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# THE GRANGE VISITOR

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

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**THE GRANGE VISITOR.**  
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**A. C. GLIDDEN, Editor,**  
 PAW PAW, MICH.

**The Old Year and the New.**  
 Abroad there lies the winter snow,  
 And the winter winds are wearily sighing;  
 Toll ye the church-bell sad and slow,  
 And tread softly and speak low—  
 For the Old Year lies a-dying.  
 —Tennyson.

Let him in  
 That standeth there alone  
 And waiteth at the door.  
 There's a new foot on the floor, my friend,  
 And a new face at the door, my friend,  
 A new face at the door.  
 —Tennyson.

### MICHIGAN STATE GRANGE.

#### Report of Executive Committee Concerning Finance, etc.

At our last meeting, we presented to this Grange a report upon national finances, in which we urged upon Congress the necessity of an increase of legal tender currency. To that end, we offered the following resolution:

*Resolved*, that we consider it for the best interest of the farmer as well as the entire debtor class of the United States, that the whole product of our gold and silver mines should be utilized by the Government, as the basis of a legal tender money currency, by purchasing the entire output of the mines at its bullion value, and issuing thereon legal tender coin certificates at its coin value, but without coinage of either metal until the necessities of the treasury require it."

This resolution was unanimously adopted by the Grange, and a resolution passed requesting the Chairman of the Executive Committee to supplement the report by a financial argument in its support, and to furnish each member of Congress with a printed copy of the report and argument.

Owing to the pressure of official duties the Chairman was unable to prepare the matter to be submitted, until the first day of February last, at which time he forwarded to each member of Congress and to each Senator, a copy of the report and argument accompanied by the following letter addressed to each member:

"Traverse City, Mich., Feb. 1, 1890. "Hon. M. C. Dear Sir:—On the eleventh of December last, the Executive Committee of the State Grange of Michigan, made a supplementary report to that Grange upon a subject which the Committee deemed of vital importance to the farmers and debtors of the United States. The report was received and unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the Grange. After its adoption, a resolution was passed requesting the Chairman of the Executive Committee to have so much of the report as referred to financial matters, and called for legislative action on the part of Congress, printed together with such further argument in favor of the adoption by Congress of the measures proposed in the first resolution, as in his judgment would aid to a just solution of this economic question, and to forward a copy to each member of Congress. In the discharge of that duty, I have the honor to

present herewith for your consideration so much of the report as refers to financial matters together with facts and figures to prove the correctness of the position taken by the Grange. And I ask in behalf of the great farming interest which I am called upon to represent, your careful reading and candid consideration of the matters presented. Hoping the united wisdom of Congress may see a way clearly to alleviate the burdens thrown upon the debtor class, and avert the rapid decline in farm values, and the value of farm products, I am, with great respect,

Yours truly,  
 "J. G. RAMSDELL,  
 Chairman Ex. Com. Mich. State Grange."

Your committee take pleasure in being able to report to you at this time that Congress so far complied with the terms of the resolution adopted by the Grange, as to pass a law embodying its essential features, though not fully complying with all its terms.

This law provides for the purchase of four million five hundred thousand ounces of silver bullion monthly, and issuing in payment treasury notes of the United States, interchangeable with coin, and made a legal tender for all demands, public and private. This action of Congress adds to our currency an annual increase of about fifty-four millions of dollars, which, with the twenty millions of gold production not used in the arts, will give an addition to the circulating medium of our country of about \$74,000,000.

The results of this legislation have been most satisfactory. It has averted the rapid decline in values which was taking place a year ago. It has relieved to a great extent the overburdened debtor without injury to the creditor, and has turned back the tide of foreign capital which was rapidly fastening itself upon our industries and drawing in interest and dividends its annual millions to enrich the treasuries of other people, at the expense of the producing citizens of the United States. Beneficial as this law has been and will be, the present universal financial stringency which prevails in this country, demonstrates to a certainty that the relief afforded by the bill is insufficient.

This, the secretary of the treasury has had the wisdom to see, and to avert the danger of foreign drafts for liquidation of American securities abroad, has from time to time drawn from the surplus revenue of the treasury, money for the purchase of United States bonds not yet due. This mode of relief can continue only so long as the present available surplus revenues remain unexhausted; for the mere drawing in from the sources of revenue, and paying out in redemption of bonds, neither adds to, nor takes from the circulating medium of the country.

The daily increase in population and wealth, and the consequent increase in the volume of business transactions, amounting according to the President's annual message, to ten per cent in the last year, calls for a much larger monthly addition to our legal tender currency than the law affords.

The circulating medium of the whole country, including gold, silver, national bank notes, silver and gold certificates and treasury notes, amounts to over 1,400,000,000 of dollars. An

annual increase in business of ten per cent, would require an annual increase of ten per cent. of such currency amounting to 140 millions, to keep up the present ratio of currency to business.

We believe it to be the duty of the Government so long as it determines for the citizens, what shall be a legal tender for payment of debts and settlement of damages, and through its courts enforces such payments in the medium it prescribes, to furnish enough legal tender money to the people with which to transact the business of the country without recourse to borrowing from foreign capital. This the Government has never done. Our people have been and are still dependent upon foreign capital for a large part of the means to carry on the business of the country, and for this accommodation are obliged to pay hundreds of millions annually from the product of their labor, lessening to that extent the national accumulation of wealth.

This need not and should not be whatever difficulty might have lain in the way of American financial independence in the past, no longer exists. With an annual production from our mines of over one hundred million of dollars in the precious metals, and coin and bullion in the country amounting to about nine hundred million dollars, we have the basis of a coin-demand currency of \$2,500,000,000 more than enough to supply the wants of exchange.

We, therefore, recommend that the entire product of our gold and silver mines not used in the arts, be utilized by the Government as the basis for issuing legal tender treasury notes, interchangeable with coin, in quantities sufficient to meet the requirements of the increase in population and business.

That the issuing of such notes should not be less than twelve million dollars per month, and that it should be used first, in payment for the bullion purchased, and the overplus, if any, should be used in the purchase of government bonds.

For the purpose of securing to the government the entire product of our mines of gold and silver, we recommend the free and unlimited exchange of such treasury notes for gold and silver bullion at its coin value, less a seigniorage sufficient to pay all expenses attending its coinage.

We believe that such an exchange would practically absorb the entire product of our mines available for coinage, and that a seigniorage of from two to three per cent would cover all cost of transportation, assay, coinage and storage of silver, and would effectually prevent any dangerous influx of foreign metal.

We are aware that the course above outlined would raise a crop of evil prophecies as abundant as did the Bland bill of 1878, or the silver bill of the present year.

We will be told that it would antagonize the American bankers, who would boycott the new treasury notes in their clearances as they did the silver dollars of 1878. That it would prevent the sale of American securities abroad which have to be negotiated upon a gold basis, and that it would produce such an inflation of the currency as to induce ruinous speculation.

That such a course would be antagonized by the American

bankers, who of themselves consume but little and produce nothing, yet double their wealth every decade by taxing the labor of those who do produce, is to be expected, and is one of the best evidences of the benefit to the producer.

That it would prevent the sale of American securities abroad, is one of its chief merits. The sale of American securities abroad entails a direct tax upon American production to the extent of the interest on such securities. Not only that, but the sale of securities abroad induces excessive importations, as shown by our financial history from 1862 to 1874, during which time \$1,800,000,000 in government bonds was sold abroad, and during the same time our imports exceeded our exports by over one billion eighty-six millions. We can see no reason why a country of sixty-three millions of people, unequalled in energy and general intelligence, possessing the most abundant natural resources of any country in the world, and producing five-twelfths of the whole world's production of the precious metal, should longer continue a financial dependency of Europe.

As to inflation, the amount asked for is only sufficient to keep pace with the increase of business, and if not furnished at home must be furnished from abroad or financial stringency and business depression must follow. If supplied from abroad instead of being furnished at home, the American people are taxed to the extent of the interest and dividend on the capital thus furnished from abroad—while if supplied in the manner indicated, that amount would be saved to the American people. Self interest as well as patriotism should favor independent action on the part of our government by applying its own resources to the furnishing of a sufficient money currency to meet the requirements of its people.

**LOANS BY GOVERNMENT.**

We regret that the National Grange, the Farmers' Alliance and other organizations of farmers have indorsed the proposition in one form or another to make loans by government to the people. We are opposed to any action that would encourage people in contracting debts. That the issuing of one billion of treasury notes and loaning them to the people either directly or indirectly through the state and county organizations at low rate of interest would lead to a wild clamor for credit, every intelligent person must admit. That no system could be devised or its operation so guarded as to prevent partiality and favoritism in its distribution, first to personal friends of the loaning agent, and next to his political associates, every thoughtful man must foresee. That it would create a feeling of helpless dependence upon government aid by those whom it is designed to benefit, thereby relaxing their individual effort, destroying their energy and self-reliance, and rendering them helpless mendicants of government charity, every observer of human nature must know. That it would lead to thriftless improvidence, relying upon government aid or government forbearance by those whom it seeks to benefit, and prove a curse instead of a blessing, is so plainly evident that we are surprised that the National Grange should allow itself to be carried away by the clamor of those who hope to

gain for themselves public preferment, by holding out a scheme so enticing to the ignorant or improvident debtor and scheming speculator.

What the farmers need, and especially those who are in debt, are greater facilities for paying debts, not for contracting them; better remuneration for their labor and capital, not inducements to speculate upon capital not their own. While we believe that the government credit system proposed by the Shannon bill and its kindred proposals, if put in operation would produce all and much more of evil than is before set forth; we consider that its operation would be unjust to the creditor class who have loaned their capital in good faith, and who are in equity entitled to a return of not less than the value of the principal when loaned. "He who asks equity must do equity" is a maxim of the law, and is as binding upon us as upon business men. We complained that the act of 1873 demonitizing silver was an injustice to the farmers and debtors of the United States by its sudden contraction of the debt paying medium. The sudden flooding of the country with treasury notes would work an equal injustice to the creditor class of to-day. If those who were benefited by the legislation of 1873 were the ones and the only ones who would suffer, and those who were wronged by that act the ones who would be benefitted by the legislation proposed, such a course might be excusable as an act of retributive justice; but seventeen years have elapsed since that great wrong was committed; many of those who were wronged as debtors then, by industry, economy and self-denying frugality, have relieved themselves from debt and have themselves become creditors to others, while many who were most benefited by the act of 1873, by recklessness and improvidence have themselves become debtors. To the first, such action would be a double wrong; to the second, a double donation. Industry, honesty and frugality wronged. Improvidence, dishonesty and speculative gambling rewarded. We therefore recommend that this Grange express its earnest dissent from the action of the National Grange in this respect, not only for the reasons already expressed, but for the further reason that it is against one of the cardinal principles of the Grange, as expressed in its declaration of purposes, which teaches our members to pay as they go and avoid the contraction of debts.

(Continued Jan. 15.)

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., Dec. 8, 1890.—ED. VISITOR:—The question of price for land plaster is so often brought before us, and as it has been claimed that \$3.00 a ton is too high, for the coming season we will give the following a trial. The price of land plaster in car lots will be \$2.50 per ton, f. o. b. at mills, and for all land plaster shipped out and paid for by March 1st, 1891, a discount of ten per cent. will be allowed, \$2.25 per ton.

WESTERN PLASTER AGENCY.

COLDWATER, Mich., Dec. 13th, 1890. A. C. GLIDDEN: Dear Sir:—The sewing machine sent me through your agency has been received all right. It apparently fills the advertisement. We are well pleased with it.

O. A. VANDERBILT.



### Practical Experience with Grapes.

In the spring of 1880 I set a vineyard of 2,000 vines—1,000 Concord, 500 Delaware and 500 of various varieties, including Moore's, Champion, Hartford, Ives, Lady, Martha, Worden, Brighton, etc. The location was a high, steep, southern exposure, with a mixture of all kinds of soil and very stony. It was new land covered with stumps, some of which were pulled out, but most of them were left until they became rotten enough to pull easily. At present about a dozen of the old settlers still defy all efforts to loosen them.

The vines were set 6x8 feet and the ground occupied was 2½ acres. No crop was planted between the rows, but the vines were kept well cultivated and hoed. The second spring they were staked at a cost of about one cent each, last year's growth cut back to two buds, and given clean cultivation until the first of August, when several days were spent picking up and drawing off loose stone. The third spring the vines were all pruned to one cane, long or short, according to their strength. Every year the cultivation has been the same, beginning about the middle of April, and cultivating every week or ten days until the middle or last of July. The vineyard has been thoroughly hoed twice and sometimes three times each season. On account of the steep side hill and the tendency of the soil to wash, the vines have been trained to stakes and cultivated both ways. The aim in pruning has been to leave the strongest and best ripened wood (new growth) each year, cutting away weak canes entirely, leaving the old wood or main stock from two to four feet high, and at each hoeing breaking off all suckers and sprouts near the ground. The pruning has always been very close, cutting away from ¼ to 5-6 of the growth.

In the Concords I have experimented with several systems of pruning, following it up year after year. In two rows the two longest new canes were left, cutting everything else away. For the first few years these vines bore large clusters, but lately they fail to make sufficient wood growth. In two other rows four to six new canes were cut back to about two feet long, but aside from being a bother to keep so many short canes tied up I could see no difference from the rest of the vineyard. In the next two rows all the canes were cut back to two buds, leaving the old wood each year. This system has made so much old wood that I have had to cut away considerable in the past two years in order to get between the vines with horse and cultivator. Vines pruned this way have too many small clusters. In the next two rows a bush was formed about one foot above the ground. From this three or four of the strongest new canes were left at each pruning, about four feet long; the last year's bearing canes being cut away and other new canes being cut back to two buds. This plan gives the best results. The clusters average better and the vines seldom fail to produce good canes for the succeeding crop. If I were starting a new vineyard to be trained to stakes, I should follow this manner of pruning, but unless the ground is very steep and hilly I prefer training to posts and wires.

Three years ago I applied half a ton of bone meal to the poorest spots. Fearing it would be washed away on the steep hillside if applied broadcast, it was put in holes made by a hop bar, one pint in each hole, or one pound to the vine. I have been disappointed in the result. The bone is still in the ground. The grape roots have clustered around it more or less and perhaps benefit will come in the future. Nitrate of soda and muriate of potash were applied on portions of the vineyard last spring, but with questionable results. I have used wood ashes more or less at different times, and have about come to the conclusion that the soil does not need potash. A cat hole near by had filled up with the wash from the adjacent hillside. This dried mud was drawn up the hillside on a stone boat and spread among the vines with the best of re-

sults. When the wood growth is deficient there is nothing like barnyard manure well rotted, but it will be a year from time of application before you will get any benefit; too much manure is a detriment. Stakes last from three to six years. Every spring, in pruning, stakes which will push over or break off are removed and new ones take their place. I cut stakes eight feet long. When they rot off they are still long enough to set again. After a hard wind, just before the grapes ripen, many vines will blow down, and if not picked up the grapes seldom ripen up good.

With me Champion, Hartford and Ives yield about the same quantity as Concord, but the quality, especially of Champion, is inferior. Moore's does not yield paying crops. Worden is almost like Concord, is sweet as soon as colored, but will not keep as long. Brighton is the sweetest grape, but an uncertain cropper. Martha and Lady have usually borne fair crops and are of good quality. Salem, Wilder, Agawam and Lindley I usually put away in the cellar for winter. They have never paid as market grapes.

I am naturally fond of figures, and when planting this vineyard I opened a separate account with it. In these figures no estimates have been made. Every item of expense and every hour's work has been charged up. Of course it would be impossible to enter into details in a short article like this. To make it brief I have prepared a table giving the total annual yield and sales, expense and profit of the 2,000 vines.

The land (2½ acres) cost \$175; the vines \$100.64 (vines cost more 10 years ago than now); and the cost of plowing, setting, cultivating, etc., was \$42.94, making a total of \$318.58 the first year. The expense for the second year amounted to \$74.25, making the cost \$392.83 by January 1st, 1882, and no receipts:

Year	Yield grapes lbs.	Net sales grapes.	Cost pruning, cultivating, etc.	Profit.
1882	4400	195.99	132.73	63.26
1883	4500	218.72	97.29	121.43
1884	8750	312.36	117.77	194.59
1885	7875	245.02	122.09	122.93
1886	6950	182.71	135.60	47.11
1887	12065	621.65	251.28	370.35
1888	9180	278.06	140.14	137.92
1889	4255	137.70	114.28	23.42
1890	13000	559.93	207.14	352.79
	83665	2752.72	1318.32	1434.40

In the spring of '85 I planted 1,000 Concord vines with a view of seeing how cheap I could grow grapes. The location was high and free from frosts, but not steep enough to wash; soil a strong gravelly loam, which would produce 25 bu. wheat or 100 bu. corn to the acre. A clover sod was turned under and fitted as for corn, marking 4x4 feet, and one year vines set at every alternate mark, making them 8 feet each way. Two weeks later corn was planted except at the marks where vines had been set. The field was kept thoroughly cultivated and hoed the rest of the season, and the corn gathered more than paid for the cultivation. The second spring the vines were staked and corn again planted. In hoeing, the two strongest shoots were tied to the stakes and all others rubbed off. This left the vines in good condition to bear the second season, but for some reason the crop was very light and the receipts for grapes were less than what the corn crop had been the previous year. The fourth spring posts and wires were set, the bottom wire 2½ feet and the top 5 feet high. In the strongest vines four canes were left in pruning, two for the bottom and two for the top wire, but many of the vines were so small that only the two bottom canes could be left. The crop this season was good, averaging 12 lbs. per vine. We picked and shipped about one third of the vineyard, and the balance sold on the vines at 12c. per basket (about 8 lbs.) The west side bore the heaviest crop, where the soil was the lightest. In order to equalize matters I sowed 400 lbs. bone meal on this side the following spring. The fifth year (1889) the crop was again light, only 4½ lbs. per vine, but the vine made a tremendous growth. Last spring we cut back to four canes, except where a vine had made an extra rank growth, when six canes were left. I do not know of a vineyard in the county that was cut back

closer, but the crop was all the vines could carry. The average was over 23 lbs. per vine. This year the east part bore the heaviest crop, averaging fully three baskets to the vine, while the yield on the west side, notwithstanding its previous dressing of bone, was noticeably lighter.

Until this year we have always picked in holders, drawn the grapes to the packing house and packed the following day. This gave them time to wilt, and a good packer could easily make her baskets weigh 10 lbs. This year local buyers came in and a basket was a basket with them, provided the grapes were good and baskets packed full. If very lightly packed they would shade the price a trifle. Considering this, we determined to pack direct from the vines, and were well satisfied with the result. By close figuring we could bring the cost of picking, packing, and delivering at the depot to 2c. per basket, but it could not be done with inexperienced help. One hundred baskets is a good day's work for a packer, and one man can cover for about five packers. To give the figures for the six years: The land occupied was 13.5 acres; total cost the first year was \$135.75; the second year increased the cost to \$156.75; the third year the crop of grapes amounted to 1800 lbs., and netted only \$25.60. However this paid expenses and \$1 over, the reason being that very little work was put on the vineyard, other and better paying fruit demanding attention. The fourth year, on account of wiring, the expense was \$63.14, but the net sales of grapes amounted to \$186.42, leaving a profit of \$123.28. The yield was 12,048 lbs. The fifth year a cold rain storm mixed with snow came the 30th of May, when the vines were in blossom, and blighted the crop. The yield was only 4575 lbs., but they sold for \$110.55, leaving a profit over expenses of \$41.71. The sixth year (1890) the expense of pruning, cultivating, hoeing, etc., was \$30.34. It cost \$75 to market the crop, and the baskets, 2709, cost \$94.82. 630 lbs. were sold by weight to home consumers, which if packed would have made a total crop of 2912 baskets from 1000 vines. The entire expenses for the year were \$200.16; receipts, \$655.92; net, \$455.76—about 250 per cent. on the investment. Who wants to go to California?

Nearly every variety of grape requires different treatment, either in pruning, distance apart, or in richness of soil. Moore's Early requires a rich soil, and as yet I have not been able to make it produce paying crops. The cutworm, steel beetle lath and rose chaffer prefer Moore's to Concord, and I have sometimes thought that might be the trouble, but aside from this they make a poor growth. Delawares need plenty of room, notwithstanding they are a slow grower. The past season vines set 6x8 feet produced 8 lbs. per vine; 8x8, 9 lbs. per vine; and a row of 40 vines, 8 feet apart and 20 feet from the next row produced 19 lbs. per vine. Concords at the latter distance produced a less number of pounds, but ripened their crop so the vines were cleaned at the first picking. Of the Niagara I have had but little experience; 100 vines set two years ago bore only 15 lbs. of grapes this year. I have been unable to keep them in good condition, while Empire State, picked at the same time, is in good condition now.

It is often stated that grapes pay at 2c. per lb. The average net price received for Concords in 1886 and 1887 was only 17-10c. per lb., picking and packing to come out of this. In '88 it was 18-10c. per lb.; in '89, 2 2-10c.; in '90, 2 4-10c.; in '85, 2 6-10c.; in '82, 2 9-10c.; in '84, 3c.; in '83, 3 6-10c. per lb.

The net price received for Delawares was in '82, 7c.; in '83, 6c.; in '84, 6½c.; in '85, 5 9-10c.; in '86, 4½c.; in '87, 4c.; in '88, 5c.; in '89, 4c.; in '90, 4 1-10c. per lb.

On account of the scarcity of other fruit this season, grapes have sold well considering the enormous crop all over the country. At Lawton local buyers came in and the bidding was sharp, resulting in very little fruit going to Chicago on com-

mission. Grapes shipped to Chicago Sept. 10 and 11 netted 17c. per basket; 12th, 18c.; 13th, 20c. Sept. 15th I received a telegram from Chicago: "Grapes selling for 26c.; ship all you can." 26c. in Chicago would net 20c. at Lawton, but I sold for 23c. at Lawton, and the price held at 22c. to 24c. to the end of the season. At the same time Chicago quotations were all the way from 20c. to 27c.

What the future of grape growing will be, with its rapidly increasing acreage, no one can tell. Competition will be strong, and only those localities having favorable soil and good shipping facilities can make it profitable.

A. H. SMITH.

### Controlling Production to Establish Prices

Eastburn Keeder, a member of the Pennsylvania State Board of Agriculture, said in a public address: "Agriculturists must organize to regulate and control production and establish the prices of their products." This would be a desirable attainment if it could be accomplished—but can it be accomplished? Agriculturists can organize just as miners, merchants, mechanics and railroad men do, and as hundreds of thousands of farmers have already done, but can they regulate and control production? Could any man tell this fall when he sowed his seed whether his crop will be an average one, more than an average, less than an average, or nearly a total failure, like the potato crop, in some places, and the apple crop over the whole country, the present year? When the farmer has well prepared a fertile soil and sown his seed he can do no more but watch and hope. He cannot regulate the weather, bring on "the former and latter rain," nor protect his crop against its thousands of enemies. "Neither is he that planteth anything, neither is he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase."

Manufacturers can and do regulate and control the amount of their production, either by organization or without it. After making proper allowance for the breaking of machinery they can tell very nearly what will be the yearly output of goods when running on full time, and make contracts for their sale with a reasonable certainty of being able to fill them. They can also in a great measure establish and maintain the prices if their products by concert with each other or without it. When they find that the markets are getting too full of their goods, and that profitable prices cannot be maintained if production goes on, they either put down wages or stop their mills till the market has recovered a healthy state, and then they start up again. With ever so strong an organization it would be utterly impossible for farmers to do this, for the reason already stated, that they cannot control the production like the manufacturer.

In all "trusts" and combinations of individuals to control prices there has always been found great difficulty in keeping all the members faithful to the agreement. Some of them, less scrupulous than others, in order to increase their sales soon begin to sell at less than the "card prices," and when it becomes known to the others the combination falls to pieces. Representatives of the great railroads in this country have often met and agreed upon rates for carrying freight and passengers, but in less than a year it would be found that some of the roads were violating the agreement and "cutting rates;" than a railroad war would ensue, and for a while they would "cut each others' throats," to the benefit of the public and injury of the stock-holders. If a comparatively small number of men cannot be kept true to a contract is it to be expected that a much larger number can be held? Among several millions of organized farmers would there not be several thousand who would not readily obey the orders of their officers at headquarters? J. W. INGHAM, in Stockman and Farmer.

### Next Spring's Mutton Prices.

Those preparing for feeding sheep the coming winter are naturally quite solicitous about this

time concerning the opinions of those in a position to observe as to how prices will range a few months hence. Experienced operators seem quite confident that all kinds of choice fat stock will range pretty high next spring. Especially is this the case with cattle, and many look for equally as high prices for hogs. We do not see any reason for expecting anything extraordinary in the way of values for sheep, although there is certainly good ground for hoping that very satisfactory prices will be realized. There is nothing to indicate heavy supply of sheep for next spring's markets, and in the nature of the case the number of sheep made thoroughly good cannot be very large. Those who are prepared to cater to the best mutton trade may feel perfectly safe in preparing for it at once.—Ex.

### What A Horse Would Say If He Could Speak English.

Don't hitch me to an iron post or railing when the mercury is below freezing. I need the skin on my tongue.

Don't leave me hitched in my stall at night with a big cob right where I must lie down. I am tied and can't select a smooth place.

Don't compel me to eat more salt than I want by mixing it with my oats. I know better than any other animal how much I need.

Don't think because I go free under the whip I don't get tired. You would move up if under the whip.

Don't think because I am a horse that iron weeds and briars won't hurt my hay.

Don't whip me when I get frightened along the road, or I will expect it next time and maybe make trouble.

Don't trot me up hill, for I have to carry you and the buggy and myself too. Try it yourself some time. Run up hill with a big load.

Don't keep my stable very dark, for when I go out into the light my eyes are injured, especially if snow be on the ground.

Don't say whoa, unless you mean it. Teach me to stop at that word. It may check me if the lines break and save a runaway and smash-up.

Don't make me drink ice cold water, nor put a frosty bit in my mouth. Warm the bit by holding it a half minute against my body.

Don't forget to file my teeth when they get jagged and I cannot chew my food. When I get lean it is a sign my teeth want filing.

Don't ask me to "back" with blinds on. I am afraid to.

Don't run me down a steep hill, for if anything should give way I might break your neck.

Don't put on my blind-bridle so that it irritates my eye, or so leave my forelock that it will be in my eyes.

Don't be so careless of my harness as to find a great sore on me before you attend to it.

Don't forget the old book that is a friend to all the oppressed, that says: "A merciful man is merciful to his beast."—Farm Journal.

Until the American Harvester Co. is fully organized, and has its plans matured, it is not at all probable that there will be much buying of binding twine. If, however, a contest is to be inaugurated between the American Harvester Co. there is likely to be a good deal of music in the air before the robins nest again. Members of the harvester company have freely declared that one of the purposes of their organization was to secure to the farmer cheaper twine. In other words, that it is their purpose to fight the alleged twine trust.

When I find a boy who raises popcom, or chickens, or honey, or strawberries, or onions, I just like to take that boy by the hand and claim relationship; and when our great nation of people get to where they can offer the boys encouragement in the way of good prices, we are on the road to better things. I allude especially to the boys that go out in the fields and work for themselves under God's clear sky, instead of lingering round the factories, begging for a chance to be "bossed" by somebody.—Gleaning, in Bee Culture.



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**Live it Down.**

Has your life a bitter sorrow?  
 Live it down.  
 Think about a bright to-morrow.  
 Live it down.  
 You will find it never pays  
 Just to sit, wet-eyed, and gaze  
 On the grave of vanished days;  
 Live it down.  
 Is disgrace your galling burden?  
 Live it down.  
 You can win a brave heart's guard;  
 Live it down.  
 Make your life so free of blame,  
 That the lustre of your fame  
 Shall hide all the olden shame;  
 Live it down.  
 Has your heart a secret trouble?  
 Live it down.  
 Useless griefs will make it double.  
 Live it down.  
 Do not water it with tears,  
 Do not feed it with your fears,  
 Do not nurse it through the years;  
 Live it down.  
 Have you made some awful error?  
 Live it down.  
 Do not hide your face in terror;  
 Live it down.  
 Look the world square in the eyes,  
 Go ahead as one who tries  
 To be honored, ere he dies;  
 Live it down.

**Fragments.**

Some men strive and the world pronounces them successful; others labor just as earnestly, and with an end in view just as noble, but their lives, from a human standpoint, are failures. Failure is sometimes greater than success, and none should despair if Fortune frown darkly upon their work. God judges the motive, not the result, and our greatest failure here may be our greatest success hereafter.

The busy man is the happy man, go where you will; idleness may seem attractive when viewed from a distance by one who is weary from physical toil, but at close quarters, like a poor painting, it loses all its attractiveness. Never envy one who has nothing to do, for the chances are ten to one that you are far happier, with all your toil.

Make the best use of your opportunities and you will find they will multiply for your use. Opportunities neglected go elsewhere for a welcome—shunned persistently they finally shun you. Ripe fruit not gathered soon spoils; opportunities neglected are soon lost.

Speech is only the rippling waves upon the surface that sparkle and flash when the sun shines upon them, but when the sky is overcast with clouds they lose all their brightness. Thought lies deeper, and may be compared to the storm waves that go below the surface, and often bring to light shells and pearls of great beauty; while feeling lies far below all. Like the vast ocean currents, that away down in the silent depths of the sea, among the caves of coral and the lovely pearls, flow on unseen by those who merely scan the surface, but silently, ceaselessly and resistlessly its waters flow on-ward, thus saving the ocean from stagnation, corruption and death.

Never neglect opportunities for doing good, even though they may appear small and of doubtful value. You have no means of knowing what result may flow from even a kindly word. The "word fitly spoken" who can tell its value, or the results that may flow from it. The tired heart may be comforted and made strong to do and hear by a single cheery word and a kindly deed, or helping hand extended to some brother who seems ready to give way before the frowns of adverse fortune may encourage him to rise and struggle more manfully forward to success.

Make use of every moment: You need not fly around as though you expected the world to come to an end before you could "set your house in order," but the precious moments of life, and more especially of youth, should never be wasted. They never return. A moment is not much, but moment added to mo-

ment makes a day; days make years and years life. "Trifles make perfection, but perfection is no trifle." If one grows careless about the moments they soon grow to hours. If the hands grow weary with the ceaseless round of toil that is the lot of too many, then rest the tired hands and employ the brain by reading a good book. If you cannot read then think—think. There is a world of comfort in thought alone—day dreams, more beautiful than the visions of the night, because under the control of our will. The waking dreams can be of all things beautiful and pure, to lift our souls upward towards the realms of perfect beauty and love.

A. L. EATON RAPIDS, MICH.

**Nationalism Inevitable.**

However wild and visionary we may consider Bellamy's Looking Backward, or however tenaciously we may cling to long established customs, yet no one of common observation and reflection can fail to discern the necessity of radical changes in our civil, political and economic institutions. We live in a fast age, and are thrown into the midst of conditions new and startling, and will be compelled to change our institutions to meet these new environments. The founders of our government contemplated no such conditions, conditions which in it have become prime factors, and have already worked incalculable mischief; and there appears to be but one way out, one way to effectually deal with them—the logic of events points unmistakably to nationalism as the agent of its accomplishment.

For our own preservation, congress will have soon to place a strong hand on railroad, telegraph, oil and coal combines and all kindred organizations. State legislators are too diverse and too restricted to control them. But what they cannot do, at the command of a sovereign people, our people will find a way to do, and no half way measure will answer. Nothing but a virtual control will put an end to their systematic robbery; and when this step is taken nationalism will have been introduced, and all industrial institutions will sooner or later fall under the same law. To say that congress has not the power, is to say that our general government has not the inherent vitality of self-preservation. But it has the power. Our forefathers builded better than they knew. What is considered unconstitutional to-day, tomorrow will be conceded right, and the wonder will be that it was so long delayed.

It is not my object in this short article to discuss the practicability or merits of nationalism, but simply to call attention to a subject that will soon be pressed upon us for consideration.

WM. KIRBY.

**Advance in Potatoes.**

Perhaps, if potatoes continue to advance in price, we shall end by buying them by the dozen as we get oranges, and have them wrapped up in gay-colored tissue paper. Already potatoes are from \$1.10 to \$1.25 a bushel, which is a cent or a cent and a half apiece—less than cheap oranges sometimes cost.

The dealers say that the prices will go up still higher. Already potatoes are being imported to New York from Scotland, and at least one Washington firm of wholesale potato dealers has placed a conditional order for potatoes in Scotland. It was the rot that did it.

About all the wholesale potato business of Washington is done by three big operators. One of them said yesterday: "We have not got one-fourth as many potatoes on hand now as we usually have in ordinary seasons at this time in the year. My partner is away now looking for potatoes, and buying them wherever he finds them for sale, and he has been doing this for weeks. You remember the 'grip'?

Well, I think that just as the grip swept all over America and Europe, this potato disease has ruined the potato crop. Oddly enough, about the only country that escaped the grip was Scotland, and Scotland is the only place where potatoes escaped the rot. All over the United States, Canada and Ireland potatoes have been only a half crop, and that was very largely spoiled by the rot."

Going to one of thousands of bags of potatoes in his big warehouse the potato operator looked at five or six potatoes, picking one that seemed like the rest save that there was more dirt on it. On cutting it in two, one side was a dull brownish yellow, the rest as pure white as any healthy potato should be. The potato was not fit to eat because it had the rot. Another had the dry rot, looking like the first one, only the rotten portion darker colored, and dry and tough, like leather. Nothing but cold weather could save what few potatoes there are from the rot. The cold retards the progress of the potato disease.

Another of the big dealers said prices were now as high as in 1887, when there was another potato famine, and he feared they would go still higher. The other day a farmer went to a New York town with four carloads of fine potatoes. He was at once besieged by the wholesale potato buyers, who asked him how much he wanted for the lot. He didn't care about selling. They asked him to name some price, and thinking to put them out of reach because he wanted to hold them for a while, the farmer said, "a dollar a bushel." Before his words were well out of his mouth one of the buyers said: "I'll take them all."

Canada's crop was a bad failure, so the only country to look to for potatoes is Scotland, with a duty of 25 cents a bushel to be paid after they get here.

The few farmers who have potatoes to sell are in a quandary. They know prices are going up, but if they hold their potatoes they are apt to lose a large proportion of them by rot. But for this there would, doubtless, not be as many potatoes on the market, and present prices would probably be even higher.—Washington Post, Dec. 4.

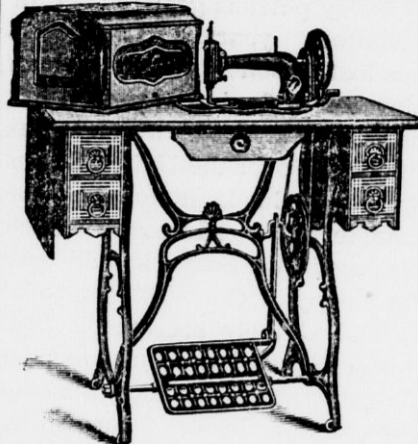
**Good Sense of the Michigan Grange.**

The discussions and resolutions of the Michigan State Grange this week were in happy contrast with much of the wild talk that is heard and too often approved at Farmers' Alliance meetings. War upon the English sparrow before the pest grows so enormous that war upon it like the war upon the rabbits of Australia will be ineffective; opposition to the sale of liquor on the world's fairgrounds; and in favor of the election of United States senators by a popular vote will all commend themselves to sensible persons. Even more level-headed was the grange's outspoken opposition to the government money-lending scheme of the Farmers' Alliance. It denounces it because it would lead to a wide clamor for credit; would be abused by personal and party favoritism; would lead to relaxation of personal effort, to thriftlessness and improvidence; and be a curse instead of a blessing. It might have pointed out, too, the absurdity of an alliance formed to resist class legislation, adopting the very worst form of class legislation.—Detroit Journal.

There has been a general idea among civilians that the Indians could no longer be seriously mischievous; and the recent outbreak has created surprise as well as alarm. The actual condition of affairs has been made the subject of an article which Gen. Nelson A. Miles has written for the North American Review.

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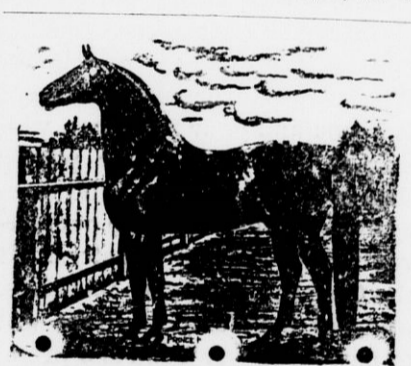
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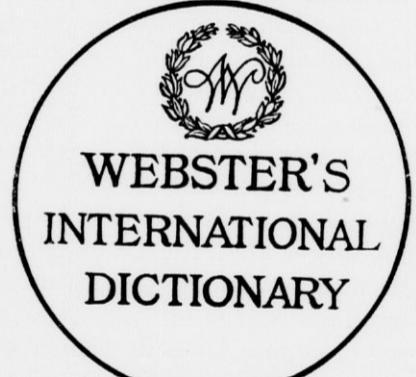
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Send the names of your friends on a postal card when you desire to receive sample copies.

Governmental Loans.

During reconstruction times in the South, and later on, demagogues who desired to stand well with the negroes, assured them that the government could be induced to give each one '40 acres of land and a mule,' and they pledged themselves to favor this paternal policy.

The New Secretary's Office. MISS JENNIE BUELL, MARCELLUS, MICHIGAN.

Let every member of the order, and especially each Secretary of a subordinate Grange, memorize the above, so that when they have occasion to write to the office the letter may not be misdirected.

The new office of the secretary is fourteen miles from the VISITOR office and not on a connecting railroad. We cannot 'reach over' for matter that should come to the VISITOR, and we do not want to be compelled to re-mail reports from here that should be sent direct to the secretary's office.

Secretary Cobb.

Mr. Cobb has retired from the office of Secretary of the State Grange, where he has been constantly kept since the election of its first set of officers. Not to mention J. T. Cobb in connection with Michigan State Grange, is to imagine the play of Hamlet, with Hamlet left out.

The Patrons of Industry have organized a company with a capital of \$100,000, to be called the Patrons' Commercial Union of Michigan. The object of the company is to act as the purchasing agent for patrons.

The above we clip from an exchange, and have seen other mention of the 'enterprise.' One notice said the 'shares' were divided up so that a number could help the 'good cause' along by paying in a dollar.

enough! He will go to his lodge and stay until twelve o'clock, sagely arguing the wisdom and necessity of the enterprise, but when his wife urges the importance of the prayer meeting or the church social, he excuses his absence on the plea that he 'can't be up late 'o nights.'

The weather in Michigan for December has been phenomenal. Along the Ohio river and north along the coast to Maine, there have been heavy falls of snow, but, shut in by the lakes as it were, we have had almost constant sunshine and mild weather.

We call attention to the article on second page entitled, 'Practical Experience with Grapes,' written by A. H. Smith, of Paw Paw, which was read before the West Michigan Fruit Growers Society, at its annual meeting at Hartford, on the 17th ult.

for a term of years, with the price for each year and the profit balance. The knowledge is invaluable as the basis for beginners, or for those contemplating setting a vineyard.

KALKASKA, Mich., Dec. 20th, 1890. ED. VISITOR—Please send sample copies of the VISITOR to the following names. \* \* \* all of Excelsior, Kalkaska county. As an aid to organization, the VISITOR is far ahead of a dry lecture and exerts a material influence looking to that end.

The VISITOR has not been fully appreciated for its value in the matter of pioneer work for the Grange. There are hundreds of localities in the state where just such work as Bro. Palmer is doing might be in progress.

The Pomona Grange of Berrien county is about entering upon an aggressive campaign of organization. Upon the request of Bro. R. V. Clark, the efficient and active lecturer, we have sent bundles of VISITORS to serve as individual John the Baptists to several places in advance of the real work of organization.

The press of the State very generally commend the action of the State Grange and the wisdom of its declaration regarding the issues pending before the people.

On our first page is begun the publication of the report of the Executive committee, which will be completed in the next number. We hope the readers of the VISITOR will carefully read the report and hand it to their less fortunate neighbor for perusal.

Bro. H. H. Dresser, of Hillsdale, the newly-elected member of the Executive Committee, has sent us 18 subscribers for the VISITOR, and says it is the result of only two half days' work.

Let every farmer arrange to attend a Farmers' Institute, if one is held within reasonable reach; if there is not, then get a dozen farmers together and determine to hold an independent one. Don't let the winter pass without airing your sentiments in some way.

Look at the prices offered by Hano & Wolf, on the 8th page, and see if you cannot make it an object to send an order for shoes or rubbers. Here is your opportunity to purchase first-class goods at reasonable rates.

You haven't seen the Blanchard churn advertised lately? Well, the concern was burned out at Concord, Mass., but is now well fixed again at Nashua, N. H., and will be before the public

asking them to look at their dairy goods in the near future.

Our readers will find a corrected list of State Grange officers, with their postoffice address, on the seventh page of this issue.

Concerning Reduction of Fees. The action of the late session of the State Grange in the matter of the reduction of initiation fees in Subordinate Granges, resulted in the reduction of the fee for men to one dollar and for women to fifty cents.

BERRIEN CENTER, Dec. 29, '90. ED. VISITOR: In reply to numerous inquiries regarding dues, will say that the State Grange at its last session amended its by-laws as follows: In article 13, section 3, paragraph 3, first line, strike out the words 'three dollars for men and one dollar for women' and insert in lieu thereof the words 'one dollar for men and fifty cents for women, and the payment of six months' dues in advance.'

BERRIEN CENTER, Dec. 22, '90. ED. VISITOR—I desire to call the attention of the Secretaries of subordinate Granges to the fact that soon the newly elected officers for the ensuing year will have been installed, when it becomes your duty to report the same to the Secretary of the State Grange at your earliest opportunity, in order that we may get a printed list of the officers at an early date; and, further, it is of the utmost importance that Secretaries be prompt in their reports, so that at any time we may know the exact standing of the Order in the state.

ED. VISITOR, East Casco Grange, No. 338 is preparing for another contest. This time it is the married against the single. Last winter the men were ranged on one side and the women on the other. Of course the men were defeated, and had to get up a supper, wait on the table, and wash the dishes, all of which they did with honor to themselves and satisfaction to the ladies.

WATERFORD, Dec. 26th, 1890. The next meeting of Oakland Pomona Grange No. 5 will be held at Pontiac, on Tuesday, Jan. 13. A full attendance is desired it being the annual election of officers. An interesting programme will be furnished by Pontiac Grange.

I have done the best I could at present to get names for VISITOR but hope to get more soon. This Grange ought to take more VISITORS, with 26 new members taking the fourth degree at one time during the present quarter, and about a dozen more applications on hand. Yours, F. FULLER, Sec. Grange 273.



### The State Grange—Worthy Master Mars' Address.

After extending a welcome to the convention and devoting a few thoughts to the pleasantness of the occasion, and to his gratification in seeing the state so well represented by the numbers of delegates present, he launched out at once into the body of his address.

"We have reached another milestone in the journey of life, and the Grange work of another year, with its successes and failures, its hopes and disappointments is forever written. Let us weigh wisely and profitably the experience of the past and carefully consider the problems of the present, in order to assist and direct plans for the future work, and thereby secure proper legislation for the advancement of our purposes and the efficiency of our cause. Although the seasons in Michigan have not been generally propitious for large and profitable crops, yet there are compensations to be found in a prosperous country, in general good health, and in abiding hope for a more abundant future."

After a brief resume of the history of agriculture in this country, its importance and progress, the value of the innumerable improvements and inventions, he said: "The farmers of today, who are not up to the times, must of necessity be left in the background."

"Patrons! Grapple with the situation; seek every possible avenue to broaden the intellect, and in God's name do not suppose for a moment that the ignorant farmer can cope with the man who is always on the alert to gain knowledge through science and practice. A would-be successful farmer must be a liberal patron of the agricultural press with which our land is now well blessed. Patrons! Keep up the fertility of your farms, sow less and cultivate more. Let this apply first to the brain and then to the fields. If we would keep pace with the wonderful strides made by other professions we must know as much as they. The wonderful development of the west and the vastness of the country, and the competition the improvement will bring, behooves us to guard well our resources. Make two blades of grass grow where but one grew before. We devote too much time to producing our crops and give too little attention to the great laws of trade and commerce and supply and demand, which should regulate the sale of crops.

"It is one of the grand purposes of this noble order in meeting in annual session, to faithfully consider all those questions which affect the interests of the American farmer. We should strive to remove all hindrances in the way of progress. Our aim is to employ every resource in science and experience to promote and advance agriculture. We should work together at all times and in every way for the elevation and happiness of the husbandman and mankind generally. Make the home and its surroundings the most beautiful and happy spot on earth."

He took up what the Grange had accomplished; that through its untiring efforts a cabinet position had been secured for the head of the department of agriculture. Much has been done to check the extension of patents and to protect the rights of innocent purchasers of patented articles; the passage of the oleomargarine laws, the inter-state commerce law and the establishment of experimental agricultural stations for each State had been secured, besides advancing the interests of public education and morals everywhere. Through Grange legislation transportation companies had been brought under the control of law, subjecting them to legislative action, and through the untiring efforts of the society's officers the Grange had on hand a defence fund to protect the rights of the people against royalty extractors, etc.

"I will not give further history of the good work, but will simply say that we believe our order is the medium through which the farmers of Michigan can more readily secure their just rights and fair recognition with the law

making power, than by any similar organization."

He believed more could be achieved by one solid organization than by dividing into various factions, and said there was too much at stake for such division of forces. He called upon the Grange to heartily support the State organ, the VISITOR, and asked that the subordinate Grange appoint agents to further that end. He believed the organ could be made a source of revenue to the Grange. He said the Grange order was progressing rapidly throughout the country and that Michigan's Grange was the peer of any organization in America whose object was to better the condition of the farmers of the land, but nevertheless he called attention to the appointment of deputies and lecturers, and recommended that the mat should be left to the executive committee or the master and secretary, so as to get a full corps in the field early in the season. He recounted at length the work of the national meeting and reported excellent satisfaction resulting from the woman's work in the Grange. He called especial attention to discipline and advised a strict observance of all laws. Members should study the declaration of purposes, the constitution and by-laws, and officers should see to their enforcement. In conclusion he said:

"Patrons! I must warn you of the importance of the work before us. With the depressed condition of agriculture, the small profits, and decline in real estate, and the various schemes of relief rife in the minds of the people, it behooves us to be sure that we are right and then go ahead. A few years ago the capital of this country was fairly well distributed among the people. To-day 17 per cent of our population control about 83 per cent of the capital. Is it any wonder the people are alarmed? Princely fortunes are made every day, and immense combinations of capital endeavor to monopolize the trade. If we cannot secure some laws to restrain these corporations and thereby restore the laws of supply and demand this country is doomed! Ours, as well as other organizations, are doing much to check this growing evil. When you are called upon act promptly and determinedly. \* \* \* This condition of the country is not the fear alone of a few country clodhoppers, as some would put it, but the convictions of one of the wisest statesmen of the nineteenth century. Let us be actuated by wise councils and avert the doom if possible."

He begged charitable feeling towards whatever shortcomings he may have exhibited while in office; was sure that no mistake would be made in selection of new officers, and hoped that the order would go on in the good work and bring every agriculturalist in the broad land into the Grange fold, and that through its grand work and noble precepts the Grange would relieve the distressed of every land.

ED. VISITOR: I did not design to inflict anything more on your readers on the Township Unit System, when I sent you my last communication, and would not do so now, if those who differ with me had not asked some questions as to my personal views. Mr. Bates asks me what the salient features would be of a law that would suit me. I answer that I am satisfied with the bill as it was amended in the last legislature before being put on its final passage and lost. This makes the township the unit of the school district, and provides that all existing districts having a school census of 100 or more pupils shall remain independent districts unless it shall be voted otherwise by a majority of the voters of both the independent districts and the outlying township. This amendment reducing the size of the independent district was made by the friends of the bill in accordance with the wishes of the representatives of the small villages who were quite as much opposed to being yoked with the farmers as any of the farmers are to being yoked with them.

Now as to the benefits of the system to the people at large,

perhaps I can not do better than to quote from the report of the Massachusetts State Board of Education, which state has tried it. They say: "Wherever during the last 30 years the districts have been abolished, it has been found that fewer schools in proportion to the population are needed; a better classification of pupils is secured; and a more even distribution of good school accommodations and well qualified teachers is given to the towns. A more just expenditure of money, and a more economical administration of the schools in every way, have been the invariable results of the town instead of the district system. By the abolition of the district system, the small towns and the small districts with few pupils, have always received the greatest benefits."

A little testimony from nearer home as to the benefits to the people may not be amiss. In 1888 there were five townships in Alpena county, Mich., which by special legislation were organized on the township system, and two townships which retained the old system. The expense of schools for that year in the five townships averaged \$13.71 per scholar; in the two townships it was \$14.80. In the five townships the average length of all the schools taught was nine months; in the two townships it was four and one half months. In other words it cost \$1.09 per scholar more in the towns retaining the district system to give their scholars 4½ months school than it did the township districts to give theirs 9 months school. There are a number of other things in the annual report of these Alpena districts that year bearing equally in favor of the township unit. Being desirous of knowing how a longer experience would affect the case, I procured copies of the last or 1890 reports from these townships. I find by them that for this school year the township of Alpena, having 13 districts, had 236 scholars in school, an average of 4½ months (92 days) at an expense of \$2635 51. The township district of Wilson had 241 children in school for 7 months (140 days) at an expense of \$1961.61. In other words it cost Alpena \$773.90 more to school 236 children 4½ months than it did Wilson to school 241 children 7 months. Does it not look a little as though Alpena had made a mistake in going back to the old plan? Let us look a little further. The township districts of Green and Long Rapids taken together had 261 children in school, an average of 7½ months, at an expense of \$2,685.40. In other words, it cost these two townships not quite \$50 more to school 261 children 7½ months than it did Alpena to school 236 children 4½ months. How wise of Alpena to go back to the old district plan; out of her 13 districts, not one had 7½ months school the past year, and one district had no school at all. Once more: The township of Ossineke is the only other town in Alpena county which retains the old system. Last year it had 30 scholars in school three months at an expense of \$380.59. The township district of Sanborn had 62 children in school for 8 months at an expense of \$621.43. In other words, it cost Ossineke \$69.87 more to school 30 children three months, than it did Sanborn to school 31 children 8 months. These are all adjoining townships in the same county and include the whole county. Now, Brother Bates, if anybody in rattling around in search of an argument against the township unit system should tell you Alpena had tried it and gone back to the old way, please tell them for me how much Alpena made by going back. If he tells you to "look at the bill," be sure and do it, for it is excellent advice. Look it carefully through and find out all that is in it. Especially look at page 16, section 39, as amended (original number 41), and read these words: "Any graded school district heretofore organized in any township which shall organize under the provisions of this act, having not less than 100 children between the ages of five and 20 years, shall be continued and constituted an independent school district." If he then tells you that the act, if

carried into effect, would take \$800,000, or cents, or any other sum from the rural districts for the benefit of the villages, you need not be impolite to him, but civilly ask him to rise and explain how. He will not do it by saying that the rural districts will have to help pay for the village schools and school property, because you will know from the bill that it is not true. As the bill finally came before the committee of the whole in the house, and as it is likely to come before future legislatures, it is utterly impossible for the village schools to be benefited at the expense of the rural districts, because of anything in the law, and there is nobody who wants they should. But supposing it were true (which it is not) that the change would cost the rural districts of the state \$800,000. Let us take the 1890 reports of the school inspectors of the adjoining townships of Alpena and Wilson, representing the two systems, and do a little figuring. Suppose in Alpena that, instead of averaging 92 days school, they had averaged 148 days, as they did in Wilson; then at the rate Alpena was paying, her schools would have cost \$4,010.56. That is if the 236 scholars in Alpena had received as many days schooling in 1890 as the 241 did in Wilson, it would have cost Alpena \$2048.95 more than it did Wilson. Now suppose that Alpena were made a township district again and managed its school affairs equally as well as Wilson, and had as much school during the year, then in the five years required in the bill to even up the cost of school property on hand in the several districts, taking 1890 as a basis, Alpena will have saved \$10,244.75. Now, Brother Bates, don't you think the rural districts in Alpena can well afford to pay out something to bring about this result? If you were an opponent of the township unit would you not feel like pointing with pride to Alpena township, under its present system, as a sample of the advantages (?) of the small district close-at-home system over the township unit? I have been asked for the testimony in favor of the township unit system. I have incidentally given you a sample of it. You can find more in the VISITOR of Jan. 15, 1889, in Bro. Hewitt's article.

In the report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction of New York for 1889 is a lot of it. I can flood the VISITOR with it for the next three months if necessary. But what is the use? The State Grange, deceived as I believe by misrepresentations, both of the bill and of the motive of those favoring it, have set upon it the seal of their official condemnation, and it is a waste of words for me to continue the discussion in their official organ. I regret very much that the Grange has been led to attempt to block the wheels of a great and much needed reform; but having chosen its side, I expect it will stay there until it is routed "horse, foot and dragoons," as it surely will be in the end, for the reform is a genuine one; the cause is right, its supporters are disinterested and honest in advocating it. Mr. Woodman to the contrary notwithstanding, and we are going to stand by it while we can wield a pen or wag a tongue. F. HODGMAN.

CLIMAX, Mich.

LAWRENCE, Dec. 2, 1890.—ED. VISITOR: As it devolves upon me to give an account of our Grange, will say we are gradually getting ourselves into working order for the winter, and are constantly increasing our members and interest also. We have no definite work laid out for the winter and would be glad of suggestions from those whose heart is in the work, that will make our Grange attractive and instructive to our young people, of whom we have enlisted a goodly number, and of whom we feel quite proud. We expected to have sent a contestant for the Demorest gold medal to the State Grange, had they succeeded in getting the required number, which I regret to say they did not, as it is a theme of such vast importance, and should be thoroughly instilled in the minds of the young. Mr. Demorest is a great philanthropist in

the cause of temperance, which is of vital interest to all, and should be sustained and aided in his noble work. I am pleased with the suggestions from Sister Mayo in GRANGE VISITOR in regard to woman's work in the Grange, and will say for the encouragement of others that there has been quite a little sum added to our treasury the past year through the efficiency of our lady patrons. There were a goodly number of city children entertained for two weeks last summer in this vicinity, and I think that all felt richly paid for their trouble, in the enjoyment of the children—they were like uncaged birds. I hope there will be many more hearts and homes opened to them the coming summer. We have been having a series of short plays at the close of the session by our amateurs, which have been very enjoyable, so the general outlook for our Grange seems quite encouraging, and we hope to accomplish as much for the good of the Order the coming year as we have in the past.

MRS. A. BUNNELL, Reporter.

### Notices of Meetings.

The annual meeting of the Manistee District Pomona Grange No. 21 will be held in Pleasanton Grange hall Jan. 13 and 14, 1891. A full attendance is desired on account of election of officers, and other important business.

CHAS. MCDIARMID, Sec.

The annual meeting of Berrien Co. Pomona Grange will be held at Berrien Centre Grange hall Jan. 13 and 14. Every P. of H. in the county is requested to attend this meeting, as business of importance will be transacted. It is designed to present the best program of the year at this meeting. There will be no public session, but the entire time will be devoted to progressive Grange work—the annual round up of the year's work—election of county officers, etc. Worthy Master Thos. Mars will bid us welcome, and R. C. Thayer respond in behalf of Pomona. Have you heard that the farmers are marching on?

R. V. CLARK, Lect.

The next meeting of the Allegan County Pomona Grange will be held at the Otsego Grange Hall, Jan. 15th and 16, commencing at 2 p. m. The afternoon will be devoted to the election of officers and the good of the Order. Installation and 5th degree in the evening. Friday 10 a. m. the programme will be presented. Music by the Otsego Grange Choir. Patrons all come, and come early.

MRS. L. A. SPENCER.

CLIFFORD, Dec. 23, '90. The annual meeting of Lapeer County Pomona Grange will be held with North Branch Grange, at their Hall two miles south of Clifford, Jan. 8th, 1891, commencing at 10 o'clock a. m. The following programme will comprise the work of the day:

Music.  
What course can the Grange most profitably pursue during the coming year.—Wm. Montgomery.

Consolidation of Farmer's Organizations—Abram Owen.

Dinner—Tea and coffee free.

P. M. SESSION, 2 O'CLOCK.

Question Box.

Essay—Mrs. J. Merritt Lamb.

Resolved, that the common branches are not properly taught in our district schools.—Mr. Johnson, Hunters Creek Grange.

Music.

Can the Government loan money on real estate farm security as recommended by the National Grange and Farmer's Alliance?—Geo. Terry.

Shall our present Congress pass the federal election law know as the Lodge bill?—Efnor R. Palmerlee.

EVENING SESSION, 7 P. M.

Election and installation of officers.

Forenoon and afternoon sessions to be public, and every body is cordially invited to attend.

NATHAN STOVER.

Lecturer.

When you have read this number show it to your neighbor and tempt him to trade a half dollar for a year's subscription. Don't be selfish and keep all the good things for your own family.



## Ladies' Department.

## The New Year.

A friend stands at the door;  
In either tight closed hand  
Hiding rich gifts, three hundred and three score;  
Waiting to strew them daily o'er the land,  
Even as seed the sower.  
Each drops he, reads it in and passes by;  
It cannot be made fruitful till it die.  
Friend, come thou like a friend,  
And whether bright thy face,  
Or dim with clouds we cannot comprehend,  
We'll hold out patient hands, each in his place,  
And trust thee to the end!  
Knowing thou leadest onward to those spheres  
Where there are neither days nor months nor years.  
—Miss Maloch.

## Public Opinion.

The most important thing in life  
Is what the neighbors say.  
The thing that stops or starts up strife  
Is what the neighbors say.  
No matter what the case may be,  
Just look around and you will see  
The thing that governs you and me  
Is what the neighbors say.  
Your wife thinks when she gets a dress,  
What will the neighbors say?  
She almost rests her happiness  
On what the neighbors say.  
The girl with a new diamond ring,  
A sealskin sacque, or some such thing,  
Thinks, as she gives her head a fling,  
What will the neighbors say?  
You know, yourself, how much you care  
For what the neighbors say.  
Sometimes the hardest thing to bear  
Is what the neighbors say.  
You may pretend that you don't mind,  
But still you wince when they're unkind,  
The chief thing in this life you'll find,  
Is what the neighbors say.  
—Somerville Journal.

## I Will Be Worthy of It.

I may not reach the heights I seek,  
My untried strength may fail me;  
Or, half way up the mountain peak,  
Fierce tempests may assail me.  
But though that place I never gain,  
Herein lies comfort for my pain,  
I will be worthy of it.  
I may not triumph in success,  
Despite my earnest labor;  
I may not grasp results that bless  
The efforts of my neighbor.  
But though my goal I never see,  
This thought shall always dwell with me,  
I will be worthy of it.  
The golden glory of love's light  
May never fall upon my way;  
My path may always lead through night,  
Like some deserted by-way.  
But though life's dearest joy I miss,  
There lies a nameless joy in this,  
I will be worthy of it.  
—Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

For the Visitor.

## One Day's Trip.

San Francisco is situated, as any one may see by consulting a map, on an arm of land that is bounded on three sides by water; on the east and north by the bay of San Francisco, and on the west by the golden Pacific. Only from the south can the city be reached by land, and that land for miles and miles is nothing but drifting sand. The city would indeed be an isolated one were it not for so many ways of reaching beautiful pleasure resorts that cost nothing to see, only the nickel cable fare or the "two bit" ferry ride to the land side of the bay. Golden Gate park is most largely patronized because it is easiest of access and costs only a nickel to reach it, and one can spend a whole day there and not see it all. Then on three days of the week a full orchestra discourses music to immense crowds from the stand in front of the Francis Key monument. Next to the park would come the Cliff, for it costs another nickel to reach the Seal Rocks and the ocean, and after that the many ferry rides.

We had been to the park, the Cliff, to Woodward's Garden (a kind of Lincoln park in the heart of the city), to the celebrated sulphur springs of Piedmont (California's Saratoga), to San Rafael and up the mountain, and to Tiburon. We had bought and gathered from all these places shells and stones and leaves for mementoes, but no moss. I was anxious to get some of the delicate sea moss that could be so handsomely arranged, and for which such an enormous price was asked. We were told that it could be found in any quantities among the rocks on the north shore of the Golden Gate; so we determined to take a day's trip, kill two birds with one stone, save the cost of the moss and have a jolly good time, and we did.

On the last day of December, with a good substantial lunch tucked away in the overcoat pocket, and a field glass to help entertain us on the way, we started over. The day was perfect, and in order to have plenty of time for moss hunting we must take the early boat at 8:20

a. m. We arrived at the dock just in time to see the bridge drawn up. What a downfall of spirits, and how aggravating to be just one minute too late! Not another boat until 10:10. What should we do to kill time? We stood about and walked around on the wharf until I felt as green as I did in Chicago when I discovered I was the only woman walking along South Water St., the wholesale fruit street of that city. We finally concluded to go home and come back again in time for the second boat—it was fun riding on the cable cars, anyway. We rode back, had a cup of hot tea, rode down again through Chinatown in time for the 10:10 boat. We had regained our buoyancy of spirit, and all was pleasant. The boat backed out, swung around past Angel Island, Telegraph Hill, Goat Island, Alcatraz to Sancelito.

The other half of our party of two was in favor of taking a row boat and going down the bay. I was opposed to going in a row boat at all. I had heard so many stories of the treacherousness of the bay's waters at the turning of the tide that I was afraid to venture out in anything so small, but finally agreed to go if he would row up the bay. We walked along the shore past rows of boat houses until we came to one of cleanly appearance and entered the office. Yes, we could get a boat; the price was 50 cents for the first hour, and 25 cents for every additional hour or part thereof. We went down about 25 feet of rickety stairway into a tub of a boat and began rowing up the bay against the tide that was fast running out. As we were about to push off I asked the man if there was any danger going up bay. "Oh no, madam, its all mud bottom," was the answer. We rowed up some distance thinking we would land at some good spot to eat our lunch and go farther for moss afterward. There was a good stony beach, but shade or a good resting place was too far away, so we rowed still farther (against the tide all the time) under an old, abandoned railroad trestle, and at our left was a nice green slope with some shade. We steered for it, and rowed hard against the tide, but we did not seem to be making much headway. Ah, yes; "its all mud bottom, madam," came to us like a flash, and we knew we were stuck fast in the mud. It was fully a half dozen rods from shore, and the bottom so soft that an oar stuck into it would soon sink out of sight. Push off? There was nothing to push against. The other half stood up, worked hard paddling, grew red in the face and sweaty, swore it was the worst country he ever was in; he was going back to a country small enough for him to comprehend, and sat down, saying we would have to wait for the tide to raise us up. This was not quite what we had anticipated when we left home; it was not exhilarating work waiting four hours for the tide to raise us. I smiled; the other half scowled. Yes, I really enjoyed the situation. I had nothing to blame myself for, it was none of my doings; and it was mean in me to laugh at the other half's chagrin, but I could not help it, and cannot even to this day. We made one more effort to disengage ourselves. He stood up and paddled; I took a paddle and helped; we swayed our bodies to and fro, paddling the while, and lo! "she stirs, she starts, she moves." No one ever so fully appreciated Longfellow as did we at that moment. We let the tide take us back, and when we go boating in a strange country again we'll take along a third party, a native who knows the lay of the land, water, and the bottom under the water.

We decided to hunt for moss on foot, and followed the shore toward the Gate with some little satisfaction, for we found here and there some stray pieces of the red kind. But we came to a precipitous clay bank that defied our attempts of ascent, and after we had gone to the rear and climbed up it was clear to our minds that if we tried to descend toward the water we would slip and share the fate of a poor young cow that we saw laid up on the rocks below for carrion

feed. A path led through the woods at the top of the bank, and we followed that until we were so fatigued that we gave up finding a nice spot for luncheon, and one sat down on a branch and the other on the stump of a fallen oak, digging their heels into the sticky clay to overcome the force of gravity that was drawing us toward the water. The lunch which seemed so bountiful at the outset, was meagre enough now. We could have eaten twice as much after all our exertions. Having thus fortified ourselves we pushed on and were at last gladdened by the sight of a staircase leading down to a pebbly beach which was hemmed in on two sides by rocks. Here was moss from the pure white to the deepest shade of red and—oh, wonder of wonders to me—thousands of starfish. Moss lost its attraction, but out of spite I gathered enough to make plenty of pretty things had I the time to arrange it. I knew from the zoology the description and habits of live starfish, had seen the dried ones at museums and had three from the Atlantic shore at home; but here were live ones clinging to the rocks so firmly that it was almost impossible to push one off, and as varied in color as the moss we gathered. I amused myself a whole hour loosening these five fingers from the rocks only to see them come back for a more tenacious hold, and enjoyed myself quite as much as I did rowing up the bay.

It was nearing boat time so we reluctantly wended our way back to the wharf, in time for once. We were fortunate enough to cross the bay just at sunset, and saw the glorious orb of day descend to his bed of waters, and we no longer wonder that the narrow opening into the grand Pacific is called the Golden Gate, for it is truly named. We arrived at the city just at dark, and experienced for the second and last time the same sensations that we did the first night we rode straight up into the air between rows of gas jets, on smoothly riding cable cars.

The last day of December, 1889, with all its experiences, good, bad and indifferent, will always be remembered with pleasant thoughts, and will furnish another page to memory's note book of our trip to California.

MRS. A. H. SMITH.

## Mother's Boy.

When I see a tall, broad shouldered youth stooping to kiss his mother, the tears of gladness fill my eyes, for I know that his heart is loving and unselfish to the one who was first to love and caress him before he was conscious of it.

My mind wanders in dreamland back to a time when this youth lay a helpless babe, pressed close to a fond, proud mother's heart. How much she planned, and how earnestly she prayed for his future health and happiness! Those dimpled hands resting so quietly in sleep on her breast, beside that little curly head, what may they not bring to pass, as great achievements in the near future, when the strength of years has come to them? This king of the household, blessings on his curly head!

His mother's lips part in a sweet smile of contentment as her eyes rest on her sweetly sleeping, innocent child. She rises noiselessly from the low rocker, where she has been sitting crooning a lullaby, without disturbing his slumber, and gently lays him in his cozy crib to enjoy his needed nap; but she cannot refrain from stooping to imprint a parting kiss on the velvety cheek.

The years have flown into the silent past, and I wake from my day dream with a start to see before me in this sun-browned, curly haired youth, the baby of earlier years. And as he stoops and kisses her, as she did the same to him in the earlier years, she smiles up in his face and calls him "mother's boy."

Our purest, bravest, noblest men are those who, through all the years of life, are never ashamed to receive and return the love of a mother's heart and the caress of a mother's hand and lips.

## Industrial Education for Girls.

The women of the 19th century, throughout the civilized world, enjoy greater privileges, both social and educational, than have ever before been accorded to their sex. Never before have they been considered in any sense the equal of men.

The sphere of woman in former centuries was "to stay at home and keep silent;" to concoct delicate dishes to tickle the palate of her liege lord to whom she must be as a servant. Her education, except in rare instances, was confined mostly to cooking and sewing. Among the higher classes music and dancing were taught and some of the languages, that she might be pleasing company for the opposite sex. If she chose, she might acquire a slight knowledge of arithmetic and accounts in order to regulate household expenses according to the purse of her husband. Man dared not educate her further for fear she would rise out of her servitude. This all must be learned at home under private tutors. For a woman to enter college was considered indelicate. Three centuries ago the woman who dared propose a school for girls in France was hooted through the streets, and four doctors were called in to examine her to see if she were not possessed of devils.

Charles Lamb, less than one century ago, declared that a female author of any kind invites disrespect. So great has been the prejudice against educated women that as late as 1826 the Boston fathers discussed for three years the project of opening a high school for girls, similar to the one for boys, and because so many sought admittance the fathers were evidently alarmed and closed the school.

In 1865, Matthew Vassar, through the influence of his niece, founded, as an experiment, the Vassar College for girls, being one of the first of its kind. It is needless to say that the experiment proved a success. All of this old prejudice is fast wearing away. It is not true as Voltaire said that "ideas are like beads—women and young men have none." But it is now conceded that the brain of a woman is composed of the same kind of matter as that of a man, and is capable of equal development. To-day the doors of nearly all of our colleges are open to woman, and she is able to compete with man in all branches of learning. No height seems too great for her to attain, and all this without losing one whit of her womanly dignity or modesty. She stands to-day on an equal footing with man, and is in every way an helpmeet as the Creator intended her to be. So great are the possibilities opened before her that the tendency seems to be to leave behind the things that were hers in her narrower sphere. The more prosy things of life are left to be attained, if at all, after securing the higher education. This should not be. Man's palate is as delicate as in the old days, and the way to his heart is still, in a measure, through his stomach, though I think he is fast being evolutionized.

The lack of manual training has been felt among men, and to-day there are many training schools for our boys both separate and in connection with our colleges, the agricultural colleges especially.

What we need now is similar instruction for our girls. They must not be allowed to feel that accomplishments in household affairs are beneath them. There is a great cry all over our land for competent help in our kitchens, and this work is fast going into the hands of ignorant foreign help, especially in the older parts of the country. Many are the poor American girls who would fare much better doing this same work than they now fare in our shops and factories on poor pay and poorer living, and withal be just as respectable and respected.

In New York city, in 1873, Miss Juliet Corson founded a cooking school where children, servants, the wives of working men, any and all might for a small sum go and learn the art of preparing

food in the best and most economical ways.

Quite a number of these private schools have been established in our cities; but now our state agricultural colleges are taking up the work and providing for our girls the same method of training that is given to our boys.

Iowa and Kansas were the first to take up this work and the newer colleges are falling into line. Our own Michigan will not have done her duty until she provides for her daughters as she has for her sons at M. A. C.

I had the pleasure, last winter, of visiting the Kansas agricultural college. The department of household economy there is most ably conducted by Mrs. Nellie Kedzie. In the basement of the main building is a large roomy kitchen supplied with a range, spacious sinks with hot and cold water and the many modern kitchen conveniences. Here the girls are taught how to do all kinds of cooking, canning, preserving and pickling, as well as marketing. Not only are they shown how to do, but each girl actually does the work. They have practice in waiting on table, serving guests and arranging for evening companies. Last winter the girls did nearly all the cooking and waiting at the marriage of President Fairchild's daughter. In the dairy they are taught butter making, both deep and shallow setting of milk, and the art of cheese making. This is all supplementary to the lectures in household economy and hygiene.

In all of this, order and scrupulous cleanliness are required of them. There are 175 girls in the school and Mrs. Kedzie is a mother to them all.

In another part of the building, under the supervision of Mrs. Winchip, the girls are taught the art of sewing, cutting and fitting garments, knitting, embroidery and fancy work. Each girl makes her own graduating dress.

This education every girl needs. No matter what station in life she may be called upon to fill, no matter how high her education or attainments, it will ever be a source of benefit to her and add to her happiness and independence, and to that of her family.

It is not necessary for a girl to attend college to learn all of these things. Home is the best laboratory and mother the best preceptress our land affords.

Our mothers may not all be chemists to tell us the reasons for doing all of these things, yet years of patient practice have taught them methods that are true and reliable.

Mothers, do not let your daughters go out from home with these things unlearned! Put upon them responsibility while under your care. Nothing that you can do will better prepare and develop them for the battles of life, and it will save for them many a bitter and discouraging hour.

Teach them how to do all kinds of household labor, no matter if it does soil the hands, their hearts will be the nobler. Teach them all of these things and your daughters and your neighbors' sons will rise up and call you blessed.

MRS. E. DAVENPORT.

## A Fluid for Cleaning Gloves.

Here is a fluid that will easily clean the gloves, and when they are exposed to the air for a short time the odor passes away. Put into a three pint bottle one quart of benzine, one ounce of ether, one ounce of chloroform and half an ounce of wintergreen. Shake and cork tightly.

To clean the gloves put them on the hands, and wetting a piece of clean, white cloth or a small sponge with the fluid sponge the gloves quickly, rubbing quite hard in the parts most soiled. Take another clean piece of cloth and rub the gloves till they are perfectly dry. Now slowly and carefully work the gloves off the hands, and hang them in the fresh air for half an hour. All odor will have disappeared by that time.—Maria Parloa, in Housewife.

Falsehood may have its hour, but it has no future.—Pressense



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Table with columns: No. 2, No. 18, No. 4. Destinations: Port Huron, Lapeer, Flint, etc.

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Quiet Ways are Best.

What's the use of worrying. Of hurrying. And scurrying. Everybody flurrying. And breaking up their rest? When everyone is teaching us, Preaching and beseeching us, To settle down and end the fuss, For quiet ways are best.

—Evangelist.

A Walk on the Ocean Floor.

One often hears about the "floor" of the Atlantic, but the significance of the term so applied can it no way be so vividly conveyed to the mind as by viewing a wonderful relief map that stands in the Superintendent's room at the United States Coast Survey office, says a writer in an exchange.

This is a big picture in plaster of Paris, of what is called the Bay of North America, which means the great sweep in of the ocean from Nova Scotia to the West Indies, and of the Gulf of Mexico, with all of the United States that lies north of the Gulf shown also. Just as the mountains on the land are represented in elevation, the configuration of the bottom of the sea and Gulf is exhibited by the map, so that you can see how the Atlantic and its great arm would look if all the water were drained away.

Then you would have to look out, because, a few miles to the north of Porto Rico, the ocean floor takes a most astounding dip into one of the deepest sea-holes that can be found in the world. Reaching its edge at about one hundred and thirty miles from Porto Rico, you would find this tremendous gulf suddenly descending to a depth of more than five miles below what is now the surface of the water.

Among other surprising things at the bottom of the sea, you would, in your travels, come across the little Bahamas east of southern Florida, where they rise suddenly from the ocean's floor with so little slope that, within a distance of thirty miles, you would have to climb more than three miles high to find yourself in Nassau.

The first thing that you remark is that the bottom of this vast bay of the Atlantic is a floor almost as smooth and level as a Western prairie, save quite near the eastern shore of the continent. If the water were gone, you could drive very comfortably in a carriage over a nice shell road all the way from the Bermudas to within one hundred and fifty miles of Cape Hatteras, which would be the nearest point of dry land to reach.

All the facts here mentioned regarding the ocean floor are obtained from soundings and are therefore matters of absolute certainty. These figures, moreover, are suggestive in other directions. Let us suppose that the Atlantic rose six hundred feet, the geography of North America would be altered considerably. Nova Scotia would be found to be separated from the continent and broken up into a number of small islands.

purpose of depressing the stock market in order that they might get possession of a sufficient number of the shares of certain great railroad corporations to give them control of all the trans-continental routes. They accomplished their purpose by locking up a good many millions of money at a time when the legitimate business needs of the country called for the active use of our entire available supply of circulation, and in the squeeze which followed they succeeded in robbing their neighbors who held the railroad shares which they wanted, of a great many millions of dollars.

One Thing.

A man of divided aims, of diversified pursuits, seldom succeeds. It takes concentration of effort to bring about the most important results. The man of one book is the most thorough; the man of one pursuit is the most successful.

For the Good of the Order.

OFFICIAL NOTICE.-Master's Office, Nov. 25, 90. As Master of Grange 872, of Mich. for seven years, and Master of Ionia Co. Grange for the past two years, I have seen used among my Brother Patrons, and used myself many hundred gallons of O. W. Ingersoll's Paints, so I can testify positively both from personal experience and that of others the Paint is exactly what it is claimed to be, and that properly both from personal experience and that properly applied it will prove several times more durable than the beet mixed of which I have any knowledge.



NATIONAL GRANGE, PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY, DELTA, Ohio, Dec. 20, 1890. To the Patrons of Husbandry of the United States: We are entering upon a new year in our work under conditions very favorable to the extension of our order. The farmers are now ready to organize, and all that is necessary to increase our numerical strength is active, well-directed effort.

The National Grange has arranged to pay deputies something for their services as organizers, and I presume that State Granges generally have arranged to supplement that help. State masters should at once secure the services of successful organizers. The lecturer or public speaker can help arouse the people, but without the persistent work of the organizer, the work is lost.

Secure the service of organizer first, and then if good lecturers can follow them, and contribute to the enthusiasm, well; but if only one person can be sent into the field let it be the organizer by all means.

It seems almost certain that there are to be stirring times in this republic during the next few years, and farmers have an important work to do, and great responsibilities to meet. We must carefully prepare for the same. This movement among the farmers is attracting much attention, and causes no little anxiety among thoughtful men of all classes.

Farmers are just now the recipients of much advice. Some of it is probably disinterested, but much of it is prompted by a desire to use the farmer movement to promote some selfish interest. The display of strength and disposition to do something has brought to farmers' organizations, every man who has been out of joint with society and existing parties, and all the visionary and impracticable schemes and theories cherished by mortal man, are being pressed upon the attention of farmers.

Men who have never been trusted by their fellows, or who, when trusted, were proved failures, are big with the hope that their worth and wisdom will be recognized by the "honest yeomanry." We should listen to all, consider well every suggestion, but take time to be sure we are right before we trust our interests (which are the public interests) in the hands of impracticable theorists; or before we endorse any doubtful scheme. We cannot advocate a false principle or indorse quack remedies without alienating from us those who are able to help us in the coming contest for "what is ours by right." We should not fear politics or politicians, but try to understand and make the best possible use of both. No fraternal or class organization, however, can become a partner of or annex to a political party without committing suicide.

As individuals we may be partisans, but as an organization we must be free from all such entanglements; and not allow the order to be used to promote the success of any party. We need not be restless if other organizations attract more attention because of radical utterance, or more active participation in the partizan struggles of the day. There are breakers ahead and it will require skill and care to avoid shipwrecks.

The political problem must be solved, but we want the correct solution. It must be worked out, and proved, before we will know that we are right. There needs to be a great many political funerals in high life in both political parties. It is very difficult to discover which of the parties furnishes the most obedient servants of Wall street and monopoly.

If the rank and file cannot succeed in sending to the rear, these betrayers of the people, we may be forced to organize a party under a new name and new leaders. The people are considering this question earnestly, and will soon be ready to decide. The strength and volume of this sentiment should not be judged by the froth which appears upon the surface. The determination to have reform from some source, is deep, strong and abiding.

We desire in this connection, to give the sign of Caution. There

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is danger that in some of the political "storm centers" our members may be tempted to compromise the Grange by forming entangling political alliances. Remember that our members are as free as the air in the exercise of their political privileges; but the Grange as an order cannot call political conventions, nor send delegates thereto, nor nominate candidates nor discuss their merits at any Grange meeting.

This word of caution seems necessary because of reports received from some sections of the country. I trust our members, everywhere will see the importance of keeping the organization out of all partizan struggles. Attend part caucuses and conventions, and make your political power felt, but go not as a delegate from any Subordinate or Pomona Grange. Rash and inconsiderate action may undo the good work of years. The old reliable remedies do sometimes seem to be a little slow in their action, but they are safer than the untried nostrums of irresponsible quacks. Fraternally,

J. H. BRIGHAM,  
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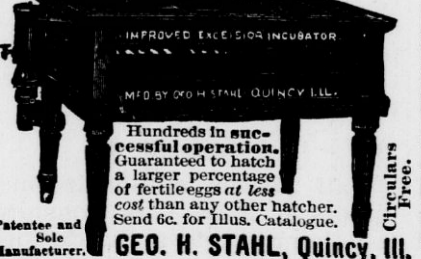
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