

# THE GRANGE VISITOR

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"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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A. C. GLIDDEN, Editor,  
PAW PAW, MICH.

### Thanksgiving.

Once more the circling months come round;  
The birds have flown from bush and tree,  
The vanished summer leaves no sound  
To hint of her stilled minstrelsy.

With darkened skies and meadows bare,  
And winter's chilling blasts begun,  
To-day we think what glories rare  
The seasons brought from sun to sun.

What fruits are in the cellar's bin,  
What wealth the mows and granaries hold  
While radiant cheer prevails within,  
And crackling fires keep out the cold.

They heap the board where joy has place  
Let sorrow sleep, be banished fear,  
If doubtful feet began the race,  
They end one more triumphant year.

Not ours alone is all this gain,  
The harvest we have safe in store  
Should help us soothe some neighbor's pain,  
And spread kind gifts at hunger's door.

The bounteous hand that spreads our feast,  
Which sent the rain and sunshine, too,  
Makes all our blessings twice increased  
By every generous deed we do.

So when our table groans to-day,  
And happy hearts are gathered there,  
Let's find some tear to wipe away,  
Some welcome gifts which we can spare.

— Joel Benton, in America.

### Township Unit School Question.

I read with much interest Mr. Hodgman's article on the Township Unit School system in the last VISITOR. It is a fair and able presentation of that side of the case, and there is no doubt that Mr. Hodgman and many others are sincere in their belief that this idea, if enacted into law, would be beneficial to our rural schools.

I shall devote this paper, not to replying to Mr. Hodgman, but to a partial analysis of the measure, as proposed by its friends, and give some of our objections to it.

Previous to 1865, Jno. M. Gregory, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, caused the introduction of a township unit school bill in the Michigan Legislature, similar to the one brought forward two years ago. The Gregory bill, after being discussed at some length, was defeated. Since that time the system has had its advocates in this state.

Two years ago a bill, carefully framed, its details well worked out, was introduced in the House by the friends of the township unit system. This bill, emanating from the office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, is the embodiment of what is desired by the friends of the "unit" idea. It was endorsed by many Teachers' Associations, and we have received fair warning that this bill, or its equivalent, shall be introduced in every Legislature till it becomes a law. This measure provides that the law shall be optional—it may be adopted or rejected by a majority vote of the electors of any township; that within a certain time after its adoption by a township, the board of school inspectors shall appoint a time and place for a township district school meeting. At this meeting a board of school trustees shall be elected, who shall take possession of all school property in the township, appraise the value of the same, "and at the next annual assessment thereafter, a tax shall be levied upon the whole township, equal to the amount of

the whole appraisal, and there shall be remitted to the tax-payers of each district the said appraised value of the property thus taken. Whenever thereafter a tax shall be raised in the township to build a school house, purchase a site, or to pay any debts previously contracted for such purpose, the supervisor shall assess such tax equally upon all property in the town."

"The township school board shall estimate the amount necessary to be raised for the entire support of all the schools in the district." "When such amount has been estimated and voted by the board of school trustees, it shall be reported for assessment and collection the same as other township taxes," by being spread equally on all the taxable property in the township."

The measure further provides that the hiring of teachers, the amount paid them, the time when school shall be kept and how long it shall be kept, the building, furnishing and repairing of school houses, and all other school business, shall be taken from the hands of the old districts and be placed in the hands of the township board of school trustees.

Some reforms needed by our schools are tacked to this measure, but as they can be carried out as well, or better, under our present system, I will not enumerate them here.

There are other features of this bill objectionable to us, but I shall not review them at this time. I have given the chief features of the measure.

Inasmuch as this measure is "solely for the benefit of the rural districts," to the simple-minded it would seem as though the people of the rural districts, and they alone, should have the deciding voice in the matter; but the votes of the village tax-payers goes into the box, and in 125 towns in this state, this village vote outnumbers the rural vote. In country townships the farmers can act their pleasure, but in the 125 towns referred to, the villages can vote this system upon the country people.

Paw Paw is one of these 125 towns, and as it is the most convenient, I shall use it to illustrate the practical workings of the proposed law, leaving my readers to make the same application in their towns.

The village vote outnumbering the country vote, enables the village people, if they wish to do so, to vote this system in. It is voted in. The board of school trustees is elected and proceeds to carry out the provisions of the law. The school property is appraised. The village property is worth not less than \$30,000, the country property not to exceed \$6,000—total amount of school property to be purchased by the township district from the old districts, \$36,000. The assessed valuation of the township is, in round numbers, \$1,550,000. The country districts are assessed for about half and the village districts for half of this amount. The country districts pay \$18,000 and the village district pays \$18,000—total \$36,000. We will now "remit" to the village tax-payers \$30,000, the value of their school property, and to the country tax-payers \$6,000, the value of their school property. The country tax-payers lay down \$18,000 and take up \$6,000. This \$12,000 that goes from our pockets into the pockets of the village tax-payers, means a dead loss to

the farmer who is assessed \$5,000, of nearly \$80. This is done for the benefit of the rural districts.

The operations of this part of the plan, would take from the pockets of the farmers of these 125 towns not less than \$800,000, which amount would go into the pockets of the tax-payers of the village districts.

But it is said all villages do not have \$30,000 school houses. This fact has been met with becoming generosity. Such villages can build their \$30,000 school houses after this law goes into effect, and the taxes levied to pay the expense of the same the supervisors shall assess equally on all taxable property in the township."

All school taxes are to be spread equally over the township. The village school tax in this town this year is \$3,500; the rural tax is \$650—total, \$4,150. Instead of each district paying its own bills, this would be spread equally over the town, and would increase the rural school tax from \$650 to over \$2,000. Five thousand dollars' worth of country property now pays on the average \$4.20 school tax. Under the unit plan it would pay about \$13. The operations of this feature of the proposed law, if carried into effect in these 125 towns, would be to increase the school taxes of the rural districts of these towns, not less than \$150,000, and to pay \$500,000 to defray the expenses of village schools.

It is evident that, whatever the intent of the law might be, its effect would be to benefit the village schools at the expense of the rural districts.

What benefits are we to receive as compensation for this increased taxation? There is not a single reform advocated in connection with this system, that cannot be carried out equally well under our present system. Rural districts may be enlarged and consolidated; the schools may be graded; a uniformity of textbooks can be secured; terms may be lengthened, and a better grade of teachers can be furnished, without compelling us to pay for other peoples' school houses and schools.

It is urged that the country people will be permitted to use the high schools if they pay these taxes.

Most of our villages are located, not at the center but to one side, or in the corner, of the town containing them. A large proportion of our country people live nearer villages in other towns, and when they have occasion to use high schools, they use the ones most convenient, pay for what they get, and no more.

If the proposed law was passed, we should still use the schools nearest to us and pay our tuition. Where is the justice of compelling us to pay for schools we should never use?

"But," says the theorist, "the townships may erect suitable buildings and maintain central high schools."

Does any one suppose that a village, having the power to control absolutely the school taxes and school affairs of a township, would allow the establishment of a rival high school?

The change in school government is urged as one of the strongest reasons why this law should be enacted. It is said that the farmers do not know enough to manage their school affairs; they sometimes hire incompetent teachers who have certificates granted by the county

board of school examiners; they manage their school finances badly; misspell words; don't use capital letters properly, and commit other mistakes in making out their school reports. I do not deny this. I think we should go still further in this direction. There often is a lack of business management shown in handling our farms. We sometimes hire poor help; we misspell words in our business letters; the lightning-rod man dupes us, as well as the "school chart" agent; we get mortgages on our acres, and bungle things generally.

Would it not be a good idea to have a township board manage our farm affairs?

Every reason given, every argument offered for taking from us the management of our schools, can, with equal force and propriety, be urged for taking from us the management of our farms.

The strongest reason why we oppose this township unit idea is because it takes from our hands our school business and places it in the hands of parties not interested in the success of our rural schools. We feel that the passage of this law would give our village friends a dangerous power. We feel that there would be too strong a temptation for them to use that power in their own interest to the neglect of ours.

For this reason we propose to retain control of our own schools, if we can. We wish to "boss" no one's affairs but our own; we ask no one to pay our taxes but ourselves, but we do ask that we shall be considered of age and that guardians shall not be appointed over us.

We have made a thorough investigation into the operations of this system in other states, and have learned therefrom most useful lessons.

It is said that our rural schools "are in a deplorable condition." I have been in the rural districts of every county in the state and know something as to the condition of the schools of those districts, and this assertion as to their condition I most emphatically deny. There may be once in a while a school district with no children, but no school law would keep a supply of children constantly on hand. There are some poor schools, and there would be under any system, but on the whole, Michigan rural schools are equal to those of any state in this union.

There are other arguments to be offered against this proposed innovation, but those already given are sufficient. The country people do not want it. The power behind this measure is the village tax-payer—the measure proves it.

In conclusion, I will not do Mr. Hodgman the injustice to say that he has championed this measure with full knowledge of what he advocates. I know that many people espoused the idea honestly, and after investigation changed their minds. There are many more who support it at this time who are ignorant of the true inwardness of the measure. Those who are pushing this precious scheme, under the pretense that it is "solely for the benefit of the country districts," are simply trying to work a big confidence game on the rural communities. JASON WOODMAN.

DIMONDALE, Mich., Nov. 10th, 1890. ED. VISITOR: Your remarks in the VISITOR of Nov. 1

on the silver law recently enacted under the heading "Grange Influence in Legislation" lead me to offer some thoughts on that important measure; for ever since the meetings of the National Grange and the National Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union last year in November and December respectively, that declared for free coinage of silver, the subject has been prominent before the American farmers; and ever since the meetings of the Michigan State Grange and the State Convention of the Patrons of Industry in December and February last respectively, when resolutions were adopted seeking the same end but by a different plan, the question has had especial interest for the organized farmers of Michigan.

To this question I have given close attention since it was introduced into congress last April and especially since the exposition of it given by Judge Ramsdell in the supplement to the VISITOR of May 15th, in which he correctly asserted that, "The silver bullion in the silver dollar will buy as much and more of every product of labor or land, gold excepted, and would have bought as much on any day since silver was demonetized, in 1873, as a gold dollar would buy then." I believe the demands made by the intelligent Michigan farmers age so far as the American silver product is concerned; and while differently worded by the two organizations, they consist of the same requirements:

I. Use of the full product of silver from our mines not needed in the arts; the government to purchase the bullion at market rates.

II. The government to issue certificates on the bullion at its coin value; i. e. a dollar for each 371½ grains of bullion.

III. The certificates to be full legal tender for all purposes.

IV. The coinage of only what is needed to supply the business interests through the treasury.

You quote Congressman Burrows as saying that the "silver bill is exactly what the farmer called for."

Congressman O'Donnell of this district claims that "the silver bill is exactly in accordance with the wishes of the farmers of Michigan as expounded at their annual state conventions."

Now, because I cannot understand the law in that way, is why I dissent from their statements and your conclusions. I will therefore briefly compare the outline of the demands made, given above, with the course of legislation on the subject:

Demand I. seems to have been met fully and will not be further considered. The first proposition to purchase \$4,500,000 worth of silver bullion per month was ultimately changed to a requirement of the purchase of 4,500,000 ounces of silver bullion per month.

Demand II., the issue of certificates at its coin value, was not met. Only as many are to be issued as will equal the purchase price of the bullion, which has varied all the way from \$1.03 to \$1.20 per ounce; hence the amount of certificates issued has been variable for the 4,500,000 ounces purchased per month, instead of uniform as called for by the resolution at the rate of \$1.00 for each 371½ grains of silver purchased, or as they were under the old law when silver was

Continued on 5th page.

#### A Model Farmers' Club.

Good of farmers and welfare of the state demand that farmers do not longer hold aloof from organization, says Prof. Cook, in the *New York Tribune*. Why not have a live, vigorous, enthusiastic farmers' club in each rural region—like, for model, the Maple River, of Michigan, which is producing a rich harvest in that community, and might well be duplicated in thousands of neighborhoods. It meets on the last Thursday of each month. The limit of membership is twenty families. The meetings are held with these families in succession. Thus, each entertains the club once in twenty months. They meet each time at about 10 or 11 o'clock. And while the "good wife" and two or three neighboring wives, who exemplify the Bible truth that "it is more blessed to give than to receive," are preparing the dinner, furnished by the special host of the occasion, the other ladies, and possibly the young people, are engaged socially, while the gentlemen are out viewing the stock, the farm, etc. About noon all repair to the dinner table, where bright, pleasurable discussion makes the hour pass all too quickly. This excellent dinner, seasoned by wit and wisdom, is not the least element that helps to tie the members faithfully to their organization. True, it is rather hard on the hostess; but as each receives nineteen dinners to every one given, each accepts the task joyously. No one in the club thinks of leaving, and all outside are clamorous to join. Extra dishes are owned by the club, and are carried home from each meeting by the person who is next to entertain; thus the least trouble and expense is experienced.

After dinner come the literary exercises. A short selection from the Bible, prayer, music and the minutes of the last meeting are listened to. The meetings give quite a full abstract of the proceedings of the last meeting. Next come two papers—separated by a declamation, reading or other by a gentleman, the other by a lady. Each paper is thoroughly discussed.

This Maple River Farmers' club is especially blest in its very competent president—a man of culture, strong sense and wide information. He prepares an analysis of the subjects treated, and after the paper is read, asks the several members to give results of their best thought, observation and experience. This club has been running for years, and no one wishes to drop out, and none are absent except as necessity compels. All say: "It is delightful. We wonder we did not form the club before, and are equally surprised that more such clubs are not organized." The great point is to secure the most suitable man for president. That gained, and the above scheme will almost surely bring success. The good social dinners, the excellent visits, the examination of farms, barns and stock (which certainly does not tend to encourage slovenliness or neglect), the excellent discussions, one rest-day each month, the convenient time to meet—accommodating old and young alike, and the twenty good times at a cost of only providing one entertainment—all of these are advantages well worth considering. There seems to me to be but two drawbacks: The plan limits the number; as the best in the community are chosen, the formation of a second club is hardly possible, and thus some are necessarily left out. This is unfortunate, to say the least. Second: Those of the club who have small houses find it difficult to entertain so many. In the neighborhood in question are only one or two such, and they entertain in summer when lawn gatherings are so delightful. I think, too, neighbors with large houses would gladly help out in such cases. It is a question, however, if, on the whole, any other plan could contain more commendable features and fewer objections.

[The "drawbacks" to which Prof. Cook alludes are not so serious as may be supposed. That such an institution has its limitations as to numbers, is conceded by all reflecting persons. When the first club was organized here, eleven years ago last June, it

only proved a stimulus for other organizations, and now, within the scope of country embraced by the older membership, there are four clubs, with two others in adjoining townships. These six organizations hold a union club meeting on the 25th inst. These clubs have a membership of about fifteen families each. A less number is still better, if selected with reference to tastes and congeniality.—Ed.]

#### How to Make a Good Cow.

Begin with your scrub if you will. But feed her well and keep her warm and comfortable. Breed her to some good bull reared by some Christian farmer—that is, one who will do as he would be done by, even to his cattle; for that is the essence of Christianity, as taught by the Great Teacher. When the cow is dried off previous to calving, don't stop feeding, but keep her in good, sleek condition. When the calf comes in, it will have a belly full of good rich milk, and will start well. Continue the well doing by feeding sweet skimmed milk, and as soon as it will eat a little crushed oats give a few by hand and treat the young thing gently and gain its confidence and good will. Give it good pasture, specially provided and prepared for young stock. Give it milk always sweet (and it will never need alum to dry up its bowels), until it is four or five months old. Give it a stall in the winter, with the best of hay and its regular ration of oats. Continue until the second year, and breed it to a bull better, if possible, than its sire. Perhaps you think this will never pay? Well, count up the cost of it, put the amount in your pocket, and go around and try to buy as good an animal with the sum, and you don't get one, for your neighbors are not selling such young heifers for the cost of them. You will find it cheaper to rear them, anyhow. And you must have them, or you will be going around declaring that "farming don't pay."—*New York Times*.

#### The Care of Meadows.

A *Herald* *New Yorker* correspondent writes: On all thin parts of the meadow, a good coating of barn yard manure will help to insure a good crop next season. I believe that manure pays fully as well as a top dressing for meadows, as it does for wheat or rye. The farmer is very foolish who allows a single load of manure to remain in his yard when he can apply it on his grass land and receive his pay the next season in good merchantable hay. Even coarse straw will help wonderfully to protect the roots of the grass during the winter, if scattered evenly. This litter not only protects during the winter but acts as a mulch during dry spells in the spring. Such treatment of the meadows needs only to be practiced to be duly appreciated.

#### Making Colts Gentle.

Now that winter is so near at hand, when young colts will have to be brought out of the pastures and sheltered from the inclemency of the weather, it is a good time to resolve that they shall be made so tame that they will not fear the approach of a human being any more than they do another colt. They are fond of being petted, and with constant kindness will become as gentle and docile as the family dog. A nubbin of corn in the pocket, a handful of grain, salt or sugar, to be offered to him occasionally will cause him to look for it whenever approached. He then can be taught to be handled as a kitten, and this gentleness will last him through life unless adverse influences intervene and drive out the good which has been instilled into him. When I see colts afraid of everybody and everything I know there is something wrong in the heads of their owners. I regard a skittish colt or horse as much a sign of poor farming as tumble-down fences and dilapidated buildings. All can be prevented, and good farmers do it. A gentle horse is worth dollars and dollars more than he would be were he not gentle, and the time to make him so is to commence when he is a young colt, and let his treatment be kind continuously.—*G. W., in Stockman and Farmer*.

#### Eating with the Eyes.

Notwithstanding the fact that the majority of people are provided with other organs with which to taste it is an undeniable fact that many do use their eyes for that purpose, and no class of men should be so quick to avail themselves of this fact as the dairymen.

And the first requisite in good looks in butter is color. No matter how good the butter may be if it is not a bright golden yellow it will not command a first class price, and the sooner dairymen recognize this fact the better. We may have prejudices against pouring the nasty-looking butter color into the churn, but we are not making butter to suit prejudices but to suit the market, and if the market should demand that butter should be black then we should call on the nearest paint store for a package of lampblack and let the market have what it wants. The fellow who finds what people want, and then gives it to them is the fellow who succeeds, no matter what he is dealing in.

If we look at the market report in any of our daily papers we shall find something like this: "Butter, roll, 18@20; print, 25;" another proof that people not only eat with their eyes, but will pay five cents a pound extra for the privilege of doing so. It's trouble to print, I know, but twenty pounds a week at five cents advance is one dollar, one year fifty dollars, ten years five hundred dollars; this is the pay for the trouble, and with a home-made print or a "boughten" one for ten or twelve dollars it is not so very much trouble. One can, after a little practice, weigh out and print twenty pounds an hour and maybe more if he tries.

And now, finally, when you have your nice-looking prints of butter, don't take them to your customers wrapped up in the extremity of a shirt, don't do it; nothing takes away a customer's appetite so quickly. And don't use muslin rags, either. The same way with muslin, no matter how fresh from the store, it is still just the same. Use an enterprising firm advertises in the *Stockman* that they will send free a package of their parchment paper. Try it.

But now in making your butter look well don't forget to make it good. We read in the *Scripture* of two men who erected houses for themselves. One built upon sand and his house stood for a while, the other, upon a rock and his house endured; so in butter-making, the quality is the foundation unseen, but it must be there, and the appearance is the house, one is as necessary as the other.—*W. H. O., in Stockman and Farmer*.

#### The Local Institute.

Will you have a farmers' institute in your neighborhood this winter? If one is arranged for will you allow it to be a prosy, humbug affair, managed by a few and regarded generally as in no sense a matter of public interest? There are institutes and institutes. We never attended one which we did not think was better than to have none. Probably no meeting of this kind is wholly devoid of interest and value to the agricultural public; and yet such meetings can be made so much more interesting and useful by a little planning and effort that farmers are justified in devoting a great deal of work to preparing for them. The institute, to do the work which it should do, must be first of all sprightly, fresh and wholly devoid of prosy and tedious features. It must be full of variety, full of suggestion, full of entertainment. It is not only a place where farmer's are to learn from each other more about their business, but it is a place where they are to be given entertainment, to be given new things to think about, new ideas in reference to home life, new appreciation of the society of their fellows. It seems to us that many a neighborhood in passing by its opportunities for regularly holding and profiting by meetings of this kind is making a fatal mistake. By all means have an institute within your reach, even if not a single stranger is brought in to fill up the program. Have a good one

if you can, but have one anyway; and see that the meeting of each succeeding year is better than that of the last.—*Stockman and Farmer*.

#### Plaster.

The agricultural value of plaster, the best method and time to apply it, are mooted questions. There seems to be no general agreement upon the subject. To my mind plaster, if used on pasture lands, should be applied in the fall, so that it may have the action of the winter's frosts and rains upon it in the soil. If used on hoed crops it should be applied in the growing season for the purpose of retaining moisture and ammonia in the soil, and perhaps as a solvent upon other plant food ingredients in the soil; but how far it acts as a solvent is a question which no one has determined. As a plant food it is very little needed, but as a chemical solvent and conservator of moisture and ammonia it is valuable. It is, however, most valuable in the stable, and I think every farmer should use it, a sprinkling of it under his horses and cattle every day of the year. It dries up the liquid and keeps the stable sweet, and if used in sufficient quantity will prevent the manure from heating and throwing off ammonia. In some of the large stables of the country it is used extensively for this purpose.

I think we cannot say that it is a specific for any crop, in the same sense that we can say that sulphate of potash is a specific for fruits or tobacco. It has been used with good effect upon clay soil where its action would seem to be that of a solvent and distributor of plant-food. Then it has been used with great effect upon light soils where its office would seem to be that of holding and retaining moisture and the ammonia compounds formed by the decay of organic matter, but this is more a matter of speculation than a fact established by experiments. The use of plaster, however, should not be left out of the farm economy. Every stable should contain a bag of it to be used at all times of the year.

Lime, salt and magnesia may be termed chemical solvents. That is, they are supposed to act upon other soil ingredients, breaking them up and rendering them soluble, and assisting in their diffusion through the soil. So important is the office of magnesia in this direction that the Germans call it the "chemical plow." Salt is also supposed to conserve the moisture in the soil and gather and hold it for plant uses. Common land plaster no doubt performs the same office, at the same time yielding up sulphuric acid, which is required by all plants in greater or less degree, and lime, which is essential to plant growth, but of which most soils are supposed to contain a sufficient quantity.—*W. H. Bowker, in Grange Homes*.

#### The World's Wheat.

According to the most complete available statistics published on both sides of the Atlantic, it is pretty certain now that the production and consumption of wheat are much more closely balanced this year than in the average year. For quite a while wheat-exporting countries have been producing sufficient of a surplus to more than meet the demands of the world's market. Something of that surplus remains over from former years. Were it not for this, the production of 1890 would not more than suffice to feed the wheat-eating nations during the ensuing twelve months. However, there is something of a surplus remaining over, and this and the current crop taken together will render it certain that there will be no bread famine. Yet, supply and demand are so nearly balanced that it is highly improbable that wheat will at any time during the ensuing year sell at the low prices current in the several years preceding this one. This cereal may not advance to the highest point expected by many people, and to which circumstances have pointed so often in the last few months. At the same time we cannot see how wheat can become disastrously low in the early future.—*Stockman and Farmer*.

#### Social Laws for Girls.

You think the laws of society are severe. You do not believe that conventionality is a great sword held up, not to strike you, but to protect you, and you shrug your pretty shoulders and say, "I know I was doing nothing wrong, and I don't care what people say." Now, my dear, you must care what people say; the world is a great judgment court, and usually the innocent and the ignorant are protected by it, though occasionally some one falling into the mire of scandal and gossip, is brought into the court all bedraggled and disfigured, and the judge not being able to see the virtue that is underneath, decides against the victim, and all because she did not care what the world said. I wish you would think even of the most innocent things.

Sometimes I fear you think I am a little bit severe, but I have known so many girls who were so thoughtless, yet so good, and who only found protection in the sword of conventionality. It may hang over our heads as did that of Damocles, but it is as a warning. It will protect you from evil-speaking, from the making of injudicious friends, and it will insure you much more pleasure than if all the world ran helter skelter like a wild Irish fair day.

Conventionality protects you, as does the best mother, frowning at and forbidding not only that which is, but also that which looks wrong.—*Ruth Ashmore, in Ladies' Home Journal*.

We find the following summary of the results of the season's experiments with strawberries and raspberries in the August Bulletin of the Ohio Experiment Station, by Wm. J. Green, Horticulturist:

1. To meet the wants of strawberry growers, a variety ought to have sufficient health and vigor to adapt itself to widely varying conditions and to possess one or more marked characteristics. It is not worth while to seek to find varieties that are adapted to particular soils, since varieties that have a limited range are generally found to be variable and untrustworthy. The most valuable varieties are the least variable, and are easily suited as to soil and climate.

2. The following varieties have been thoroughly tested and are suited to the wants of those who grow berries for market: Bubach, Eureka, Crescent, Warfield, Haverland.

3. Where large berries are desired rather than quantity, the following can be recommended for home use or for market: Cumberland, Crawford, Gandy, Lida, Louise, Miami, Pearl.

4. The new varieties that seem to be most promising are Farnsworth, Enhance, Ivanhoe, Middlefield, Muskingum, Shuster's Gem, Michel's Early, Waldron, Parker, Earle.

5. Those that have very good points, but are doubtful and need further testing, are: Cloud, Lady Rusk, Stayman's No. 1, Daisy.

6. The following will no doubt be dropped soon: Hoffman, Pineapple, Jessie, Logan.

7. The most productive varieties are those that have a long season, i. e., give a comparatively large number of pickings.

8. Very early, and extremely late varieties, are less fruitful than the medium early.

9. Perfect flowered, as a rule, are less productive than the pistillate, or imperfect flowered varieties.

#### Regarding raspberries:

1. The black cap varieties that are now considered the most reliable are as follows: Gregg, Hilborn, Ohio, Palmer.

2. The red sorts that succeed best generally are Turner and Shaffer; the best for shipping are Brandywine and Marlboro.

3. Muskingum, Royal Church and Thompson's Early Prolific are the most promising of the newer varieties.

A bottle of bromine left uncooled in a closed room for twelve hours will thoroughly disinfect the room and destroy all insect life. One who has tried it says it is far more effectual than the fumes of burning sulphur.

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For the VISITOR.  
**Booming Batavia Grange.**

"Mrs. Bowers would like the attention of the Grange for a few minutes," said the Worthy Master one evening after the usual business of the Grange had been disposed of. I had informed the Master that Mrs. Bowers had important information to communicate to the Grange, and asked him to call on her at his convenience. I had also asked Mr. Freeman to absent himself from the Grange on that particular evening.

As Mrs. Bowers rose in the audience she held in her hand a letter, from which she read as follows:

"To Mrs. Bowers and Mrs. Brown:  
 "Dear Friends:—I still remember the conversation held at the Grange supper. Let me assure you that I esteem you too highly to willingly refuse to grant any request you could make. Your request is concerning so delicate a subject that I cannot express myself on paper. I will therefore inform you that I am at liberty to communicate with you at any time when it is convenient for you to call on me.  
 "Sincerely yours,  
 "MRS. BETSEY DUMOND."

Continuing, Mrs. Bowers said: "In explanation of this letter, I will state that the request here referred to was made by Mrs. Brown and myself. We believed that Mr. Freeman's attention to Betsey would result in marriage, and we asked her to inform us of the event, in case of marriage, intimating that we would like to make arrangements for the wedding. Our idea was simply this: Mr. Freeman is now a member of this Grange, and we expect that Betsey will soon be admitted to membership, and we believed that in this hall, in the presence of this Grange, the marriage ceremony could very properly be celebrated. On the receipt of this letter, we proceeded to interview Miss Betsey, as she had expressed a willingness to see us. From her we learned that there was an engagement existing between herself and Howard, and that she had his consent to inform us of the fact. We have since conferred with both Betsey and Howard, and they have consented to have the marriage ceremony performed in this hall. We anticipated your action in this matter by assuring them that there could be no possible objection by any member of the Grange, and they are making their arrangements accordingly. I tell you very plainly that I consider this coming marriage as a very important event in the history of our Grange, and we should vie with each other in our efforts to convince them that we approve of their action. We get an addition of one member to our Grange, which is no insignificant 'boom.'"

As she uttered the last sentence she gave Mr. Brown and Mr. Bowers a significant look, which they well understood. "And then," she continued, "it may have a good effect on other members of the Grange." As she said this she looked around the room for the bachelors in such a manner that everybody could well understand who the remark was intended for. "Mr. Freeman has made up his mind to reform, and we should join in applause. Let us say to others by our action, 'Go thou and do likewise.'" Now I would like to hear from other members of the Grange." Then, hesitating a moment, she said, "I would like to hear from the bachelors."

Calls were made for the bachelors—Williams, Wilson, Jones, Bartholomew—but none of them offered any suggestions. Mrs. Moore, quite unexpectedly, volunteered to suggest a few ideas. Said she, "In some particulars I am in full accord with Sister Bowers. I can think of no use to which we can put this hall with more propriety than that of celebrating the marriage of any of its members. But we should

discriminate. I claim there would be no propriety in decorating this hall in gay colors—in bouquets of flowers and wreaths of roses fresh from the hands of the florist. Here we have a couple who have passed the meridian of life and are now on the down grade. It is of very little consequence to the world whether they marry or remain single. If it will be any satisfaction to them to sit down by the same fireside and grow old together, I would be the last person to deprive them of that privilege. But when we 'vie with each other' in expressing our approval of their conduct, I think we are decidedly out of place. It is the young men that we should encourage to marry; they are the hope of this Grange. Now, if we make a great ado over this coming wedding, we virtually say to these young men that it will be just as well for them to spend the active part of their lives as bachelors, but when they see old age fast coming down upon them, they should seek a married life for the same reason that a traveler flees to the nearest tree, or most convenient building as a protection against an approaching storm."

Mrs. Bowers was quite confused. She arose and said: "I did not look for opposition. I thought everybody would be more than pleased, and I hardly know what to say."

Mr. Brown came to her relief by rising and saying: "Worthy Master, I move you that all arrangements for the wedding be left with a committee of three, to be appointed by the Master and Overseer."

The motion prevailed, and the Master, standing in his place, appointed Sister Bowers and Sister Brown.

"Now," said the Overseer, "we will have both sides of this question represented on this committee, therefore I will appoint Sister Moore for the third member."

A. O. V.  
 [To be Continued.]

### The Township Unit System.

I have always felt a deep interest in our common schools; 1st, from having been either a teacher or a school officer nearly all the time for the last thirty-four years; and 2d, because I still have three children on the school list. I never did believe in going into anything simply because it was new, or clinging to anything because it was old, but always try to see which is for the best, and as we have not tried the new here, we must look for its workings elsewhere.

Pennsylvania has the Township Unit system, and I must confess I was not favorably impressed with its workings from the brief survey I was able to give it in a three weeks' visit and from a copy of the school law that I received as a present from one of the officers in the town.

September 26th, 1890, I delivered the School Registers to the schools in our town (Arlington) and found each of the eleven schools in running order, with quite a full attendance, say 250 pupils in school in the township. The next week, in Spring township, Crawford county, Penn., I found not a single school running, though there were ten school houses in the township. I did not see any bells or belfrys, and they told me there was but one in the township, while all of ours excepting one is thus supplied.

Wages, they said, were eleven dollars per month in summer and about twenty-five in winter, but some townships paid a dollar or two more, though the amount was the same throughout each township. The villages, or burroughs, as they are called, are independent of the townships.

The officers were six trustees in each township, and while I did not ascertain their salaries, I learned that the treasurer was allowed 2 per cent of all the money he handled for school purposes, which, at the wages paid

here, would be nearly \$500 per year.

They were instructed to build the school houses so that no more than fifty scholars should be under the instruction of one teacher.

Now, it seems to me that the two-term system, the lack of bells and the meagerness of teachers' wages, shows a lack of interest and enterprise that would be changed if the parents had their say about the schools. In other words, the further the controlling power is from the affected ones, the less the interest will be.

Now, as to the schools mentioned by the correspondent in your issue of Nov. 1st, I fail to see how a township law is going to repopulate a district. If there are no children there, they do not need a school; if the children go elsewhere to school, the tax cannot be very heavy, so they can afford to pay tuition, or the property of such a district may be attached to another district under our present laws.

Where is the gain: In more schools, or better schools in less number and less taxes?

I. P. BATES.

### Avoid Bones of Contention.

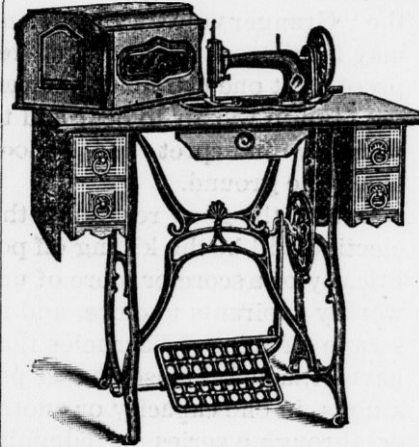
If organized farmers would do in the next few years what they design to do and can do, petty and unimportant issues must be kept in the background. It will do for the men of a neighborhood, often of a county, sometimes of a district, to take up issues regarding which the farmers of the district in question occupy but one attitude. Where issues arise, though, which are liable to divide or to some degree disaffect the people whose votes and influence are counted upon, a great mistake will be made if they are brought prominently forward. There is no question but there are enough of points on which all reflecting farmers can agree to insure plenty of substantial work to be done regardless of lesser points of difference. We have frequently expressed the opinion that these things are first to be done, and we have noted from time to time that friends in some sections were disposed to commit a fatal blunder just here. Before assuming any position we would look at it from several standpoints. First: know that in itself it is reasonable and right. Second: be sure that as a class farmers are well affected towards it. Third: try to look at the matter from the standpoint of the outsider, and see how far it will appeal to his judgment and reason. Fourth: let any measures proposed conflict as little as possible with the interests of any large proportion of the voting population. Do not forget that while farmers can do a great deal single-handed, they can do much more if they can win and hold the sympathy and respect of men in other pursuits.—*Stock man and Farmer.*

### Tired Eyes.

Many persons whose eyes do not trouble them at other times find that after using them at night, they ache and sometimes are watery. Such sufferers will be glad to know that the N. Y. *Evangelist* says, for tired, aching and weeping eyes, suffering from close application or other cause, a comfortable and safe wash may be made from the purest obtainable water. Into a two ounce vial of water put half a teaspoonful of essence of peppermint, and having shaken well, apply to the eyes to find if it be too strong, and if so, increase the proportion of water and try it again. It should produce for a moment a slight warmth, the effect being agreeable, cooling, and healing. Apply *ad libitum* with soft, clean muslin; this renewed on each application. Dressmakers and other persons working at night, have found relief in this remedy.

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Second Class Matter.

## The Lesson of the Elections.

The outcome of the elections just passed emphasises the oft repeated truism that "the best laid plans of mice and men gang aft agley." Those who thought they could "read their titles clear to mansions" elsewhere, and those who refused the chance for a trial trip, both are under a cloud of bitter disappointment. All the rules and precedents laid down by political managers as a sure thing to risk such ventures upon, have been utterly unavailing. An effort is being made to shift the real responsibility of the revulsion upon the tariff, or to attribute the change of political sentiment as a reflection upon the efforts of congress to pass unpopular measures. Neither of these cut any figure in the rebuke which was intended by the adverse vote. Those who are delighted with the prospect of better prices under the new tariff laws, and those who believe that the ballot should be securely cast and sacredly counted, had a grievance more potent, to alienate them from party allegiance. There has grown up a feeling that senators and members of congress are more solicitous for mere party measures and party supremacy, coupled with the desire to perpetuate their tenure of office, than for the welfare of the public. The dilly dallying with important measures for the relief of a languishing industry, set over against the swift response to all party calls, has sent back the sentiment which has been interpreted to mean "the people be damned."

The action of politicians in the dominant party in every state has been to alienate those whom it depended upon to give the majorities. The expressed wishes of the people have been ignored. Men with money and with little else of value, have purchased positions, and have organized a legion of satraps distributed in every hamlet, to do their bidding. Senator Ingalls has had the "indiscretion" to publish the prevailing sentiment among politicians. He says: "The purification of politics is an iridescent dream." "Politics is a battle for supremacy." "In war, it is lawful to deceive the adversary, to hire Hessians, to purchase mercenaries." "The decalogue and the golden rule have no place in a political campaign." This is the creed of the politician as exhibited in their plans for individual success, and for party supremacy. Against these methods, and this spirit, men have rebelled, and refuse to be led. In our own state, the wish of the people as expressed by their preferences for candidates, have been set aside by some, if not all the tenets in Senator Ingalls' creed. Millionaire senators and would-be governors have insolently paraded to the front, as if their money was an attribute to fit them for the position, and efficacious to win public favor. They have said by their acts, manhood is nothing, money is everything. They would have a canvass of money and not of ideas or intellect, trusting to assurance and cheek to foist them into power. Such methods have made "mugwumps" to multiply. Some defiantly scratched the ticket and

voted for the opposing candidate, while others and much the larger number doggedly staid at home and allowed the ticket to go by default.

One of the thimble-ringers in the jugglery for office, is astute enough to discover the disaffection in his party, and frank enough to acknowledge and attribute it to the right source—the "Grangervote." Politicians may learn from this merited reproof that one can hold his head too high in the air to hear and to properly interpret the echoes along the ground.

One of the good results of the election will be the killing off politically of a score or more of unworthy aspirants to office, and to scrape off a lot of barnacles that have attached themselves to positions, in one capacity or another, through a series of administrations.

The new regime will doubtless attempt to shun the rocks on which their adversaries split, and listen to the *vox populi*—the only safe guiding star to "manifest destiny."

## The State Grange Meeting.

But one more issue of the VISITOR will appear before the meeting of the State Grange, and we wish to urge upon members of the order the importance of sending only well digested matter as recommendations from subordinate Granges for action before the State Grange. Don't revive any dead issues to take the time of committees and the attention of members in regular session. So far as we are informed, the personnel of the membership will be good. The occasion will be a very opportune one for members of the order who have never visited Lansing to do so at the time of this meeting.

Hotel rates will be low, prominent members of the order will be present, the discussions and reports will be interesting, new acquaintances will be formed, and the music!! Go and hear some of the regular musical diet furnished to Paw Paw Grange by its choir. The VISITOR contingent will be there with sample copies for free distribution, and blanks for new names—glad to make corrections, happy to receive pointers and ready to take half dollars in lieu of a year's subscription. Take a holiday trip to Lansing, and see how many good people there are in the Grange beside yourself.

In another column will be found an article on the agricultural resources of the western plains land, by a resident of Kansas, C. Wood Davis—a writer whom we have copied from to some extent. The opinion is not colored by speculation, or by railroad interest, and we believe is exactly true. Our readers will remember the opinion expressed in the VISITOR by the writer in an article on the "Plains Land of the North West," in the Aug. 15th number. The article alluded to in this number confirms the opinion there expressed. There need be no fears of competition for eastern farmers on these arid plains, and there should be a check upon appropriations for irrigation schemes. The public have no interest in them. They are for purely speculative purposes. If the government invests money in the effort, the owners of these lands can offer them on the market under the sanction of the state that the lands are valuable, and it will enable them to unload upon the unsophisticated farmer. There has been enough of calamity and wrong perpetrated upon adven-

turous young men, who believed all that was said about the west. These are now returning, broken in spirit and spoiled of their best years' efforts in unavailing labor. Government has been too ready to assist speculators. Our millionaire senators and would-be governors have been lifted out of obscurity by just such aids, and they are too ready to help the "gang" into a like "snap." Farmers are getting "onto the racket," and are delivering some stunning rebukes.

The Unit System for our common schools is being discussed pro and con in our columns by competent minds. Readers of the VISITOR will be well informed on both sides of the question. We shall gladly give space for a free and full discussion of its merits, and shall make room for the objections as well. The question is of great interest to farmers, who ought to welcome the change, if it can be made clear that it will improve our district schools. On the contrary, if it looks like a costly experiment, without compensating advantages, the objections should be formulated in a way that will count when the measure is up for consideration in our state legislature.

While you are considering what periodicals you will subscribe for beside the VISITOR, remember that your neighbor, who has been borrowing your paper, may have decided to take it. Write us for terms for all the papers you need, and you can save the price of the VISITOR to both families.

We have received some good lists of names lately, which shows that a little effort can accomplish a good deal. Many of the names received are not members of the order, but everybody likes the VISITOR. Send on the names.

Several inquiries have recently been made regarding the sewing machine advertised in the VISITOR. We believe the machine to be just what it is represented to be. Several have been sent to our subscribers, and no word of complaint has yet reached us. It would be a favor to the VISITOR and to those contemplating the purchase of a machine, if those who have received them would say how they are pleased. We would not run the adv. at all if there was the least dissatisfaction.

## "Bulldogs in Congress."

Some weeks since an article with the above heading appeared in several papers, which claim to have respectable and reliable sources of information. The term bulldog was not applied to the animal commonly bearing that name, but to some of the influential members of Congress. Among those thus designated were H. Kelley, W. B. Hatch, C. B. Kilgore and others.

The first impression made by the comparison is disagreeable. We do not usually associate bulldogs with Senators and Representatives in Congress. It is stated in the article referred to that "Hon. J. H. Rowell has a terrible grip," that W. H. Hatch and R. P. Kennedy are "game fighters." The writer, whose statements we are reviewing, claims to know whereof he affirms when he tells us that these bulldogs are "aggressive and ferocious." "When they get on the rampage the cracking of bones is heard." "It is hard to loosen the grip of one of these fellows." You may throw ice water upon him and fill his eyes with red pepper, but he will retain his grip." "It would take a crowbar to open his jaws when his mouth is set." These bulldogs in Legislation sometimes do a great deal of good. They not only stir the House to action at critical moments, but they

frequently touch the national marrow and thrill the country with excitement." If the above had appeared in a comic paper, it might have passed without serious comment; but when paraded before the public as matters of fact and copied as valuable information, it requires more than a passing notice. The enterprising managers of the newspapers, in order to please their readers have also presented the profiles of these pugnacious members, drawn to correspond as closely as may be with the dogs to which they are compared. If this is a faithful representation of so many members of Congress, the question naturally arises, is it right? Is it not rather a disgrace to the high intelligence of the most enlightened Republic of the world?

Where we ought to find our ablest statesmen, we discover pugnacious bulldogs—Where intelligence of the highest order is imperatively necessary, obstinacy or pertinacity in its worst form is to be found. Those qualities that best fit a man for the arena, are out of place and useless in the forum. Formerly "our politics could show such names as Franklin, Jefferson, Adams and Hamilton, men strongly tinged with philosophy and at the same time of high practical intelligence. Why should the Republic not have to-day the services of its most thoughtful sons? While the thought of the age is rising, why should politics grovel?" In the scientific world where high qualities of mind are required, how incongruous it would be to speak of bulldogs of science. Prof. Mendenhall, in his address before the American Association in Aug. last, pertinently remarks: "It is generally recognized that aside from all questions of a partisan political nature, this country is to-day confronted by several problems of the utmost importance to its welfare, to the proper solution of which the highest intellectual powers of the nation should be given. The computation of the trajectory of a planet is a far easier task than fore casting the true policy of a great Republic, but these qualities of the human intellect which have made the first possible should not be allowed to remain idle while an intelligent public is striving to obtain the last." Our early history and the history of other nations are full of examples of eminent scientific men who were no less distinguished as publicists and statesmen.

A wise disposition or settlement of the great questions which intimately concern the welfare of the people of this nation can be made only by men of high mental attainments, whose habits of thought have fitted them for the solution of such problems. In the British Parliament science is represented by such men as Sir Henry Roscoe, Sir John Lubbock, Sir Lyon Playfair, literature and philosophy by Mr. John Morley, Mr. Balfour and Mr. Gladstone, to mention but a few out of many. It seems perfectly evident that any set of men whose mental qualities can be fitly compared with the unreasoning bulldog, must be sadly out of place in the highest legislative assembly of the U. S. of America in the latter part of the 19th century.

P. H. DOWLING.

## A Workshop on the Farm.

No farm is really complete without a well appointed workshop. It is generally found that one will save almost enough every year to pay for the stock of tools used. There is always space in an upstairs granary or loft to arrange a workshop. Plenty of light is necessary, especially over the work-bench. A chimney and stove must be furnished. The stove should be placed in a wide, shallow box of sand to avoid danger from fire. The bench should be substantially built. Only the top need be planed, and a wooden vise with broad jaws is to be secured to one end. Another desirable adjunct to the shop is a good grindstone, fitted with both treadle and crank, for tools always need sharpening, and it is only with sharp tools that a neat job can be done. A small scroll saw and lathe will be found very convenient and now can be bought for a very few dollars. A shaving horse can be made by any one of

common ability, and it will be found almost indispensable, as will also a harness bench, and it is really surprising how often these things will come into use, saving dollars in money and many trips to town. The tools used in the workshop need not be a very large or expensive one at the start, as it can be added to from time to time. There should be an ordinary hand saw, about seven point, a rip saw, a tenon saw and a compass saw, costing from twenty-five cents to one dollar each. Also, a good hatchet or two, costing fifty or seventy-five cents each, and a claw and riveting hammer. Six to twelve chisels, assorted sizes, and a wooden mallet will cost a total of two or three dollars more and a good brace, with a set of assorted bits, will take three to five dollars more, according to quality. A little implement containing an assortment of awls in the handle which has a screw top to it can be had for 50 to 75 cents. In planes there should be a smooth, a jack and a fore plane, costing from \$1 to \$3 each, though frequently many tools can be picked up, good and cheap, at a junk shop or pawnbrokers in the large cities. There should also be a few gouges, a plum bob, a small and a large square, compass, bevel, level, two-foot rule, monkey wrench, saw set files for both wood and iron, drawing knife, spoke shave, etc., together with a lot of harness needles, thread, knife and awls. No farmer with a workshop thus supplied need be at a loss to employ his leisure time in winter or rainy days at any season. A small assortment of lumber should be kept in the shop so it can be dry, well-seasoned and handy when needed. From \$50 to \$100 spent in furnishing up a shop as suggested is the best paying investment on the farm, for there are but few farms on which it can not be made to pay at least 100 per cent.—*American Agriculturist.*

Never in our history has there been such a union of action among the farmers as now. They are aroused from center to circumference, and through their various organizations are gathering strength, and where their forces are sufficiently strong are proceeding in an aggressive manner toward what they believe to be relief from present unprosperous conditions. In many states they have become worn out and discouraged with the hope that the old political parties will give needed legislative relief, and are forming new ones. Whether they will succeed or not, it is difficult to say. While there is a surprisingly large number of members of organizations, it does not indicate their real strength by any means. Hundreds and thousands that are not in a farming community, are feeling the oppression of large salaries, high taxes, trusts, monopolies, combines and other existing evils, that seriously affect the masses of the producers of this country. The people will not submit to being throttled eternally, and the politician that does not hear the rumbling of the coming storm will have nothing but his own stupidity to censure when the storm breaks.—*Farmers' Friend.*

## MONTANA, OREGON AND WASHINGTON.

The Northern Pacific Railroad, passing through Minnesota, Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Oregon and Washington was the first line to bring the region occupied by these states into communication with the east. Its main line and branches penetrate all sections of these states, reaching nine-tenths of the chief cities. It is the short line to Helena and Butte, Mont., Spokane Falls, Tacoma and Seattle, Wash., and Portland, Ore., and the only line running through train service from the east through the states of Montana and Washington. Pullman Sleepers and furnished Tourist Sleeping Cars are run via the Wisconsin Central and Northern Pacific, and Pullman Palace Sleeping Cars via Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul and Northern Pacific, from Chicago through to the Pacific Coast without change. This is the Dining Car and Yellowstone Park route.

The large travel on the Northern Pacific line necessitated the inauguration in June 1890, of a second through train to the Pacific Coast, thus enabling this road to offer the public the advantage of two through trains daily to Montana and points in the Pacific Northwest, carrying complete service of sleeping cars, dining cars and regular day coaches. The train leaving St. Paul in the morning runs via the recently completed Air Line of the Northern Pacific through Butte, Mont., making this the shortest line to the latter point by 120 miles. Colonists for Washington, Oregon and British Columbia points should take no other line than the Northern Pacific, as by this line only, can all portions of the state of Washington be seen. Stopovers are allowed on second class tickets at Spokane Falls and all points west, enabling settlers to inspect the country without extra expense. For Maps, Time Tables and Illustrated Pamphlets, or any special information desired, address your nearest ticket agent, or CHAS. S. FEE, Gen'l Pass. and Ticket Agent, St. Paul, Minn.

From 1st page.  
coined. I understand that the government was expected to retain in its treasury for other uses the excess of certificates issued over the purchase price of the bullion and which would correspond to the seigniorage that would arise in coinage of the bullion. This would have been quite a substantial addition to the volume of our contracted circulating medium. I believe the Grange resolution was better than the law given us on this point.

Demand III. the full legal tender quality for all purposes, was not given to the certificates. The house bill that was sent to the senate in June contained that provision, but when the conference committee of the two bodies met after the house rejected the free coinage substitute (adopted by the senate by a vote of 43 to 25), the exception clause against a full legal tender quality was put into the bill that became a law.

Demand IV. The law provides for coinage of \$2,000,000 per month till July 1 next, when it is only required of the secretary of the treasury to coin so much as he requires to redeem the certificates presented for redemption, i. e., coinage practically ceases at that date. The Windom proposition provided that the certificates should be redeemed in bullion, but at no stage of the work in congress did this proposition find any favor. The house bill provided that when the price of silver bullion should reach par, i. e. \$1.00 for 374 1/4 grains or \$1.29 per ounce, that free coinage should ensue, but this valuable section (section 6) was excluded from the conference bill that became a law.

In my opinion, then, the silver law comes up to the standard set by the farmers of Michigan in but one point. And in regard to that, I question very seriously whether the demand of the farmers had as much to do with framing the law as the absolute necessity that existed to provide some source of supply to replace the rapidly declining volume of circulation provided by the national banks. While these institutions had more than doubled in number since 1882—numbering 3,547 in September of this year—their circulation had decreased in volume from \$956,060,348 to \$199,779,011. It was, however, the policy of our office-seekers to seek our favor, so they cried out, "We have given you exactly what you asked for. Please send us back again to our little \$5,000." For one I did not vote as I did two years ago because of this very silver law. I may have misunderstood the demands made by the farmers, or the provisions of the law. If so, I hope to have my information on the points at variance increased. If not, I hope to see a strong demand for the correction of the law.

The fact that John Sherman, who was so strong a factor in securing the demonetization of silver and the change of our currency standard from silver to gold in 1873-4, and was also a leading member of the conference committee that formulated the silver bill, will account for the complete subordination of silver to the gold standard that is manifest throughout the law. That subordination is bearing its fruit. A certain class of eastern banks refuse to receive silver as security, and require every collateral to conform to gold.

The loan companies operating in the west are also taking advantage of the exception clause "payable in lawful money of the United States other than silver coin and silver certificates." Is this exactly what we asked for?

The Detroit Tribune of Oct. 31, says: "It so happened that the leading European nations got a craze for a single standard of gold. England wanted the yellow metal because her trade was mainly foreign and by discarding silver for home use she could get that metal cheaper to pay India and China, two silver currency countries with which she had large exchanges. Germany, having received from France an indemnity of \$1,000,000,000 also changed to a gold standard and in order to keep out the threatened influx of German cast off silver, the Latin union also

adopted gold as the single standard." Senator Sherman became a victim of this craze, and under his leadership "the United States after a long and full discussion demonetized silver at a time when silver had a greater value than gold. The adoption of the gold standard and the opening of many new silver mines in America combined to bring the value of silver below that of gold." This craze has been very disastrous to American agriculture and to that of Europe. Ought our representatives in congress to be permitted to pander to it longer? Shall we quietly accept a law framed nominally in our behalf, but which bears in every "section and line" an obvious subserviency to this "image of gold." Shall we not rather by discussion and resolution seek to secure action by a government "of the people, by the people and for the people" that will place silver side by side with gold in our standard of value, and so seek to stimulate other nations to emulate our good example?

Respectfully,

B. E. BENEDICT.

Capabilities of the Distant West.

C. Wood Davis, writing from Sedgwick county, Kansas, to the Country Gentleman, says:

In your issue of Oct. 16, is a most interesting and thoughtful article from Mr. John M. Stahl, descriptive of the arid and semi-arid regions of Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska, Kansas and the Dakotas, which is not only timely but more truly appreciative of the characteristics of this great plains region than anything coming under my observation for many years. The only exception that can be taken to it by one who was connected with the first railway built from the Missouri river to the Rocky mountains, and who has spent 25 years upon the verge of these arid wastes and is entirely familiar with them (as is the writer) is that Mr. Stahl's statements do not go quite far enough and are somewhat too mild in characterizing the aridity and hopeless sterility of much of the region under review.

The experience of the last 25 years shows most conclusively that the corn belt extends only as far west as the vicinity of the 98th meridian, and that corn culture, outside the limited valley alluvials and irrigated lands west of the line named, is a most hazardous undertaking, and one that in two years out of three will surely bring failure and disappointment. And yet some of the best corn growing districts in both Kansas and Nebraska are found close up to and even a little west of such meridian. West of the limit named there lies a belt about two degrees wide and extending from latitude 35° to two degrees north of the Canadian line where wheat and rye are fairly successful crops. When prices are higher and the land is farmed in large blocks, by men who can lose one crop out of three without being brought face to face with want, and who estimate and provide for a given proportion of crop failures, then this belt will become productive and materially add to the world's supply of bread. But even this semi-arid belt is no place for the poor man to make a home and attempt to open a farm.

West of the 100th meridian wheat culture without irrigation is as uncertain as corn culture west of the 98th, but it is possible that in the not remote future, when farm products shall bring 100 per cent. more than now, this belt—say two degrees wide and extending from Texas to the Saskatchewan—shall become the theatre of a considerable cereal production, but it will be neither wheat nor maize but rye, a grain far more tolerant of frost, drought and sterility than either, and that grows and makes a fair crop upon sand, clay or gravel, where neither would pay for the labor of cultivation. But its cultivation must be carried on by men or corporations who can invest considerable sums in steam plants and be able to stand the loss of crops.

It is by no means improbable that, as Mr. Stahl suggests, beet culture and sugar may occupy considerable districts in the semi-arid belt, when farmers can be

induced to perform the hand labor necessary in the earlier stages of the beet's growth. Possibly this serious difficulty may be obviated by establishing the culture near large towns, where suitable labor can be obtained, but the average prairie farmer will not get down on his hands and knees and weed and thin acres of beets for love or money.

While it is highly probable that west of the 100th meridian a wide belt will grow rye without irrigation, yet it is likely that such culture will be carried on almost entirely without farm animals, and by the use of traction engines and great gangs of plows, as it is impracticable, outside the irrigated lands, to raise provender. If the region lying east of the 100th meridian is unadapted for the poor man's farm, this is far less so, and it can only be farmed profitably when prices are much higher than now, and in tracts that will permit and warrant the use of such implements as imply the possession of considerable capital, and an ability to tide over the loss of one or more entire crops. Such an exploitation of these lands will only come when it has become generally clear that the arable lands are exhausted, capital abundant and cheap, and bread scarce and high. Yet such a condition is rapidly approaching, and will soon be apparent to all. High prices for the staple food products will enable all to see clearly a state of affairs that only the few now dimly discern. Even now the production of staples, as a whole, is sufficient for less than 68,000,000 people, and population will certainly have quite overtaken production by 1895, and in 1900, the population having increased to 81,000,000, and the per capita requirements continuing as great as now, our needs will exceed production by more than 12 per cent. In other words, we shall need the products of 28,000,000 acres in excess of the land then likely to be in cultivation. By the close of the century our people and those of Europe, and the bread-eating peoples of European descent, will have increased from 48,000,000 to 50,000,000, necessitating the production annually of 330,000,000 to 350,000,000 bushels more of wheat and rye than now, and such increase will employ from 27,000,000 to 30,000,000 new acres, which is more than five times the increase of the wheat and rye fields of the world during the last ten years. When such a condition confronts the breadeaters, prices will have risen greatly, and the necessity for a greater cereal area become so apparent, that men with money can readily sell it, and there being no longer doubts as to the exhaustion of the tillable lands, outside the arid belt, capitalists will find that they can then lose one crop out of three and still secure better returns by growing wheat and rye on these semi-arid lands otherwise. When such conditions obtain, be it five, ten or twenty years hence, these lands will be utilized and made to contribute to the sustenance of man.

Could these lands be irrigated they would, as Mr. Stahl says, become as valuable as those of Iowa and Illinois—indeed I think they would be two or three times as valuable, for, being more productive, the product of higher quality, and yielding full crops in years of scarcity, the product would afford much better returns. But I think he is much too liberal if he is to be understood as estimating the waters of the streams of Western Kansas and Nebraska as sufficient—under existing conditions—to irrigate 5 per cent of the land in the arid and semi-arid districts traversed by such streams. During recent years, hundreds of miles of existing irrigating ditches have remained dry through the growing season, and the lands that were to have been made as productive, by such appliances, as those of the Nile valley, have remained, three years out of the last four, as sterile as those of the Sahara. During these years the Platte, Arkansas, Cimarron and Rio Grand have each failed to furnish water sufficient to supply existing canals, and it is only in the exceptional seasons, when the rainfall is so abundant that irrigation is unnecessary, that all

the existing ditches can be supplied, yet men with great blocks of these arid lands for sale, and others speculating in irrigation schemes, are opening new canals to be supplied by streams now drained dry when there is need for irrigation. Mr. Stahl's statement that the great Platte river did not, at a given date, contain enough water to irrigate the land for half a mile along its sides, affords, in my estimation, the means of closely approximating the land which the streams traversing the plains will irrigate. Upon such a basis the Missouri, Cheyenne, North Platte, South Platte, Arkansas and Cimarron, each running—including meanderings—500 miles through the arid and semi-arid belts, would give an aggregate of 3,000 square miles, or 1,920,000 acres that, in time, may be irrigated by them; while the belt, say 400 miles wide and 1,000 long, contains 400,000 square miles, or 256,000,000 acres. This showing, if correct, indicates that these streams may eventually be made to irrigate three-fourths of one per cent of the arid plains. Certainly we shall be on the safe side if we multiply this by two, and say one and a half per cent, and then add as much more for the land that may be irrigated from artesian wells during the earlier decades of the 20th century, and the possibilities reach three per cent. In the arid mountain districts, the percentage which can be irrigated is even smaller, but assuming it to reach 3 per cent, that would give in the entire arid and semi-arid region, which cover less than 800,000,000 acres, a cultivable area of 24,000,000 acres, and to bring so much of the arid lands into production will require many years and the expenditure of vast sums of money which many are so desirous that the national government shall furnish.

Few of those familiar with the mountain areas will claim that more than three acres in the hundred can be irrigated from the known sources of water supply, and much of the land easily and cheaply susceptible of irrigation is already occupied and in cultivation, and the acreage cost of irrigating works, when the building of reservoirs shall be resorted to, will probably exceed the present value of Illinois farm lands.

By the misrepresentation of town-site manipulators, land speculators and railway companies—with immense grants of these at present worthless lands for sale—have procured the migration to these arid wastes of hundreds of thousands of industrious farmers who have spent, or are spending, their all in years of unavailing warfare with drought and sterility, and when starved out are (and have been for three or four years) abandoning their lands and homes. For years it was claimed by such speculators and railways and their organs, and believed by thousands of their victims, that the climate was changing and the rain-belt moving westward with settlement, ignoring the fact that climates are created by great continental masses and proximity or remoteness of the sea with vapor-laden winds, and that the great mountain masses deflect and rob of moisture every passing wind, thus shutting off from the plains most of the fructifying rains just as effectually as though they were covered with an impervious roof, or as I have heard on old plainsman express it "The Rocky mountain roof extends to the 98th meridian."

To see that there have been no climatic changes since 1875 in the district in question, one has but to glance at the rain charts of Blodget's Climatology of the U. S., and when one reflects how stable have been the climates of Egypt and other districts of the old world since the earliest historic days, such changes seem wholly improbable.

It is clear, at all events, that there has been no change since Blodget (in 1857) wrote as follows: "This arid character begins to be felt at the 95th meridian, and at the 98th or 100th it causes an abrupt contrast with the country east. \* \* \* At the 100th meridian and at 2,000 feet elevation the arid and sandy surface begins with its climatological as-

sociates of variable temperature and great aridity of atmosphere, though there is yet no reduction of mean temperature. At the 105th meridian, an elevation of 5,000 feet is attained along a line from the southern limit of the United States to latitude 44°. This is the highest and most arid part of the plains."

It is entirely safe to assume that only geological changes of vast import will change climatic conditions, and that only such an advance in price of farm products as will make it profitable to farm such lands with a loss of one crop in three, will bring the arid and semi-arid lands of the plains into general use.

A GREAT AMERICAN MAGAZINE.

The Success of the Century and its Plans for 1891.

The Century magazine is now so well known that to tell of its past successes seems almost an old story. The New York Tribune has said that it and its companion, St. Nicholas, for young people, issued by the same house, "are read by every one person in thirty of the country's population"—and large editions of both are sent beyond the seas. It is an interesting fact that a few years ago it was found that seven thousand copies of the Century went to Scotland, quite a respectable edition in itself. The question in England is no longer "Who reads an American book?" but "Who does not see the American magazines?"

A few years ago the Century about doubled its circulation with the famous "War Papers," by General Grant and others, adding many more readers later with the Lincoln history and Kennan's thrilling articles on the Siberian exile system. One great feature of 1891 is to be "The Gold Hunters of California," describing that remarkable movement to the gold fields in '49, in a series of richly illustrated articles written by survivors, including the narratives of men who went to California by the different routes, accounts of the gold discoveries, life in the mines, the work of the vigilance committees (by the chairman of the committees) etc., etc. Gen. Fremont's last writing was done for this series. In November appears the opening article, "The First Emigrant Train to California"—crossing the Rockies in 1841—by Gen. Bidwell, a pioneer of pioneers. Thousands of American families who had some relative or friend among "the Argonauts of '49" will be interested in these papers.

Many other good things are coming—the narrative of an American's travels through that unknown land, Thibet (for 700 miles over ground never before trod by a white man); the experiences of escaping war prisoners; American newspapers described by well-known journalists; accounts of the great Indian fighters, Custer and others; personal anecdotes of Lincoln, by his private secretaries; "The Faith Doctor," a novel by Edward Eggleston; with a wonderfully rich programme of novelties and stories by most of the leading writers, etc., etc.

It is also announced that the Century has purchased the right to print, before its appearance in France or any other country, extracts from advance sheets of the famous Tallyrand memoirs, which have been secretly preserved for half a century—to be first given to the world through the pages of an American magazine. All Europe is eagerly awaiting the publication of this personal history of Tallyrand—greatest of all intriguers and diplomats.

The November Century begins the volume, and new subscribers should commence with that issue. The subscription price (\$4.00) may be remitted directly to the publishers, the Century Co., 33 East 17th street, New York, or single copies may be purchased of any newsdealer. The publishers offer to send a free sample copy—a recent back number—to any one desiring it.

NEWTON, IOWA, Nov. 11.

ED. VISITOR:

The Iowa State Grange P. of H. will meet in room No. 1, Pavilion of Capitol, Des Moines, Ia., Tuesday, Dec. 9, 1890, at 2 p. m., in its 21st annual session. All Subordinate and Pomona Granges are expected to send delegates; also, to remit dues or send them to Secretary soon.

All old Patrons in Iowa are invited to meet us for consultation, as matters of much importance to farmers will most likely be presented for consideration.

Grange Headquarters at Ardmore House, East Des Moines. Reduced rates per day to all in attendance on session.

J. W. MURPHY, Sec'y.

THE CHANCE OF A LIFE TIME.

To those contemplating moving west, a grand opportunity to visit the vast territory west of the Missouri River will be given on September 23rd and October 14th, 1890, via the Union Pacific, "The Overland route."

On the above dates very low rates will be made to points in Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, Wyoming, Utah, Idaho and Montana. This country, with its millions of acres of farming, grazing, timber and mining lands, presents unequalled opportunities for the accumulation of wealth. The climates and soils are among the best in the world. Agriculture, manufacture, stock raising and mining, properly pursued, produce rapid and satisfactory results. Many important towns are rapidly becoming cities, and their future importance and growth is assured.

Parties desiring to visit these lands, and wishing further information, can obtain same by applying to their nearest ticket agent, any agent of this company, or by addressing the undersigned, E. L. LOMAX, Gen. Pass. Agent, Omaha, Neb.

### The Chrysanthemum.

When all the nuts from woodland trees have dropped,  
And chat'ring squirrels 'mong them run,  
And apple boughs have yielded up their wealth  
Kissed rosy by the autumn sun;  
When luscious grapes hang purple on the vine,  
And glistening yellow pears have loosed their hold,  
And faint and few the song birds' notes are heard,  
The crow's shrill cry across the wold.  
Within the garden then the bravest flower  
That Flora numbers in her train  
So strong and undismayed uplifts its head  
To sunlight pale and chilling rain.  
With petal snowy white or faintly tipped  
With blush of pink or golden hue,  
Among the faded wrecks of summer-time  
Its welcome beauty smiles at you.  
It reck's not though the biting wintry frost  
O'er earth doth spread a whitening pall,  
A starry bloom 'mid autumn's dearth, it comes  
To see the year's full curtain fall.

### What is Charity?

It is not the gift ostentatious bestows,  
Nor the tear that from sentiment languidly flows,  
Nor the cushion that's spread for purple-robed guest,  
Nor the bidding the wealthy and proud to a feast;  
But ask of the gospel—its pages have said  
It is love to the creatures your Maker has made;  
And if in the heart the good tree taketh root,  
It will shed o'er the life its most beautiful fruit.  
'Tis the "little address" in the wiping a tear;  
'Tis the whisper of hope in the desolate ear;  
'Tis the smile of encouragement given to one  
Whom malign degradation had marked for her own;  
'Tis the answer that turns away anger and wrath;  
'Tis the hand that strews roses in misery's path;  
'Tis the foot that treads softly the chamber of pain,  
'Tis the gift that the giver expects not again.  
'Tis the word that is said in an absent one's praise,  
Or to save from dishonor, distrust or disgrace;  
'Tis the thought that would wound never uttered  
in jest;  
The apology urged; the fault frankly confessed.  
'Tis the hiding what others would not wish revealed;  
'Tis a friend's secret error forever concealed;  
And in every transaction that's open to view,  
'Tis to act as you'd wish others acted to you.  
—*Polytechnic Magazine.*

For the VISITOR.

### In Ceres' Honor.

The myths and legends of the ancient Greek and Roman time have always held a peculiar charm for me.

Some of these fairy like stories that I once thought only the product of some fanciful brain, in my later years, seem to me to bear the impress of a truth to be taught, remembering that they were taught only by bards and traditions, and these only orally.

With reverence I would deal with all forms of religion; and the many gods and goddesses, each with his or her place of worship, is a topic of never tiring, never ending interest.

As farmers, and as a Grange—the organization of Agriculturists—we claim Ceres as our Patron Saint more than any other. Our smiles are governed by her's, and when she frowns we are sad.

All are familiar with the charming myth that makes Demeter or Ceres the daughter of Cronos and Rhea, daughter of the god of time in the sense of eternal duration, and of the great earth mother or producer of all plant life. Ceres represented that portion of the solid earth that we call earth crust, and in later times when Rhea loses her importance as a divinity, Ceres assumes all her attributes.

When we remember that man in his first estate, knew neither how to sow nor till the ground, and was thus compelled to live a wandering life, seeking "pastures new," with nearly every rising sun, we must acknowledge, as did they, their indebtedness to Ceres who introduced a degree of knowledge of Agriculture and thus made home and its civilizing influences possible. Her favor was supposed to bring rich harvests and her displeasure to cause blight, drought, and famine.

The Island of Sicily was thought to be under her especial protection, because of its wonderful fertility.

She is represented as being tall, matronly and dignified, with golden hair, emblematical of ripened ears of corn, a sheaf of wheat heads in one hand and a torch in the other.

As the wife of Zeus she became the mother of Proserpine, a daughter whom she dearly loved and in whose society she found her happiness.

One day as the child was gathering flowers she saw a narcissus with one hundred blossoms, she stopped to pick them and the earth opened and she was taken to the realms below, to the kingdom of Aides, Ceres, inconsolable at her loss, lighted two torches in

the flames of Mount Aetna, and leaving her home on Mount Olympus, started in search of her lost child. Long days and nights she wandered up and down the earth, until Hecate advised the disconsolate mother to consult Helios, the Sun God, who told her Zeus himself had allowed the abduction of his daughter. The indignant, sorrowing woman refused heavenly food; she no longer smiled upon the earth and in harvest rewarded labor with naught, and desolation reigned. At last through the intercession of Zeus, Proserpine was restored to her mother for six months of the twelve and they returned to the deserted home on Mount Olympus, and the sympathetic earth responded gaily to their smiles. Grain, fruit and flowers sprang up and filled the earth with plenty and the air with perfume.

Is it any wonder that this is a favorite theme with classic authors?

If it be only a fanciful allegory, it is full of lessons for us. Shall we by the story illustrate the change of seasons, or shall we see in the dignified matron, with her significant burning torch and her wheat ears, the goddess whose votaries we are, and gain new inspiration for our work by the light of her flaming brand, or shall we find in this legend the doctrine of the immortality of the soul? Each lesson vies with the other.

Ceres instituted the order of the Eleusinian Mysteries the first secret society of which I find any record. It being a secret society I will not divulge its aims and aspirations here. It is recorded that its rites were celebrated by the Athenians once in five years by torch light and with great solemnity while the Romans held the festival of Ceresia every year, beginning the 12 day of April. On this day there was a procession of women dressed in white and bearing torches in memory of the weary search of Ceres for her lost daughter.

MRS. N. H. BANGS.

### Correct Pronunciation.

It has been said that "the manner in which one speaks his mother tongue is looked upon as showing more clearly than any other one thing what his culture is, and what his associations are and have been." But little attention is paid to this subject in country schools and parents are, as a rule, negligent in regard to correcting the mistakes in pronunciation made by their children. In youth the organs of speech are pliable, the memory retentive and the habits unformed, hence a correct articulation and pronunciation can be then acquired much easier than in advanced years. Those who have not had this culture in early life are apt to feel the loss keenly as they mingle with polite society, for although the mind may recognize an error as soon as made, yet the untrained lips often shame the speaker and make him feel ill at ease, even with those who are, perhaps, his inferiors in every other respect. Parents should give this subject more attention. A blackboard should be in every home. With the aid of this useful article many interesting word games may be played.

The children will be glad to do without unnecessary ruffles and injurious pastry, if mother will only spend a little time each day teaching them to talk correctly. It is an easy matter to print a list of words often mispronounced on the blackboard. The following is an example: Coffee, duke, drama, arctic, dog, ally, been, diamond, blithe, donkey, etc. Talk about the meaning of each word with the children, teach the little ones to make sentences containing the words under consideration, show that words are simply the clothes in which we dress our ideas. Make the dictionary a member of your family circle and bow to its superior wisdom. The children will need but little encouragement to consult its pages. Find short paragraphs containing many words often mispronounced and allow the children to read them, giving the one credit who reads the most correctly. The following is a good example of an easy reading lesson of this kind:

"The illustrated magazine contains an interesting description of a diamond found in Asia, and portrays the squalor of a hut in which lives a dishonest, covetous, despicable old man who curses God and will have no companion but his dog. On the first page of the paper is a picture of a large house having a cupola on its roof and many dahlias in the yard."

Aside from these special drills the children should be allowed to read interesting stories, historical sketches, poems, etc., giving attention to unfamiliar words and talking about things that seem obscure.

Happy are the children whose parents are careful about these matters and thus lay a firm foundation for the highest culture in after years. Horses and cattle, houses and lands, gold and silver, and all the treasures of earth can never compensate for the loss of this training and wise are those parents and teachers who realize these things and give those under their care the precept and example they need, in order to develop into self-possessed men and women, capable of using the English language in a way to influence others for good and to aid themselves in life's great work.

E. H. MORTON.

Portland, Me.

### To Make a Home out of a Household.

In that marvellously fine study of the essential virtues of life, made by Prof. Henry Drummond, in the little book called "The Greatest Thing in the World," is a book that has already, within the six months of its publication, reached the sale of over 400,000 copies, there is one passage referring with especial emphasis to the vice of ill-temper in the household life, and one of the most destructive elements that can possibly enter it. "The peculiarity of ill-temper," says Prof. Drummond, "is that it is the vice of the virtues. It is often the one blot on an otherwise noble character," and he proceeds to say:

No form of vice, not worldliness, not greed of gold, not drunkenness itself, does more to unchristianize society than evil temper. For embittering life, for breaking up communities, for destroying the most sacred relationships, for devastating homes, for withering up men and women, for taking the bloom off childhood, in short, for sheer gratuitous misery-producing power, this influence stands alone.

Jealousy, anger, pride, uncharity, cruelty, self-righteousness, touchiness, doggedness, sullenness—these are the ingredients of this dark and loveless soul. In varying proportions, also, these are the ingredients of all ill-temper. Judge if such sins of the disposition are not worse to live in, and for others to live with, than sins of the body. Did Christ indeed not answer the question Himself when He said, "I say unto you, that the publicans and the harlots go into the Kingdom of Heaven before you." There is really no place in heaven for a disposition like this. A man with such a mood could only make heaven miserable for all the people in it. Except, therefore, such a man be born again, he cannot, he simply cannot, enter the kingdom of heaven. For it is perfectly certain—and you will not misunderstand me—that to enter heaven a man must take it with him.

This great truth cannot be too profoundly accepted by every one, and particularly is it one to be impressed on children, that their lives may expand under so beautiful an influence. For all the spiritual world is now and here, as well as hence and hereafter, while to be fitted to enter heaven a man must take it with him, as Prof. Drummond says. He may also, if he has achieved sufficient harmony of spirit, live in heaven now, in his daily life, for it is not a locality, but a condition of the spirit. "Life is not a holiday, but an education. And the one eternal lesson for us all is how better can we love." It is the one supreme and final test of life.—*Ex.*

### Forget.

To forget unpleasant episodes in life is to be happier and bet-

ter. The insane weakness of harping on past troubles is fast going out of date and we are thankful it is so, for who does not abhor a story of misery and woe. *Pomeroy's Advance Thought* contains the following appropriate thoughts on this subject, and are as true as that forgetfulness is a lasting good:

"In our institutions of learning many studies are pursued with the object to cultivate the memory, or retentive powers of thought. This is proper and necessary. But another equally important cultivation of the mind is quite overlooked, and that is power to forget. To pass on to the future and to good purposes. Many persons make themselves miserable and others uncomfortable by a continual reversion to trials and troubles through which they have passed. It is very noticeable that one speaks less of trials while enduring them, than when they are well over, when they will be reverted to again and again, and the recital of such experiences are the main topics of conversation almost everywhere; each person striving to tell the biggest story of woe. Half the possible enjoyments of the present are overlooked and neglected just through this wretched habit. It is a misuse of memory. It weakens the activity of thought in the present, or for future usefulness. If a trouble is past why not let it go and be rid of it, while the mind reaches forth to hope, and new activities. A well-balanced mind is one that can both remember and forget. Remember all that is useful to know and to guide present efforts. Forget all that debilitates, drags down and weakens mind and body. The invalid who can forget his sickness convalesces rapidly. The man who can forget a wrong seeks no revenge.

The woman who can forget all the worries of housekeeping will soon find them gone. Any individual who can forget slights, hurts, struggles, inappreciation and failures, creates about himself an atmosphere of strength and buoyant thought that will tide him over many a rough place in the present, and wins friends, such as no hero of disaster ever gains. Forgetfulness is an art worthy of earnest cultivation. With memory and forgetfulness both well controlled, one is like a soldier equipped for battle.—*St. Louis Magazine.*

### Women Should Heed.

Here is something I got from my family physician which I really think every woman should know: Women who sit with their legs crossed to sew or to read, or to hold the baby are not aware that they are inviting serious physical ailments, but it is true, nevertheless. When a man crosses his legs he places the ankle of one limb across the knee of the other, and rests it lightly there. A woman, more modest and restricted in her movements, rests the entire weight of one limb on the upper part of the other, and this pressure upon the sensitive nerves and cords, if indulged in for continued lengths of time, as is often done by ladies who sew or embroider, will produce disease. Sciatica, neuralgia and other serious troubles frequently result from this simple cause. The muscles and nerves in the upper portion of a woman's legs are extremely sensitive, and much of her whole physical structure can become deranged if they are overtaxed in the manner referred to.—*Courier Journal.*

### Whipped Cream.

Some farmers think this is a dish only for aristocrats. Mistaken, my friend; it is no more expensive than the natural cream that so many use on the table every day. It is a delicious sauce for many kinds of pudding and for cake that is becoming dry. It makes a dainty dish for convalescents in some diseases, if used with crackers, one that relishes, tastes good and, more than anything else, it looks so tempting and dainty, and looks is everything to an invalid's appetite; please always bear that idea in your mind when waiting on the sick.

In making whipped cream, be sure and cool the cream below

the churning temperature (which ranges from 64° to 70° Fahrenheit,) or you may get a dish of butter on hand, and the cooler, the quicker it becomes thick; only don't freeze it, of course. To a coffee-cup of cream add the whites of two eggs, two table-spoonfuls of sugar and a little flavoring extract. Beat all together; a regular egg-beater will do the work the most rapidly. This quantity will make a quart bowlful, after it is beaten so as to stand alone when dropped from off a spoon. The cream should be rather thick and perfectly sweet. So you see you have a quart out of a cupful by using the whites of only two eggs with the cream, and eggs should be plenty in every farmer's family.

### Dish Washing.

This item is considerable in kitchen life. There is one part I thoroughly enjoy—hanging up the dishpan. Method and celerity make dish washing one of the lightest duties of kitchen work. In the first place good dishes, bright silver, and fine glass ware are necessary to make the work pleasant. If each member of the family owns a beautiful cup and saucer, it is a delight to wash and wipe them. There is not much pleasure in handling old cracked dishes.

The dishwasher must see that water is hot or else time will be lost waiting for it to heat.

It is a knack to clear off a table with dispatch. A server is needed. Fill it with glass and silver, gathering spoons, knives and forks, each separately. Remove them to the kitchen table. Then again fill the server with cups, saucers, butter plates and sauce dishes. The third time take out the plates which have been well scraped, and the table is cleared.

Now, given plenty of soft water and soap, two large dishpans, one for washing and one for rinsing, a large server, a thick piece of crash a yard and a half long and plenty of wiping towels, with a large apron to protect my dress, I am ready for the dishes. I want plenty of water in the dishpan and always keep the pan full of dishes. Thus they soak up and wash easily. Many put in but one thing at a time, and stand and rub and scrape. I do not waste minutes in that way but keep things soaked up. If one dish is obstinate, I leave it for another, thus filling up every second. I rinse the dishes, not in boiling water, for that cracks the glazing, and place them to drain on the crash. By the time I am ready to wipe, there is scarcely a drop of water to be seen. The crash absorbs it, leaving the dishes dry and glistening. I find the crash as indispensable as a dishpan. If I stood and wiped dishes out of the rinsing water, I would waste time and strength and the dish towels would be wet through.

A table full of dirty dishes is a formidable enemy, especially after a hearty dinner, and a new magazine is on the parlor table. It takes determination and heroic tactics to bring order into a kitchen after a large dinner has been served. I am sure no general felt more satisfaction after a victorious battle than I do when I hang up the dishpan; it is the clang of victory.

If the hands look red and swollen, it lasts only a short time. Cream or vaseline at night makes the hands soft. With a little care, dish washing will add to the looks of the hands rather than detract from their beauty. It is the best work for anyone troubled with cold hands. It is invigorating and the best medicine for a young lady whose head always aches, and whose feet are always cold. This is not an old lady's whim, but I have heard good physicians recommend it.

"If we would have men who will consider it a crime to rob the helpless and oppress the weak, we must first have children who are taught kindness to all forms of life coming within their power, and there is no better place for this teaching than in the child's experience with domestic animals, and through illustrated stories of animal life, that so easily awaken interest and excite sympathy.—*Mr. Todd, in our Dumb Animal.*

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G. R. & I. RAIL ROAD. June 22, 1890.--Central Standard Time. GOING SOUTH. No. 2 No. 6 No. 8 No. 4

C. & G. T. RAILWAY. Jan. 19, 1890.--Central Meridian Time. TRAINS WESTWARD. No. 2 No. 18 No. 4

TRAIN EASTWARD. No. 1 No. 3 No. 5

No. 42, mixed, west, leaves Schoolcraft at 9:50 a. m., and No. 43, east, at 3:40 p. m. Nos. 2, 3, 4 and 5 run daily.

Ascertain Your Weight. A TOPICAL REFRAIN.

In public places nowadays there stands a handsome scale, Without proprietor or clerk to tell its simple tale; But passers-by may read the words engraved upon a plate,

To "Drop a nickel in the slot and ascertain your weight." A moral's here, good people, if you'll take a moment's thought,

A lesson for life's guidance 'tis and most succinctly taught; For if it be the part of man to have a bout with fate,

It surely is the thing to do to "ascertain your weight." So, if you think that politics afford you widest scope,

If to pull the wires deftly is your purpose and your hope, If you fancy that your destiny's to glorify the state,

Just drop a nickel in the slot and ascertain your weight. If you dream that you're an actor, and imagine you're endowed

With graces and with gifts to win the plaudits of the crowd, If sock and buskin visions fill your soul with joy elate,

Just drop a nickel in the slot and ascertain your weight. If you feel that you're a poet, and by right divine belong

To those whose wings have borne them to Parnassian heights of song, If ballads, rondeaus, triolets, you long to incubate,

Just drop a nickel in the slot and ascertain your weight. If you deem your forte the story, and you only ask the chance

To run a tilt with Haggard in the region of romance, If another "Robert Elsmere" you are eager to create,

Just drop a nickel in the slot and ascertain your weight. If you see yourself a lawyer, or a doctor, or a beau,

If you think that as a lover you could make a teaching show, If you deem society the field you ought to cultivate,

Just drop a nickel in the slot and ascertain your weight. In short, whatever the path to which ambition points the way,

Repeat this legend to yourself ere yet you make essay, For it is well that modesty, before it is too late,

Should drop a nickel in the slot and ascertain its weight. --Harper's Magazine for November.

The Long Distance Telephone.

Ithaca and New Haven are now connected, and Mr. A. S. Hibbard has in mind a novel test exhibit for this winter.

He will try to have the Cornell and Yale glee clubs give simultaneous concerts in Ithaca and New Haven.

The two concert halls will be connected by telephone, and then the Yale club will sing, and both the Ithaca and New Haven audiences will hear the music simultaneously.

Then the Cornell club will sing in Ithaca and the Ithaca audience will hear it as well as the one 400 miles away when the singing is taking place.

Spice would be added to the entertainment if a joint debate between the Yale and Cornell navies could be arranged on the Yale-Cornell boating difficulties.

The Use of Water at Meals.

Opinions differ as to the effect of the free ingestion of water at meal times, but the view most generally received is probably that it dilutes the gastric juice and so retards digestion.

Apart from the fact that a moderate delay in the process is by no means a disadvantage, as Sir William Roberts has shown in his explanation of the popularity of tea and coffee, it is more than doubtful whether any such effect is in reality produced.

When ingested during meals, water may do good by washing out the digested food and by exposing the undigested part more thoroughly to the action of the digestive ferments.

Pepsin is a catalytic body, and a given quantity will work almost indefinitely, provided the peptones are removed as they are formed.

The good effect of water drunk freely before meals has, however, another beneficial result--it washes away the mucus which is secreted by the mucous membrane during the intervals of repose, and favors peristalsis of the whole alimentary tract.

The membrane thus cleansed is in a much better condition to receive food and convert it into soluble compounds.

The accumulation of mucus is especially well marked in the morning, when the gastric walls are covered with a thick, tenacious layer.

Food entering the stomach at this time will become covered with this tenacious coating, which for a time protects it from the action of the gastric ferments, and so retards digestion.

The tubular contracted stomach, with its puckered mucus lining and viscid contents, a normal condition in the morning before breakfast, is not suitable to receive food.

Exercise before partaking of a meal stimulates the circulation of the blood and facilitates the flow of blood through the vessels.

A glass of water washes out the mucus, partially distends the stomach, wakes up peristalsis, and prepares the alimentary canal for the morning meal.

Observation has shown that non-irritating liquids pass through the "tubular" stomach, and even if food be present, they only mix with it to a slight extent.

According to Dr. Leuf, who has made this subject a special study; cold water should be given to persons who have sufficient vitality to react, and hot water to others.

In chronic gastric catarrh it is extremely beneficial to drink warm or hot water before meals, and salt is said in most cases to add to the good effect produced.

Prices of Sheep for Breeding. The past season seems to have been a good one for sheep breeders in England.

Flocks are heavier than they have been for many years, and prices are remunerative for stud sheep especially.

The highest prices I can find as having been realized at recent sales are \$578 for a Southdown shearing ram; \$551 for a Shropshire stock ram; \$368 for a Hampshire Down ram lamb; \$446 for an Oxford-Down shearing ram; \$163 each for a Cotswold shearing ram and a Suffolk ram lamb, and \$262 for a Devon long-wool ram on hire.

The prices of ewes of most breeds appear to have been correspondingly good. High as the prices for rams were this season, none of them reached the highest figure of last year for Shropshires, when Mr. G. Graham sold one for \$1,050 to go to Buenos Ayres, and another for \$892; and, profitable as the English sheep must have been, Australia appears to have afforded a still wider margin for profit.

At Sydney flockmasters have been gathering at the sales to obtain the best rams to strengthen and improve their Merino flocks. The top price so far is \$3,675 for a Merino ram, Hero Prince, belonging to Messrs. W. Gibson & Son of Scorn, which was purchased by Mr. W. H. Watt.

Some sheep sent from Germany to Sydney for sale also made good prices, \$2,888 being given for a six tooth ram from the flock of M. R. C. Gadegast of Thal-Oschatz, Saxony, others making from \$551 to \$1,628.

The fact of such prices being on record should put American flockmasters on their mettle; let us have the subject of sheep-raising as ably and

thoroughly discussed at the institutes for this winter as was that of dairying during the past one in this State, so that farmers may have the opportunity of learning what the industry is capable of doing for them.--J. H. C. in Country Gentleman.

The Compass in the Watch.

A correspondent of the London Truth sends the following: "A few days ago I was standing by an American gentleman, when I expressed a wish to know which point was the north.

He at once pulled out his watch, looked at it, and pointed to the north. I asked him whether he had a compass attached to his watch.

"All watches," he replied, "are compasses." Then he explained to me how this was. Point the hour hand to the sun, and the south is exactly half way between the hour and the figure XII, on the watch.

For instance, suppose that it is 4 o'clock. Point the hand indicating 4 to the sun and II on the watch is exactly south. Suppose that it is 8 o'clock, point the hand indicating 8 to the sun, and the figure X on the watch is due south.

My American friend was quite surprised that I did not know this. Thinking that very possibly I was ignorant of a thing that every one else knew, and happening to meet Mr. Stanley, I asked that eminent traveler whether he was aware of this mode of discovering the points of the compass.

He said that he never heard of it. I presume therefore, that the world is in the same state of ignorance. Amalfi is proud of having been the home of the inventor of the compass. I do not know what town boasts of my American friend as a citizen."

Let us Trust.

Every day and every hour there appears in the lives of most of us mysteries which we cannot fathom, problems which we cannot solve.

Let us trust where we do not understand; let us not look backward too much to our losses, and question why we were so bereft; nor earthward to our crosses and ask why we are so tried; but rather, onward to the future, which is in God's hands; onward and upward to the blessed time when those that are faithful and endure unto the end shall be saved from perplexity and death forevermore; shall see no longer through a glass darkly, but in the sunshine of God's presence shall see face to face, shall know as they are known.

An announcement of interest to the metal trade is made by the Cowles Electric Smelting Aluminum Co., of Cleveland, Ohio. Heretofore the lowest price made to the public on aluminum in small lots has been at \$2.50 per pound.

The Cowles Co., who are the largest manufacturers of aluminum in the world, sent a circular to the trade recently putting this price to \$1 a pound. Five years ago the Cowles aluminum was first offered for sale, when the current price of the metal was \$20 per pound, and little, if any, was obtainable even at that figure, and this without any guarantee of chemical purity.

The first price made on the Cowles aluminum was \$5 per pound, as against the above figure. At \$1 per pound aluminum will become a serious competitor with both nickel and tin. At 50 cents, pure aluminum would become a formidable competitor with copper.--Ex.

SUSQUEHANNA CO. GRANGE 246, Oct. 2, 1890. Mr. O. W. Ingersoll, Dear Sir: Three years ago I purchased thirty gallons of your paint, which is the best I ever used.

On completing the house I ran three gallons short, so went to the store and purchased twenty pounds of best white lead which I mixed with oil and put on the fence. To-day the fence looks as though it had been painted at least twice as long as the house.

A dealer in town spoke to me about a week ago, saying, "I notice you have painted your house this spring." I told him it had been painted three years. Send me \* \* \* \*

Fraternally yours, J. J. ROPER.

Communications.

An Interesting Meeting with Acme Grange.

On Wednesday, Nov. 5th, there was held at Acme Grange Hall one of the grandest meetings ever held within its walls. It was by the meeting with us of Hillsdale Co. Pomona Grange. The morning dawned bright and fair, and at an early hour the Patrons began to gather in from all directions—those of our own Grange as well as from sister Granges and members of Pomona Grange all over the county, until our hall was well filled. Quite a number came in on the train, and were met by carriages and conveyed to the place of meeting.

The Grange was called to order by the W. M. of Pomona Grange and proceeded to business.

The forenoon was spent in the regular routine, receiving reports of subordinates, &c. At twelve o'clock dinner was announced, and the Worthy Master called from labor to refreshments. All fell into line and marched to the hall below, where the tables were fairly groaning under the weight of good things such as only the wives of Grangers know how to prepare. After eating, drinking and social greetings for an hour and-a-half, the W. M. brought down the gavel, which set the Grange to work again. The doors were then thrown open and those outside the gates allowed to enter, when the literary exercises were taken up, which were furnished by Acme Grange, and to say that they were grand would be expressing it but feebly. One recitation alone, "The Martyred Mother," given by Miss Minnie Baxter, was worth going miles to hear. Miss B. belongs to Acme Grange, is a splendid elocutionist and rendered the piece nobly.

After the exercises were over, the Grange was opened and the 5th degree conferred upon three candidates who were in waiting.

Acme Grange is in a flourishing condition; its members take a lively interest in the work; we have received quite a number of new members this year; have added largely to our library, and otherwise improved our hall and lot.

SEC'Y ACME GRANGE.  
South Camden, Mich., Nov. 8.

ALLEGAN, NOV. 9.

ED. VISITOR:

I have watched the VISITOR to see if some one of the many who attended the last session of Allegan County Council, held at Monterey Sept. 2, would let you and our friends know what a pleasant and profitable meeting we had, and as I have not seen any mention of it, I cannot let it go by without saying just a word. The day was fine, the attendance large, the music, both vocal and instrumental, good, and the program was carried out as far as time would permit. The welcome address was well received, as was the response—both containing many fine thoughts. The essays were full of theme for thought, and discussions quite interesting followed. The recitations were well rendered; indeed, we may say that the intellectual feast was good—very good.

The good sisters of Monterey Grange did not neglect the dinner, I can assure you; neither did the assembled crowd.

It made Bro. Mart. McAlpine fly around lively, as he had invited the Council to meet at Monterey, and such a full crowd responded that he wanted everybody to have a good time. Their new hall was not quite ready, but we were very nicely entertained in the hall they have been using since the fire.

A hearty vote of thanks was tendered the Grange for its hospitality, and those who responded so nicely to the program were not forgotten.

The next session of the Council will be held with Allegan Central Grange in their hall lately purchased. The meeting will be both literary and business, including the election of officers. A good attendance is desired.

MRS. N. A. DIBBLE.

LITCHFIELD, NOV. 8.

ED. VISITOR:

On Wednesday last I had the pleasure of attending Pomona

Grange No. 10 at Acme Grange Hall, which was filled to overflowing.

The forenoon was devoted to business and the afternoon session was open to all. A good program was presented, and everyone called upon responded promptly and in a manner to make a good Patron feel proud, for they did themselves honor as well as the order to which they belong. The music and dinner, both of which were most excellent, were furnished by Acme Grange.

After the open meeting, the Master opened in the fifth degree and gave the obligation to a number who desired it.

Worthy Master Timms and wife were elected delegates to the State Grange.

Fraternally,

H. H. DRESSER.

ED. VISITOR:

I was never before invited to write an article for the paper, and just why our Worthy Master assigned me this difficult task, I am unable to comprehend. However, I will say for Rollin Grange that it is in good working condition and a lively interest in all kinds of Grange work is manifest. Our literary work is especially worthy of mention, and the addresses of welcome that we have listened to of late have been great additions to our programs.

We expect to hold a series of Children's meetings during the approaching winter, for the purpose of educating the rising generation in literary work.

We, as a Grange, are not in favor of reducing the initiation fee unless the dues are reduced also. One can readily see that unless there is a general reduction, it will make our Subordinate Granges rather poor, and I hope that those who have it in their power to regulate the question of reducing fees, will look on both sides of it and deal with it in a manner that will bring the greatest permanent good to the Order.

Fraternally yours,  
MRS. CLARA McBEAN.

Notices of Meetings.

Pomona Grange.

The regular annual meeting of Van Buren Co. Pomona Grange No. 13 P. of H. will be held at Lawrence Grange Hall on Thursday, Nov. 20th, at 10 a. m. Reports from subordinate Granges, presentation of resolutions, election and installation of officers, election of a delegate to State Grange and payment of dues will be special orders of business.

Secretaries of subordinate Granges will please report to the Secretary of Pomona Grange the number of members at close of last quarter.

The W. Lecturer announces a fifth degree session in the evening.

E. L. WARNER, Sec'y.

There will be a meeting of the Kent County Grange, for the purpose of conferring the fifth degree, at the Cascade Grange Hall on Wednesday, Nov. 19th, at 1:30 o'clock. H. GAYLORD HOLT, Lecturer.

The next meeting of Hillsdale County Grange will be held at Hillsdale on Wednesday, Dec. 3. The forenoon session will be devoted to business of the order and hearing reports from subordinate Granges. We hope each subordinate will report.

The afternoon session will include reports of officers, election of officers and the Good of the Order.

We expect there will be a full attendance. J. E. WAGNER, Lecturer.

Calhoun County Grange will hold its next meeting at Bedford Grange Hall on Thursday, Nov. 20th, at 10 a. m. Following is the program:

1. Opening song.
2. Is there any other organization so beneficial to the wives and daughters of farmers as the Grange? Mrs. Homer Case and E. H. Hicks.
3. What is the difference between "Reciprocity" and "Free Trade?" C. C. McDermid.
4. Fine or coarse wool sheep:

which, for general purposes? C. H. Marvin.

5. Music: solo by Nellie Wickham.

6. How long before the farmers will wake up and speak an emphatic "Whoa!" to their oppressors? Jonathan Johnson and Harvey DuBoise.

7. The relation of the church to the social problem. Mary A. Mayo.

8. The Chautauqua Circle and its work. Is it advisable in rural districts? Bessie Adams, William Simons.

9. Solo—Agnes Kerr.

10. Would it be an advantage to the nation for women to vote? Mary Hicks, Richard Kisler.

11. Essay—Kate Woodworth.

12. Will a Grange prosper as well in the town as in the country? Homer Case, Eli Allen.

13. Singing—Agnes Kerr.  
MRS. C. C. POORMAN,  
Lecturer.

Allegan County Council will hold its next session with Allegan Central Grange on Tuesday, Dec. 2, at 10 a. m. sharp. In the forenoon will occur the order of business, including the reports of officers and the election of officers for the ensuing year. Then will follow dinner; after which the literary program will be taken up, as follows:

1. Music, vocal and instrumental, on call.
2. Address of welcome, by some member of Allegan Grange.
3. Response, by N. W. Houser, of Watson Grange.
4. Recitations and essays, left over from the last session.
5. Discussion on the best method of improving our County Fair, led by M. V. B. McAlpine, followed by brothers and sisters in the audience.
6. Recitation, by Milly Jewett.
7. Suggestions for the good of the order, by volunteers.
8. Question box.

We hope to see a good attendance by those interested in our work, both in Subordinate and Pomona Granges. All such are cordially invited to attend and take part in the exercises, if they will.  
N. A. D.

Obituaries.

BOWMAN.

Died, at the residence of her son Hubert, at Banfield, Oct. 10, 1890, Mrs. Ellen Bowman, in the 70th year of her age, leaving three sons and other near and dear relatives and friends. Her death was caused by cancer. Deceased was a member in good standing of Johnstown Grange No. 127.

WHEREAS, Death has again entered our midst and selected from our number Sister Ellen Bowman; and as she has been an active member of our Order for the past 17 years, always standing ready to assist in any work that her hands found to do, being kind to all and ever liberal in gifts and benevolences—never shirking a duty that presented itself; therefore

Resolved, That the bereaved family have our heartfelt sympathy in their affliction, and that the charter of this Grange be draped in mourning for 60 days in memory of the beloved sister.

Resolved, That these resolutions be entered upon the pages of our record, and that a copy be sent to the GRANGE VISITOR for publication.

Oh, weep not for our sister departed above; Around her e'er gathered God's angels of love. Safe, safe in yon heaven, where all is so fair, Our sister, dear sister, is now resting there.

She lives and rejoices in beauty so bright, Could mortals behold her 'twould dazzle their sight; She lives and rejoices—oh! shed not a tear, Though sister, dear sister, no longer is here.

No longer in body; and yet will she come On pinions so bright to her dear earthly home, And whisper of peace and happiness given To God's loving children, on earth and in heaven.

FANNY R. SHEFFIELD,  
EMMA RISBRIDGER,  
Committee.

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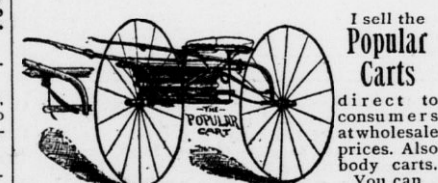
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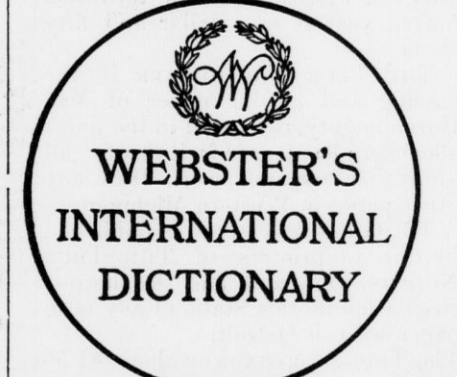
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