does not indicate that a renewal is necessary. If so, a dollar bill and your neighbor's name are a good deal more acceptable than fifty cents in stamps. They will not pay the printer, nor a man to split fence posts.

Our friends must remember that, in order to change the address of a subscriber, we must have the former address as well as the place to which the paper is desired to go. We could find the name and the present address by going through the whole list of subscribers, (that has been done), but we haven't a lot of unused time to be employed upon so unnecessary a search.

Bertha A. Glidden, the adopted daughter of the editor, nearly 15 years of age, died April 17th, of scarlet fever, after only two days' illness.

"Can I call that home where I anchor yet,  
Since both my mates have sailed?  
Can I call that home where my nest was set,  
Now all its hope hath failed?  
Nay, but the port where my darlings went  
And the land where my nestlings be,  
There is the home where my thoughts are sent,  
The only home for me. Ah me!"

MIL0, MICH., April 15th.

ED. VISITOR:

Mr. W. W. Bass, in the VISITOR, says, "according to his best information the average earnings of capital invested in farming produces only from 2 to 3 per cent." Is that a fact? It is the same old story I heard when a boy, 65 years ago in western New York. It may be true when you have robbed the farm of a living and credit it only with the surplus, but I think most intelligent farmers of to-day, even at the present low price of farm products, when debit and credit has been kept with the farm, will show not less than 6 to 8 per cent on capital invested. Mr. Editor, this may raise a howl. If so, how many farmers can tell the per cent their farms pay them? I have a case in point; seven years ago last August a gentleman and lady drove into my yard introducing themselves as from Saratoga Springs, N. Y., saying they owned a farm of 160 acres five miles north and wishing me to manage the same for them, intimating that they wanted the farm put in good condition, and if it paid them 3 per cent they would be satisfied. As I had a little leisure I informed them if they would give me a power of attorney I would take the job. I knew the farm and its entire history. A mortgage foreclosure, three years in law to perfect title, not a building on the place, fences gone, and grown to grubs, wash outs, ten feet deep, stone heaps and plenty of stones for more on the ground. The next day after the contract I visited the farm, and found the wheat that grew on 14 acres in stacks, of which the farm drew one-third, on another part of the farm I found 100 sheep. I quietly informed the owner that pasture was worth 3 cents per head. From that day it was well known who the owner was, and notice was given of no more trespassing. As the improvements, taxes, and my salary were to come from the sales of the farm of 100 acres of improved land, work was slow. Result 110 acres improved land under a high state of cultivation, 60 acres in clover and 50 in wheat, and all under good fence, stone all picked, mower and twine binder can be used on any part of it. Now, all labor in making improvements has been hired, grain crops put in on

shares, the farm drawing one-half in the half bushel or basket.

Grain of all kinds, standing grass and the straw, I have sold, also some pasture, nothing fed on the farm. Income, after the first year my books show that after paying for improvements, taxes and myself, the farm has paid 3, 4, 5, and this year 6 per cent, on five dollars per acre more than I have been offered for the same. If this farm has, under the conditions mentioned, paid 5 and 6 per cent yearly, what will a good, improved farm equally as well handled, pay?

Bro. Glidden, I hear you ask the question, "Towne, how do you keep that farm up?" I reply, by clover and plaster, in rotation, turning it under. "But aren't you afraid your ground will get clover sick?" That is too old a chestnut. I don't fail to have a good catch of clover.

Since writing the above article, I have sold the wheat raised on that farm for 80 cents per bushel, which will net the owner 6½ per cent. There are two points I wish to make: 1. That good farming pays. 2. That if our farms get the credit to which they are entitled, they pay a better per cent than they are usually credited with.

A. C. TOWNE.

## Wisconsin Station.

Experiments in feeding swine have taught that for the market price Indian corn is beyond all comparison the cheapest single food article for hogs, and that they will live a long time and make a fair gain upon it, but bone meal, hard-wood ashes, whole or ground oats, fed with it, have done better than on corn alone. Those living on corn, with ground bone and ashes, had their bones doubled in strength, or, as mentioned more in detail, "a pinch of ground bone or a handful of wood ashes caused nearly three times as much water drunk, almost one-fourth more corn meal eaten, more than twice the strength of bone, and more than 50 pounds of corn meal saved in making 100 pounds of gain in live weight." The opinion is emphatically given that "it is high time that farmers come to learn that oats are just as valuable for building bone and muscle in a pig as in a colt." The best average ever attained in a feeding trial was one-third ground oats and two-thirds corn meal. For older hogs oats may be fed unground with good results, but they should be scattered thinly over the floor so as to induce slow eating and thorough mastication.

The ruling low price of grain is plainly to be found in the fact that those countries which, by the aid of steam power have been made neighbors and enabled to carry on trade with each other, are producing more grain than can be consumed within their own borders, and that everything left as a surplus must of necessity become cheap. Twenty, thirty or forty years ago North America was the only country from which England could supply her own deficiency in the matter of grain. At that time it was only necessary for the American agriculturist to know how the harvest in England had turned out in order to fix upon the price of his own productions. At present, however, not only the United States and Canada, but also Southern Russia, Egypt, India, Australia and the Argentine Republic offer their grain to England, and also other articles of food, such as beef and mutton sheep and cattle from Australia and South America have found their way to the market of the world. The consumers in England and elsewhere derive benefit from this general competition, but to the producer, i. e., the farmer it is a source of injury, and this to no less an extent in free-trade-inclined England than in protectionally-inclined America.

An Irish magistrate asked a prisoner if he was married. "No," replied the man. "Then," said his worship, amid peals of laughter, "it's a good thing for your wife."

A tug is the only thing that has its tows behind.

Communications.

The Contest.

NORTH BRANCH, Apr. 14.

ED. VISITOR:

The contest in North Branch Grange No. 607, conducted by N. Stover and H. Bradshaw, as leaders, with your humble servant as umpire, closed Friday evening, April 11th. You will not be in the least surprised when I tell you that my hair is getting thin. The last entertainment was given by Bro. Bradshaw and his associates on Saturday evening, April 5, and came up the home stretch with what seemed an impassable speed, with many points in the lead; but Brother Stover's team, after being fed on subscriptions to the VISITOR for a few days, started with a determination to win, making 400 points in one day and passing their competitors by 190 points.

When I accepted the position of umpire I expected to be placed at the head of the table as king, and to eat, drink and be merry at the expense of the defeated side, but, after working their curtains from 7:30 to 11 p. m. for them to make 2010 points in one evening, they had the cheek to inform me that I was to take a position as servant.

E. E. OWEN.

Lapeer Pomona.

DRYDEN, April 10th, 1890.

ED. VISITOR:

The Lapeer county Pomona Grange, P. of H., was held at Dryden, April 10. Owing to the impassability of the roads there were few in attendance. The reports of subordinate Granges were interesting and full of zeal.

J. M. Lamb gave us a hearty welcome in his address, which is characteristic of him. H. Bradshaw, responded in his good natured style. "The Farmer's relation with European countries" was opened by N. Stover, who advanced the idea that a policy with foreign countries should be followed to prevent them from shutting their doors against our farm products. J. M. Lamb thought that Yankee ingenuity would come out uppermost.

A long discussion followed on the exemption laws, but a majority favored the present laws to any other suggested.

Mrs. J. M. Lamb read an essay—"Small things Helpful"—which was entertaining, instructive, and showed much literary ability.

"What causes the low prices in farm produce" occasioned quite a lively debate, leading into the tariff question.

Mrs. E. R. Owen gave a recitation, "The Last Hymn," which was well rendered and showed that she had talent in that direction.

Owing to the bad roads during this meeting, Dryden Grange asked that the June meeting be held with them, which was granted.

E. E. OWEN,  
Sec. Pro Tem.

Box Stalls.

It is now the season of the year when stock of all kinds is most liable to disease, and in my experience upon the farm and as a veterinary surgeon, there is no one thing so much needed, and so universally lacking, as a suitable place to care for sick animals.

I have been called to treat animals suffering from various diseases, and found them lying in fence corners, mery barnyards, and cold, damp basements, where there was no ventilation at all, or where damp, chilly winds blew upon them, increasing their sufferings; in fact they are usually surrounded by the very conditions that are most liable to produce the disease, and I am sorry to say it is not often a suitable place for the suffering animals can be found. There is an idea abroad that medicines cure disease, but it is an error. It is true that we give medicines, but only to aid and assist nature to overcome the disease; and to do this in half the cases met with, I would rather have a dry, roomy, warm and well ventilated box stall, with good food and water, than all the medicines one could carry. As regards dimensions, 12x14 or 14x14 feet makes a very fine one. It should be of good height, with a strong beam or

joist to which a sling may be attached, and also a place where a rope or halter stale may be put through to draw an animal's head up to give it a drench. The stall should be well lighted and arranged so it can be darkened if necessary. It is better to have it ventilated from near the top so no draughts may strike upon a sick animal. The walls should be warm and strong, and ceiled up on the inside that they may be smooth to prevent injury and render them easily disinfected, that no microbes or disease germs may remain. The floor ought to be of plank, arranged to give good drainage, that it may always be dry. The door should be strong and well fastened at the bottom—doors where the two halves swing separately are preferred. A feed box that can be removed is essential; it may be placed low so that a foal can eat with its dam, for it is here a colt usually learns his table manners.

With nice bedding, such a stall will prove invaluable to the farmer and stockman, for sick animals and those about to become mothers. For that usually troublesome period of colt-weaning, it becomes a strong and effective argument in your favor, and to most farmers will pay for itself in a year or two, besides saving much money and trouble. I am sure it will cause a broad smile to light the features of the veterinary surgeon and do much to alleviate the sufferings and add to the comforts of those who cannot speak.

NED S. MAYO, V. S.  
Agricultural College, Michigan.

HESPERIA, March 12.

ED. VISITOR:

Judge Ramsdell's pamphlet on "National Finances, Banks, and Silver Coinage" came with last evening's mail and was not laid down until we had reached the end of the last sentence. And now we feel like taking Brother Ramsdell by the hand for a hearty shake and a hearty "thank you". This work ought to be read by every Patron in Michigan, every farmer in Michigan, every farmer and laborer in the United States—read and reread—until the logical conclusions to which it leads are thoroughly understood and digested.

Your suggestion in the VISITOR of March 15th that farmers or their would be leaders might better be turning their attention to studying economic rather than political questions, is most forcibly emphasized by its reading. And why not? For years we have had more than a surfeit of politics. And for whose benefit? Surely not ours. And why all this sickening twaddle of "tariff reform," "protection," "over-production," and the thousand and one things politicians have been "giving us" only to blind and mislead, while every year the coils are being drawn closer around the farmer? For more than twenty years we have been looking, hoping and praying for an end to this decline in the price of farm property and products; and now we are told the decline of last year reached within a fraction of five per cent.

The statistician of the Agricultural department at Washington, in the January and February report, 1890, page 8, gives the increase in number of farm animals from 1884 to 1890 at upwards of 10,000,000, and the decline in value at \$192,000,000. The value of the additional 10,000,000 of farm stock all gone and \$192,000,000 with it. This is only one branch of farming—the others have declined in a similar ratio. Better systems of farming, better methods and appliances, we all want, but under the present financial arrangements, to talk of the increased fertility of our soils, the increased value of better grades of farm stock, yields of grain and fruits, seems to be sowing a harvest that others are reaping. This decline for the past fifteen years has averaged about two per cent per annum, reaching 4.72 per cent for 1887, and if it is to continue, the most skillful system of farming cannot hope to escape impending ruin.

Examining this question as farmers, we usually forget that there has been no real decline in values, that all this change has been but the natural and inevitable

result of the manipulation of the laws of finance for that express purpose, simply a method of transferring values, that is all. A transfer of values from the pockets of one class of citizens into the vaults and coffers of another class of citizens, a transfer of values from the hand that creates wealth into the hand that gathers and hoards wealth. The bushel of wheat you sell to-day for 75 cents is just as valuable to the world as the bushel you once sold for \$1.50, contains the same amount of food and feeds the same number of hungry people. Neither has it benefited the laborer who consumes the wheat, he gives the same amount of labor as when he paid \$1.50. But there is an army of fund holders with stocks, moneys, bonds and mortgages that it materially benefits, another with fixed incomes and salaries, that it was designed to benefit. And each turn of the financial machine sending up the price of their commodities in the same ratio that ours comes down. Their condition is the reverse side of the industries, no depression for them.

To-day there is more of food, more of clothing, more of the necessities and luxuries of life, more of wealth, more of every thing necessary to make the people of a great nation rich, prosperous and happy than the world has ever seen before. And still the times grow closer, tighter and harder! And what but a most vicious system of financial legislation could have ever wrought out the present unnatural depression of the farming and industrial conditions of the country? And nothing but straight forward, honest, heroic legislation can ever reverse the downward tide.

The State Grange of Michigan has done a grand work, they have done their duty, now let us do ours and the needed reform will surely come. If we only speak loud enough the "powers that be" can be made to hear. This work needs the endorsement of the material upon which the State Grange is built. Ourspeken resolutions of endorsement, asking and demanding redress, published and forwarded to our members of Congress, if there are only enough of them, can be made to accomplish all we ask. The earnestness and activity of our representatives at Lansing needs to be emphasized. And now if the refrain could only be caught up by the farmers' organizations and farmers' clubs all over the country, the obstacles to returning prosperity and success which legislation has thrown in our way could soon all be removed. The present unnatural conditions of society can not, must not be continued. It is the voice of organized labor to which our legislators will always listen with respectful attention, and a neglect on our part to speak now is a criminal neglect.

M. W. SCOTT.

To the Committees on Woman's Work in the Grange.

In response to the circular issued by Sister Hawkins, Chairman of the National Committee on Woman's Work in the Grange, which I sent to the State Committees in my jurisdiction, I have received many letters asking for further instruction, which I have cheerfully answered. But the committees appointed in the several State, Pomona and Subordinate Granges must certainly know better what course to pursue to interest their own members than any one who is not familiar with their circumstances and surroundings can possibly be. The same system of literary work and social culture cannot be successfully used in all Granges, any more than fixed rules on domestic economy are applicable to every home. The wife and mother in the home studies the wants of her family, estimates the possibilities of her income, counsels with her husband and does the best her circumstances will allow for the welfare of her household. Let each committee act in her jurisdiction in the same manner. Counsel with the brothers, study the wants and qualifications of the members, impress upon all that the Grange is not only their

home, but their school for improvement, and that each has a work to perform. Endeavor to bring out in some pleasing way the thoughts inspired by the exercise of their different tastes and talents. Sisters must not think that their work is a separate one from that of their brothers, for their interests are identical in the Grange as well as in the home. The brothers are kings, the sisters, queens on the same throne, and there, side by side, they can counsel, advise, plan, execute and watch over its welfare and purity. She, in her mild, womanly way, when supported by his stronger arm, will be able to overcome every obstacle and achieve success.

From long experience in the work of a Subordinate Grange, I will make the following suggestions for literary exercises: Divide the members into four or more sections, or classes. If the membership is large, fifteen or twenty may be put into a section. Let the members of each division select one of their number for Captain, who will arrange the program and conduct the exercises. Number the divisions, and each in turn will entertain the Grange. For that purpose an hour should be set apart, after the order of business and recess, at each meeting. The exercises should consist of essays, short speeches, recitations, dialogues and, when practicable, close with charades, tableaux, a play or comedy. Such part in the program as members can best perform should be assigned to each, and upon receiving notice and the invitation from their captain they will generally respond. Children who are not old enough to become members can be admitted to these exercises, when there is a convenient separate room for them to stay while the Grange is doing regular work. I know of no better way to interest the children than to let them take part in the exercises. This may not be practical in all cases, but where it is, the result will be productive of good. When other exercises are not provided, the Lecturer should appoint members to write essays on important topics, and, when read, have the subject and paper the theme for general discussion. Notice should be given at a previous meeting, so the members can give the subject thought and study and be prepared to discuss it. The paper should include the "House and Home" as well as the "Farm and Field," also other subjects of general importance.

A Grange can be just what its members desire to make it. Do nothing hastily, but plan with deliberation, and then act promptly and zealously. Report your work and results to the committee under the jurisdiction of which you are acting, and when the results reach the National Grange Committee they will be compiled in a report to the National Grange.

Sisters, this important work has been placed in our hands for a worthy purpose. Let us show to the world that we are worthy of the trust. If the workers are many, and their efforts well directed, we may reasonably expect that good results will follow.

Hoping to hear from you, I am,  
Yours, most Faithfully and Fraturnally,

MRS. H. H. WOODMAN,  
Member of the National Committee, Paw Paw, Michigan.

HAWKINSVILLE, Ala., Mar. 31st.

DEAR SISTERS:—Having been honored with so important a trust by the Grange, it behooves us to act with exceeding great caution in our work, and take no step that would bring discredit on our order. There are persons who seek to use our committee work in advertising schemes for personal gain. The National Grange has condemned the policy of all who seek to use our order to advance their private interests. Such policy cannot therefore be countenanced by the National Committee on Woman's Work in the Grange.

I deem it but proper that I should caution all member of Committees working under State, County and Subordinate Granges, to discourage and suppress all such schemes as being contrary

to the objects and purposes of our order.

Fraturnally,  
MRS. L. A. HAWKINS,  
Chairman National Committee.

April 10th, 1890.

We have read with pleasure A. J. Cook's reply to our inquiry in GRANGE VISITOR and beg to thank him through the VISITOR for the information received. We will see that the honeysuckle leaves are forth coming if the insects trouble this season. It was not the striped cucumber beetle we had reference to, but a beetle that is ash color and about half or three-quarters of an inch long. They suck the sap from the main stalk of plant, causing it to die. These beetles were so numerous last season they destroyed both pumpkin and squash vines for us, although I fought them with a vengeance, these beetles lay eggs on the under side of the leaf in rows; the eggs are brown.

AUNT KATE.

Alabastine.

From Chicago Weekly Inter Ocean, March 18.

We have contracted to have the new *Inter Ocean* counting room decorated with Alabastine. Church's Improved Alabastine is now sold in the place of the original Alabastine so long and favorably known to the readers of the *Inter Ocean*. The improved is the same as the original, made by the same man and same company, the improvement consisting simply in more perfect proportions and general improvements in the same line as the original invention, adapting Alabastine to being stippled, combed (corrugated) or modeled on walls, and while it is made to form a harder cement, if anything, than the original, which sets in the form of a porous cement, the improved sets much slower, as well as harder.

It cannot be kept mixed and left to set in the dish over night and used next day, but can be kept in liquid form all day while it is being used, and will work even when it is cool, and as with the original it forms a permanent coating, that is, one that hardens with age, admitting of re-coating from time to time without the necessity of taking off the old coats, if all old coats of kalsomine, etc., are removed first. Fine or light stippling, as done with Church's Improved Alabastine, produces an effect similar to engrain paper, though much nicer and more durable. Being a smooth as well as pebbled surface, it will admit of cleaning with bread, as walls are sometimes cleaned. With our instructions this stippling can be done by anyone.

We furnish cut stencil patterns at cost to alabastiners and some free to those the Alabastine dealers recommend as users and advocates of Alabastine.

Don't use kalsomine or paper that it costs more to remove than to apply.

A movement is on foot to pass State laws making it an offense to put a coat of kalsomine or paper over an old coat of paper for a tenant. Kalsomine, with its decaying glue, and paper, with glue on its face and flour paste behind it, absorbs moisture from respiration and propagates germs of disease, causing much of the sickness the people attribute to climate. All parts of Alabastine combine on the wall to form a porous stone coat that will not decay. Don't let a dealer sell you kalsomine, etc. (that he buys cheaper), by claiming it is the same or just as good as Alabastine.

Send to the Alabastine Co., Grand Rapids, Mich., for a paper taken from the Michigan State Board of Health report, treating on wall coatings and their relation to health, telling why kalsomined and papered walls are unsanitary and why the pure, porous Alabastine is sanitary.

Send for a treatise on Alabastine with colored room designs and full instructions for all kinds of Alabastine work, including instructions adapted for ladies to decorate bric-a-brac, etc.

Alabastine is for sale by all paint dealers.

"Chickens for Use and Beauty" is the title of a profusely illustrated article by H. S. Babcock, in the forthcoming *May Century*.



May 1, 1890.

BIGGEST OFFER EVER MADE

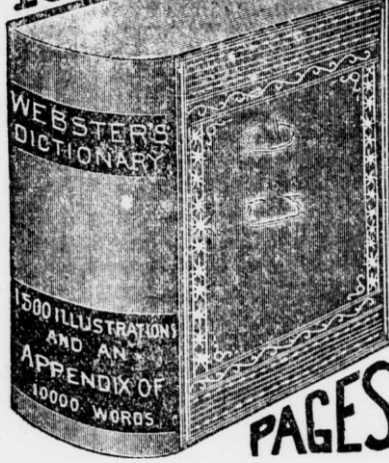
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A Webster's Dictionary is a household necessity, and we feel assured that no one will be without it now. Send in your orders to the office of this paper at once, as the demand is great and the supply limited. We will forward all orders to the publishers and guarantee to furnish the New York Weekly for three months and a handsome bound copy of Webster's Dictionary, containing over 1600 pages, for \$4.

We have decided to add this paper to the above offer at \$4.50. GRANGE VISITOR, Paw Paw, Mich.

GERMAN HORSE AND COW POWDER

Is of the highest value of horses, cattle, hogs, and poultry. It assists digestion and assimilation and thus converts feed into muscle, milk and fat which otherwise would be wasted.

MORTIMER WHITEHEAD

Says: "German Horse and Cow Powder pays many times its cost in keeping all kinds of farm stock in good health. I have used it for years on my farm, buying a barrel at a time."

Wholesale Prices—viz: Barrels—20 lbs in bulk, 7 1/2c per pound. Boxes—60 lbs " " 8c " " 30 lbs—5 lb pack, 10c.

By ALBERT STEGEMAN, Allegan, Mich. THORNTON BARNES, No. 241 North Water St., Philadelphia, Pa.

For a DISORDERED LIVER Try BEECHAM'S PILLS. 25cts. a Box. OF ALL DRUGGISTS.

I CURE FITS!

When I say cure I do not mean merely to stop them for a time and then have them return again. I mean a radical cure. I have made the disease of FITS, EPILEPSY or FALLING SICKNESS a life-long study. I warrant my remedy to cure the worst cases. Because others have failed is no reason for not now receiving a cure. Send at once for a treatise and a Free Bottle of my infallible remedy. Give Express and Post Office. H. G. ROOT, M. C., 183 Pearl St. New York.

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To all who pay for the same in advance, THE TRUE NORTHERNER and GRANGE VISITOR will be furnished for one year at one dollar and fifty cents

THE TRUE NORTHERNER is the leading and official paper of Van Buren county, is located in the finest office, and has larger facilities for all kinds of newspaper work than any other paper in Western Michigan.

The GRANGE VISITOR is published by the proprietors of THE TRUE NORTHERNER, and has the largest circulation in this State, of any farm paper west of Detroit.

The TRUE NORTHERNER alone, \$1.50 The GRANGE VISITOR alone, .50 Remember that by paying one year in advance, you secure both of these publications for the regular price of THE NORTHERNER—\$1.50.

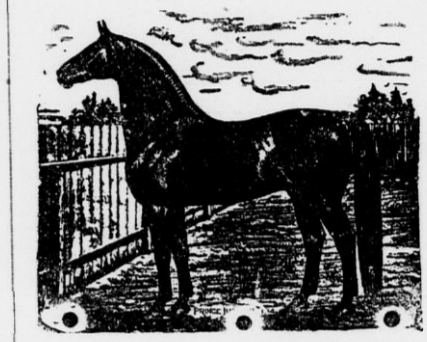
GREENWOOD STOCK FARM. Poland China Swine a Specialty. Breeding Stock recorded in Ohio P. C. Record. Correspondence and inspection invited. B. G. BUELL, Little Prairie Route, Cass Co., Mo.

A New Method of Treating Disease

HOSPITAL REMEDIES.

What are they? There is a new departure in the treatment of diseases. It consists in the collection of the specifics used by noted specialists of Europe and America, and bringing them within the reach of all. For instance the treatment pursued by special physicians who treat indigestion, stomach and liver troubles only, was obtained and prepared. The treatment of other physicians, celebrated for curing catarrh was procured, and so on, till these incomparable cures now include disease of the lungs, kidneys, female weakness, rheumatism and nervous debility.

This new method of "one remedy for one disease" must appeal to the common sense of all sufferers, many of whom have experienced the ill effects, and thoroughly realize the absurdity of the claims of Patent Medicines which are guaranteed to cure every ill out of a single bottle, and the use of which, as statistics prove, has ruined more stomachs than alcohol. A circular describing these new remedies is sent free on receipt of stamp to pay postage by Hospital Remedy Company, Toronto, Canada, sole proprietors.



IMPORTED CLEVELAND BAYS.

Our sales this year have been satisfactory, and we still have for sale thirty or more registered, serviceable stallions, with fine style and action, that could make their owners large and sure profits in any county in Southern Michigan. The demand increases each year for horses that are sound, having the size, style, color, endurance and action of the Cleveland Bays. Our farmers have been breeding trotting and heavy horses to the neglect of fine Coach and General Purpose Horses, until the latter are scarce and command good prices. No other breed promises so sure profit. They cross well with any breed and stamp their characteristics upon every colt. From one stallion we got 68 bay colts in one year and every one sound.

CLEVELAND BAY HORSE CO., Paw Paw, Mich.

PERCHERON STALLIONS FOR SALE.

Bred from Noted Imported Stock. Recorded in the Percheron Stud Book. Not ever-fed or pampered. Time given on good security, so that a stallion ought to earn every dollar of the purchase price before it comes due. If he does that, he will have cost the buyer absolutely NOTHING that he would have had without him. Prices about one-half less than Importers would ask for the same quality of stock. Brother Patrons and Farmers: If you have any notion of buying, write to me or come and see me before doing so.

Registered Merino Sheep for sale. A. W. HAYDON, Decatur, Mich.

PRICE LIST OF SUPPLIES

Table listing various supplies and their prices, including blank books, receipt books, and membership cards.

Clubbing List with The Visitor.

Table listing clubbing rates for various publications like Weekly Free Press, Detroit Weekly Tribune, etc.

Beecham's Pills cure bilious and nervous ills

Treatment of Clover—Farming Without Live Stock.

You may have noticed the following lines in the editorial column of a late number of the Rural New Yorker:

"It used to be considered, the worst form of heresy to do anything with clover besides feeding it to cattle. \* \* \* \* There are now many farms where the clover crop should never touch the lips of stock at all."

Among the thousands of farmers met at the institutes in this state Pennsylvania, during the winter, I find quite a number who are getting out of the "heresy" rut; who are getting their eyes open to the fact that changing circumstances may make some new way better than the old way. You know my farm is one of these "where the clover crop never touches the lips of stock." We have for years only cut enough of it for hay to keep our work teams, and one cow to give us milk. The rest of the clover has gone back to the land without going through stock. This because we could make the most money with the least trouble by so doing, and keep our land up just as well. It is pleasant to see that so many others are looking at this matter sensibly now.

This clover question has been selected for discussion at nearly every institute the writer has attended during the winter. The experiences brought out may be of interest to your readers. Briefly, my plan is to grow the heaviest possible clover sod. To this end I sow about a bushel of seed on six acres, quite early (sowed this year a week ago today). Timothy is not sown in the fall, as that does not give the clover the best possible chance. A little may be sown in the spring. After harvest we run the mower, set high and with the track-clearers off, over the stubble field, twice usually, to cut off weeds and clip the clover back and thus thicken it up, and also prevent it from going to seed. But we do not rake up and take off any of this rowen. It is all kept on the ground for a mulch.

Now, the discussions at the institute have brought out right here two points of value. First, many have mowed off their stubbles, but not at the right time. They waited too long, until the weeds and clover had become too woody. The clipping should be done when they are so green and tender that they will shrink and dry up in a few days. Again, the last cutting should be early enough so there will be three or four inches of new growth to fall down and protect the plants during the winter. Second, many farmers were afraid to cut off the weeds and clover and leave them on the ground for fear that mice would do more damage. When this question was first brought up, in Pennsylvania, early in the winter, I hardly knew what to say. I knew I had no trouble from field mice; but didn't fully realize that my treatment was probably the reason why I did not. At numerous meetings since I have inquired particularly on this point. In Medina county, this State, a reliable farmer followed my plan. A neighbor told him that the mice would eat his clover all up, and said: "Just you wait; I will show you how to grow clover." The neighbor left his standing. The reported result was that the properly-mowed field is all right, and the other eaten so by mice that it will have to be plowed up. When I came home I walked all round my clover field, but failed to find one mouse, or a sign that one had been there. I stepped over into the pasture where there were bunches of standing grass and could start up a mouse anywhere, or in the standing grass in the fence corners. But in my field, although there was a good deal of stuff mowed off, it was done at a time when it shrank up and worked down to the surface of the soil, so that there was little chance for a mouse to hide.

I have been pleased this winter to see how many farmers have learned that it does not pay to turn stock on to cultivated fields to eat off clover. Stock keeping properly managed is all right. But when the Ohio farmer keeps a drove of stock, with the small chance for profit that there is

now, and lets them eat his new-seeded stubble fields to the ground, as well as the grass in other lots, he is on the road to a sheriff's sale, unless he has a large farm and is out of debt. Close gnawing and trampling have injured a great many farms in this section more than the stock keep has done good. No stock go on my clover at any time. We want to grow just the thickest, heaviest crop we can of both tops and roots to increase fertility. We want the surface mulched and shaded as much as possible from the time the clover seed is sown until the ground is plowed for another crop. We want the ground as loose as possible, also, so as to let the air in. Hence we keep all stock off. These are the conditions under which available nitrogen accumulates the most rapidly. This is a vastly cheaper way for us to get it than to pay 17 cents a pound for it in a fertilizer. Again, we never allow the clover to grow but one season, after the one that it grew in the wheat stubble. It has then made the greatest growth of roots it will ever have. It then goes under the potatoes, not in the fall, but when the ground is dry enough to crumble in the spring, and not before. I believe in keeping something growing on the land as nearly all the time as possible. That is the most natural and safe way. We cut part of the first crop of clover for our hay, carefully saving all manure (to return) on cement floors and in a covered barn yard. I am inclined to think the wisest plan for my farm is to let all the rest go back to the soil directly. But still we have some years cut the clover, taken the seed out and returned the haulm evenly over the field. Very likely a dollar in hand has hidden two that could have been picked up within a year. This is a very common failing with us farmers. The man who pastures his young clover off closely holds the present dollar so near his eye that it hides five or ten in the future.

Let no man think that he can sow clover on a young timothy and wheat sod, pasture, trample and abuse it generally and get anything like such good results out of its growing as the writer has. One must study all through to give it the best possible chance, if he wants it to pay his checks every time. During the cold mornings in December, when the ground was frozen so we could get on, we drew out manure and carefully spread it on the poorest portions of our wheat, as shown by the fall growth. Each load will probably bring a dollar in the wheat, put on such spots, but that isn't the main point. It will insure a rank growth of clover on these poorer portions of the field, and that means an absence of poor spots in the future. When the manure gave out we drew out straw and spread thinly over the wheat. It seems to help the growth of clover almost as much as manure.

I do not wish to advise any one in regard to farming without stock. Many have written me on the subject. I am and have been doing what was best for me. There are probably thousands of others who might so arrange as to do better by keeping no stock. Each one should study this matter out for himself. From 35 acres of land we live well and lay up money growing potatoes and wheat. Should we attempt to farm it as we did 15 or 20 years ago, raising cattle and feeding them winters, we should have to shut down tremendously on our living expenses or run behind. Times have greatly changed. We were quick to change accordingly. Should circumstances make it advisable to change back to stock keeping, the same careful treatment would be given the clover and all stock would be kept off.

T. B. Terry, in Country Gentleman, Summit County, O., March 10th.

"I have diagnosed your husband's case, carefully, my dear Mrs. Burtley," said the young physician, "and I find him suffering from rheumatism of the pedal extremities." "Oh, my grief!" exclaimed the old lady, in distress, "it's wusser than I thought. Poor John said the pain was all in his feet."

Grow up in the Country.

In the country town the intellectual young man works, studies and thinks. In the city his leisure hours are filled with a multitude of diversions—shows, spectacles, games, social entertainments and so forth. Unless he has great strength of character, the city young man is very likely to grow up without noble aims, seeking his personal enjoyment from day to day and trusting to luck or the influence of relatives to open some easy pathway to fortune. His imagination is inflamed with stories of large sums of money made in quick speculations. It seems not worth while to try to save a dollar or two a week when some other fellow has just made a thousand by good luck and audacity. When his income does not suffice to pay for his fine clothes and his pleasures, he contracts debts and dodges his creditors.

Thus he loses that fine sense of personal honor which makes an unpaid debt seem a disgrace. Young men who start in this way rarely amount to anything. When in middle age they are usually found drudging in the position of mere underlings for barely enough to live upon in a narrow way, chronically in debt and with no hope of bettering their circumstances. The young man who has grown up in a village, is, as a rule, much better equipped for the battle of life at twenty-five than is the young man reared in a city. The bright country boy is accustomed to observe in his environment but one road to success, the road of industry, economy and study, and he becomes a hard worker, a careful saver and a close student.—E. V. Smalley.

To Cure Frowning.

A great many earnest thinkers, especially those of a nervous temperament, fall in the habit of scowling when they read, write or talk seriously. This causes two little perpendicular lines to flow in between the eyes. You will notice these lines in portraits of the first Napoleon. Bis marck, the late Emperor William, Whittier, and thousands of others. The effect, as of all wrinkles and distortions, is to make the face ten years older.

Now, this does not so much matter in a man, to whom good looks are of small concern, but it is a blemish on a girl's face. This habit of scowling or frowning is a habit almost impossible to correct, once formed, and it is a habit formed by a great many young people. Even in sleep their brows will be drawn together in this little frown that is an aider and abettor of age.

A smooth, white brow is one of the greatest attractions in a girl's face, and it is a shame that more attention is not paid to the correction of the bad habit. It is not so difficult if taken at the beginning. Practice speaking without moving anything but the lips, and avoid raising and depressing the eyebrows while laughing or talking. A calm and even tone and avoidance of fits of temper will save many a wrinkle.

If the lines are already there it is sometimes possible to remove them by mechanical means. A bright, studious girl found herself the victim of this scowl, which had already made two fine hair lines in her white brow. She set herself to work to cure the habit by setting her mirror before her face when she read, wrote or studied; but as this distracted her attention from her work, she finally placed a ribbon band tightly across her brow, tying it in a knot at the back of her head, and at night she slept in the band.

After several months the little hair lines had disappeared from her pretty forehead, and she is quite cured of the disfiguring habit.

But the best plan is to avoid these marks. Don't frown. Check yourself and have your friends check you. Like all bad habits it will become less and less difficult to overcome with each effort, and in the end it will disappear entirely.—Golden Days.

You say, let men drink who want to and take the consequences; but the man drinks and the woman takes the consequences.—Er.

